Present:
Yvette Hardie, President, South Africa (YH)
Marisa Giménez Cacho, Secretary General, Mexico (MGC)
Roberto Frabetti, Treasurer, Italy (RF)
Stefan Fischer-Fels, Vice President, Germany (SFF)
Asaya Fujita, Vice President, Japan (AF)
Vigdís Jakobsdottir, Vice President, Iceland (VJ)
Daniel H. Fernández, Argentina (DF)
François Fogel, France (FF)
Sue Giles, Australia (SG)
Nina Hajiyianni, UK (NH)
Imran Khan, India (IK)
Manon van de Water, USA (MvdW)
Razi Amitai, standing in for Ady Beeri, Israel (RA)

Marissa Garay, Executive Assistant, Mexico (Maui)
Kenjiro Otani, Translator, Japan (KO)

July 1
For the opening of the EC meeting:
Steve Ball, On The Edge, Host, UK
Thomas Wildish, On The Edge, Host, UK
Kirsten Peters, On The Edge Team, UK
Jo Gleave, On The Edge Team, UK

July 4
Dirk Neldner, Platform Shift+, EU Funding Project, Germany (DN)
Hilde Annette Aakre, ASSITEJ Norway (HAA)

July 6
Kim Peter Kovac, Write Local.Play Global, USA (KPK)
Cathrin Blöss, Panoptikum Theatre Festival, Germany (CB)
AGENDA

1. Welcome from President and Host
2. Apologies
3. Proposal and Approval of Agenda
4. General Reports:
   4.1 President’s Report
   4.2 Secretary General’s Report
5. Specifics of Working Groups (Reports)
   5.1 Promotions
      a. Website
      b. Flyer
      c. World Day
      d. Social Media
      e. Next Generation Residencies and Placements
   5.2 Publications
      a. Magazine
      b. Newsletter
   5.3 Projects
   5.4 Protocols, Policies and Fundraising
      a. Proposal to support the campaign “Take a Child to the Theatre”
      b. Solidarity Fund
      c. Lifetime Achievement Award
      d. Protocol Documents
6. Reports from the Regional and Professional Networks
7. Work in the Working Groups
8. Review of EC Participation in OTE
9. Treasurer’s Report
10. Meeting with Dirk Neldner on EU Funding Project
11. Reports from the Working Groups
12. Memberships
   12.1 New Member Applications
   12.2 Problematic Memberships
   12.3 Helping Small/Emerging Centers attend Festivals
13. Specific Items of Business
   a. World Day Video and Message
   b. ASSITEJ Archive guidelines
   c. Honoring ASSITEJ Founders at the Congress
   d. Visit to Cape Town before Congress
   e. Associations (UNIMA, IATC, ITI, etc.)
14. Meeting with Kim Peter Kovac on WLPG Award
15. Next EC Meetings
   b. South Korea – ASSITEJ Korea Winter Festival, January 2017
   c. Cape Town, South Africa – ASSITEJ Congress, May 2017

16. Any Other Business

17. Closure
1. Welcome from President and Host

Steve Ball (Executive Producer of On The Edge), Thomas Wildish (Festival Producer), Jo Gleave and Kirsten Peters from the team of On The Edge (OTE) were present to welcome the EC to Birmingham and to open the EC meeting and share important information regarding the OTE Festival and ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016.

2. Apologies

Apologies from Diana Krzanic Tepavac who was not able to attend due to lack of funding (Diana was offered support from EC but she decided not to for her own reason); Ady Beeri who wasn’t able to attend, due to a family situation at the last minute; Razi Amitai (ASSITEJ Israel and Ex-ASSITEJ EC member) attended in her place; and Roberto Frabetti who would be arriving July 4th.

3. Proposal and Approval of Agenda

4. General Reports:

4.1 President’s Report

YH gave her report, which consisted of the following points:

ASSITEJ Related Business

- International co-operation between the International Theatre Associations
- Letters of support and letters for International Festivals
- Updating of ASSITEJ Archives
- Engagement with World Day 2016
- General correspondence with members
- “Voices of Flight” project
- World Cultures Connect (Network, based in the UK, driving international exchange keen to find ways of working together; an opportunity for ASSITEJ to promote and connect).
- Thundafund
- Magazine articles
- ASSITEJ Magazine
- Theatre in Transformation Conference

* The minutes were revised by the EC after the meeting and DKT asked on September 6, 2016 to include the following explanation: “I could not accept to stand against the rule which we have established and voted for and that is that we, as members of the EC have the right to cover the cost of one trip to the EC meeting in the course of our three-year mandate. I thought that if we make one exception that he can inflict damage and cause disrespect for other rules which we have made. I also did not want to hurt Sue to which we deny ourselves financially support last year for Asia Meeting acting on the same basis.”
Travels

- Attended: Opening of “Red Earth Revisited” in Amsterdam, Netherlands; Malta Showcase 2015; FETEN Festival in Gijon, Spain; Visioni di Teatro, Visioni di Futuro in Bologna, Italy; New Visions, New Voices in Washington DC, USA (YH mentioned there was much interest from universities in the Congress); UNIMA World Congress and Puppet Festival in Tolosa and San Sebastian, Spain; Schone Aussicht in Stuttgart, Germany; 2nd International Drama Education Congress in Beijing, China.

- Upcoming: Belgrade, Serbia for BITEF Poliphony Festival and the International Association of Theatre Critics (IATC) International Conference and Next Generation Critics; Budapest, Hungary for 100, 1000, 1000000 Stories Festival; Yaoundé, Cameroon for EC meeting/FATEJ.


ASSITEJ South Africa News

- National: Kickstarter Project; National Arts Festival; Obs Family Festival and World Theatre Day; touring of Congress Incubation Productions to schools; African Youth Theatre and Dance Festival (this year there was a focus on Young Critics); showcases.

- International: New Visions, New Voices; Red Earth Revisited; Vamos Theatre; Magnet Theatre project (received funding from Goethe Institute and will have representatives in Congress); Patchwork; Mother to Mother; Residency of Theatre Thump.

- Cradle of Creativity: Call for Papers (YH asked for this call to be disseminated as much as possible); Call for Productions (YH said the 650 applications submitted will be sent to the archives to show what is available at this moment in TYA around the world).

Relationships with Puppets for Peace, Clowns without Borders (both will happen simultaneous to the Congress so they will be attending), Universities and Schools for a school program.

MvdW mentioned she tried to submit a proposal for a paper to show some people in Kazakhstan and it seemed a confusing process.

IK asked about the areas where ASSITEJ could collaborate with the other International Associations, to which YH responded that the first idea for cooperation is to begin working on a Performance Week in March, to celebrate the different World Days. Each association keeps their individual days but we also publicize one another’s and become a stronger advocacy group, and given the economic restraints in most places, finding ways to cooperate can be useful.

YH shared that UNIMA has a Puppetry Encyclopedia, which is an enormous resource for puppetry and will soon become an online resource. This was an example of how we can share what experts are doing and this way give our members access to more opportunities.
YH also commented that IATC is interested in having a future magazine that focuses on TYA. The most important need, to make the agreements with the Theatre Associations last, is to find a way to put them into writing and into practice.

(See full report as Addendum A)

4.2 Secretary General’s Report
MGC gave her report, which consisted of the following points:

Communication with the Centers

- Day to day email communication
- Official letters
- Invitation letters for the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering - On The Edge
- Obituaries

EU Funding Project

- Communication with Dirk Neldner and Lola Lara.

New Applications

- Chile and Peru

New ASSITEJ Inclusivity Logo

World Day

- Logo adjusted to Inclusivity
- Toolkit
- Translations of World Day Messages and Toolkit into Spanish
- Communications with ASSITEJ Nigeria regarding video payment

MGC mentioned that ASSITEJ Nigeria is in the process of opening a bank account so that ASSITEJ transfers the payment of the video to them and in turn, they will pay Jeremiah Ikiongo his corresponding part, since it seems that it was a job done with the support of several people from ASSITEJ Nigeria.

YH said there needs to be a policy decision that the filmmaker must receive the full remuneration; Pamela Udoka and ASSITEJ Nigeria must give a break down of how they use the money.

Website

- New sections
- Updates on homepage
- Next Generation Prezi under construction
-Honorary Members section under construction

YH asked EC members who spoke in Warsaw about an Honorary Member to help in constructing the different citations for the website.

-General updates

**Newsletter**

-Editing and formatting
-Looking for information
-Monthly sent via *Send In Blue*
-Translations into Spanish
-Update of Festival Information

**Magazine/Leaflet**

-Negotiations and following-up of the whole process with On The Edge team.
-Leaflet redesign and update of information.

**Calls and materials sent to centers**

**Twitter/Facebook**

**ASSITEJ Archives**

-May 2014 – May 2015 complete files (YH and RF’s material included) were sent to Frankfurt in May.
-Ivica Simic’s period is being reconstructed digitally by the Secretariat.
-Ivica Simic’s hardcopy materials have been sent to Frankfurt in June by Leo Vukelic, after negotiations with ASSITEJ Croatia.

