

**ASSITEJ INTERNATIONAL
Executive Committee Meeting
Cape Town, South Africa
September 2 - 8, 2004**

Present:

Wolfgang Schneider	Germany	President
Niclas Malmcrona	Sweden	Secretary General
Michail Bartenev (from item no. #13)	Russia	
Cheela Chilala	Zambia	
Yuriko Kobayashi	Japan	
Luiza Monteiro	Brazil	
Jackson Ndawula	Uganda	
Hagit Rehavi Nikolayevsky	Israel	
Stephan Rabl	Austria	
Peter Rinderknecht	Switzerland	
Ivica Simic (from item no. #13)	Croatia	
Kim Woo Ok	Korea	
Kim Peter Kovac	USA	Counsellor
Tülin Saglam	Turkey	Counsellor
Louise Landin	Sweden	Minutes

1. Opening

Wolfgang Schneider opened the meeting expressing his gratitude to *Niclas Malmcrona* for organizing the event and for his efforts in establishing contacts with theatre practitioners in Africa. He welcomed all the EC-members and wished for a successful meeting.

Niclas Malmcrona said he hoped that the performances scheduled for the EC-meeting would provide interesting insights in some of the African styles of theatre for children and young audiences. Between sessions, the EC-members would also be meeting with ASSITEJ representatives from southern and eastern Africa.

There was a minute's silence in honour of former ASSITEJ members who recently have passed away: *Zinovy Korogodsky (Russia)*, *Tisa Chifunyise (Zimbabwe)*, *Lowell Swortzell (USA)* and *Zwejdana Ladika (Croatia)*.

2. Apologies

Remi Boucher (Canada), *Klaus Eggert (Denmark)*, *Tony Mack (Australia)*, *Eckhardt Mittelstädt (Germany)* and *Jeremy Turner (United Kingdom)* sent their apologies.

3. Report from the Bureau-meeting

Due to the absence of several members, no Bureau-meeting was held.

4. Review of the agenda

Reports from the festivals in La Paz and Taiwan were added to Item no. #9.

5. Adoptions of the minutes from the Amman-meeting

Ivica Simic wished to have the following changes made to the minutes: Item 7c, line 5, should read: "... Albanians constitute a 30% minority..."

The EC agreed to this change being made.

The minutes from the Amman-meeting were adopted.

6. Report from the General Secretariat

a) Secretary General's report

Niclas Malmcrona reported on his activities since April of 2004. The report is also available in a printed version.

● Newsletters

In May, Newsletter no. 36 was distributed to all centres in a printed version and via e-mail.

● Travels and visits

Niclas Malmcrona gave a brief report on his travels since the last EC-meeting.

On a trip to Denmark in April, he visited a festival and met with the Web-master and the Nordic Council of Ministers.

In June, he (in cooperation with ASSITEJ Sweden and ASSITEJ Moçambique) organized a

playwright workshop as part of the African regional networking project..

Along with *Cheela Chilala (Zambia)*, *Frederick Philander (Namibia)* and *Brenda Toko (South Africa)*, *Niclas Malmcrona* visited Cape Town in June, making preparations for the EC-meeting.

Imminent future travels will include Latvia, for the Nordic Baltic Festival, and a visit to High Fest in the new member country Armenia.

- Approved ASSITEJ International Festival & Projects
ASSITEJ International Festivals
Seoul Performing Arts Festivals for Young Audiences, including
The Asian Theatre Festival for Young Audiences
(Seoul, Korea, July 17th - 25th, 2004)

Bank of Scotland Children's International Theatre Festival
(Scotland, May 5th - June 2nd, 2004)

Festival Africain de Théâtre pour l'Enfance et la Jeunesse
(Yaoundé, Cameroun, November 9th - 14th, 2004)

Milk Tooth, The Fourth International Theatre Festival for Children and Young People (Zagreb, October 19th - 23, 2004)

ASSITEJ International Projects
"Welcome to the European Union"
A Network for Children's and Young People's Theatre
at The Children's and Young People's Theatre Festival "Triangel".
(Konstanz, Germany, June 20th - 13th, 2004)

- Catalogue of scripts
Niclas Malmcrona reported that due to late submissions, the catalogue has not yet been launched on the ASSITEJ web-site. He also expressed disappointment with the low number of centres that have supplied the General Secretariat with scripts (deadline was May 31 of 2004).

