

MINUTES
Meeting of the Board of Directors of AOA
17 July 2000
Manila, Philippines

IN ATTENDANCE:

Board of Directors:

President -	Islamic Republic of Pakistan
Vice President:	Democratic Socialist republic of Sri Lanka
Treasurer	Republic of Korea
Secretary	Hong Kong (People's Republic of China)

Members:

People's Republic of China
Islamic Republic of Iran
Japan
Republic of the Philippines
Macau (People's Republic of China)

**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF AOA WITH AOA
PRESIDENT M. B. JEHANGIRI PRESIDING**

- He presented the 12 topics of the agenda to be taken up on Thursday, 20 July 2000, during the AOA General Assembly. Vice President Bastiampillai excused himself for this absence due to important matters he has to attend to in Singapore while he be replaced by a representative the board accepted without objection.
- The minutes (decisions) of the meeting of the AOA Board of Directors held in Islamabad on 22-23 February 2000 was read to the Board by AOA President M. B. Jehangiri.
- OMB A. A. Desierto presented his observations regarding the proposed agenda on 20 July 2000 General Assembly Meeting. He suggested that Item 6 and 10 be deleted with the consensus of the Board since these were already decided during the 22-23 February 2000 Conference in Islamabad.
- V. President B. Bastiampillai also considered Item 5 to be deleted. The same was approved by the Board.
- OMB A. A. Desierto proposed the formulation of a study group.
- A motion was passed for the proposal to be included as Item 5 in the proposed agenda for 20 July 2000 General Assembly Meeting. The Board agreed after each member had brought up his concerns, suggestions, observations and some apprehensions with the financial aspects.
- AOA President M. B. Jehangiri showed the Board a handbook containing contributed articles on political, social and economic cultures. The handbook is for distribution to the AOA delegates.
- The Board meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

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IN ATTENDANCE:

Hon. Alice Tai	:	Hong Kong (PROC)
Hon. Zhao Hong Zhu Hon. Cheong U	:	China
Hon. Cheong U	:	Macau (PROC)
Hon. Zharihm Ra'iesee	:	Iran
Hon. Masahiro Horie	:	Japan
Mr. Rustam Shah Mohmand	:	Pakistan
Mr. Muhammad Hanif	:	Pakistan
Hon. Chu Kwang-il	:	Korea
Prof. Bertram Bastiampillai	:	Presiding

The meeting started at 8:00. The highlights of the meeting are as follows:

1. Prof. Bastiampillai, as presiding officer, informed the members of the Board of the purpose of the instant meeting which is to discuss the proposal to amend the By-Laws of the Association.
2. Hon. Horie of Japan noted that in the board meeting last July 17, 2000, the written proposal to amend the By-Laws was distributed without any explanation, nor was it discussed in the said meeting.

He found that the proposal contained minor and major amendments. He wanted to know their purpose and implications and suggested that each country be given more time to study the proposal.

3. Hon. Zhao Hong Zhu of China expressed his agreement and said that the proposal needs further discussion.

He suggested that the proposal be distributed to all Directors and to determine what method to take in amending the By-Laws. He explained that one method is to refer the proposal to a Committee to study, then the Committee submits its report to the Board of Directors, and the Board refers it to the General Assembly for decision.

4. The presiding Officer noted that indeed there is not enough time to study the proposal and that there must be some procedure for amending the By-Laws.
5. The Ombudsman of Korea expressed agreement with the observation of the Directors from Japan and China.
6. The Ombudsman from Hong Kong, Ms. Tai observed that some of the proposed amendments appear superfluous and unnecessary. She expressed anxiety about the implication of a specific proposed amendment which would result in removing Hong Kong's vote if "one country, one vote" is accepted.
7. Mr. Mohammad of Pakistan suggested that the Board should not discuss the merits of the proposal anymore but resolves the issue of whether or not the

amendments should be tackled at all in Manila and the method of making the amendment.

He further suggested that each Director be given three months to study the proposal and the By-Laws and submit their opinion on appropriate amendments including their own proposals by October so that the AOA Board can discuss them in Durban, South Africa when they attend the IOI Conference towards the end of October, 2000.

8. The Philippine Ombudsman explained that the present By-Laws is summary in nature. It should be studied closely by each Director, and discussed intelligently by the Board in another meeting.
9. Hon Zhao Hong Zhu of China remarked that the By-Laws is only three years old Its amendment should be discussed in the next conference to be held in Japan.
10. Prof. Bastiampillai opined that Durban, South Africa may not be a good venue for discussing the By-Laws.
11. The Director from Iran remarked that there is no major impediment in amending the By-Laws but in determining the nature of the amendments. He reiterated the suggestion that each Director study the proposal in his country and send his report and recommendation to the AOA Secretariat. The Secretariat will send to each Director the reports received so that each one will know the proposal of others.
12. The suggestion was accepted and passed by the Board.
13. Ombudsman Desierto reiterated the need to tackle basic amendments which are not controversial and clarified that voting members should not be limited to Ombudsman of a country but should include Ombudsman of regional area or territory.
14. Questions were raised on how the election during the General Assembly should proceed and the procedures of admission of new members.
15. Mr. Hanif informed the Board that the Ombudsman of Thailand has submitted a written application for voting Membership.
16. Overall Deputy Ombudsman Gervacio (Philippines) informed the Board that Vietnam delegates do not wish to go through the application process because their delegates have been voting in the past conferences.
17. Ms. Tai clarified that applicants must satisfy the requirements for membership provided in the By-Laws of the Association.
18. Prof. Bastiampillai assured the Board that these questions may be presented to and resolved by the General Assembly. He finally reminded the Directors to submit their own written proposals for amending the By-Laws by the first week of October this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

Noted by: MS. ALICE TAI, Secretary, AOA