MvdW suggested to send in the digital materials received by Ivica as it is, and the archivist will decide how to organize it. If the archives are already reconstructed, both versions could be sent.

**Office in Mexico City**

-New collaborator
-Funding

**International Invitations**

-Attended: Visioni di Futuro, Visioni di Teatro in Bologna, Italy; April Festival in Copenhagen, Denmark.
- Unable to attend: China Children’s Theatre Festival, but extended invitation to VJ who will be attending.

- Upcoming: JIENKOY (Japanese Union Theatre Companies for Children and Young People) invitation to Tokyo to give a presentation on ASSITEJ and Mexican TYA. Festival de Teatro de Camaguey in Cuba.

- Not yet accepted: 4th International Theatre Conference, Baku, Azerbaijan.

**Ibero-American Centers**

- Communications with Ecuador, Cuba, Colombia and Peru
  - Mexico: coproduction with Brazil and Mozambique towards Cradle of Creativity; FITPA, first international theatre festival for early years in Guadalajara, Mexico; Teatro al Vacío residency in Bologna; Mexican Next Generation participant in Birmingham; Tijuana Hace Teatro in Denmark; preparations towards 2017 ASSITEJ Korea Summer Festival which will have focus in Mexico; Theaterwelt, cycle of German TYA lectures.

*(See full report as Addendum B)*

**ACTION:**

1. EC members who spoke on Honorary Members from Warsaw will send their citations to the Secretariat.
2. MGC will send Ivica Simic’s digital archives to the Frankfurt ASSITEJ archives.

5. **Specifics of Working Groups (Reports)**

5.1 **Promotions**

a. **Website**

Update:
Strap line ‘uniting theatres, organizations and individuals throughout the world’ included on home page; FF resolved conflict with hacking/spam; updated layout and content; French translation partially completed.

FF mentioned the festival section is still unsolved, but he will be working on it.

MGC said the office has also been working on updating the information for the festivals.

MvdW asked for a list of Honorary Members in order to be able to help with the construction of the section. YH said the section for HM should be a sub-page of ASSITEJ members.

b. **Flyer**

YH said the flyer had a strong image and the content was presented in a much clearer way.
c. World Day
Update:
Communications with Jenny Sealey for the World Day message; press release and tool kit updated; steering of World Day film; Google Analytics to be in place for next year’s campaign.

NH mentioned Promotions could do more to make the tool kit and press release available much sooner.

VJ brought up the idea of having a Google doodle on March 20th for World Day. NH said they had written to Google with no response, and probably the way to do it is having many people write with the same request. IK suggested writing a letter to all centers for them to send it on to Google.

Regarding the World Day video, Jeremiah made several versions before the selected one. The final one is a good film but seems heavy on the promotion of one particular organization. NH suggested being more explicit on the brief and saying we should avoid looking at one organization rather than ASSITEJ. The viewings on YouTube have never been as high as the first year so maybe there should be a new focus within the campaign.

d. Social Media
Main communications via the office. Flickr updated with photos from Berlin and Norway EC meetings.
YH also suggested the office to have Google alerts (look at what should be regularly monitored), which would help to find information for the newsletter or social media.
NH asked to create a monthly plan for postings within the EC.

NH shared the hash tag for On The Edge #OTE2016 and YH shared the Cradle of Creativity hash tag #ASSITEJ2017.

ACTION:
1. FF and Secretariat will work on the festival section of the website.
2. Promotions working group will work on Google analytics and having tool kit and press release available earlier next year.
3. Promotions working group will make the World Day film brief more explicit.
4. Secretariat will create Google alerts for monitored information.

5.2 Publications
a. Magazine
The magazine, launched during On The Edge, included articles published in English and the original language of the author. A couple of articles received were saved for next year and some that were not chosen for the printed version, were published in the newsletter. There were 1,200 copies printed, and this has been the most expensive magazine yet. The online version will be launched by September.
The leaflet was also updated and 2,000 copies were printed.
MvdW mentioned there had been articles from countries that had never sent anything before. She also suggested looking into a professional copy editor for the next magazine, who could look over the magazine along with the publications working group. YH agreed to keep editing internally but also get someone professional to go through it before going to print.

YH suggested next year’s call for articles be very linked to the ITYARN Congress call for papers.

b. Newsletter
There is a new section since January entitled “Knowledge, Experiences, Reflections.” MGC asked for help in nourishing this section. YH suggested sharing the responsibility among the EC members the same way as with the newsletter introduction; the task would be to ensure there is an article from someone. MGC said it could also be picture portfolios and YH agreed, but avoiding that it becomes self-promotional, and having a paragraph linking the pictures together. SG agreed and said it could be used as an advocacy network stimulus. YH also suggested, once the magazine is online, the pictures can compliment the articles to the magazine.

Newsletter introductions were set as follows:
July/August – NH; September – DKT; October – VJ; November – DF; December – IK; January – RF; February – MvdW; March – FF; April – YH; May – MGC.

**ACTION:**
1. EC members in charge of the monthly newsletter introduction will also be responsible for the article section.

5.3 Projects
a. Next Generation
The question was raised on who is allowed to call a program a “Next Generation Residency” if it is not an ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering or Congress program. YH agreed that there is a need to have some sort of policy and criteria, because if any festival can use the name and there happens to be a disastrous program, then it can put ASSITEJ under a bad light.
MvdW commented that we don’t have quality control over external programs, so it can only be an ASSITEJ Next Generation Residency when ASSITEJ is in fact involved. VJ disagreed and said that National Centers should be supported to use the name.

DKT has been responsible for working on promoting the Placements program and there are now two new offers (Croatia and Norway).
Regarding financial support, YH suggests if the application is prior to September 2016, it should be considered.

YH also mentioned the Next Generation Network has not been as active in the way other networks are, and it would help if they would actively look for and promote offers.
NH said the network is still being tested and it is not helpful that the people are not consistently engaging or present so there is no sense of responsibility. Ben Fletcher-Watson has been driving a fair amount, but there is no real sense of an active board. SG mentioned that the key is in finding the individuals who will take responsibility.

YH also commented that the network should have precise goals on what it is really about to make it easier to direct the activity and conversation. The EC could then be complimentary in supporting them with their goals, rather than driving them. VJ agreed and used IIAN as an example of relieving the EC of worrying about projects related to inclusivity.
SFF suggested asking the main festivals to be drivers of the Next Generation Placement Program.

b. Regional Workshops
-Cameroon:
VJ talked about the meeting with Etoundi Zeyang in Bologna about a regional workshop in Cameroon, and that he mentioned having mainly participants from FATEJ. The idea was to do something simple, involving the EC and with support from ASSITEJ France. Money for this will be available in 2017, so the idea is to have a session with artists from the region while the EC is there, and have someone from France as well, to clarify what is needed and take it to Cape Town as an idea for a workshop. According to Etoundi the main needs in Cameroon are playwriting and puppetry; SG said she could offer puppetry.
MGC said she had offered sending a puppeteer from Mexico for the workshop, but decided it wasn’t the best idea due to language issues.

FF commented he was still waiting for confirmation regarding the budget. He said the budget for 2016 is no longer available but there is a good chance for obtaining it next year. FF asked that there be a symbolic economic participation from the EC so that it does not become an ASSITEJ France project completely. YH agreed since it means support for African participation towards the Congress. She mentioned that Karin Serres from WLPG could be a direct link between ASSITEJ and the program.

VJ suggested it could be one session only so people are able to attend within the frame of the festival.
YH mentioned it should also be bilingual since Cameroon is a dual language country. FF mentioned that in the list of people who have offered to participate there is an offer from Kenya who could be English-speaking.

FF asked for an agreement before the meeting in Yaoundé so that the project would be ready between then and the Cape Town Congress.
YH inquired about the workshops in Sweden led by Niclas Malmcrona and FF responded that technicians and artists would give workshops on administration, directing and stage management for companies present at the festival.

-Uruguay:
DF commented he has been working with Gabriel Macció on the workshop to be held in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay. The idea for the workshop is Body and Text Dramaturgy in TYA; two different workshops (choreography/playwriting) working parallel and in contact. María Inés Falconi is a possibility for the playwriting aspect and Leandro Kees for the choreography aspect.

A possible topic that can be shared with Brazil is violence. The dates will be in November and there will be around 34 participants. DF asked for the ticket and fee for Leandro Kees to be paid by ASSITEJ, and the accommodation would be taken care of by ASSITEJ Uruguay.

c. Artistic Encounters
VJ mentioned the Projects group was still working on the three Encounters for On The Edge. The idea is to have short impulses from artists present on the first two Encounters, and a keynote speaker (Dr. Shelley Budgeon, sociologist) on the last Encounter.