Niclas Malmcrona suggested to defer the issue to the Catalogue of scripts working group for further discussion.

- Australian proposal to host the General Secretariat
In an e-mail *Tony Mack* informed that in a near future, he should be able to give the EC a definitive answer as to whether he and Australia will be able to stand as candidate for the office of Secretary General and to host the General Secretariat from 2005.

b) Contacts with Centres

- Argentina
At its last meeting, the EC resolved that the Policy working-group was to draft a letter to ASSITEJ Argentina, concerning their wish for the EC to make greater efforts in promoting ASSITEJ activities in Central and South America. The letter was issued and sent, but as of yet, the General Secretariat has not received a reply from ASSITEJ Argentina.

- New Zealand
Niclas Malmcrona handed out copies of a letter from *Rosie Bolton* of ASSITEJ New

Zealand. In her letter, she speaks of her aim for the centre to revive its ASSITEJ connections. The centre also aims to have a presence at the Congress in Montreal.

Niclas Malmcrona said he hoped to visit with the New Zealand centre during his preparations for the upcoming EC-meeting in Australia

- Albania

Niclas Malmcrona handed out copies of a letter from *Elvira Diamanti* and *Shkelzen Tuzi* of ASSITEJ Albania. In their letter, they wish for an international ASSITEJ representative to be present at a workshop they plan to give in November of 2004. They also thank *Ivica Simic*, for assisting them in establishing their centre.

- Peru

Copies of a letter from *Myriam Reategui*, of ASSITEJ Peru, were handed out. Ms *Reategui* regrets that her centre was not able to finance a presence at the World Cultural Forum in Brazil. She also tells of the Centre's efforts to strengthen ASSITEJ and theatre for young audiences in Latin America. The letter also invites *Wolfgang Schneider* to a meeting in Lima, in March of 2005, for discussions about the presence of ASSITEJ in Latin America.

c) Contacts with non-member countries

- Venezuela

Niclas Malmcrona informed that he had been in contact with the Venezuelan centre, which apparently has been re-established. He has asked the Venezuelan centre to submit a new application for membership.

d) Membership applications

- Macedonia

Since the Amman-meeting, there has been a positive development in the matter of the Macedonian centre. A new application has been submitted, signed by professional theatre companies, which fulfil the criteria for a full membership.

Niclas Malmcrona recommended the Macedonian centre for a full membership.

The EC unanimously endorsed Macedonia as a full member of ASSITEJ.

- Botswana

Niclas Malmcrona reported that he and *Bernt Höglund* (of ASSITEJ Sweden), recently met with enthusiastic representatives from the Botswana centre in the Botswana capital Gaborone. The country holds a small population, yet does provide theatre for children and young audiences. Being a member of ASSITEJ, *Niclas Malmcrona* stated, would facilitate the centre's work for children's theatre and boost their status in contacts with the government of Botswana. *Cheela Chilala* agreed, and hoped that a co-operation with the Botswana centre would have a positive effect on work within the field of children's theatre in Africa.

Niclas Malmcrona thanked *Cheela Chilala* for his support in establishing contacts with theatre practitioners of Botswana.

Niclas Malmcrona recommended the Botswana Centre for a corresponding membership.

The EC unanimously endorsed Botswana as a corresponding member of ASSITEJ.

e) Others

Niclas Malmcrona informed on a partnership-project in the Middle East region. The project is a co-operation between the ASSITEJ Centres of Jordan, Denmark and Sweden. More

information in the matter will be supplied as the work progresses. *Kim Peter Kovac* offered to contribute with contacts he has in Algeria and Israel.

A discussion arose on the subject of how to improve the EC's communication with centres whose members do not speak English. *Luiza Monteiro* raised the question of how to make ASSITEJ stronger in Francophone Africa. *Cheela Chilala* informed that he often encourages french-speaking countries of Africa to establish contacts with France or Canada.

