

**IAMCR/AIERI/AIICS GENERAL ASSEMBLY
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON JULY 29, 1998 & CONTINUED, 1998
UNIVERSITY OF STRATHCLYDE, GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.**

The meeting began with President Hamid Mowlana in the chair.

The president thanked Professor Tony Lavender and the other organisers of the Glasgow Conference for all the arrangements that had been made.

The minutes of the Sydney conference were adopted.

President Mowlana said that the **Report of the President** and a **Directory** had been circulated in May. He announced the deaths of Raymond Nixon (former President), Tomas Csezko (former Secretary General) and Oscar Riegel (Founder Member). He further stated that in the past 4 years there had been four trends in IAMCR: (1) Decentralisation and democratisation; (2) generation of intellectual momentum through special committees headed by President-Elect Pares I Maicas, Aggrey Brown and Kaarle Nordenstreng as well as through dialogue and debate at meetings and in the Newsletter; (3) further internationalization of membership and (4) increase in women's participation. Under decentralisation he said that (1) there had been a division of tasks; (2) reduction of budget to predictable levels; (3) achievement of savings and a surplus. Under generation of intellectual momentum he pointed to three reports at the Glasgow Conference, namely the Aggrey Brown, Pares I Maicas and Kaarle Nordenstreng reports on IAMCR in the 21st Century, Conferences and Section Review respectively. He said there were 500 abstracts at the Glasgow Conference ie twice as many as a decade earlier; there were students from all geographical areas at the conference. In relation to international activities he said members had participated in several other meetings representing and there had been 25 new members since the Oaxaca Conference. He further reported that IAMCR continued to be recognised by UNESCO in a formal consultative role under the revised arrangements. In relation to increased women's participation he pointed to the statistics and the Directory of Women Members produced by Treasurer Gertrude Robinson's office.

The President Elect presented the **Report of the Special Committee set up to Review Future IAMCR Conferences** which had suggestions under the rubrics of policy, programme, strategy, organization and financing. The President said that IAMCR should consider organizing its own conferences, without working through National Committees. He said the International Council should consider the following options: Follow current pattern but improve on organization; Appoint a member of the IAMCR Executive Board to supervise a professional conference organization, where the latter assumes risks and also works with local members. President Mowlana suggested that it would be expedient to consider amending the Statutes to allow the International Council to work directly through conference organisers rather than through National Organising Committees in the organisation of conferences.

Treasurer Gertrude Robinson presented the **Financial Statements for the Eleven Months Ended June 30, 1998** (circulated) and a **Report on Membership** (circulated). She said that prudent financial management at the Secretary-General's Office in Sydney, where the Newsletter is published, and the Treasurer's Office in Montreal, had stabilized finances. She recommended that if special finances were to be received, such as from Finnida, IAMCR should receive a benefit for administrative costs. The Treasurer also presented a **Report on Membership Information Management** (circulated). The Treasurer reported on the disbursement of \$ 10,000 in Travel Grants from SIDA and \$ 23,000 from UNESCO.

The Proposed Annual Budget for 1998-2000 (Attached) was approved by the General Assembly. A list of new IAMCR members was approved.

Secretary General Naren Chitty presented a report on the publication of the Newsletter, promotion, circulation of information, archives of conference papers and conference representation. He said that there had been insignificant demand for conference papers and suggested that Section Heads should promote the sale of papers as an income-generating exercise. Deputy Secretary General Ole Prehn reported on his work as Academic Coordinator of the Glasgow Conference. Vice President's Sinclair, Lynne, Palmer and Montes Gomez presented reports on their promotional and representational activities.

The question of journals for IAMCR was discussed. The following motion was proposed:

“That the IAMCR General Assembly in Singapore has a specific item on the agenda dealing with the question of whether the IAMCR should have an official journal or journals” (Proposed by Annabelle Sreberny and seconded by Trine Sylversten).

The following amended motion was passed.

“That the International Council in Leipzig discuss the issue of whether the IAMCR should have a journal and whether some journal or journals should be sent to members as part of the IAMCR membership package” (Proposed by Tony Lavender and seconded by Colin Sparks).

Annabelle Sreberny (Chair of Publications Committee) proposed a reconstitution of the Publications Committee as the Book Publications Committee. She proposed that the committee should consist of John Downing, Elizabeth Fox, Virginia Nightingale, Annabelle Sreberny (1 year) and Robert White (1 year). Professor Mowlana said that any member can serve on a standing committee: Standing committees are advisory committees for the International Committee. He pointed out that the Secretary General is an ex officio member of the Publications or Book Publications Committee. Knut Lundby proposed that the next meeting should discuss procedures for appointing members of standing committees. Janet Wasko raised the question of functional areas of journal and newsletter publication. Dian Frau Miegs asked the Publications Committee to include Spanish and French language publications rather than publish solely in English. The reconstitution of the committee as Book Publications Committee with the membership outlined above.