NH mentioned the idea of live streaming the Encounters, and if not possible during Birmingham, it should be done in the future.
VJ commented that IIAN suggested having someone typing what is happening simultaneously on a screen.
YH also mentioned there could be a different interactive online engagement like WeChat.

5.4 Protocols, Policies and Fundraising
YH asked to review the General Assembly process to make the Congress work as effectively as possible for everyone.

a. Proposal to support the campaign “Take a Child to the Theatre”
This proposal is to use the campaign as a fundraising mechanism for ASSITEJ and potentially for work in regional areas. It is a campaign directed at members of National Centers, people who are receiving an income. There is still the question if the funds are for the centers to use or if they are for ASSITEJ to decide where to use them. RF also suggested it could be used for the World Day video, regional workshops, Next Generation projects and other ASSITEJ projects, but it must be clear.

b. Solidarity Fund
The working group drafted a document stating that any member can contribute to support struggling members; this would be a rotating fund and more of a loan because it must be returned and there are conditions around how it can be used.

c. Lifetime Achievement Award
A possible title for this new award is the ASSITEJ Applause for Lifetime Achievement Award. Short videos speaking of the nominees will be required and these can be material for the Congress.
Timeframes will be revised and the call will be posted in the next newsletter to start considering nominations in November.

YH mentioned WLPG has come up with an award recognizing who has been inspirational and has led to some sort of transformation. The jury would read the citations/nominations and a couple of pages as an example of their writing (translated into English) to decide.

ITYARN is also working on an award with two proposals: a Senior Award and a Next Generation Award.

d. Protocol Documents
YH talked about the idea of creating a handbook for National Centers/members as a way of making ASSITEJ events more interactive.
The working group will put a communications policy and data information storage policy into writing so that the next EC can be guided by it.

e. New Networks
Proposed new networks include:
Theatre as Education (may be linked to EU project)
Music Theatre Network (with German network as a basis and launch of the idea at the conference in November in Mannheim)
Dance Theatre Network (call is going out, and Gabi dan Droste has agreed to actively drive the creation on the network)
Independent producers network (or Asian producers / independent artists network) or Festivals network (perhaps Independent producers and festivals network)

These were discussed as follows:
If DN has strong proposals of partners for the EU funding project, these people could help us drive a festival network. There will be a session in Birmingham, and the partners will have a conference in November in Mannheim, so we can start looking at making it a global network and launch it in Cape Town. The Festivals network could work as support for people interested in initiating festivals of TYA.
YH said it could also be a producers network, going beyond Asia with an aim on exchanging work and also give way into being a member.

There is a real need for independent artists to find ways to link into international networking, particularly in Asia; there is an artistic and professional purpose to this network, especially because sometimes it is difficult to link to National Centers that are inaccessible, not strong enough or when they don’t even exist.
IK mentioned this could be questioning the sovereignty of our National Centers, but MvdW said that by virtue of being something else like a network, it gives people a chance to be members of ASSITEJ.

IK said there are many problems where artists have been denied connection to ASSITEJ for political or other reasons, and there needs to be a solution in which no one questions our own sovereignty.
KO mentioned that AF is trying to organize an Asian festival with Japan, China and Korea to be more inclusive, but on the other hand there are people who have no clue of the Asian Network meeting because they aren’t members of the “family” running it.

MvdW said network members should find a way to justify why you are a member of the specific network, like there was with ITYARN, IIAN and WLPG.

YH mentioned there are three scenarios for this issue:
1- Retain status quo and continue to lobby with National Centers to be inclusive. For example, Ivica Simic is now running an independent theatre in China and he will ask to be included in ASSITEJ China, so he’ll fight through that angle.
2- Work with the Asian Network, which is an informal regional network, and say it is TYA Asia so they have opportunities to engage, and although they wouldn’t be ASSITEJ members, they would come into contact with ASSITEJ (mainly in Asia).
3- Find a need that exists to build a network around and give access to people; this would be the idea of the producers network where they an engage in tours, organize festivals, etc. and it could add a lot of dynamic activity within a formal space.

MGC showed a Friends of ASSITEJ advertisement draft to send out to the delegates of OTE, and some changes were made to it.
MGC also shared a Prezi, which the Secretariat has been working on to explain what Next Generation Residency and Placements are.

6. Reports from the Regional and Professional Networks

ITYARN: The network is planning to publish selected papers from the Congress call for papers.
MvdW said ITYARN will be represented in Buenos Aires, at the 4th International Research Forum, where they will talk about ages (age specific/relevance). She said the conference has a continuing conversation since around half the people tend to regularly come back to the forum, and not only people from South America.

YH flagged that part of the reporting to the General Assembly needs to be around numbers and reach: how many countries are involved in ASSITEJ activities.
MvdW said that Geesche Wartemann has taken over the website and once it’s completely finished, they will ask members to identify their countries.

Most activity within the network happens at festivals/conferences, but they are also doing service talking about the importance of research wherever the members go.

NEXT GENERATION: The network has begun embracing collaborations around the world (Iceland, Slovenia, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg and UK among others).
The Facebook group is used regularly for ASSITEJ updates, festival advertising, job opportunities and networking.

The network board will be meeting in Birmingham where they will talk about the possibility of setting up regional Next Generation projects.

A website will hopefully be ready within the next year.

Mthokozisi Zulu did not receive his visa for Birmingham and was replaced as alumni from Berlin by Nishna Mehta.

MvdW said there seems to be a real need to support countries that won’t have access to theatre outside their countries otherwise, and that it should be kept in mind for the Next Generation Program. YH replied that there is awareness and the support given is only for people coming from those countries.

ASIA:
AF said that during last year’s China Children’s Theatre Festival in Beijing, Kim Sookhee and himself talked to the president of ASSITEJ China about the Asian meeting that took place in India and it was the first time these 3 Asian presidents were in the same room by themselves. In a way, this was a historical moment since there is a history of barriers between Japan, Korea and China. During this meeting, it was decided to have a festival hosted by these 3 countries and using each domestic festival as a starting point and collaborating with productions. The first festival will be in Beijing this year with productions from Japan, China and Taiwan. Since the festival will happen at the same time as the Asian meeting in Colombo, AF will attend China and KO will go to Sri Lanka.

Japan is planning to host a major festival in 2020 taking advantage of Tokyo hosting the Olympics, and would like to host the ASSITEJ World Congress. As a stepping-stone for this, they would like to have an Asian theatre festival in February 2018 and are also thinking of holding annual Next Generation activities, as well as activities in collaboration with JIENKYO.

An organization named TYA Japan has been launched, that gathers organizations in Japan dealing with performing arts for children to collaborate together.

KO talked about the proposals for the 2020 World Congress. There would be two main sections, the international festival in Tokyo and then the local festivals taking place around Japan. The smaller local festivals will start a week before and the Tokyo festival will be from May 21-31. The president of the board is AF who will probably be the artistic director as well, for this first TYA event in Japan.

AF mentioned China has celebrated the 60th anniversary of the China Children’s Theatre, and it has been beyond imagination that something built so long ago and during a period of war has lasted so long; they currently have 250 people as staff for this theatre. He said that during the Winter Festival in Seoul, there were several independent artists from Shanghai and some talked to the president of
ASSITEJ China. AF encouraged the National Center to be more inclusive but is not too optimistic since they have major censorship.

Regarding India, IK said there have been a couple of initiatives on playwriting for the young, as well as a collaborative project between India, USA, South Africa and Korea. He said Little Art and MAAS Foundation (individual members of ASSITEJ) will soon send an application for National Center of Pakistan.

The Asian meeting in August will be the first international event that ASSITEJ Sri Lanka organizes, which is trying to increase the circle of TYA in Asia and this year will have Australia there. There will soon be a working website of the Asian Network, for which IK asked permission to use the ASSITEJ logo and include a link to the ASSITEJ website.

After the big earthquake last year, ASSITEJ Nepal has been able to start a theatre in a mall, which is exclusive for TYA as well as hospital clowns for the affected children of the region.

VOTING:
1. Request for use of the ASSITEJ logo by the Asian Network, specifically for their new website:
IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

NORDIC-BALTIC:
VJ mentioned they applied for a Nordic network grant to support a writing workshop in one of the Baltic countries. Niclas Malmcrona was responsible for the process along with a steering group for Nordic and Baltic countries, but they did not get it. The Baltic countries have very limited resources, which is a huge contrast to some of the Nordic countries, so they will find a way to apply again later on.
There was a meeting of the network to which Maria Palsdóttir attended.

Interplay is happening in Sweden now, and for the first time has a semi-focus on TYA.

Iceland had a very successful festival with 30 events in 4 days, 9 performances of 3 foreign productions (Germany, Norway, Sweden), and 2500 guests. The festival was rebranded and called Ungi, which is the masculine form of ‘young man’ and literally refers to a chicken/duckling; the name links to a young audience as well as to the place of the festival that is next to a pond. ASSITEJ Iceland presented their first honorary member at this festival, a director who has done a lot of TYA at the National Theatre.
VJ said she has been trying to get the Reykjavik City Theatre involved with the EU Funding project, and although they are overwhelmed with work, they are very interested.