Wolfgang Schneider suggested that, in preparing for the Congress, the EC should discuss strategies for broadening the global work of ASSITEJ.

The EC endorsed the report from the General Secretariat.

7. President's report

Wolfgang Schneider gave a report on his activities since the Amman-meeting.

● Travels and visits

In Konstanz, Germany, he visited the conference "Welcome to the European Union", hosted by The Children's and Young People's Theatre Festival "Triangel". The conference welcomed participants from the ten new member countries of the EU.

In Holon, Israel, he visited the opening ceremony of the "Mediatheque". The facilities will provide workshops on the production of theatre for young audiences and a library for Children's Books. Also, the building will be the new residence of ASSITEJ Israel.

In Stuttgart, Germany he visited the opening ceremony of the "Junges Ensemble". *Peter Rindeknecht* stated that this establishment indicates a dynamic effect for children's theatre throughout the region.

In Cork, Ireland, at the Annual Meeting of the European Network of Art Organizations for Children and Young People, *Wolfgang Schneider* gave a lecture on Arts and Education.

In St Petersburg, Russia, at the Annual Conference of the International Federation for Theatre Research, he gave a lecture on theatre for children.

● Other business

Wolfgang Schneider handed out copies of an article ("A World of Theatre in the Gulf of Mexico) written by *Ian Herbert*, President of the International Association of Theatre Critics. The article describes ITI (International Theatre Institute, an UNESCO-affiliated organisation), as an organisation in a state of crisis. However, the article does salute the ITI initiative to launch a website (<http://iti-unesco.org>), which provides visitors with a unique access to information on the world's theatres, practitioners, festivals, drama schools and theatre organisations.

The next Congress of ITI will take place in the Philippines in May 2006. *Wolfgang Schneider* stated that it is important for ASSITEJ and the EC to take part in that Congress, in order to strengthen the work and reputation of ASSITEJ. *Luiza Monteiro* agreed, saying that a co-operation with ITI could facilitate the ASSITEJ struggle for obtaining project grants.

The EC endorsed the report.

8. Treasurer's report

Niclas Malmcrona handed out the Treasurer's report, supplied by *Klaus Eggert*.

● So far, a majority of the Centres had yet to pay their subscription fees. *Niclas Malmcrona* reminded the EC that the fees must be paid in order to take part in the voting processes of the Congress in Montreal. To obtain the right to vote at the Congress, a centre needs to have paid a minimum of USD 300 in subscription fees. This amount must be submitted by March of 2005 (a.i six months prior to the Congress). *Niclas Malmcrona* added that this would also be emphasized in the letter that will be sent to the centres that have overdue subscription fees.

The EC also resolved that, in issuing the invoice of 2005, Treasurer *Klaus Eggert* should emphasize need for all centres to pay their fees as described.

The EC endorsed the report.

● In order to finance the Cape Town meeting, Klaus Eggert has made alterations to the budget.

The EC unanimously endorsed the changes made to the budget.

9. Reports from World Cultural Forum and Festivals

a) Report from the World Cultural Forum in Sao Paulo, Brazil

In June, The UNESCO World Cultural Forum was held in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

Luiza Monteiro gave a report from the Forum, which she stated had been successful and rewarding for the future work of theatre for young audiences in Latin America. At the Forum, she made contacts with representatives from ASSITEJ Spain and ASSITEJ Mocambique. She also expressed gratitude to *Wolfgang Schneider* and Latin American Cultural Director *Joachim Bernauer*, of the Goethe Institute, for their presence at the Forum.

Luiza Monteiro also gave a brief report from "FITAZ - Festival Internacional de Teatro de La Paz" 2004.

b) Festivals in Asia

● Asian Theatre Festival, Beijing, China, July of 2004

Kim Woo Ok briefly reported on the festival, in which participants from China, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Nepal and Taiwan took part.

The next festival will take place in late May of 2005.

