

Proceedings of the Fifth Meeting of SWARBICA Executive Board,
14-15th July, 1980

The Fifth Meeting of the Executive Board of SWARBICA was held at the Conference Hall of Tamil Nadu Archives, Madras on 14th and 15th July, 1980 between 3-5 p.m., 10 a.m.-1 p.m. and 3-5 p.m.

The following members were present:

Mr. A. Dewaraja	Chairman
Dr. K. M. Karim	Vice-Chairman
Dr. N. H. Kulkarnee	Secretary-General
Mr. Ranbir Kishore	Treasurer.

Mr. S. Singarajan, Director of Archives and Mrs. C. K. Griyali, Commissioner of Archives of Tamil Nadu Archives which is an institutional member of SWARBICA, Dr. Mrs. Sarada-Raju and Miss V. Lalitha individual members of SWARBICA were invited to attend the meeting as Observers.

The regrets of Mr. Cyrus Parham (National Member) from Iran and Mr. Akram (National Member) from Afghanistan to attend the meeting were conveyed to the Board. The Board was also informed of Dr. Amartya's (National Member) from Nepal request for postponement of the meeting which was not possible.

The Chairman then opened the meeting and the draft agenda was unanimously adopted. The Chairman extended a hearty welcome to Mr. S.A.I. Tirmizi, Director of Archives, Government of India, as the National Member from India. Mr. Tirmizi made a brief statement stressing the significant role that SWARBICA was required to play in this Region and his intentions to tackle the various problems concerning it and to strengthen the Branch.

The Secretary General then read out the minutes of the Third and Fourth meetings of the Board held at Colombo and Anuradhapura on 22nd and 26th January, 1979, respectively.

The Chairman suggested the following addition to the minutes that excluding the cost of SWARBICA dinner (Sri Lanka Rs. 9115/76) given at Colombo in the first General Conference the rest of the balance amount of Sri Lanka Rs. 24546/30 (Sri Lanka Rupees Twenty four Thousand five hundred forty six and cents thirty) rounded off to Sri Lanka Rupees 25,000 in SWARBICA Colombo account may be credited to Sri Lanka Government Account. The Board unanimously approved the addition as it had already sanctioned the amount of Indian Rs. 18,000 to Sri Lanka Government as its contribution towards the expenses at the First General Conference.

The Board requested the Chairman to take necessary steps for transfer of this amount to Sri Lanka Government.

The minutes were confirmed and it was agreed that in future the minutes of the Executive Board meetings be circulated to all the members present prior to approval by the Chairman.

The Secretary General presented his report for Feb- 1979 to June 1980. The Board approved the report with the following changes; (i) The Secretary General should formally ascertain from the member-countries about their participation in the Guide project and formation of National Guide Committees. (ii) Reference to the Chairman on p. 3. of the report should be deleted.

The Board then took up discussion on arrangements for the next General Conference of SWARBICA. Dr. Karim, Vice-Chairman, and Director of Bangladesh Archives welcomed the proposal that Bangladesh would host the Second General Conference at Dhaka subject to the formal approval by his Government. The Board requested Dr. Karim to convey its gratitude to the Government of Bangladesh for this kind and gracious invitation and intimate the Board of further progress in finalising the arrangements for the Conference.

The Board suggested the following guidelines in regard to the arrangements:

(a) SWARBICA would contribute Indian Rs. 13,000/- towards the Conference which would also include the cost of a SWARBICA dinner.

(b) Fully paid invitations might be extended to (i) all members of the Executive Board including the Secretary-General and the Treasurer (ii) One Archivist or one Historian from each member-country of SWARBICA as nominated by the Government of that country and who would contribute a paper for the Workshop, (iii) One expert familiar with the Region to be nominated by the I. C. A. to guide the Workshop.

(c) Only local hospitality might be extended to representatives of I.C.A., UNESCO, SWARBICA and ARBICA, all institutional and individual members who have cleared up-to-date subscription dues as on 31 December, 1979. In all 40 persons were expected to attend the meetings.

(d) The Programme would consist of a two-day workshop on Archival needs of the region, one day General Conference, one day inauguration and meetings of the outgoing and incoming Board and one day for excursion. It was tentatively decided to hold Workshop and attendant meetings in the last week of January 1981.

(e) The Committee/Commission on Archival Development or the UNESCO might be approached by the Chairman of SWARBICA for contribution towards paid invitations.

(f) The last date for receipt of papers for the Workshop might be fixed at 15th November, 1980.

Committee on Archival Developments

The Secretary-General informed the Board of the transformation of CAD as proposed by the ICA Bureau. The Board decided that should the old structure of CAD continue SWARBICA might be represented on it either by its Chairman or such other member of the Executive Board as might be nominated by him as Regional Rapporteur.

The Secretary-General promised to send again to CAD Chairman the National and Regional Projects formulated earlier.

Membership

The Board reiterated its resolve to enrol institutional and individual members from member countries other than India. So far as Pakistan was concerned the Secretary-General was directed to secure the good offices of ICA for the subscription, and the Chairman agreed to write to the Director of Pakistan Archives for the same. It was decided to approach Bhutan and Burma for enrolment as National members.

Subscription Rates

The Board decided to maintain the present annual rates of individual (Indian Rs. 100/-) and National (Indian Rs. 3000/-) membership.

Treasurer's Report

The Board approved the Treasurer's Report for the year ending 31st December, 1979 and the proposed budget for 1980.

The Chairman also placed a statement of account relating to the fund position in Colombo account (with People's Bank) which was approved by the Board.

SWARBICA Journal

To relieve Secretary-General of some of his work Dr. Karim, undertook the responsibility for editing the future issues of the Journal. It was decided to restrict the edition to 300 copies for issue, and to transfer the ICA subsidy for the same to Dr. Karim.

Constitutional Amendment

The Board suggested that the Constitution might be amended so as to specify participation of institutional members in the deliberations of the General Conference and the special programme.

Tamil Nadu Archives

The Board decided to forward the proposals of Mr. Singarajan, Director of Tamil Nadu Archives regarding the urgent needs of that Archives for consideration of CAD.

The Treasurer and Secretary-General expressed a desire to be relieved from their offices in view of their other pre-occupations and for reasons of health. The National member from India, Mr. Tirmizi observed that in order to instil a sense of participation in other member countries it seemed desirable that the offices of Treasurer and Secretary-General be located in different countries. However, as the next election was due at Dhaka it was felt that the present arrangement might continue till then.

The members expressed their appreciation of the excellent arrangements made by the Government of Tamil Nadu in hosting the meeting as a part of the proposed Tricentenary Celebrations of Fort St George Records and gratitude for their warm hospitality. Mr. Singarajan was requested to convey the sentiments of the Board to the concerned authorities of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Secretary-General was also requested to convey the Board's appreciation and gratitude to the Government of Tamil Nadu.