IAPB Executive Committee

29th June 2015 – Tele-conference

Time - 12:00-13:00pm London time

Attending - Chair: Bob McMullan

Member(s): Adrian Poffley; Serge Resnikoff; Jennifer Gersbeck; Neil Murray

Apologies: Johannes Trimmel; Kathy Spahn

In attendance: Peter Ackland; Joanna Conlon; Elizabeth Tinsley; Alessandro Di Capua

Minutes

1. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Query sent ahead of meeting about updated membership approval process was clarified as follows: endorsement for all new applications was now sought also from regional chairs of applicants’ regions of operation.

2. Affirmation of Vice-President position

B. McMullan clarified that J. Trimmel would maintain his position as Vice-President even though he was about to leave Group A member Light For The World, as his appointment as VP had been a personal election and not an organisational selection. Light For The World would be approached separately for the nomination of its new representative to the IAPB board.

3. Update from WHA

P. Ackland reported from his attendance to the World Health Assembly. He noted that, even though the formal agenda of WHA did not feature any blindness-related item, side-meetings held around the main event had been very positive, including a very well attended ‘disability and SDGs’ event co-hosted by IAPB and other WHO technical briefings.

4. Follow-up issues from Dubai BOT:

   a. Outstanding Regional issues – i.e. detailed governance mechanisms, monitoring systems, roles and selection of Regional Chairs and Co-Chairs, etc.
J. Trimmel was unable to attend the call and report on this matter, however in his apologies he confirmed his intentions to discuss the matter with the Regional Taskforce in July and come up with proposals by end of August / beginning of September.

b. Support for the ongoing administration, maintenance and hosting of the RAAB Repository

P. Ackland confirmed that, following related discussions at the last IAPB board meeting in Dubai, he had discussed longer-term plans for the RAAB repository with all key stakeholders and that it was agreed that a meeting should be held among all those involved to discuss ongoing sustainability, planned changes to the RAAB methodology and the need to speed up public availability of survey results. P. Ackland noted that a date for the meeting had not been set yet as one of the key participants was temporarily unavailable for health reasons.

c. Coordination with WHO around development of assessment and monitoring tools and collection

P. Ackland related on the issue of duplication of efforts with regards to the monitoring of key indicators for the Global Action Plan (GAP), which had come up as IAPB had been undertaking test collections of data from the regions in view of the planned launch of a Vision Atlas in 2016.

He noted that the WHO was the body formally charged with the responsibility to collect data against the key GAP indicators. In order to coordinate efforts and ensure avoidance of duplications a meeting was held in Geneva between IAPB and WHO in which it was decided that the latter would maintain responsibility for monitoring the implementation of GAP and that IAPB would become involved only as and when a request was made by WHO.

WHO had confirmed that the plan was to publish initial monitoring results in the Global Health Observatory by the end of this year. The Executive Committee highlighted how important was to have clear data on progress to ensure effective implementation of GAP and that the matter should be taken up again once the GHO data was out.
5. Beijing COM schedule and agendas

6. Beijing BOT agenda

Agenda items 5 and 6 were discussed in combination. It was clarified that the agenda for the China-focused day of the Council was being developed by our local members and partners in China to ensure the right messages and protocols were in place to make this an effective advocacy opportunity with the Chinese government.

It was also noted that, although the agenda for the ‘China day’ was going to be primarily relevant for organisations operating there and that delegates from local members and partners would be making up a substantial number of attendees for that first day of the Council, all IAPB members were encouraged to attend as the programme could still provide a valuable learning exercise.

With regards to the board agenda, the SDGs / Universal Health Coverage and GAP were the key items up for discussion, with the latter to be organised as a participative group discussion given that formal updates were going to be provided at the Council meeting.

A note from K. Spahn ahead of the meeting also suggested the inclusion of an update from the Parthenon Group as one of the advocacy items at the board meeting.

It was also discussed the importance to invite delegates from WHO and to coordinate their involvement in the proceedings well ahead of time.

7. Finance

A. Poffley referred to the attached management accounts, up to date to May 2015. He noted that there was no major issue to flag up as income and expenditures were going according to plan and expected closing balance for 2015 was well within IAPB’s reserves threshold. In relation to unrestricted income, it was clarified that although around 80% of budgeted membership income had been received so far, the remaining was still in the pipeline and expected to be received in due course. As per restricted income, Seeing is Believing funds were being drawn down according to plan.

It was noted that 2016 was going to be dominated by the 10th General Assembly and J. Conlon briefly outlined 10GA fundraising plans. These were being closely monitored as planning for the event proceeded and a degree of flexibility was built into the budget to ensure expenditures could be adapted to changing income scenarios, given the key objective for the event to break even.
8. 10GA update and resourcing

P. Ackland outlined a key proposal to change the date of the 10th General Assembly from 18-20 September 2016 to 27-30 October 2016. He explained this was due for a couple of reasons:

- The original dates clashed with the UN General Assembly and, as aspirations for the range of 10GA speakers grew, it became apparent that some key opportunities would be lost due to the clash with the UN;
- Secondly, issues with the original Professional Conference Organisers (PCO) had led the organising team to a change of PCO, which had resulted in delays over the last few months – an extension of the timeline to 10GA would therefore become very useful.

P. Ackland confirmed that both Chairs from the 10GA Committees had been consulted and had given their approval, and that all enquiries had been made to ensure there were no clashes with other relevant events. J. Conlon confirmed that a communications plan was in place to ensure news about the change of date was circulated effectively to all stakeholders.

Following discussion, the Executive Committee approved the proposals and authorised the organising team to proceed with the communications plan regarding the change of date.

Post meeting note – the following message was drafted to be used in standard communications of the change of date:

*IAPB’s 10th General Assembly, eye health’s premier global event, will now be from 27 to 30 October 2016.*

*After careful consideration, the IAPB Programme and Organising Committees have decided to move the event from 18-20 September to 27-30 October 2016. While a lot of care is taken in choosing dates that do not clash with other events of interest to our key stakeholders – i.e., you – our ambition for the GA has now grown to include other key, non-eye health leaders as well.*

*To our pride and delight, some of the key political figures and global health leaders we have approached, have expressed interest in attending the event.*
In this specific instance, the original dates clashed with the UN General Assembly, making it difficult to secure their participation. We believe their presence at 10GA will help take the eye health agenda to a broader audience, and is in keeping with IAPB’s objective of raising the sector’s profile in the wider health and development networks.

The new dates also steer clear from all the important eye care conferences in 2016; we do hope the change of dates do not inconvenience you. We look forward to sharing exciting updates on key speakers and the programme over the coming weeks. Stay tuned.

9. AOB

Membership applications were tabled for three organisations: IMO Foundation, Vision for a Nation and VisionSpring. A. Di Capua confirmed that regional endorsements had been sought from all relevant regional chairs as per new principle outlined under agenda item 1 above.

Discussion ensued and, given that supporting information had been circulated just before the meeting, it was decided that the applications were to be considered approved unless any member of the Committee would raise an exception after the meeting having read all relevant documentation (and obviously on condition that all necessary regional endorsements were in place).

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