● Taipei Festival, August of 2004

Kim Woo Ok gave a brief report on the festival, which was Taiwan's fifth Children's Theatre Festival. Audiences of more than 300 000 visited the festival, which offered outdoor performances from the cities of Beijing, Hongkong, Seoul, Shanghai and Taipei. *Kim Woo Ok* said that as of next year, there are plans to start a networking project in Asia.

Niclas Malmcrona reminded the EC of its discussions about accepting Taiwan as a member. *Wolfgang Schneider* suggested that, due to the complications of politics, ASSITEJ should consider Taiwan as corresponding member, at least for a start. However, he emphasized, it is necessary for the EC not to be influenced by political issues, such as occur in the matter of Taiwan. *Luiza Monteiro* agreed, stating that it is important for an organisation as ASSITEJ not to be affected by politics.

10. Report from EC-members

The EC-members gave brief reports on their own professional projects.

11. Preparation of the seminar with IBBY

During the meeting in Cape Town, a joint seminar was held with IBBY (International Board of Books for Young People). At the seminar, headed by *Wolfgang Schneider*, lectures on theatre-making/adaptations of books will be given by *Cheela Chilala*, *Hagit Rehavi*, *Nikolayevsky*, and *Peter Rindeknecht*.

Wolfgang Schneider hoped that the seminar would result in new, productive experiences in the field of arts for children and young audiences. He urged the EC members to come up with ideas of what to discuss during the seminar.

Kim Peter Kovac found it worthy of note how, in the USA, youngsters tend to increase the time they spend reading books, while cutting back on their attendance at theatre performances. This, he suggested, could supply theatre makers with an opportunity, as they can take advantage of popular books for young people and bring the essence/stories of these books on to stage. Also, he added, it should be interesting to see what happens when different directors make adaptations of the same book; what will differ/what will remain the same in their adaptations?

12. Actions concerning the situation in Iraq

Niclas Malmcrona stated that, in order for ASSITEJ to take further actions, the political situation in Iraq needs to be stabilized. He handed out copies of a list of contributions made by the Centres (the list is also posted on www.assitej.org).

Jackson Ndawula suggested that, as the world holds several severe conflict areas, the EC should set up unrestricted funds (a.i not only a fund for the Iraqi situation). *Kim Peter Kovac* consented. *Niclas Malmcrona* agreed that there is certainly a need for ASSITEJ assistance in many areas conflicted by war and other difficulties. However, the act of setting up unrestricted funds would call for a thorough investigation into the statues of ASSITEJ, and cannot, therefore, be resolved upon during the present EC meeting. *Niclas Malmcrona* promised to look into the matter for the next meeting.

13. Discussion and work in working-groups

The following working-groups set out to accomplish their tasks:

No. 1 Policy

No. 2 Networking

No. 6 Catalogue of Scripts

14-15. Reports from the working-groups

a) No. 1 Policy

Niclas Malmcrona reported on the issues treated by the working group.

● ASSITEJ Denmark's proposal for the World Day of 2005

The group proposed that the EC endorse the proposal of ASSITEJ Denmark's to organise a Children's Theatre Relay for the World Day of 2005 (copies of the Danish proposal were handed out).

The costs for organising the World Day should be covered by the General Secretariat and

ASSITEJ Denmark and the work of organising the event should be carried out by the general Secretariat and ASSITEJ Denmark.

The group proposed that for 2005, the World Day-message should be made by someone of Asian descent.

Yuriko Kobayashi suggested contacting Kenzaburo Oe, the Japanese recipient of the Nobel Prize. Kim Woo Ok recommended Korean Kim Dae Joong, receiver of the Nobel Peace Prize. Also, Niclas Malmcrona asked the EC members to come up with ideas for a symbolic "torch" for the Theatre Relay.

- **Honorary President's Award**

The working group proposed that awarding of the prize should take place at the ASSITEJ Birthday Party, at the Montreal Congress.

Kim Peter Kovac was asked to discuss the future of the prize with Ann Shaw and subsequently with Nat Eek.

