

MINUTES

10th General Assembly Meeting of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA)

Date: 28th April, 2007

Venue: Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam

List of participants is attached.

Opening the discussion, Mr. Javed Sadiq Malik, President, Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), welcomed the participants to 10th General Assembly Meeting. He also thanked the Inspector General of Government Inspectorate of Vietnam for hosting the meeting. The President highlighted the importance of this meeting in view of the fact that the members have to elect a new Board of Directors and also discuss some very important issues for promotion of the cause of the Association. Thereafter, the agenda of the meeting as proposed by the Board of Directors was taken up for discussion.

Agenda Item No.1

Review of the Past Resolutions of the General Assembly

The Executive Secretary of the Association presented an annotated implementation report on the various resolutions adopted in the General Assembly meetings since the inception of the Association.

Agenda Item No.2

Approval of Resolution Regarding Membership of the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Pakistan, as a Full Member

The General Assembly unanimously approved the Board's recommendation on awarding full membership to the Federal Insurance Ombudsman, Pakistan.

Resolution No.1 of 2007 as adopted is at annex-I.

Agenda Item No.3

Approval of Layout Options, and a New Title/ Design of the Bi-annual News Bulletin of AOA.

The Members of the General Assembly approved the new layout plan and title along with the design of the bi-annual News Bulletin as prepared by the AOA Secretariat and recommended by the Board of Directors.

Agenda Item No.4

Consideration of Proposals/ Suggestions made by the Board of Directors for Establishment of Resource Centre of AOA Secretariat.

The President of the Board informed the Members about the importance and utility of the proposed Resource Centre. Since the detailed concept paper prepared by the Secretariat was circulated to the members in advance therefore, their response and suggestions were solicited for further improvement. The members evinced keen interest in the subject.

The Ombudsman of Thailand suggested that while appreciating the donor funding for implementation of the project, the design needs to be very carefully prepared. He also emphasized upon the need of a strategic plan to implement the project. He opined that as per the concept paper the Resource Centre seems to be more of a project rather than an organization. This aspect was important to ensure sustainability of the Centre.

The Ombudsman of Sindh, Pakistan was of the opinion that the concept paper encompasses too many functions for the Resource Centre. He recommended that priority must be given to capacity building and for this

purpose a sub-committee of the members may be formed to develop parameters for a capacity building programme.

The President of the Association agreed to the proposals of the members and informed that the concept paper contain preliminary ideas on the proposed Resource Centre and further improvements will be made with the help of such suggestions. He appreciated the idea of constitution of a sub-committee for the purpose.

The members approved the suggestions for the establishment of the Resource Centre through donor assistance and assured their full cooperation in promoting the concept.

Agenda Item No.5

Consideration of the Proposal for Hosting 11th AOA Conference in 2009

The President of the Association informed that the Ombudsman of Thailand has agreed in principal to host the 11th AOA Conference in 2009. This however, is subject to the approval of the Government of Thailand. The members appreciated and accepted the gesture of the Ombudsman of Thailand. The members also empowered the Board of Director to select another venue in case the Kingdom of Thailand regrets to host the 11th AOA Conference. The Ombudsman of Thailand was also requested to inform the Board of Directors to its final decision before the 10th Board meeting proposed in Tehran in 2008.

The President of the AOA also informed the members that during the 9th Board of Directors meeting held on 25th April, 2007, the Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan, offered to host the 12th General Assembly & Conference in 2011. The members appreciated and

thanked the Administrative Evaluation Bureau, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications, Japan.

Resolution No.2 of 2007 as adopted by the General Assembly on holding the 11th AOA Conference in Thailand in 2009 is at annex-II.

Resolution No.3 of 2007 as adopted by the General Assembly on holding the 12th AOA Conference in Japan in 2011 is at annex-III.

Agenda Item No.6

Approval of Audited Accounts of the AOA

The Audited Accounts and report of the Auditors circulated in advance to the members was presented by the Treasurer/ Chief Ombudsman of South Korea with the recommendation of the 9th Board of Directors meeting for approval of the same. The Ombudsman of Punjab, Pakistan observed that the accounts show a decrease in income in 2006. The Executive Secretary informed that it is because, of default in the payment of membership fee by some countries. The Ombudsman of Thailand observed that the report to the management needs to be in detail. He was informed that auditors would be asked to comply in the next audit. He also suggested the expenses must be transparent. The President AOA informed him that detail of all expenditure is placed before each Board of Director after being duly audited.

The Ombudsman of Hong Kong/ Secretary of the Association informed the members that in view of some new initiatives like employment of the Manager Coordination, establishment of print library and expansion of the website, the expenses for the year 2007 will be higher than 2006.

The General Assembly approved the audited accounts 2006. The Resolution No.4 so adopted is placed at annex-IV.

Agenda Item No.7

Election of the New Board of Directors of the AOA

Since the term of the current members of the Board had expired, the election of the new members according to Bye-Law 7(2) of the Bye-Laws of Association was held in the session presided by the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration, Sri Lanka. The presiding officer informed the General Assembly that the following members were elected unopposed against the designations shown in front of their names.

Mr. Javed Sadiq Malik, Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) Pakistan.	President.
Madam Merceditas N. Gutierrez, National Ombudsman, Philippines.	Vice President
Ms. Alice Yuen-Ying Tai, Ombudsman, Hong Kong.	Secretary
Mr. Song Chul-ho, Chief Ombudsman, Republic of Korea	Treasurer

The Presiding Officer announced that since there are more nominations for the members of the Board therefore, the General Assembly had to elect only five out of them. He also announced that two members i.e Ombudsman of the Philippines and the Ombudsman of Azad Jammu & Kashmir are not present therefore, only 15 members will cast their votes. After the casting of ballots and counting, the following members were declared elected on the new Board of Directors :-

1. Mr. Li Zhilun
Minister,
Ministry of Supervision,
Peoples Republic of China.

2. Mr. Justice Mohammad Niazi
Head, General Inspection Organization,
Islamic Republic of Iran.
3. Mr. Satoshi Kumagai
Director General,
Administrative Evaluation Bureau,
Japan.
4. Dr. Chua Hong Teck
Director General,
Public Complaints Bureau,
Malaysia.
5. Mr. Poonsup Piya-Anant
Ombudsman,
Thailand.

Resolution No. 5 of 2007 adopted by the General Assembly is placed at annex-V.

Agenda Item No. 8

Any other item, which the General Assembly may like to discuss.

Selection of Auditor of the Association

The Executive Secretary informed the General Assembly that according to Bye-Law 8(2) of the Association, an Auditor from among the full members shall be selected for four years. The term of office of the previous Auditor i.e. the Chief Ombudsman, Republic of Korea had expired in 2006. A new Auditor was therefore, to be selected by the members.

The members unanimously selected Dr. Cheong U, Commissioner, Commission Against Corruption Macao, the Ombudsman of Macao, as the Auditor of the Association for the 4 years.

Resolution No. 6 of 2007 adopted by the General Assembly is placed at annex-VI

Agenda Item No.9

Vote of Thanks to Mr. Tran Van Truyen, Inspector General, Government Inspectorate of Vietnam, for Hosting the 10th AOA Conference.

While concluding the session of the General Assembly the President, thanked the participants for their interaction and valuable inputs during the meeting. On behalf of the members of the Association, he also expressed his sincere appreciation and gratitude to his Excellency Mr. Tran Van Truyen, Inspector General, the deputies, staff of the office and all ranks of the other departments of the Government of Vietnam; for their warm hospitality extended to the delegates and participants whose needs and comforts were fully attended to.

Resolution No.7 of 2007 adopted by the General Assembly is placed at annex-VII.