

Report of the INQAAHE General Assembly
Tuesday, 3 April, 2007, 16.00
Sheraton Hotel, Toronto, Canada

Richard Lewis, President of INQAAHE, welcomed all delegates to Toronto and to the General Assembly meeting. The report from the President had taken place at the opening of the conference.

1. Elections

The President asked the Secretary, Séamus Puirseil, to announce the results of the 2007 election for President and Board. Having announced the results, the incoming President and Board were nominated and duly elected.

David Woodhouse, President
Nadia Badrawi
Peter Cheung
Jean Morse
Norman Sharp
Maria Jose Lemaitre
Lis Lang

2. Report of the Secretary

The Secretary advised the assembly that the Network has grown dramatically over recent years. Membership has increased by 22 members in 2006 with an additional five new members in the first three months of 2007. There are now 185 members of the Network, of which 133 are full members, 45 are associates and there are seven affiliate members.

Electronic methods of communication have proved invaluable to the Secretariat, particularly during the preparations for the INQAAHE events, for hosting electronic board meetings via the website and for keeping in regular contact with the membership.

A significant development for INQAAHE is the agreement by UNESCO to grant NGO status to the network. Another significant development is the conjoint application with UNESCO to the World Bank for funding for capacity building in developing regions. In recent years grants have been secured by the Asia Pacific Network and by RIACES in Latin America. The AAU in Africa has been awarded the first year of a three year package and funding for the Middle East region are in a late stage of development.

An application was submitted by INQAAHE in late December 2006 to the Development Fund in the World Bank. This was revised into an internal World Bank proposal entitled Global Initiative for Quality Assurance Capacity (GIQAC). At a meeting with representatives of the regional networks which had taken place on 2 April, Rick Hopper, representing the World Bank had advised that the GIQAC proposal had been successful.

The revised edition of the Guidelines of Good Practice have been produced in printed format and copies circulated to all members of the network

3. Report on the World Bank Application

David Woodhouse, incoming INQAAHE President, reported with a brief history of the lengthy process in applying for a grant (a Development Grant Facility, DGF) to the World Bank. He also noted that without the expert help of Marjorie Peace Lenn during the APQN application and her input into the INQAAHE application, the grant would not have become possible. He also thanked Stamenka Uvalic-Trumbic of UNESCO and Rick Hopper of the World Bank for their time and efforts in making the grant possible.

David Woodhouse highlighted the importance of the regions and INQAAHE working together to actively bring in countries where there may not even be emerging agencies and to encourage development. He also pointed out the importance of maintaining INQAAHE's work independent of the World Bank Grant.

He advised that a meeting of the new Board with the World Bank, UNESCO and the Regional networks will be required to work out how the grant will work and the division of the responsibilities between the groups involved, and that a working part of the Board would be set up to deal with the DGF. He further advised that INQAAHE would seek clarification on various aspects of the proposal. However the Board agreed a broad acceptance of the general proposal and noted the importance of INQAAHE's involvement from the outset.

Dr Ethley London addressed the Assembly and advised that she welcomed the grant which would enable the Caribbean carry on its work and she supported the Board and looked forward to the implementation of the grant. She further congratulated the Board and their success with the World Bank Development Fund Grant.

4. INQAAHE Accounts

Richard Lewis, outgoing President, presented the INQAAHE accounts for 2006. The accounts were agreed.

The General Assembly also approved the Board's proposal on subscription fees for 2007. The membership fees for INQAAHE with effect from 1 January 2007 will be:

- Full Members Euro €380
- Full Members (LDC/LIC) Euro €190
- Associate Members Euro €380
- Affiliates Euro €270

5. Future Events

2009 Conference

Due to sudden illness Badr Aboulela, was unable to make the presentation bid on behalf of the UAE, in Badr's absence Don Baker presented the bid received from the UAE to host the 2009 conference.

The Board recommended that the bid be accepted subject to receipt of a satisfactory budget, including registration fee and hotel costs. This was agreed by the GA and that the Board would make the decision on behalf of the network based on receipt of requested information.

2008 Workshop (now called 'Members' Forum')

Mr. Victor Nicoletti made a presentation on behalf of CONEAU, the hosts of the 2008 Forum in Buenos Aires. The CONEAU bid had already been agreed and the presentation was to update on venue, location, etc.

The dates for the 2008 Forum have been agreed to be 14-16 May 2008.

6. As there was no other business arising, the President closed meeting at 18.00.