The EC endorsed the proposals of the report.

b) No. 2 Networking

Wolfgang Schneider reported on the proposals of the working group

- **Networking within ASSITEJ**

The efforts of networking within ASSITEJ should reflect the regional meetings of the organisation.

Further contacts should be made with Asia.

For Networking in Latin America, a working group should be formed, in which Luiza Monteiro, Kim Peter Kovac, Remi Boucher and Niclas Malmcrona are to make a proposal for the next EC-meeting, on how to establish further contacts in Latin America.

- **Networking outside of ASSITEJ**

The group proposed that ASSITEJ establish further contacts with ITI (the UNESCO-affiliated organisation "International Theatre Institute").

ASSITEJ should have presence at the ITI Congress of 2006, in the Philippines.

Luiza Monteiro asked how ASSITEJ would benefit from establishing further relationships with ITI. Wolfgang Schneider stated that further contacts would give ASSITEJ a chance to take part in theatre seminars, discussions about theatre systems, etc. Also, many ASSITEJ Centres are in fact members of ITI.

- **ITI Playwright Competition**

Ivica Simic informed that ITI's International Playwright's Forum has invited ASSITEJ to join in a co-operation for their International Playwriting Competition 2006. The competition invites playwrights writing "plays for the young". Copies of a document containing information on this competition were handed out. A co-operation would mean that the Award would be named "ITI and ASSITEJ Award for plays for young audiences".

Wolfgang Schneider proposed that the EC should take part in this venture, as it would mean a co-operation between ASSITEJ and ITI.

The EC resolved to form a working group (Ivica Simic, Peter Rinderknecht and Niclas

malmcrona) to deal with establishing further contacts with ITI. In the matter of the competition, *Ivica Simic* will represent the EC, and *Niclas Malmcrona* will look into the financial issues of such a co-operation. Also, the working group should discuss the criteria for the competition.

● Montreal Congress

A Forum was proposed to take place at the Congress.

Topics of the Forum could include

- How to create dramas / transfer dramas from literature
- Relationship between theatre and schools
- Discussions on the institutionalisation of children's theatre.

On this matter, *Stephan Rabl* informed that, over the last decade, a network of new models of Theatre Houses have formed throughout the world. These networking Theatre Houses provide artistic impulses, invite foreign participants and take part in education. *Stephan Rabl* said that it would be interesting to discuss this phenomena at the Forum. *Wolfgang Schneider* agreed, saying that it well reflects the structure of contemporary children's theatre in many parts of the world.

Playwrights at the Congress

The working group proposed that the Congress should offer a special place and time each day for playwrights: At these short sessions, playwrights would be invited to read excerpts from their plays. Also, these sessions would be a good opportunity to promote the *Catalogue of scripts*.

Niclas Malmcrona asked the working group to please check with *Remi Boucher* as soon as possible (before the next EC-meeting) to make sure the schedule allows for such a project.

Seminar with IATC

(The International Association of Theatre Critics will have an EC-meeting parallel with Congress).

Seminar with board of Theatre Research

Wolfgang Schneider suggested that the EC organise some sort of venue with the International Federation for Theatre Research (formerly known as FIRT) at the Congress, as the EC of this federation will meet in Montreal at that time.

"How not to do it"

The working group proposed that *Peter Rindeknecht* produce a play, based on the worst possible means of communicating with a young audience. The performance would, of course, be extremely experimental, *Peter Rindeknecht* explained, and the aim would be to start a productive discussion on quality within the field of Children's Theatre.

Luiza Monteiro liked the idea, although she found it somewhat risky. The project, she noted, could easily offend people, because different cultures have different values and their perception of good quality may not correspond with the views delivered through the performance.

● Yearbook

In a letter handed out to the EC, *Tony Mack* had informed that publication of the next Yearbook still depends on additional funds being made available during the term of the current EC.

Wolfgang Schneider reported on the proposals of the working group concerning the Yearbook.

Production

- Renewal of the layout is in progress.
- The content will reflect the now 80 member countries.
- The Yearbook will present 2 - 3 different themes.

Publication

The working group proposed that the Yearbook be produced before the Montreal Congress.