USA/CANADA:
MvdW said TYA USA has a new website and board with Andrew Frank as president and Ernie Nolan as official ASSITEJ representative for the upcoming ASSITEJ elections; the headquarters are permanently in Chicago.
One Theatre World was a very international event this time.

YH said the conversation with Rob Weinert-Kendt from American Theatre Magazine had been very interesting since the magazine doesn’t usually have any TYA content.

TYA USA has had a lot of professional development in their Webinar Series.

ASSITEJ Canada has a new board of directors, and MvdW will have a conversation with their president on July 14 regarding networks and will encourage him to come to the congress.

There will be a few French-Canadian members here as well so she suggested reaching out to them.

AUSTRALIA:

SG mentioned they have been fighting to retain funding for the arts, and the arts community has been campaigning strongly for the last 2 years. The Save the Arts campaign resulted in the Arts Minister losing the arts portfolio and some of the funds removed from Australia council given back.

The community has gotten together strongly so the sector is very collegiate now and everyone knows what the others are doing; many networks have been springing from this action including the youth arts sector, which is particularly strong.

YPAA exists as a network run by Theatre Network Australia who has funding from the Australia council, and the same people involved in YPAA in the past are the people interested in taking responsibility. After the Youth Arts National Summit, we will do a strategic plan for the next three years, map existing networks and reinstate certain programs. A group of practitioners will discuss the role of arts as education.

New Zealand has a continued desire to work together and make the picture better.

YH suggested engaging with Jenny Wake to see how New Zealand will be represented at the Congress.

YH inquired about Australia’s Blueprint program and SG said they did it through teleconference because it was the best way to link with regional remote artists, talk and share experiences and have a professional development conversation.

NH asked SG how companies have been dealing with the loss of resources and SG said some big companies will be cutting back and reducing what they do since there is a feeling that this is too hard and some companies have started to fold. However, there is also a sense of hope because people want to help and State governments will be funding some companies to keep going. We won’t see the real results of this until a few months from now.

IBEROAMERICA:

Peru has presented an application for national center, which will be reviewed at this meeting.

Colombia is still in a confusing situation that needs to have a solution by this meeting.
The 4th TYA Critics and Researchers International Forum is happening in Buenos Aires with collaboration from ATINA, AINCRIT and ITYARN with the topic “From Theatre for Babies to Theatre for Adolescents: is there a theatre for every target age?”

ASSITEJ Uruguay is organizing the first ASSITEJ Regional Workshop in Colonia in November.

The second edition of Schoolyard Stories is running with four Latin American countries participating.

ASSITEJ Serbia invited Iberoamerican countries to participate in a translation project of plays, where five plays were selected and a book will be presented in April 2017.

A Facebook group was created where all the countries publish their activities and works as a way of communication.

More than 50 productions from different Latin American countries applied to participate at the World Congress in South Africa.

YH said it had mainly been about the distribution of information and getting it translated in time for people to present applications. She also mentioned that she was grateful to María Inés Falconi for helping in looking and commenting on the work received.

YH said that regarding translations, it has been announced that there will be French and Portuguese translation at the Congress since those are the colonial languages most spoken in the continent, besides English. There is an argument that Portuguese speakers can understand Spanish better than the other way around, and YH asked for what would be more strategic. She realized including Portuguese is a recognition of Africa but does not want to make it less accessible, and the Congress has committed to two languages, due to expenses.

MGC suggested keeping Portuguese, and Spanish-speaking centers could look for the possibility of translation financed by an institution like the Instituto Cervantes. IK agreed that the priority should be the African country, and maybe the Congress could provide an option of a translator and interested countries can decide to pay for it.

FF said ASSITEJ France would talk to the French Institute in Africa about funding for translation.

GERMANY:

SFF said cultural politics in Germany were changing and it is affecting ASSITEJ Germany. The members of the national center used to be theatres dedicated to TYA and now there are many young and independent performing groups who aren’t members of ASSITEJ because they dedicated to many things and not specifically TYA, so we must find a way to integrate them.

SFF shared that there had been government funding for African-German collaborations, where many projects surged. A big delegation from Africa was invited and they protested that everything came from Germany and was the same colonial style of projects they wanted to overcome, the only ones they thought were different and real collaborations were the children’s theatre projects.
State theatres in Germany are beginning to understand that children’s theatre is the future, but think they can do it without TYA experts or ASSITEJ.

There have been new developments called “art but fair” of actors who ask about the exploitation of artists in the field of theatre in Germany. There was a congress recently where actors said they don’t accept unfair conditions anymore. SFF said the actors of his theatre attended this congress and have started a union of artists, mainly actors who are now interested in directly looking at work contracts. TYA is becoming a role model for the adult theatre now.

SFF said that German theatres are 90% German and their society is much more mixed, so this challenges theatres to have more representation. He mentioned there was no institutional exchanges and this might be a global question to identify for the next encounters.

YH said maybe it was a matter of who was doing the writing and directing. MvdW said in the USA it was also a problem because there are playwrights writing bilingual plays on the Latino-American experience, but there were no actors, so it is very limiting.

MvdW proposed looking into a seminar for the Congress that deals with these issues, and YH mentioned it could be within the Focus Days.

UK:
NH said it was an Arts Council priority to represent minorities and there is a real sense of artists addressing this.
With the prolonged cuts that have been happening, there is a sense that artists are freelance artists now and are not under the same conditions, so it is increasingly difficult for people to consider how they survive; the wage that an artist gets is well below average. At this moment, the arts council is facing its own cuts with Brexit.

Brexit has had a profound impact on people; the progressive, forward, multicultural way of thinking has been massively dented. People are still in shock, and this is much more than a political issue. The news has been focusing on a spike in racist abuse and tensions in communities where there wasn’t any of this before.
Jeremy Corbyn has a lot of support from people who want progressive change but is undermined by the establishment. The conservative government has a new leadership process happening and we’ll be faced with a right-wing government where the Arts Council is not a safe body.
Children are not engaging with the arts and this will have a big effect on the sector.
There will be a TYA UK and TYA Ireland meeting during OTE for people to talk about this.

Kate Cross, who runs the Egg Theatre, will be chair of TYA UK next year and the international representative will be Mark Powell, artistic director of Prime Theatre Company.

Paul Harman and Vicky Ireland have created a book marking the 50th anniversary of TYA and its history in the UK, which will be launched during OTE.
FRANCE:
FF shared that in December, as a consequence of “La Belle Saison”, ASSITEJ France merged with Scènes d’enfance et d’ailleurs and are now Scènes d’enfance – ASSITEJ France. They are working as the main operator of TYA policy with a mission in performing arts for youth.

Scènes d’enfance – ASSITEJ France is gathering people for all professions related to TYA and at present have about 100 members, with a board of 30 and a collective leadership of 3 presidents and 5 employees. Some of the programs carried by Scènes d’enfance were redone, like the Avignon festival that will take place from July 10 – 13. France is also working with Quebec and Belgium towards an initiative on policy makers to underline the value of culture and these associations do.

FF said he would be going to Korea due to a cultural cross season between France and Korea, and next year this cross-cultural program will be repeated with Colombia.

In the merging of ASSITEJ France, it was decided that June 1st will be the national day for playwrights and the program 1 day 1 play should be passed on to WLPG. This year there were 46 plays for 1 day 1 play, from 16 countries, including very young playwrights from USA (10-11 years old).

Scènes d’enfance – ASSITEJ France has been doing a lot in international action and is now part of a government plan for cultural and artistic education, for which they have been asked to work beyond theatre and TYA and develop projects with people from museums, graphic arts, etc. This has been an issue because there are new situations to solve now, which limit the budgets for culture and we must find synergies with professionals of other disciplines.

MvdW commented that in general, it seems that the arts’ situation has gotten worst in the last 10 years, and one way of working is to heap all the arts together; we have to fight for the autonomy of TYA and each individual art.

AFRICA:
YH said she was positive of the TYA activity in Africa; the Congress has galvanized some people and there have been exciting collaborations and projects. The only disappointment is that there has been less interaction with other African countries than in the previous ASSITEJ term, mainly due to financial constraints. There has been no ACYTA meeting since the last Congress and there is not a feeling that Africans are collectively involved in the planning of the upcoming Congress; at the moment it is a South African team driving the Congress. This was exacerbated by the fact that 2 funding proposals did not happen, and the HIFA Festival didn’t take place for the first time in about 15 years. The African Youth Theatre and Dance Festival was very local and small this year, while last year we had 9 African countries participating.

