

# ASSITEJ International Executive Committee Meeting Adelaide, March 6 – 12, 2005

*Present:*

Wolfgang Schneider	Germany	President
Niclas Malmcrona	Sweden	Secretary General
Remi Boucher	Canada	Vice President
Luiza Monteiro	Brasil	Vice President
Tony Mack	Australia	Vice President
Klaus Eggert	Denmark	Treasurer
Cheela Chilala	Zambia	
Stephan Rabl	Austria	
Ivica Simic	Croatia	
Kim Woo Ok	Korea	
Yuriko Kobayashi	Japan	
Nava Bik	Israel	Deputy
Jackson Ndawula	Uganda	Counsellor
Tülin Saglam	Turkey	Counsellor
Kim Peter Kovac	USA	Counsellor
Eckhard Mittelstädt	Germany	Counsellor
Louise Landin	Sweden	Minutes

## 1. Opening

*Wolfgang Schneider* welcomed all EC members and expressed his wish for a productive outcome of the meeting.

## 2. Apologies

*Michail Bartenev, Hagit Rehavi Nikolayevsky, Peter Rinderknecht and Jeremy Turner* sent their apologies. Letters from *Jeremy Turner*, with comments on the items of the agenda, and from *Hagit Rehavi Nikolayevsky* were handed out to all EC members. Mrs *Nava Bick*, of ASSITEJ Israel and deputy of *Hagit Rehavi Nikolayevsky* received a special welcome.

## 3. Report from the Bureau-meeting

No Bureau-meeting was held.

## 4. Review of the agenda

Item #6.g Honorary President's Award, was added to the agenda.

## 5. Adoption of the minutes from the Cape Town meeting

Item 9.b Festivals in Asia: India was added to the list of countries participating in the *Asian Theatre Festival* in Beijing, China, 2004.

Item 14-15b Reports from working groups; *Networking*; *Yearbook*: *Tony Mack* asked that it be clarified that it was the Networking group, which made the proposal for the financing of the Yearbook.

*The EC endorsed the proposed changes and the minutes were adopted.*

## 6. From the General Secretariat

### a) Secretary General's report 2004

*Niclas Malmcrona* briefly accounted for his activities during 2004. The report had been distributed to all EC members.

#### ● World Day

*Niclas Malmcrona* was pleased to report on encouraging correspondence, in which centres have expressed enthusiasm for the World Day.

At its last meeting, the EC decided to ask Nobel Peace Prize winner *Kim Dae Joong*, to write the World Day Message for 2004. Mr Joong declined. Instead, playwright and artistic director Mr *Volker Ludwig* was given the mission to write the message. *Niclas Malmcrona* stated that for future World Days, young practitioners within the field of theatre for children and young people, should be asked to write the messages. This could, perhaps, produce invigorating and thought-provoking messages. *Tony Mack* agreed,

suggesting that ASSITEJ ask young practitioners what their understanding of theatre for children and young people is, and then select one of the answers to be the World Day Message.

● Festival Guide

There has been poor response to the update of the Festival Guide. *Niclas Malmcrona* urged all members to supply the General Secretariat with updated information for the Festival Guide.

● Iraqi statement

*Niclas Malmcrona* reported on a meeting with *Lina Attel*, of ASSITEJ Jordan. They have decided to approach a cultural centre in Baghdad, which has close contacts with France.

● Catalogue of Scripts

The Web Catalogue of Scripts was launched in December, presenting 46 scripts from 8 countries. *Niclas Malmcrona* has reminded all Centres to please supply the Catalogue with scripts.

● Co-operation with ITI (International Theatre Institute)

ASSITEJ is co-operating with ITI in the ITI-organised *International Playwriting Competition 2006*. *Niclas Malmcrona* thanked *Ivica Simic* for his extensive work in setting up communication with ITI. *Ivica Simic* thanked the members of the competition jury, *Peter Rinderknecht*, *Henry Fwaunda* and chairman *Lia Caravias* for their work.

● Travels

*Niclas Malmcrona* specifically mentioned his trip to Jordan, Syria and Lebanon (as part of the partnership-project initiated by ASSITEJ Centres of Jordan, Denmark and Sweden). He reported that applications for membership are to be expected from Syria and Lebanon. The practices of theatre for children and young people differ between the two countries. In Syria, theatre is supported by the government, while theatre in Lebanon relies on support from commercial interests.

b) Extraordinary decision about Argentina

In October, *Niclas Malmcrona* received numerous e-mails from South American theatre companies, regarding a festival in Cordoba, to which they had been invited by ASSITEJ Argentina. The festival never took place, and the companies found themselves stranded at the location, without money or a place to stay. Meantime, the office of ASSITEJ Argentina was nowhere to be reached. The conduct of ASSITEJ Argentina in this matter severely damaged the reputation of ASSITEJ International.