Funding

The working group proposed that the Yearbook be financed through

- Presales

- Advertisement: 10 pages

Advertisements should be paid by the national Centres. (That is, Centres rally theatre makers, e.g festivals, to pay for advertisements in the Yearbook. Payment for the ads is then channelled to the EC through the national Centres).

The working group suggested that the prices for advertising should be: USD 600/ full page, USD 350/ half page, USD 200 quarter page.

The matter will be further discussed with *Tony Mack* and *Klaus Eggert*.
Niclas Malmcrona will make sure that all Centres are informed.

For presales, Kim Peter Kovac proposed that in the application-form for the Congress, there should be a check-box in which visitors could check the alternative "I wish to receive the Yearbook for the amount of USD 10".

The EC endorsed the proposals of the report.

c) No. 6 Catalogue of Scripts

Cheela Chilala reported on the proposals of the working group.

● On attaining more scripts

Niclas Malmcrona should send an e-mail to the Centres, reminding them to submit scripts. The Web-catalogue should be launched as soon as possible, in order to initiate use and awareness of the catalogue. When people see and start using the catalogue, they will realize the need for it and thus be encouraged further to submit scripts.

At visiting with Centres, EC-members should point out the importance of supplying the Catalogue with scripts.

Luiza Monteiro offered to translate the instructions of the script application into Spanish and Portuguese.

The EC resolved that Niclas Malmcrona send an e-mail to urge centres to submit scripts. No new deadline was set. Providing that the budget for the Catalogue of Scripts-working group permits, a brochure will be issued, informing the centres on the Catalogue of Scripts and the Web-catalogue. The Web-catalogue will be launched shortly.

Kim Peter Kovac will ask the USA Centre to contribute further, with their Catalogue of Best Plays.

The EC endorsed the proposals of the report.

d) Archives

Wolfgang Schneider proposed that the EC form a working group, in which Luiza Monteiro, Eckhardt Mittelstädt and Wolfgang Schneider meet in Frankfurt and discuss how to promote and continue the work with the Archives.

The group should investigate how to make the archives more attainable and how to collect more material. *Luiza Monteiro* noted that the Archives lack in artistic material, as the majority of documents are made up of protocols etc.

The EC endorsed the proposal.

16. Coming EC-meetings

a) Adelaide, March of 2005

Niclas Malmcrona handed out copies of a letter from *Tony Mack*, containing the following information.

The Adelaide EC meeting has now been confirmed. The meeting will run from:
Monday 7th of March to Saturday 12th of March, 2005.

Arrival date: Sunday 6th of March.

Departure date: Saturday 12th of March (afternoon).

Tony Mack will contact some EC members individually to see whether they are available to stay for the 14th and 15th of March, to take part in a meeting with Australian theatre companies.

b) Meetings for the next term

Niclas Malmcrona stated the importance of holding a meeting as soon as possible after the Congress, as this facilitates the work of the new EC. Alternatives for locations could be the Spain, Denmark or the United Kingdom. He urged the EC to look for further possibilities. To facilitate the work of the General Secretariat, the EC should make sure that future meetings be organised by national centres at the venue.

17. Any other business

Luiza Monteiro reported on correspondence she has had with ASSITEJ Spain. The Spanish Centre was asked to translate the General Secretariat's Newsletter from English into Spanish. *Kim Peter Kovac* offered his assistance, as his Centre holds members that speak both English and Spanish (assistance depending on the quantities of material that need to be translated).

As a future project within ASSITEJ, *Luiza Monteiro* suggested linking Brazilian theatre makers that work in the field of Health Education (e.g AIDS campaigns), with African theatre companies. Also, *Luiza Monteiro* suggested a tour in Latin America to strengthen the name and work of ASSITEJ in the region.

Stephan Rabl expressed a wish to make a presentation at the next meeting, on possibilities for ASSITEJ to further promote its work. *Kim Peter Kovac* offered his assistance on this subject, as the U.S Centre is discussing the same matter.

18. Closing

Wolfgang Schneider expressed gratitude to the work of all EC-members and closed the meeting.