For this meeting in Birmingham, there was no African counselor. ASSITEJ approached Hamadi Dimassi from Tunisia who was keen to attend, but was not able at the last minute. Pamela Udoka
can be invited to attend one day to the meeting if she and some other Nigerians who are waiting for visas are successful. She also mentioned that the rotating counselors have had some input, but basically only while they are present at the EC meetings. Hamadi will be invited to the EC meeting in Cameroon in November.

SFF asked if other African countries could be invited to South Africa to help with the planning of the Congress and YH said it was a matter of funding, and she had also hoped to visit many African countries but hasn’t had the money for it. SFF suggested inviting some people to the meeting in Cameroon with money from ASSITEJ and YH responded that traveling within Africa is very expensive, especially to Cameroon. IK said it was important to think of possible ways since it is the first time this is happening in Africa and if the continent is not able to gain the way it should, the vision ASSITEJ had will not happen.

YH then suggested support for her own travel within Africa to strategic meetings. IK mentioned the budget for supporting EC meetings that hasn’t been used so maybe that could be used.

YH expressed that Zimbabwe was in a very bad financial situation although CHIPAWO continues to be active and collaborating with ASSITEJ.

Botswana was affiliated to the National Youth Council, which will be disbanded so they have no funding and are hoping to get some by the Congress in order to attend.
Mozambique has been a very active center.
CHINAMIBIA (Namibia) has started an entertainment service and had a festival at the end of last year, but they don’t seem to work cohesively as a national center.
Angola has been undergoing a financial crisis and asked to have their fees delayed for this and last year. FESTECA will have its 11th edition in July, which is general theatre festival with a section for TYA and their 5th ASSITEJ meeting will take place there.

Rwanda has been very involved in preparing for the Congress. There has been a lot of early years work developed, although their main focus is on genocide. There will be a festival in Kigali in November and the Ubumbunto festival in July organized by Hope Azeda, with one day dedicated to children and youth. Rwanda was participating in the Magnet Theatre Company but they were refused visas, so they were replaced by Kenyan artists. At the moment, there is a problem for Rwandese visiting South Africa because of an assassination that took place in South Africa.

Zambia has been active towards the Congress; they commemorated the Day of the African Child and are working on restructuring their ASSITEJ board.
Kenya has not been very communicative.
Nigeria is very active and Pamela is really pushing towards co-productions.
Benin had a successful street theatre festival.
Cameroon is involved in the Magnet Theatre project as well as other collaborative projects and are working on preparations towards FATEJ.
Burkina Faso has sent an application that the EC will decide on during this meeting.
7. Work in the Working Groups

The EC divided into specific working groups: Protocols, Policies and Fundraising, Publications, Projects, and Promotions.

8. Review of EC Participation in OTE

The EC went over the content of each ASSITEJ Encounter as well as who would be chairing each one. Individual participation and attendance on the rest of the activities was also decided on.

The Encounter themes are:
- Freedom of Speech and TYA
- Interdisciplinary Practice in TYA
- Artistic Identity and the Role of the Artist in TYA Today

Some adjustments were made to the schedule due to SFF leaving early.

As an IIAN initiative, all three Encounters will be transcribed.

9. Treasurer's Report

RF explained there are two main parts to his report, one about economical and financial situation, and another on member fees. He said the 2015 financial situation had to be signed and approved since ASSITEJ will want to use its position for other projects.

RF said it was not easy to check the budget since there are many different costs and incomes throughout the year, and there are good results because of the CONACULTA grant, but it is good to analyze the total budget for the whole period; in general it is a good situation.

The budget is in USD. There is a positive balance and there is till the second semester to spend. The projection showed is only a suggestion.

The 2014 and 2015 budget for members has been reached. If 80% of the Group 2 credits are recovered, there will be good results with a $2,200 difference. 2016 member fees will have surplus if Group 1 (see full report) pays. 2017 member fees already paid are now part of liabilities (around 7 members). The main problem is because almost all National Centers pay in the 1st semester the year of the Congress and then they stop paying.

There is a big problem to collect income/fundraising, and is probably a structural problem.

Regarding magazine advertisements, we are underneath the budget and if we don’t sell more for next year, we will have a deficit. The same happens with the auction, which gave good results in Warsaw.
YH expressed that there will be an auction again in Cape Town and there have been two funds discussed within the Protocols, Policies and Fundraising working group. RF also mentioned Friends of ASSITEJ donations as another critical point.

RF explained that the most relevant costs had been those of the magazine, and the budget for Other Costs from Publications had to be used to cover the expenses this time, although we haven’t received the final figures.

MGC agreed that this has been the most expensive magazine and there was no chance to negotiate since OTE had a contract with a company, and they were not very flexible nor did we have opportunity to look at another budget.

RF said he hadn’t received requests for the Next Generation budget after Kristiansand. There was a request to use the New Projects budget for the keynote speaker (Dr. Shelley Budgeon) of the third ASSITEJ Artistic Encounter in Birmingham.

RF said that there are currently 102 members of ASSITEJ.

He has continued to write to members who haven’t paid and only a few answer. RF asked to solve the position of United Arab Emirates since there is no point to leave them in the balance. MGC answered that the Secretariat wrote a letter to them saying they were expelled but have had no answer. IK also said he would speak to Ivica since he will be meeting some people from the UAE.

YH asked to make decisions on centers who have to pay several years. She mentioned once again that it would not be good to expel African centers before the Congress and maybe the Solidarity Fund would be helpful for this.

RF asked the EC for help in communicating with the different members from their regional areas who have complicated situations.

MGC mentioned communication with Ecuador and Colombia has been complicated and confusing, although Ecuador still seems interested in paying, but Colombia doesn’t. DF said that Carlos Eduardo Prieto is demanding their debt be condoned and that they don’t really feel they get anything out of ASSITEJ, so DF proposed to end their membership and they can apply later on if they wish to do so. MGC agreed but said she would insist one last time and if not send them a formal letter.

VJ asked about the costs of the Cameroon Regional Workshop and suggested ASSITEJ could pay fees and ASSITEJ France the travel costs. FF agreed to look into it and said it will be different for Cape Town since it will be a bigger event and have many participants, so this will raise the question of fairness as to how much to contribute.
RF insisted it was very important to clarify any kinds of costs and that it was much better for ASSITEJ to pay travel or accommodation but not fees due to taxes; he also mentioned it could be a reimbursement.

*(See full report as Addendum C)*

**ACTION:**

1. MGC will contact ASSITEJ Colombia one last time and if this is not successful, will inform with an official letter that they are no longer part of ASSITEJ.

10. **Meeting with Dirk Neldner and Hilde Annette Aakre on EU Funding Project**

DN expressed that things have been developing in a good and fast way, and all the partners have been gathered. The leading organization will be the University of Agder in Norway, in cooperation with ASSITEJ Norway and SAND Festival.

Teatro O Bando from Porto, Portugal, where there is no ASSITEJ National Center, and they are willing to start one.

From Italy, the Festival Segnali in Milan was upgraded to a National Festival and is now a partner. There is a state owned puppet theatre from Bulgaria, Plovdiv Puppet Theatre. In Eastern Europe, most theatre for young audiences is puppet related and this company has a very big staff who perform for around 400-500 people.

From Czech Republic, the partners are the Divadlo Alfa Theatre and the Skupova Plzen Festival.

From Germany, Ramba Zamba who produce performances with disabled people have joined, and they are a part of IIAN.

Another partner is Jungle Vienna who will join in cooperation with the SCHÄXPIR Festival in Linz.

Zagreb Youth Theatre and ASSITEJ Croatia are running a festival on youth theatre focused on movement and dance, and they will also join.

Théâtre Nouvelle Génération from Lyon, France will be a part, and Maas Theatre company from Rotterdam.

There are 9 partners confirmed and 2 still up in the air.

The goal is to have 10 different nations, including Norway. The best is to have a combination of a producing theatre company and a festival, in some cases it is the same organization and in others it’s a combination.

This leads us into the position to build a network for the festivals and bring them at an early stage into the producing process of companies.

DN said there was a lot of interest in getting support for having international festivals for a local audience, and it is always hard to find local young people for this so it should be a focus point. He suggested developing an app that can be used for translations, either to receive it as spoken or written text, and can also be used to share material with the audience.
YH enquired about third party countries and DN responded they would be present. He said the idea is to have one non-European partner each year (for 4 years) and integrate them in the same way as the EU countries. These partners could participate in the e-learning program and they would be asked to produce a national production under the topic “The Life of the Others” and bring them to our festivals.

The idea is that during the 4 years, there will be a partner from a different continent. Here, we could send out a call for partners for them to apply and be integrated into the project.

NH asked why there was no UK partner and DN said that the second pillar of the project is an e-learning project and educational projects in the UK are already too well-developed so there is no sense in delivering them there; the idea was to find partners where it wasn’t very developed. DN said they are still in contact with some UK companies, and if a partner drops out it will be easy for a UK partner to jump in.

