



International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness

IAPB EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

DATE 7th April 2013

Bangkok

MINUTES

Date -	Sunday, 7 th April 2013
Time -	09:00-12:00 local time
Venue -	The Imperial Queen's Park Hotel, Bangkok Panorama 2 (3rd Floor)
Attending -	Chair: Bob McMullan Member(s): Johannes Trimmel; Adrian Poffley; Kathy Spahn; Abdulaziz AlRahji; Serge Resnikoff In attendance: Peter Ackland; Richard Bennett; Alessandro Di Capua

Agenda

I. Strategic Plan

Board discussion preparation

R. Bennett introduced the key issues identified during the consultation for discussion at the board meeting.

P. Ackland explained the planned process for the board discussion, i.e. for all issues to be discussed in plenary and for trustees to be given the opportunity to raise alternative issues to be discussed at the meeting. He clarified the plan was for the meeting not to turn into a drafting session, but to try to resolve key high level strategic issues enabling R. Bennett to put together the final draft of the strategy.

Discussion ensued, including the following points:

- Any discussion on strategic choices must take into consideration the short term work implications arising from it, so that the strategy is kept achievable and realistic;
- Strategic alignment between global and regional levels of IAPB is also a key topic, however this may be part of the overall membership/governance review scheduled for later in the year;
- It is key to ensure the strategy also include measurable indicators to monitor progress.

R. Bennett confirmed that additional work was required to put together a monitoring and evaluation framework for the strategy, which would take place once agreement had been reached on the overall aims and objectives. He also noted that rolling priorities to be identified for each of the strategic aims would ensure that short term work implications of the strategy would constantly be kept in sight and discussed. He also noted that the strategy was intended to be a strategy for the whole membership working together, rather than simply for the IAPB Secretariat; therefore the scale and ambition of it should be looked at with that in mind.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, B. McMullan thanked R. Bennett for the excellent work done so far.

2. **Support to WHO**

P. Ackland confirmed that N. Banatvala and I. Kocur would be joining the board meeting to introduce the WHO case for support paper and respond to any questions. He explained that IAPB was now looking at new approaches to support WHO, in particular helping advocate with key member states (for example those who had been strongly supportive of the adoption of the new Action Plan) to directly support WHO in its work to deliver the plan.

All agreed that it was essential to approach collaboration with WHO in a more strategic way, rather than as year-on-year discussion about the NGOs' level of support. It was also noted that the new Action Plan now included specific activities for the international partners to take on, and therefore these would certainly form a starting point for the discussion among NGOs as to what aspects of the new plan to support.

Even though many of the support arrangements were between single NGOs and WHO, all agreed that IAPB provided a key forum for a strategic coordinated discussion around collaboration with WHO given its broad mandate and representativeness.

Discussion ensued, including the following points:

- It was raised the opportunity to look at other models, for example in the NCDs area were the lack of large number of staff within WHO was supplanted by strong relationship with relevant NGO federations (for example IDF);
- It was also noted though that WHO influence on countries was still ultimately greater than that of any group of NGOs and therefore ensuring there were dedicated WHO staff would still be key as the new action plan moved into implementation mode;
- All agreed that, having advocated for a new action plan, it would now be irrational for the NGO community to withdraw support entirely, however this was ultimately a decision for the single NGOs to take.

The Committee agreed that its recommendations for the board discussion would be along the following lines:

- To kick-start a strategic review of the relationship with WHO;
- To advocate with NGOs to keep at least the support at similar levels of the last two years, with the aim to review impact every two years;
- To use the list of activities in the new action plan as a basis for the identification of the best investments available for NGOs

It was decided that the next Executive Committee would have on the agenda the discussion of a review of the strategic engagement with WHO.

3. **2013/14 Budget**

P. Ackland noted the consolidated management accounts summarising the IAPB 2013/14 budget and forecast. He noted the following:

- The opening balance for 2013 was much healthier than anticipated, thanks to income from 9GA and Alcon's membership, and so our reserves were back at the level set by the board;
- All income assumptions were conservative;
- He noted that expenditure levels were tight, but pointed to the good news of growth in regional expenditure (particularly restricted);
- He clarified that the restricted balance was large merely due to Seeing is Believing grants waiting to be allocated to members.

A. Poffley noted that the Audit Committee would be discussing financial statements in details with auditors and that a paper on income generation strategy had been tabled for the board. He also noted that, once new strategy was in place, the board will have the opportunity to discuss the suitability of our current expenditure plan at the next September board meeting.

4. **Council meeting**

B. McMullan noted the decision to move the 2013 Council meeting from Accra to Brighton.

P. Ackland referred to the proposal to review the way locations for Council meetings were identified, in particular to abandon a strictly rotation method and link it more closely to our strategic aims.

All agreed with the proposal, as long as criteria of accessibility and costs were met.

The committee also discussed dates and locations for the first board meeting in 2014, including the following points:

- Convenience of access and costs would suggest either London or the Middle East as possible locations;
- A. AlRahji noted that there was a possibility that the governments of Qatar and UAE may agree to cover some of the meeting costs if we were to choose them as locations;
- A couple of dates options were flagged, i.e. 22-24 April and 30 April-2 May.

5. **10th General Assembly**

The Committee discussed possible locations for the 10th General Assembly in South Africa, with Durban and Cape Town identified as the most suitable locations given accessibility and availability of venues.

All agreed that decision should be based on recommendation of the regional chair.

6. **AOB**

The new travel policy for independent trustees was discussed, particularly the proposal to allow for upgrade to business class for every flight longer than 4 hours. This was deemed as unnecessary.

It was suggested for that to be changed to economy plus for all inter-continental flights and business for all flights over 7 hours.

As there was no other business the meeting was declared closed.