*Niclas Malmcrona* then gathered the EC Bureau by e-mail. The Bureau reached the decision of expelling ASSITEJ Argentina from ASSITEJ International. *Niclas Malmcrona* has sent a letter (in Spanish) to ASSITEJ Argentina, informing the Centre that the expulsion can be appealed at the General Assembly. The theatre companies invited to the non-existing festival also received a letter, regretting and explaining the situation.

*The EC unanimously endorsed the decision of the Bureau to expel ASSITEJ Argentina.*

c). Contacts with Centres

*Niclas Malmcrona* reported on good communication with the Centres regarding Newsletters and the World Day of 2005.

*Eckhardt Mittelstädt* reported that the ASSITEJ Centres of Belgium, France, Portugal and Spain express great interest in taking part in the international work of ASSITEJ.

#### d) Contacts with non-member countries

The Secretary General has communicated with several South American countries. *Niclas Malmcrona* said he hoped that the EC would soon receive applications from Chile and Uruguay for membership with ASSITEJ International. *Malmcrona* added that the EC will be able to endorse new members in Montreal, at its last meeting before the General Assembly.

*Eckhardt Mittelstädt* reported that the French government-organisation of ONDA will take part in the Congress, with 30 theatre practitioners.

#### e) Membership applications

All EC-members were provided with copies of the applications.

##### ● Argentina

The application of ATINA was discussed. ATINA fulfils the requirements for a full membership, and has expressed interest in joining ASSITEJ on several occasions.

*Niclas Malmcrona* recommended Argentina as a full member of ASSITEJ.

*The EC unanimously endorsed Argentina as a full member of ASSITEJ.*

##### ● Lichtenstein

*Niclas Malmcrona* recommended Lichtenstein as a full member of ASSITEJ.

*The EC unanimously endorsed Lichtenstein as a full member of ASSITEJ.*

ASSITEJ International now holds 78 members throughout the world.

#### f) World Day Relay

The Relay that was planned to take place this year, was postponed until World Day of 2006. This will give *Peter Manscher* and *Niclas Malmcrona* sufficient time to prepare the Relay. More information on the Relay will be given at the next EC-meeting.

#### g) Honorary President's Award

*Klaus Eggert* reported on the work of the Jury (*Klaus Eggert, Yuriko Kobayashi, Ivica Simic, Etoundi Zeyang* and *Rosemary Myers*).

Five (5) nominees were evaluated: *Kim Woo Ok* (Korea), *Zeal Theatre* (Australia), *Peter Brosius* (USA), *János Nóvák* (Hungary) and *Haluk Yuce* (Turkey).

The recipients will be announced by Honorary President *Nat Eek* at the ASSITEJ 40th Anniversary Party at the Congress in Montreal. Prior to the Congress, all Centres will be informed on the names of the nominees. The names of the recipients of the Award will, however, be kept a secret.

The Jury wished for the future of the Award to be discussed at the General Assembly. *Klaus Eggert* suggested that perhaps the Award could be replaced by an "International Award", recognizing theatre practitioners/ administrators who spread their work for children and young people at an international level. *Kim Peter Kovac* stated that it is important to award and encourage persons who broaden their work beyond regional/national boundaries.

*Klaus Eggert* reported that the Jury was disappointed in the low number of nominees.

Also, the quality and amount of material that the Jury received on the nominees varied greatly. This circumstance complicated the process of fairly evaluating and comparing the nominees. The Jury noted that there should be stricter guidelines as to what information material is to be supplied on the nominees. *Niclas Malmcrona* agreed, adding that the EC also needs to discuss the general premises for the Award.

*Wolfgang Schneider* thanked the Jury for its work. The EC congratulated awarded Dr. *Kim Woo Ok*.

## 7. President's Report 2004

*Wolfgang Schneider* gave a brief report on his activities since the last EC-meeting in September of 2004. A written report was handed out, along with written versions of speeches he held during 2004.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

*Klaus Eggert* reported on the Treasury.

All EC-members were supplied with copies of the accounts for 2002-2005.

### ● Budget

The budget holds no more money to spend during this term. (All membership fees for 2005 will go into the Accounts of the new EC).

### ● Membership fees

A Centre needs to have paid a minimum of USD 300 since the last Congress, in order to earn the right to vote at the General Assembly. Deadline for payment is July 1st. After this date, *Klaus Eggert* will supply the EC with an updated list on which countries have yet to pay their fees in order to earn the right to vote.