YH asked about the main points of the project like e-learning, subject matter of “Life of the Others”, partnerships between theatres and festivals, and the overall purpose. DN said there is a broad understanding of the meaning of what “the others” are, including the audience. If there is additional money, there can be additional efforts like going into regions where there is no audience normally, or opening areas of hard-to-reach audiences.

MvdW said that to connect Ramba Zamba to UK, there could be a company who is very experienced in making theatre for disabled people since the UK is struggling to make this kind of theatre. DN commented that Ramba Zamba specifically asked not to do this since it separates them, and inclusion means everyone is the same and the others must accept that they are a theatre and collaborate. MvdW disagreed and said there had been a complicated discussion of the way Ramba Zamba works while in Berlin, and asked to have IIAN’s opinion. It was later clarified that Darryl Beeton had been consulted on this point.

VJ mentioned that this would be shaped better by September when the partners come together in a meeting. DN also said that it would take more than a year until presenting the first results.

YH asked how the role of ASSITEJ would be played out. DN responded that it could be ASSITEJ’s role to work on finding non-EU countries each year.

YH then asked about the potential connection to the ASSITEJ Artistic Gatherings, and clarified that it can’t be guaranteed for the meetings to be at a different continent, but it could be used as the organizing feature for finding those third countries. DN agreed that this would be the easiest way to connect and they could focus on the continent of the Gathering, and one of the partner festivals could be used for the European gathering. He mentioned that at the end, 30 European productions will be produced so if you add 4 beyond Europe, it’s a total of 34 productions. The festival will also have the opportunity of having a workshop and ASSITEJ networks can be used as the portfolio of the project, so there is collaboration in the workshops. YH agreed and said ASSITEJ could look at the non-EU partners for this since the Regional Workshops are from outside the EU.
RF asked about the possibility of having a section of the project, like a regional workshop out of the EU, every year and who would pay for it. He said ASSITEJ could have contact and learning, artists of the area would be protagonists and the project supports the workshop financially because of the contract with ASSITEJ. DN agreed that this is the idea of connection, and it is best if it can be both ways.

SFF said there should be a commitment from ASSITEJ to be present in the 2 or 3 festivals that will happen each year, with a workshop, presentation, or something similar. RF mentioned it was very important to formalize and clarify the relation between ASSITEJ and the project. MGC suggested that ASSITEJ could help in the way the information regarding the project is distributed. YH asked if ASSITEJ was written into the proposal, or could be part of the contract as a networking cooperation. DN described that in the past there was a chance to have associated partners but not anymore, so he must find the gateway in the application. As a starting point, the idea is to use ASSITEJ Norway as a link to the partner. DN also mentioned that he told the different partners it was an obligation to become a member of ASSITEJ if they weren’t already.

DN said the next step was for all companies to meet in Berlin in September and SFF can go on behalf of ASSITEJ, then the application will be sent in October and we’ll know around April if it is successful or not. YH suggested the partners meet in Cape Town and then if the project is successful, it can be announced during the Congress.

11. Reports from the Working Groups

11.1 Publications
   a. Magazine

The working group decided that for the 2017 ASSITEJ Magazine they will keep working similarly to the previous edition; MvdW will edit English texts, KO will make the selection of pictures, MGC will look at the overall process and layout of the magazine, and the idea is still to negotiate with an editor to look over the final version.

The deadline for submissions will be October 15 and the call will go out in the July/August Newsletter. MvdW explained that in the past issue, schedules had been a problem, so for this time, the idea is to discuss the final selection either in Cameroon or Korea.

As in the previous issues, articles will be in English and their original language. The idea is to have short articles with pictures; a total of about 12 articles with 3 from South Africa, 3 from other African countries and 6 from around the world. There are already 2 articles that were kept from the last submissions, one from Denmark and one from Italy.

MGC also expressed that depending on costs, the magazine can possibly be a little bigger.
YH asked the working group to see which past magazine is closest to the way they want the next magazine, as an example, so that this can help in terms of costing out what it will be in South Africa.

MvdW said that articles that are good but don’t fit in the magazine will still go into the newsletter, as done before.

MvdW read the proposed call and some changes were made to it; by the end, the whole EC agreed to work with this call.

AF had the idea to include part of an African play, maybe a collaborative play. This could be a play with an open ending and invite people to write endings and publish them on the newsletter. VJ suggested linking to the Cameroon playwriting workshop, where participants can be asked to send in a contribution and approaching WLPG.

Another idea, either for the magazine or the conference, would be to have one page of a sort of word cloud for drama/theatre related words in all African languages.

MvdW asked the EC for short texts or quotes to include in the magazine and make it more visual. These could come from themselves or other sources and should go through the Secretariat. Everyone agreed to do so.

**b. Newsletter**

MGC asked for ideas to encourage more submissions, because the Secretariat does not always receive information for the newsletter and must search for this in other places.

YH suggested personally asking for submissions; if EC members know something is happening in their regions, they should send notes to people apart from the formal approach of the Secretariat.

IK said that the Secretariat should not have to do the center’s job, and the people who send information will be the ones benefitting from the newsletter.

FF said the newsletter was ASSITEJ’s only monthly communication and also the best way for centers who don’t appear in other ASSITEJ events, to make themselves known, although internet communication is not always easy with some of the members,

RA shared that in Israel’s case, they sometimes think only local people will be interested in their news and also have the problem of translation. YH answered that local activity should be interesting because it shows what the centers are doing and everyone can learn from it. MGC agreed but also said it depended on the way the news was presented so that it is relevant and interesting for everyone.

YH said this all linked to the way ASSITEJ wants to share the practice of its National Centers, and how to talk about it in terms of the Congress. The information that is not interesting on a monthly
basis can still be collected to form some sort of report at the end of the 3 years on the centers’ activities.

MGC suggested that photos submitted for the magazine and not chosen, could be published in the newsletter. YH agreed and said these could also be related back to the articles once the magazine is online; you can click on a photo and go directly to read its article.

c. Encyclopedia idea
MvdW said the working group looked into the UNIMA encyclopedia and its articles, but now everything can be found on Google/Wikipedia and this is something that would take a lot of time and would be very expensive.
AF suggested it could be more useful to make an online database with video clips, theatre images for kids, and something that is friendly for teachers to use. YH agreed it would be great to have something directed at ASSITEJ’s audience and the National Centers could link to it and contribute.
FF asked if it would be some kind of website and MvdW said it could be a particular link within the ASSITEJ website. VJ also suggested this could work as an interactive map where people click and see information from each country.

**ACTION:**
1. For the magazine, EC members will send short texts or quotes related to the theme; a picture will be welcome as well.
2. EC members will approach people from their regions having specific events, in order for them to send information for the ASSITEJ Newsletter.

11.2 Projects
   a. Encounters
VJ talked about the three ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters that would take place in Birmingham and that a few people had been approached to share something for the first two Encounters. She suggested MGC write and send out an email during the Artistic Gathering, to encourage delegates to attend the different Encounters.
VJ expressed that to give the ASSITEJ Encounters a different flavor than the rest of the activities, it was important to create an atmosphere of fun from the first moment and engage people.

Projects working group met with YH and Yusrah Bardien to discuss about the Congress and thought it would be useful to take the working plan for the next period to the floor of the General Assembly on the ASSITEJ Encounter day, so people can talk about it and have time to make changes; this with the idea of making it more democratic.
They also spoke about having an Open Space at the beginning since this affects the way people experience the Congress and can help make them feel more at home. VJ gave an example of learning an African dance all together and then having this evolve into a session of people teaching children’s games from different parts of the world, so it would be stations for playing games and interacting with other people; the ASSITEJ Playground.
b. Auction
Regarding the auction, VJ said it is earmarked for the Next Generation Project since people are supporting those entering the association.
YH mentioned that the auction would not be linked to the award ceremony this time.
SG proposed her husband, who is experienced with auctions, could help in giving the best conditions in which the auction could work to its maximum effect.
SFF said the most important factor was formulating a good call and VJ added that objects should have stories so people know where they come from. IK said size of objects was also important since people will be traveling back home with these.
VJ also thought it would be good to sell small objects (wine, sweets, cheese, etc.) instead of auctioning them.
RA suggested showing the auction objects in advance to promote them with more time.
MGC said the objects should be related to the field of TYA in some way.

MGC said the announcement should be made through the newsletter and this way start working on a catalogue. VJ also stated that DKT was happy to receive the offers.

c. Regional Workshops
The working group met with FF to discuss the Regional Workshop in Cameroon.
FF had proposed the main Western African workshop be postponed to Cape Town, but then said it seemed important and fruitful to have a first session in Yaoundé more in terms of what Etoundi Zeyang asked for. This event in FATEJ could work to test out the ideas that would be the heart of the workshop in Cape Town. This workshop in Cameroon would be about playwriting as a structural tool for any kind of TYA and it would address professionals interested from French-speaking African countries mainly. The title could be “Shedding Stories for TYA”.

