

## MINUTES

### **13th General Assembly Meeting of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA)**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2013**

**Venue: Tehran, Iran**

**List of participants is attached.**

Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas, Chief Ombudsman, Thailand and the Acting President, AOA, chaired the meeting. She welcomed all members and in particular the new members who were attending the General Assembly meeting for the first time. She also thanked His Excellency Mr. Naser Seraj, President, General Inspection Organization Iran, Mr. Valiollah Khobreh, Vice President, General Inspection Organization Iran for the immaculate arrangements for the Conference and the meeting. The President highlighted the importance of this meeting in view of the fact that the members had to elect the President and the Vice President. Thereafter, the agenda of the meeting as proposed by the Executive Secretary was taken up for discussion.

#### **Agenda Item No.1**

**Approval of resolution for membership of AOA for the following applicants:**

- i. Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Pakistan.**
- ii. Office of the Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Sindh, Pakistan**

The Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Pakistan and Office of the Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Sindh, Pakistan had applied for full membership.

2 The Board of Directors (BoD) in its meetings held on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 examined and found both applications qualified for full membership under the Bye-law 5(1) and Article I of the Code of Conduct of Business of AOA. It recommended that the General Assembly accept both applications for Full Membership.

#### **Decision:**

The General Assembly unanimously ratified the Board's recommendations for awarding Full Membership to the Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Pakistan and Office of the Ombudsman for Protection Against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Sindh, Pakistan.. Resolution No.1 of 2013 as adopted is at Annex-I.

## **Agenda Item No. 2**

### **Approval of the Audit Statements of the AOA accounts for the years 2011 & 2012.**

The audit reports for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011 and 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 prepared by M/s WA Associates (Pvt.) Limited were placed before the BoD during its 14<sup>th</sup> & 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 and 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 respectively. The Board approved the placement of the audit reports before the General Assembly.

### **Decision:**

The General Assembly approved the audited accounts for the years 2011 & 2012. Resolution No.2 of 2013, so adopted is placed at Annex-II.

## **Agenda Item No. 3**

### **Consideration of proposal for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> AOA Conference in 2015.**

On the AOA Secretariat's invitation of proposals, the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia and Federal Ombudsman of Pakistan offered to host the 14<sup>th</sup> AOA Conference in 2015.

### **Decision**

The General Assembly unanimously approved that the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia be invited to submit formal proposal to the AOA Secretariat for hosting the 14<sup>th</sup> AOA Conference in 2015. The BoD in its next meeting will decide accordingly the host of the conference in 2015. However, it was agreed that preference will be given to Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia in this regard.

## **Agenda Item No. 4**

### **Elections of the office holders and members of the BoD of the AOA.**

During the 12<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly of AOA held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2011, in Numazu Japan, while holding the elections of the office bearers of AOA it was resolved that:-

- “(a) if the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Federal Ombudsman) of Pakistan is appointed by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, he or she shall be invited to be the President of AOA; and
- (b) if no person is appointed to the post of Wafaqi Mohtasib (Federal Ombudsman) Pakistan by 31<sup>st</sup> May 2012, or if the Wafaqi Mohtasib declines the invitation, the BoD shall determine how the post of the President of AOA is filled.”

2. Since by the target date set by the General Assembly, no Wafaqi Mohtasib (Federal Ombudsman) Pakistan was appointed, therefore, the Board in its 14<sup>th</sup> meeting unanimously agreed to appoint Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas, Chief Ombudsman, Thailand as the

President of AOA, until the General Assembly meeting in 2013 in the Islamic Republic of Iran, where the elections for the post of President and any other vacancy were to be held.

3. The Bye Laws and Code of Conduct of AOA were silent about the procedure of the election of the one position of the Board; therefore, the Board took up this issue as carried over agenda item from previous BoD meeting. The Board deliberated upon a number of proposals put forward by members including postponement of the elections till the General Assembly passed relevant amendments in Bye Laws and Code of Conduct to deal with the peculiar situation.

4. The Board unanimously agreed to recommend to the General Assembly to appoint Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas, Chief Ombudsman, Thailand as the President of AOA, whose term will last until the General Assembly meeting in 2015. However, since no consensus was reached on the method of filling the vacant position of the Vice President, it was decided to leave the issue to be considered by the General Assembly.

**Decision:**

The General Assembly unanimously agreed to appoint Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas, Chief Ombudsman, Thailand as the President of AOA, whose term will last until the General Assembly meeting in 2015. However, since no consensus was reached on the method of filling the vacant position of the Vice President, it was decided to defer the issue. Further, it was also decided that AOA Secretariat, initiate the process for appropriate amendments in the Bye Laws and Code of Conduct of AOA to deal such situation in future.

Resolution No.3 of 2011 adopted by the General Assembly is placed at Annex-III.

**Agenda Item No. 4**

**Vote of thanks to the Office of General Inspection Organization Iran, Excellency Mr. Naser Seraj, the President and Mr. Valiollah Khobreh, the Vice President, General Inspection Organization Iran the 13<sup>th</sup> conference of the Asian Ombudsman Association.**

While concluding the session of the General Assembly, the Chairperson thanked the participants for their interaction and valuable inputs during the meeting. On behalf of the members of the Association, she also expressed her sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Naser Seraj, the President, General Inspection Organization, Mr. Valiollah Khobreh, Vice President, General Inspection Organization and staff of his office and other departments of the Government of Iran for their warm hospitality extended to the delegates and participants whose needs and comforts were fully attended to.