*Klaus Eggert* asked the EC for advice on how to act in cases where a Centre has paid its fee, e.g USD 100, but where only e.g USD 84 actually reaches the Treasurer, due to bank charges. *Klaus Eggert* suggested that this payment should be treated as a full payment, since that was the intention of the Centre. The EC agreed.

*Klaus Eggert* urged the EC to take into consideration whether the membership fee and/or the currency of the fee should be changed. A decision on this matter should be made at the General Assembly.

### ● Excuse of payment: Uganda

The ASSITEJ Centre of Uganda has asked for excuse of payment for 2004 and 2005, due to the severe circumstances taking place in the country. *Klaus Eggert* recommended that the EC grant Uganda excuse of payment. This would mean that Uganda still has the the right to vote at the General Assembly. *Niclas Malmcrona* opposed this and asked for a adjournment in order to discuss it with both *Cheela Chilala* and *Jackson Ndarwula* and in the upcoming regional meeting in Zambia in June.

*The EC decided to postpone the decision of excusing Uganda for payment for 2004 until the next meeting.*

### ● Budget for the next EC term

*Klaus Eggert* expressed a wish to present the General Assembly with a preliminary budget

for the next EC term. This would give the delegates an idea of what could be accomplished during the next term. *Wolfgang Schneider* stated that, as to avoid speculations, a better alternative would be to simply present the Accounts for 2002-2005. *Niclas Malmcrona* noted that there is no requirement in the Constitution to draw up a budget for the next term. The new EC will draft its budget after deciding upon a Working Plan.

*The EC decided that Klaus Eggert is to present the General Assembly with an estimate of what income/expenses the new EC can expect during its first term.*

● Auditor of the Accounts

*Klaus Eggert* reminded the EC that a decision needs to be made regarding an Auditor of the Accounts.

● Fundraising and marketing

*Niclas Malmcrona* stated that the most imminent task of the new EC will be to solve the question of how to fund the General Secretariat. Since 1990, the General Secretariat has been granted USD 500 000 from the Nordic countries. (The future of the General Secretariat was further discussed under Item #12)

A discussion took place, regarding the ASSITEJ work of fundraising. *Klaus Eggert* recommended that ASSITEJ raise money strictly on regional/ national levels. *Kim Peter Kovac* suggested that there must be international granting agencies, which ASSITEJ could approach for funding. *Luiza Monteiro* noted that the amount of money that ASSITEJ spends on marketing, affects the image of ASSITEJ. *Niclas Malmcrona* proposed that the EC set up a Working Group to deal with fundraising and marketing.

*The EC decided to form a working group, which will deal with fundraising and marketing.*

● Yearbook

*Tony Mack* noted that since the exchange rates have changed (a.i, the USD to the AUD), the premises for the decisions at the last EC meeting regarding the funding of the Yearbook no longer exist. The currency drop means an extra USD 1800 in expences, and the EC should be aware that production of the Yearbook no longer makes for a good deal.

Treasurer *Klaus Eggert* closed his report. *Wolfgang Schneider* thanked *Klaus Eggert* for his excellent work with the Accounts.

## **9. Report from the EC members**

The EC members gave brief reports on their activities since the last meeting.

## **10. Changes of the Constitution**

*Kim Peter Kovac* and *Klaus Eggert* reported on the Constitution Working Group's suggestions for changes to be made to the Constitution. The group includes *Klaus Eggert*, *Kim Peter Kovac*, *Niclas Malmcrona*, *Luiza Monteiro* and *Jeremy Turner*. Copies of the proposal had been sent to all EC members. *Klaus Eggert* welcomed input from the EC regarding the proposed changes.

(See Item #15, Constitution working group)

## 11. New voting system for the election of the EC

*Niclas Malmcrona* presented *Peter Ramlosa's* suggestion for a new voting system. Copies of the proposal had been sent to all EC members. In his proposal, *Ramlosa* notes that the present voting system is impractical, slow and unreliable. His proposal intends to fasten the voting process and make it more reliable.

A working group was formed, in which *Eckhardt Mittelstädt*, *Niclas Malmcrona* and *Michael Ramløse* will look over the proposal and come to a decision before the Assembly takes place.

## 12. Discussions on options for a future solution to an ASSITEJ General Secretariat

*Niclas Malmcrona* briefly explained his ideas for a future General Secretariat. A discussion arose on the subject.