The proposal for the Yaoundé workshop is to gather people already there and maybe bring potential participants from abroad to have a group of 10-12 maximum.

The workshop would have two kinds of courses. One to give participants a panorama of the trends in playwriting, related to the idea of a suitcase with plays, given to participants in order for them to take it back to their countries; there will be a publisher who agrees to give maybe 10 plays per person. The second course is a practical playwriting workshop that could produce small plays to be presented to a larger audience in the frame of the festival either in Yaoundé or Cape Town.

Regarding speakers for the workshop FF mentioned Karin Serres could be a possibility and this would also establish a link with WLPG, and would think twice about other speakers.

VJ mentioned having two sessions of 3 hours per speaker, since they have already traveled to Cameroon specifically for this.
RF clarified there were $1700 in the ASSITEJ budget for the Regional Workshops.
FF said it would be possible for ASSITEJ France to find money for the airplane tickets for speakers going to Yaoundé, but that the EC should also contribute something.
YH agreed and said ASSITEJ could pay for the space or accommodation. VJ stated it should be mentioned as a collaboration between ASSITEJ and ASSITEJ France for any reports. YH suggested committing to a support of travel and accommodation of the person selected; that money from the projects budget will be allocated to this particular person. She proposed giving 2/3 of the budget to the Uruguay workshop and 1/3 to the Cameroon workshop.

**VOTING:**
1. The EC will support the Uruguay Regional Workshop with $1200 USD from the projects budget, and the Cameroon Regional Workshop with $500 USD.  
IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS (with NH absent)

**ACTION:**
1. Call for auction will be shared through the newsletter in January/February.

### 11.3 Policies, Protocols & Fundraising

#### a. Congress

Registration fees were discussed within the working group and with the projects working group as well. The rates will be very accessible; for OTE the Gold Package was £220 and for the Congress it would be about £232, which includes more things and is one year later.

If people come for the Congress or single Focus Days only, they can register for that specifically. There may be a combined ticket that is closer to the rate of the festival registration plus the Congress.

YH clarified that there will be a small number of tickets available for the Awards Ceremony, Opening and other events, but it will depend on how many people register as to whether there will be any seats available to buy there.

#### b. Solidarity Fund

YH and SG said a simple version was needed for communicating this fund to the members, maybe in a Prezi format.

YH said this must be a very transparent way of supporting. It must be announced that a member may not get it for more than 2 years if they haven't paid back most of it, so that it doesn't encourage dependence, but lets the members understand they must get back on their own feet and contribute again later on.

MGC asked if members would have to fulfill certain requirements and send information on their activities and YH agreed for this to be a part of how the members are kept accountable; the expectation will be that if you receive a membership fee through the solidarity fund, you will report the activity of the time you are being supported.
IK expressed this fund is for exceptions, and it is also important to see what the member’s involvement was before the fund, because it should be for people who have been involved, even if it is within their own region. RF agreed and said this is also a way to guarantee your right to vote in the Congress. People have time to participate in the Congress and other activities, and then they can repay.

MGC expressed that if this fund is publicly announced, people can take advantage of trying to pay less. MvdW agreed that it can be dangerous, so the announcement could be more discrete, maybe not on the website but simply letting people know they can pay a little extra to their fee as a donation to this fund.

RF stated the constitution says members who don’t pay after six months lose their right to vote, but people don’t care if they are still able to network. Those who don’t pay, don’t understand what an association is because ASSITEJ lives on the fees, and if they don’t pay we are not able to promote our projects.

Those who don’t pay must automatically be out, and this way we are really helping only those who have financial problems. RA agreed and said members will eventually understand the idea. VJ also agreed and said there is already a system in place with the different levels of fees. RF said it was important that the message of the fund is to support members of other parts of the world who are struggling; the idea is this is a loan and not a gift.

MvdW suggested it should come on the annual letter that RF sends to the centers regarding their membership fees, and this keeps it more discrete. YH agreed it was good for this to come in the communication between the treasurer and members; when you receive your annual request for fees, you also receive a note on the Solidarity Fund and how to contribute. The working group will work on what this letter will look like.

RF mentioned this communication is usually sent at the beginning of the year, but this time we could send it before Cameroon to be evaluated there.

MGC agreed because the funding will work very well towards the Congress.

c. Take a Child to the Theatre Campaign

The idea is that funds are raised from spectators, so the campaign is driven by theatres giving shows and who can invite spectators to offer additional funding towards taking children to the theatre. The question is if these funds should go to ASSITEJ or remain within the National Centers? Some centers already use this as a fundraising tool for their own.

The suggestion from the working group is that the World Day Toolkit contains a line saying the campaign can be used for fundraising, include potential ways of fundraising and let each center decide if the funds remain for their use (for access of children to the theatre), or if they feel other members could use the funds, then they donate them to ASSITEJ and the EC will commit to ensure they are used in other parts of the world for children to have access to theatre.
NH expressed that this was very clear and a great way to engage people with the campaign, but said we should also develop practical pathways and devise models and frameworks of how this can happen.

YH asked for the toolkit to be ready in September and to be announced in the October newsletter.

RF expressed it was very important to define a real goal so the audience knows specifically what the funds are used for. YH proposed saying it’s about access first and foremost, and then maybe about empowering artists to make sure this access is possible; the money can get reported on afterwards.

VJ suggested there should be a donation button on the website where people can donate a seat on a regional workshop or to support an artist in a specific region, for example; it may be more feasible to donate for specific things. YH said the website already talks about this, but perhaps there could be a box from where you choose what your donation is used for.

RF said collaboration from the centers is very important for the status of this proposal, we must know if the centers agree to support this and promote among their members and YH suggested including this in the toolkit.

MGC agreed but asked to keep the toolkit as simple as possible, to which NH proposed changing the format to something like an e-news.

VJ also suggested having donation boxes at the Congress for this specific campaign.

d. EU Funding Project

YH expressed that the places for the meetings must be decided. The project partners will meet in September, and there are already some who will become members of ASSITEJ in order to be in the project. She mentioned the e-learning part of the project will become a toolkit for ASSITEJ members, and there will be a lot of exchange between festivals. ASSITEJ’s role is to ensure that the project moves beyond Europe and has connections to other continents. ASSITEJ is in the transition of becoming a full partner, so now we are trying to develop the aims of ASSITEJ through the work happening. As EC, there is a responsibility to make sure that ASSITEJ is embedded and to have the most benefit from the project over the long term.

YH suggested making this project an ASSITEJ Project, even though we aren’t partners as far as the EU is concerned.

The idea is to link it to the annual ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering (AAG), but the proposal needs to specify where it will be in October. The EC should try and identify where the meetings will happen, and if they are not chosen then have an event happen there that makes it a meaningful occasion.

A few potential offers are: 2018 – Mexico (A Trote Festival), although it is only a possibility for the time being; 2019 – USA (One Theatre World), Norway (SAND), India (TIFLI), France and China; 2020 – Japan; 2021 – Africa (HIFA or something in South Africa). If there is an AAG in Europe, it won’t
support this program so they can’t be the selected ones for this, we would need to decide between TIFLI and OTW for 2019.

YH suggested saying these festivals will be chosen for an international meeting as part of the EU project, and if a festival is bidding to be an AAG they can use this. The four meetings must be included in the proposal, so the EC must identify spaces for the purpose of this project. These meetings/festivals may choose to apply as AAGs or Congress, but if they aren’t successful, they will still be hosts of an international meeting where something in relation to the EU project will happen; the EC agreed to this.

VJ mentioned that all festivals must have a commitment to the host if they are not chosen as an AAG or Congress and YH said it would be a sort of regional workshop funded by the EU project, with a few productions, or can also be an EC meeting; it would be a benefit to an ASSITEJ member hosting an event.

RF asked for clarity on the involved center’s duties and YH agreed to ask DN and gather potential meeting offers.

e. ASSITEJ Applause for Lifetime Achievement
The call for nominations will be opened now, and the deadline will be November 10 so they are received and decided upon in Cameroon. If necessary, the deadline may be extended to January and decisions made in Korea.

Erik Eek must be informed of what’s happening so the Eek family can look at the criteria of the award. This award will honor an outstanding piece of work that doesn’t necessarily have to be from an artist, but can also come from an administrator or critic. Awardees will be given a certificate with a citation, their video will be played during the ceremony as well as appear on the website, and they will have an article on the 2018 ASSITEJ magazine.

NH suggested having a certificate and video for the ASSITEJ Award for Artistic Excellence as well and YH said this must be revised with Erik Eek. Since the Eek family established the award and provide the monetary award, maybe ASSITEJ may only negotiate with them. YH said we must also see if they will be able to continue supporting this award.

f. Policies
The working group came up with a Communications Policy and a Data Information Storage Policy, simply to have policies in place that protect information in the future. This basically describes the archives that were started by MGC, so it will continue when she is no longer Secretary General. RF asked to include criteria to protect administrative files, like accounting. He also asked to have an official version of the minutes to use for the public, and then an extract with decisions and elements related to the formal structure (financial statement, accounting, etc.). YH answered that she would specify this criteria to adapt it and add to this.