Shalini Venturelli (Chair of Human Rights Committee) reported on the JIC issue on Human Rights and a book project. She raised questions regarding (1) the right of members to attend meetings regardless of ethnicity and nationality and (2) the right of members to attend conference without being attacked at a personal level as some women at the conference had been attacked. Mohammed Siddiq asked for a more comprehensive approach to Human Rights. He raised the question of the denial of visas to Iranian scholars. Colin Sparks asked whether the British Government had denied visas. James Halloran remarked that no country should take on a meeting unless all members could participate. Michael Palmer read a letter from Iranian members who had been denied visas in Tehran. President Mowlana stated that a free flow of ideas was essential for Human Rights.

The following relevant motions were adopted:

“The General Assembly expresses its acute disappointment and grave concern that the British Consulate in Tehran failed to provide visas to seven Iranian scholars seeking to attend the Glasgow IAMCR Conference and instructs the Secretary General to convey this disappointment and concern in writing to the Foreign Secretary of the United Kingdom, requesting that the Foreign Secretary investigate the treatment of the seven Iranian scholars by the Consulate in Tehran and to respond thereafter to the Secretary General providing details of the result of his investigation” (Proposed by Colin Sparks and seconded by Frank Morgan).

“If IAMCR Executive Board Members, International Council Members or Heads of Sections were to hear of members experiencing problems in obtaining visas to attend an IAMCR conference, they should inform the National Organising Committee of the Conference without delay” (Proposed by Tony Lavender and seconded by Jose Marques de Melo).

“The IAMCR General Assembly (a) requires the IAMCR Human Rights Committee to work jointly with the IAMCR President to inform international monitoring organisations such as Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch regarding the denial to Iranian scholars of the right to participate in an international scientific conference and express their scholastic research opinions, by the government of the United Kingdom; (b) reaffirms the fundamental human rights of scholars, researchers and students to participate in international scientific/scholarly conferences and of the right to be free from governmental in their

participation and expression in these for a; (c) undertakes that the Human Rights Committee will inform the proper monitoring authorities and/or governments in other future cases where such violations occur". (Proposed by Shalini Venturelli and seconded by Naren Chitty).

Philippe Maarek (Chair of Legal Committee) said that as there had been no problems with the working of the Technical Election Committee, the recommendation was that the postal voting procedure should be employed again at the next Election. Janet Wasko called for a clarification of who is a member in terms of when dues are paid.

Kaarle Nordenstreng said that there was no final report by the Section Review Committee at this time.

Aggrey Brown presented the **Report on IAMCR in the Twenty-First Century**. Indicating that the general response to the request for inputs had been low, he said the report made the following proposals: (1) engage in a more activist role in relation to NGOs and IGOs; (2) implement the Hamelink proposals on playing an active role in the arena of Human Rights; (3) examine the use of cyberspace in order to become more accessible; (4) take steps to become more global, more inclusive in terms of Youth, Gender and the Global South; (5) broaden the research base to include both academic agencies and individuals; (6) develop a single fee structure; (7) encourage further decentralisation; (8) confirm mail ballot elections till 2002 and then reconsider; (9) pluralise the Executive further and include a student member; (10) eschew fragmentation of the field, (11) pay attention to selection of conference venues and (12) publish collective wisdom with regard to themes every two years.

Divina Frau Mieke called for stronger linguistic promotion for Spanish and French speaking constituencies. Plenaries, especially thematic plenaries, should include non-English representation and should have multicultural composition. Abstracts should be printed in the language of origin. Sections should be allowed to choose their language of practice. IAMCR should create a pool of multilingual communication scholars who can summarise papers in translation.

The following Sectional Election results were notified to the Assembly by Sections:

Communication Technology Policy: President – Unsula Maier-Rabler (Austria)

Gender: President - Marjan de Bruin (Jamaica); Vice President: Karen Ross (UK).

International Communication: President - Abbas Malek (USA); Vice Presidents – Leanne White (Australia) and Angou Chadury (USA).

Law: President – Andrei Richter (Russia)

Local Radio and TV: Acting President – Nicholas Jankowski (Netherlands)

Participatory Communication: President – Thomas Jacobson (USA).

Political Economy: President – Graham Murdock (UK).

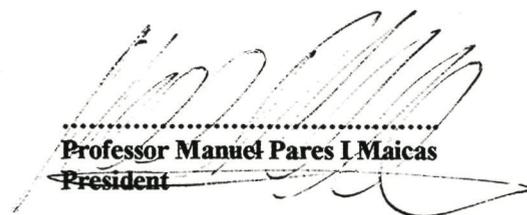
Wolfgang Kleinwächter reported on progress in setting up the Year 1999 conference to be held in Leipzig. Eddie Koh of NTU and Anura Gunasekera of AMIC Wolfgang Kleinwächter reported on progress in setting up the Year 2000, "Communication Beyond 2000: The role of technology, government and industry in the age of globalization", to be held in Singapore.

Before the termination of the meeting several members presented outgoing President Mowlana with gifts as tokens of their esteem and he received an ovation from General Assembly. The following motion was adopted:

“The 21st General Assembly and Scientific Conference of IAMCR gratefully acknowledges the contributions of Professor Hamid Mowlana as President and commends his efforts and contributions to enhance IAMCR”. (Proposed by Mohammed Siddiqi and seconded by Mugheesuddin.

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Professor Naren Chitty
Secretary General

Date.....
Singapore



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Professor Manuel Pares I Maicas
President

Date.....
Singapore