The most effective solution, *Niclas Malmcrona* stated, would be to outsource the routine work of the General Secretariat (Festival Guide, Translations, Catalogue of Scripts etc). *Kim Peter Kovac* suggested that the tasks of the General Secretariat should be separated, so that a staff of administrators deal with the routine choirs. This way, the Secretary General can focus more on networking and establishing / maintaining contacts that benefit the aims of ASSITEJ. The latter, *Kovac* stated, is the most critical task of the General Secretariat. This solution could be effective and manageable, as long as the EC does not let the infrastructure of the servicing office grow too big.

*Rémi Boucher* suggested ASSITEJ set up a Head Office in Montreal, for which the city will provide funding, including salary of staff. The EC would present Montreal with a 3-year plan for the Office and work out the conditions. *Klaus Eggert* suggested that such an office also take over the Accounts. *Kim Peter Kovac* and *Wolfgang Schneider* agreed.

*Wolfgang Schneider* noted that the EC and ASSITEJ have been fortunate to have a Secretary General working full time, financed by the Nordic countries and the National Council of Cultural Affairs of Sweden. He emphasized the importance of maintaining this level of professionalism, a.i to have a Secretary General skilled in networking.

*In preparations for the Congress, Niclas Malmcrona will be contacting Centres to investigate the possibilities of outsourcing the routine tasks of the General Secretariat.*

*The EC also unanimously asked Niclas Malmcrona to stand as a candidate for the office of the General Secretariat for the next period unless no other candidates comes forward.*

Centres are welcome to contact *Niclas Malmcrona* in the matter.

*Rémi Boucher will further investigate the details of a future Head Office in Montreal.*

## 13. Report from Congress preparations

*Remi Boucher* reported from the preparations and handed out extensive information material.

● Congress runs from Tuesday September 20th through Monday September 26th. Delegates arrive on Monday 19th. The present EC holds its last meeting on Tuesday 20th. The General Assembly meets Wednesday 21th, Thursday 22nd and on Sunday 25th. The new EC meets on Monday 26th. Forums are held on Friday 23rd. ASSITEJ 40th Anniversary Party will be celebrated on Sunday 25th. Official registration begins on April 22nd. Website: [www.montreal-2005.com](http://www.montreal-2005.com)

● World festival of the arts for young audiences, Les Coups de Théâtre, runs September 20th – 30th

Delegates, and audience, will be advised to attain their visas well in time.

The EC discussed the report from Rémi Boucher and expressed satisfaction with the preparations so far.

#### **14. Discussion and work in the Working Groups**

The following groups set out to discuss their items:

No.2 Networking  
No.4 Information  
No.5 Archives  
No. 7 Constitution

#### **15 -16. Reports from Working Groups**

##### a) No.7 Constitution

*Klaus Eggert* reported on the revisions made to the constitution and expressed his gratitude to *Kim Peter Kovac* for his help. The EC read and discussed the suggestions for changes.

The proposed changes to the Constitution will be sent out to all Centres three (3) months prior to the General Assembly in Montreal. The General Assembly will then vote on adopting the EC's proposal for a revised Constitution. *Kim Peter Kovac* noted that in presenting the proposed changes, the EC should add a statement, explaining that the changes are mostly of a technical nature, and not essential to the content.

*The EC endorsed the proposed changes of the Constitution.*

##### b) No.2 Networking

*Niclas Malmcrona* reported on the group's work with the forums that the EC will host at the Congress. Members of the EC will present topics on how to create dramatic literature, how to develop partnerships between theatre arts and the educational system, and how to organise festivals and set up theatre centres. Theatre criticism will be discussed at a joint venture with AICT, and the art of creating dramatic literature will be explored at a venture with IBBY.

The forums will be held around a "round table", in order to allow for everyone to actually participate. Written summaries will be made from the forums. *Rémi Boucher* asked that audience participation at the forums should be limited to 50 persons, as to facilitate audience participation. The number of people taking part in the Forums will be regulated by registration. If there is an exceptionally high number of persons who wish to take part at a certain forum, that forum could be split into two. *Wolfgang Schneider*

asked the EC to please come with suggestions for interesting people that could take part in the Forums.

*Rémi Boucher* wished to receive more information on the participants, the chair persons and the topics by April 15th (final version of the Congress Website is launched on April 22nd).

#### c) No.4 Information

*Tony Mack* reported on the work with the Yearbook. The Yearbook will be included in the registration fee for the Congress. The projected income for the Yearbook is, presently, USD 12 930, including a safety margin of USD 3000.

##### ● Production Timeline

The work of collecting material to be published in the Yearbook should be finished in May. A first draft will be made by July 1st. Printing takes place in August. The Yearbook will be finished around September 8th, two weeks before the Congress.