Resolution No.4 of 2011 adopted by the General Assembly is placed at Annex-IV.

**LIST OF PARTICIPANTS**  
**13<sup>TH</sup> GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING**  
**9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2013, TEHRAN, IRAN**

1. Mr. Lijun Zhang Ministry of Supervision  
China
2. Mr. Kenji Tanabe Administrative Evaluation Bureau  
Japan
3. Mr. Alan N. Lai Office of Ombudsman  
Hong Kong SAR China
4. Mrs. Azlaini Agus Ombudsman  
Republic of Indonesia
5. Mr. Naser Seraj General Inspection Organization  
Iran
6. Mr. Kenji Tanabe Administrative Evaluation Bureau  
Japan
7. Mr. Sung Bo Lee Anti Corruption and Civil Rights Commission  
Republic of Korea
8. Mr. Rui Dos Santos Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice  
Timor-Leste
9. Mr. Man Chong Fong Commission Against Corruption  
Macao SAR China
10. Mr. Mohd Nazri Ismail Public Complaints Bureau  
Malaysia
11. Mr. Abdur Rauf Chaudhry Federal Tax Ombudsman  
Pakistan
12. Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas Office of the Ombudsman  
Thailand
13. Mr. Riaz Ahmed Provincial Ombudsman Balochistan  
Pakistan

**Secretariat**

14. Mr. S.M. Tahir Executive Secretary (Wafaqi Mohtasib) Pakistan
15. Mr. Abdur Rauf Khan Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) Pakistan



**ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2013  
RESOLUTION NO. 1 OF 2013**

**APPROVAL OF THE APPLICATIONS OF OMBUDSMAN  
INSTITUTIONS FOR FULL MEMBERSHIPS**

Whereas the following Ombudsmen had applied for full memberships of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) and their applications on the recommendation of the Board of Directors were accepted by the General assembly in its meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2013:

- i. Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Pakistan; and
- ii. Office of the Ombudsman for Protection against Harassment of Women at Workplace, Sindh, Pakistan.

And whereas the applicants meet all the prescribed requirements of full memberships under the provision of Bye-Law 5(1) and Article 1 of the Code of Conduct of Business of the Association;

Now, therefore, the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA) in the 13<sup>th</sup> Meeting RESOLVES to accord its approval to all the above mentioned Institutions full membership of the Asian Ombudsman Association.

Adopted, this 9th day of October 2013, at Tehran, Iran.

**PRESIDENT**

**Attested:**

**SECRETARY**



**ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2013  
RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2013**

**APPROVAL OF THE AUDIT REPORTS OF THE AOA ACCOUNTS**

Whereas the audit reports for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2011 and 1<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 to 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2012 prepared by WA Associates (Pvt) Limited have been approved by the Board of Directors in its meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2012 and 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2013 respectively;

Now, therefore, the GENERAL ASSEMBLY of the Asian Ombudsman Association RESOLVES to accord its approval to the audit report.

Adopted, this 9th day of October 2013, at Tehran, Iran.

**PRESIDENT**

**Attested:**

**SECRETARY**



**ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2013  
RESOLUTION NO. 3 OF 2013  
ELECTIONS OF THE PRESIDENT**

Whereas the term of the office of the incumbent President of the Association has expired on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2011 (vide Resolution No.4 of 2007, of the General Assembly dated 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2007);

Now, therefore, the GENERAL ASSEMBLY in its meeting of 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, appoints Mrs. Panit Nitithanprapas, as the President whose term shall expire at the next General Assembly Meeting in 2015.

Adopted, this 9th day of October 2013, at Tehran, Iran.

**PRESIDENT**

**Attested:**

**SECRETARY**



**ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
MEETING HELD ON 9<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2013  
RESOLUTION NO. 4 OF 2013**

**GRATITUDE TO IRAN AND HIS EXCELLENCY MR. NASER  
SERAJ, PRESIDENT, GENERAL INSPECTION ORGANIZATION  
IRAN, FOR HOSTING THE 13<sup>TH</sup> AOA CONFERENCE**

Whereas the success of the recently concluded 13th Asian Ombudsman Association Conference held at Tehran, Iran from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, could not be made possible without the whole hearted cooperation and support provided by the host country through the President, General Inspection Organization Iran, staff of the office and all ranks of the other departments of the Government.

And whereas the warm hospitality and generosity extended to the delegates and participants whose needs and comforts have been fully taken care of, has made the Conference memorable and extremely enjoyable;

Now, therefore, the GENERAL ASSEMBLY hereby RESOLVES to express its sincere appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency Mr. Naser Seraj President, General Inspection Organization Iran, Mr. Valiollah Khobreh, the Vice President, General Inspection Organization Iran the staff of the office and members of the staff of the other departments of the Government, for the successful hosting of the 13th AOA Conference held from 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> October, 2013, at Tehran, Iran.

Adopted this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2013, at Tehran, Iran.

**PRESIDENT**

**Attested:**

**SECRETARY**