

Proceedings of the 6th Meeting of SWARBICA Executive Board, New Delhi, 13-14th October, 1981

The 6th Meeting of the Executive Board of SWARBICA was held in the party room of Hotel Janpath on Tuesday the 14th October, 1981 at 7-11 P.M.

The following members were present:

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| 1. | Mr. A. Dewaraja | Chairman |
| 2. | Mr. S. A. I. Tirmizi | National Member from India |
| 3. | Dr. Shaphalya Amatya | National Member from Nepal |
| 4. | Dr. N. H. Kulkarnee | Secretary-General |
| 5. | Mr. Ranbir Kishore | Treasurer |

Mr. Charles Kecskemeti, Executive Secretary of I.C. A. attended the Meeting as an Observer.

The Chairman opened the meeting by remarking that the Board was meeting after quite some time under rather difficult circumstances as National Members in some other countries were not able to attend the meeting for some reason or another. He offered the thanks of the Board to Mr. S. A. I. Tirmizi for making it possible to hold the meeting and he was particularly glad that the ICA Executive Secretary could attend the meeting to assist and give some advice for its proceedings. The draft agenda was adopted by the Board.

Secretary General's Report (21 July, 1980 to 30 September, 1981)

The Chairman then called upon the Secretary-General to present his report. The Secretary-General high lighted only the main points of the report as the full report was already available to the Board Members in advance. The Board suggested the following minor changes in it: (i) Mr. Tirmizi mentioned with reference to the earlier Board meeting convened at New Delhi in May, 1981 but which could not take place that it was at the request made by him in his capacity as Secretary of India Historical Records Commission. The Secretary General explained that a Board meeting could be convened only by the Chairman on his own initiative or at the request of a majority of Board Members (Articles 26 of the Constitution). However at Mr. Tirmizi's suggestion It was decided to alter the wording from "at the instance of Mr. Tirmizi, Secretary, Indian Historical Records Commission"; (ii) The General Conference of SWARBICA along with the Seminar on the Disposition of Government Records was postponed in deference to Dr. Karim's request:) iii) Reference to shifting of the venue of the Secretariat on pages 2-3 of the report might be deleted as it was a matter of minor detail.

With these minor changes the Boards approved the report.

Possibilities of Dhaka Conference

Thereafter at the request of Dr. Amatya the letter addressed by Dr. Karim to the Secretary-General while the latter was away on leave in July, 1981 was read out by the Chairman. Mr. Tirmizi, National Member from India explained the circumstances under which it was initially proposed to hold the SWARBICA General Conference along with the Seminar on Desposition of Government Records and it was confirmed by the Chairman that in deference to Dr. Karim's request the General Conference of SWARBICA was not now being held along with the current seminar. However, the Board felt that another letter might be sent by the Chairman to Dr. Karim enquiring about the possible period when the Dhaka meetings could be hosted by him along with the General Conference.

Election of New Office Bearers

The Board then took up the next item of the agenda, viz election of office bearers as it was over due in view of the provisions in the Constitution. After some discussions the Board unanimously decided upon the following panel of names for the office bearers.

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| 1. Chairman | Dr. K. M. Karim, Bangladesh |
| 2. Vice-Chairman | Dr. Shaphalya Amatya, Nepal |
| 3. Secretary-General | Mr. H. D 'Silva Dy. Director, Sri Lanka Archives |
| 4. Treasurer | Dr. R. K. Perti, Asst. Director, National Archives of India |

However, only the minimum number of members required for holding the current Board meeting was present and the attendance of the majority of Board Members was not available. Therefore, in accordance with a suggestion from the ICA Executive Secretary, it was decided that the above panel of names might be sent to the two other executive members of the Board (viz. Dr. Karim of Bangladesh and Mr. Siddique of Afghanistan) to seek their comments by 31st December, 1981.

The meeting adjourned to conclude its business the following day between 4-5 P. M. in the room of Mr. Tirmizi, Director of Archives, Government of India.

Medium Term Plan of SWARBICA

At this meeting the Executive Secretary of ICA briefly explained the medium term plan of ICA for 1983-87. He wanted the SWARBICA Board to assign priorities of its own for the plan as whole, select items which could be taken up by SWARBICA, again in order of priority, and formulate them into concrete proposals for onward transmission to ICA Secretariat with a view to consideration and implementation. The Secretary-General agreed that he would do so in consultation with all the National Members.

Membership

The Board suggested that the Secretary-General might directly invite the Director General of Burmese Archives to join SWARBICA. Mr. Tirmizi clarified that prior clearance from the Government of India would not be necessary as the Secretary-General would be writing not in his official capacity as Assistant Director in Government of India but as Secretary-General of a Regional Branch of an International Organization. The Board was also informed that Mr. Bloomfield of India Office Library would be helpful in the matter. Dr. Amatya undertook to help establish contact with Bhutan and Mr. H. D' Silva, Deputy Director of Sri Lanka Archives, would help establish contact with Maldives for their inclusion in SWARBICA. So far as Indian membership was concerned, the Board authorised the Secretary-General to enrol institutional members and only such individual members as would approach for membership on their own. The Board members expressed their difficulties in enrolling institutional and individual Members from their respective countries. However, they promised to put in their best efforts in this respect.

Subscription and Treasury

It was decided to maintain the prevailing subscription rates as they were. However, Sri Lanka subscription from 1981 onwards could be credited to Colombo account of SWARBICA if the appointment of the new Secretary-General became effective. The Board authorised the new Secretary-General, if approved by other member countries, to draw upon the Colombo account of SWARBICA for his secretarial expenses and if funds were necessary for other activities involving substantial amounts, advance intimation could be sent by the Secretary-General to the Treasurer for transmission of required funds from the New Delhi Account of SWARBICA. It was also reiterated that the Secretary-General's travel within the region for purposes of SWARBICA work would be met from SWARBICA Treasury.

The Treasurer's Report was accepted by the Board and the Treasurer informed that as soon as the new office bearers became operational he would take steps for the operation of Colombo Account by the Secretary General.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.