##### ● Content

The Yearbook will feature articles on playwrighting, on the art of creating dramatic literature, on theatre and arts in the educational system, and on directing for young audiences. The 40th anniversary of ASSITEJ will be given attention: the past will be presented in a timeline, the present will be given attention highlighting regional cooperation. The future will be introduced by presenting articles on/by young directors and writers, and on how ASSITEJ can support practitioners working in the field of theatre for young audiences.

*Wolfgang Schneider* urged the EC to supply the editors with photos and pictures, to make sure that the Yearbook contains a lot of visual information. *Kim Peter Kovac* agreed, as visual material of any kind will improve the Yearbook. The task of the designers will be facilitated by having a large amount of visual material to choose from.

##### ● Printing and Designing the Yearbook

The working group had been discussing the possibilities of designing and printing the Yearbook in the USA. This way, savings could be made in freight costs, which would allow for spending more money on designing the cover. Presently, the budget for the Yearbook allows for black and white photos and advertisements, but with the cover made in colour. If conditions change, the budget could be revised and visual information could be printed in colour.

*Kim Peter Kovac will explore if there are designers and printers available in the USA. Remi Boucher will investigate the possibilities of printing and designing in Canada. Ivica Simic will look into the possibility of printing the Yearbook in Croatia. Eckhardt Mittelstädt will look into the matter of printing visual information in colour.*

#### d) No5 Archives

*Luiza Monteiro* reported on the Group's analysis of the Archives in Frankfurt. *Monteiro* suggested that the Archives should be digitalized, in order to make them more easily accessible. A digitalization would facilitate the maintenance and development of the Archives. *Luiza Monteiro* reported that equipment, such as scanner, computers and software are already available at the ASSITEJ Germany facilities. Estimated cost for digitalization would be roughly EUR 2000. However, the budget for the current EC term holds no more money for the Archives. A discussion arose on whether the digitalization project should be initialized before the Congress, within the present EC term. *Luiza Monteiro* stated that the work should be started before the Congress. This would allow

the EC to show results that will inspire centres to supply the Archives with documentation. *Klaus Eggert* agreed that this would be possible, providing the EC draft a budget for the Archives that will be split between current EC and the next EC. *Eckhardt Mittelstädt* noted that digitalization is a long-term project. *Tony Mack* stated that instead of starting the project now, the matter should be put before the Congress. This way, the General Assembly can build the project in to the Working Plan. *Stephan Rabl* agreed, adding that the EC should ask centres to bring material for the Archives to the Montreal.

*Wolfgang Schneider* thanked *Luiza Monteiro* for her evaluation of the Archives. He urged the EC to ask centres to supply the Archives with documentation, either by bringing material to the Congress, or by sending it to Frankfurt.

*The EC decided that the Archives Working Group should be granted USD 1000, within the present EC term, to initialize the work of digitalizing the Archives.*

#### e) Written reports from Working Groups

*Niclas Malmcrona* asked the chair persons of the Working Groups to please supply him with short (one page) written reports on their work, which he can present to the General Assembly.

*Deadline for reports: June 1st.*

*Chairpersons: Networking Wolfgang Schneider, Information Tony Mack,*

*Archives Luiza Monteiro, Catalogue of Scripts Jeremy Turner,*

*Constitution Klaus Eggert, Iraqi statement and Policy Niclas Malmcrona.*

### **17. Nominations for Honorary President and Honorary Members**

Proposals are to be sent to Secretary General *Niclas Malmcrona*, who will then put the proposals forward to the General Assembly. A proposal needs to be endorsed by the EC on its last meeting, before the General Assembly.

### **18. Coming EC-meetings**

The last meeting of the present EC, as well as the first meeting of the new EC, will be held in Montreal in September. *Niclas Malmcrona* stated that the new EC should hold its second meeting as soon as possible after the Congress, at the latest by January of 2006.

The following options for dates and places of EC-meetings were suggested by the EC:

Sao Paulo, Brazil, in early 2006.

Graz, Austria, February 2006

Linz, Austria, June 2006

Burca, Turkey, October 2006

Vienna, Austria, February 2007

Seoul, Korea, July 2007

### **19. Any other business**

*Rémi Boucher* noted that the South American theme at the Festival that takes place in junction with the Congress, is an important step in bringing South American practitioners closer to /into ASSITEJ.

## **20. Closing**

Wolfgang Schneider thanked everyone for their participation, and host Tony Mack for providing the EC with nice surroundings and a friendly atmosphere for its meeting.

The meeting was closed.