

MINUTES

Meeting of the Newly Elected Board of Directors of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA)

Date 8th December, 2011

Venue: Numazu, Japan.

List of participants is attached.

Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas, Vice President AOA while presiding over the meeting welcome the newly elected board members, especially Mr. Man Chong Fong Commissioner, Commission Against Corruption Macao SAR China, who has been elected first time. She also thanked and paid tribute to the outgoing Vice President of the AOA Ms. Conchita Carpio Morales, National Ombudsman, Philippines, on skilfully and successfully chairing the 13th annual meeting of the Board of Directors and 12th meeting of the General Assembly. The Chairperson thanked all the members for their contribution and cooperation in smooth and successful conducting the meeting of the General Assembly.

Item No.1

Consideration of proposals for hosting the annual meeting of the Board of Directors in 2012.

(Carried over from previous Board meeting).

Provincial Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Sindh, Pakistan had offered to host the next annual meeting of the BoD in 2012 at Karachi, Pakistan. The Board in its meeting held on 5th December 2011 decided that the new Board of Directors may further discuss the issue in its meeting and decide accordingly. In the meanwhile Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan offered to host the next meeting of the BoD in Azerbaijan in 2012.

Decision:

The newly elected Board of Directors accepted with thanks, the offer of the Commissioner for Human Rights (Ombudsman) of the Republic of Azerbaijan to host the next meeting of the BoD in Azerbaijan in June 2012. The exact timing would be left to the convenience of the host.

Item No. 2.

Consideration of working paper prepared by the General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran, on establishment of academy and office of cultural group.

(Carried over from 11th annual meeting of the B.O.D)

On directions of the BoD the General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran, on the issues of creation of an academy under the aegis of the AOA and establishment of an office of a cultural group in Iran, submitted a comprehensive working paper on the proposal elaborating the objectives, structure, services and the expenditure to be incurred. Since, the paper submitted by the General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran was broad in nature, requiring further discussions to chalk out detail with respect to objectives, methodology, source of financing, implementing & over sighting mechanism, therefore, it was proposed by the AOA Secretariat, that a committee/working group consisting of members (two/three) of the BoD and officials of AOA Secretariat may be formed which may visit Tehran, on invitation of the General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran, for further study, negotiations, drafting the TOR's and letter of agreement for consideration and approval of the BoD. The Board of Directors discussed the details of working paper and decided that new Board of Directors may further discuss the issue in its meeting and decides accordingly.

Decision:

The Board of Directors deliberated upon the details of working paper prepared by the General Inspection Organization, Iran. It was decided to constitute a committee consisting of three members of the BoD and two members of AOA Secretariat which may visit Tehran, on invitation of the General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran, for further study, negotiations, drafting the TOR's and letter of agreement for consideration and approval of the BoD. The committee will be headed by Professor Siracha Charoenpanij, Ombudsman of Thailand. The other members of the committee will be the representatives of the Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong and Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Japan. The committee will visit the General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran at mutually agreed dates for a study and negotiations to help prepare a comprehensive report to be presented to the Board in the next Board meeting.

Item No. 3

Use of AOA Funds

(Carried over from 13th annual meeting of the B.O.D)

In its last Meeting held, on 5th December, 2011 the Board while considering and discussing the working paper prepared by the AOA Secretariat on objectives, methodology, source of financing, implementing & over sighting mechanism, for the program on utilization of AOA funds, decided that new Board of Directors may further discuss the issue in its meeting and decides accordingly.

2. While discussing on the issue Mr Alan Lai the Secretary AOA observed that:
 - AOA funds should be used on expenses relating to the instructors only.
 - Participants' expenses (e.g. flight and accommodation) should be borne by their respective countries.
 - The host country should be responsible for local hospitality (e.g. meals and entertainment).

Decision

The Board agreed with the proposal of AOA Secretariat in principles. However it was decided that the AOA Secretariat will pursue the 2nd RETA Project with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). In case ADB agrees to finance the project then AOA funds will be made available for the activities not covered under the subject Project. Further, at the first instance efforts would be made to pursue the ADB to include non ADB AOA members in the project activities. If it would not be possible then, the AOA funds may also be used to finance non ADB AOA members' activities to be carried out under the ADB project.

2. Position on the issue will be reviewed in the next Board meeting viz. a viz. the proposals of AOA Secretariat and observations of the Secretary.

The Meeting concluded with vote of thanks to the host his Excellency Mr. Hideo Arai, Director General and the Office of the Director General, Administrative Evaluation, Bureau, Japan

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

MEETING OF THE NEWLY ELECTED BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AOA 8th DECEMBER, TOKYO, JAPAN

VICE PRESIDENT

Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas, Chief Ombudsman, Thailand

SECRETARY

Mr. Alan N. Lai, Ombudsman, Hong Kong, SAR China.

TREASURER

Ms. Youngran Kim, Chairperson, Anti Corruption and Human Rights Commission, Republic of Korea.

MEMBERS

Mr. Huawei Zhang, Commissioner (Vice Minister) Ministry of Supervision, Peoples Republic of China

Dr. G. Bolandian, Deputy for Planning and Resource Management, General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Hideo Arai, Director General, Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Japan

Dr. Tam Weng Wah, Director General, Public Complaints Bureau, Prime Minister's Department, Malaysia.

Mr. Fong Man Chong Vasco, Commissioner Against Corruption, Macao

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Khawaja Muhammad Naeem, Secretary, W. M. Secretariat, Pakistan.

ADMINISTRATOR

Mr. Abdur Rauf Khan, Director, W. M. Secretariat, Pakistan.