VOTING:
1. Does EC approve rates as presented for registration at the 2017 ASSITEJ World Congress?
IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS (YH abstained from voting)
2. Does the EC endorse the ASSITEJ Applause for Lifetime Achievement Award as proposed by the Policy, Protocols & Fundraising working group?
IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS
3. Does EC officially approve new policies for the function of the EC?
IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

**ACTION:**
1. Policy, protocols and fundraising working group will work on the letter for members regarding the Solidarity Fund.
2. World Day Toolkit must be ready by September, to go out in the October newsletter.
3. YH will ask DN for clarification on the duties for the National Centers involved as hosts for EU project meetings.

### 11.4 Promotions

#### a. Social Media

EC members will receive an alert when it is their turn to take responsibility for Facebook posts, one post per week for one month.

NH asked about having the Secretariat talk more informally about activities on Twitter. MGC said it would be difficult since the Secretariat’s first language is not English so it would be easier to have control if it is a more formal content, but suggested that NH go ahead with those more informal tweets.

NH also mentioned that it would be good to connect the president’s activity, so YH said she would tweet and could then just be re-tweeted.

The working group feels the YouTube channel is not very strong since there is no regular content. At the moment, it exists mainly for the World Day videos. Other material could be activity from different centers that is reposted, and the BBC interview that YH did during OTE.

Deadlines were created for this year to support Small Size Days 2017.

Next Generation Placements and Residencies will follow with articles for the website in August.

#### b. World Day Campaign

The working group will work on simplifying the World Day toolkit, making it digital and adding the fundraising strategy.

- Film:
  HAA and ASSITEJ Norway offered to work on the 2017 World Day video.
  HAA mentioned that SAND Festival will be doing documentation of their work in September so they can base the video on this footage and use pictures and interviews with children as well. The overall
theme for the upcoming SAND Festival is children as refugees (migration/identity). The idea is to ask a prominent Norwegian artist to make a text for voiceover or a dramatic text for the video, with input from ASSITEJ as well. HAA also offered for ASSITEJ Norway to share costs of production.

YH asked to be very clear with the brief so that the message is in line with ASSITEJ’s message, and doesn’t promote ASSITEJ Norway per se, but the concept of taking children to the theatre. VJ commented that the initial topic Norway proposed of children in flight is something that goes back to the right of the child to see theatre and it may catch people’s attention. NH suggested having an artist work on the film so it is a piece of artwork instead of a documentary so it’s a different style and format than the previous one; this would help to have more viewers and for them to share it.

The EC accepted for ASSITEJ Norway to create the World Day film.

-ASSITEJ World Day Message:
MGC proposed Francisco Hinojosa as a candidate. He is a Mexican children’s stories writer who has been translated into several languages (English, Portuguese, Italian, Braille). His most popular story is “The Worst Woman in the World.” MGC will send the EC reviews on his work. She said she believed he could write a very good message with much quality.

NH asked if it should be a well-known person who delivered the message and YH responded that every now and then we may be able to find someone, but it is difficult for them to commit, so it is also good to look into more local people or those who aren’t necessarily inside TYA but somehow related to it. It is also important to have a good message, and an author like Francisco Hinojosa could probably write a beautiful message, more poetic and inspirational.

RF also said he would look into the association Save the Children to see if they were interesting in writing something. NH said linking the campaign with global charities concerned about the rights of education for children could be a smart way of making the campaign go further. YH suggested they could also write a short introduction for the message. NH asked for the EC to vote the next day on the matter.

**ACTION:**
1. MGC will send the EC reviews on Francisco Hinojosa’s work, and translations of his stories that have been adapted into theatre.
2. RF will approach Save the Children, regarding the World Day message.

12. Memberships
12.1 New Member Applications
MGC mentioned that the newly accepted members from ASSITEJ Chile, TE VEO Chile, will be interesting members and have been in contact with TE VEO Spain, which is a strong organization. Bebe de Soares, from Brazil, but living now in Santiago, Chile is working closely with ASSITEJ Chile
and is their representative in OTE. ASSITEJ Chile will also have representation in the ITYARN Forum in Buenos Aires.

-Peru:
Peru sent their membership application in Spanish, but the Secretariat has translated it into English for the EC. MGC consulted with María Inés and they believe the members from Peru are a bit old fashioned and have a different image of the association, but accepting this application could be a starting point.

SG said she thought it was a decent and thorough application; IK agreed and emphasized they had been members for 36 years in the past.
YH agreed and said that if they are accepted, their acceptance letter should say: “we are delighted to have you back and encourage you to work towards being as inclusive as possible with all members, particularly with next generation participants…we’ll invite national centers in places close to you to engage and help you in the process of setting up.”

-Burkina Faso:
FF translated their application from French to English. Burkina Faso asks for an exemption of fees for 2016 and 2017, and FF told them the EC could maybe send a proposal of payment. MvdW inquired about this early exemption before they’ve been accepted and SG clarified they do not charge membership fees, but questioned if they will ever have funds to pay the ASSITEJ fee. IK expressed that it becomes a problem when centers don’t charge a fee because there is no accountability per se and making it free loses value. SG disagreed and said that in Australia’s case a free membership was the way to become stronger so everybody could be considered members.
RF came back to the idea of the Solidarity Fund; he said someone that cannot pay can’t be admitted and an objective criteria is needed to decide who pays and who doesn’t.
DF suggested they could look into becoming a corresponding member instead, but FF said this was for centers with lower activity and Burkina Faso has a lot of activity.
YH asked to decide if they are accepted first, and then view the finances separately, maybe waiving the fee for 2016 or accepting a lower fee since we are halfway through the year.
RF disagreed and said it was not fair to accept a member without payment, he proposed asking them to pay now for the two years and giving them half off.
MGC reminded the EC that the center will not receive an official letter of acceptance until they have paid.
YH asked MGC to let them know they should pay 2016 and then we can see what we can do next year, this way they can become members immediately and remain members with only one year’s fee. FF asked if they could pay in two parts since they don’t have the cash, but YH said then they would not be members until the second payment is made; she proposed helping them strategize on how to raise the money.
12.2 Problematic Memberships

-Ecuador:
MGC informed they have been sending information on their activities and they were about to pay but had problems with PayPal. RF said he gave them the possibility of Western Union but did not receive anything.
MGC said the past earthquake had been a big issue and she would like to contact them one more time.

VJ expressed that maybe the workshop in Uruguay could help various centers in Latin America; the workshop will only be open for ASSITEJ members.

-Colombia:
DF proposed their membership should be ended and then suggesting them to apply again if they wish to do so.
MGC said they have never really been members since they haven’t paid or sent information. She will continue the communication with them and let them know they will not be considered members any more and they can apply again if they are interested.
YH also suggested looking for a participant who is really involved in TYA for the workshop and engage through another route to build a center, and let the previous members know we will look for contacts who are engaged and interested. The EC agreed to this.

-Paraguay:
MGC said Victor Bogado is an old fashioned man and did not write anything concrete.
DF mentioned he will probably be at the ITYARN Forum in Buenos Aires, so it will be an opportunity to make contact.
RF suggested making an economic compromise with them since they must pay 5 years. Maybe they can pay 50% if they pay before Buenos Aires, but this should be the last proposal because it is a problem to have people who never answer.

MGC asked if they had to pay to have the right to participate in the Forum, and YH said it was not a prerequisite for attending the Forum, unlike the Uruguay workshop.
DF suggested inviting 1-2 people from countries that are not ASSITEJ to the workshop and YH said they should then be asked to become an individual member and work towards a national center, or join a network.

-Benin:
They have been in communication with YH and will probably be in FATEJ, so we should find a way to involve them. YH will ask for some payment by Cameroon so they can have involvement in the Congress.

-Zimbabwe:
YH informed that things have really deteriorated and for the first time there is a lot of violence on the streets and protests against Robert Mugabe and it is very unlikely to improve financially.
However, Washington Masenda has offered to volunteer on the Congress, so maybe there is a way to tell him we will take his contribution in kind and rather than asking him to pay; we ask him to
organize something from Zimbabwe and this becomes a form of payment. YH said there should be a formal relationship that says that in exchange for membership we can do something else, unless the Solidarity Fund starts to work and they can pay from there. The fund can be presented now since the General Assembly let the EC investigate ways of funding, and there is nothing obligatory about this fund. It would be good to start it and use as a lead up to the Congress and help people having problems. If the next EC doesn’t like it, they can stop it later on.

RA asked if the exception of doing work instead of paying would become something that adapts to other countries. YH commented that ASSITEJ South Africa has the option of volunteering services with certain number of hours to match the fee and this has a real value and has worked. She suggested this was the best option for Zimbabwe due to their very bad situation. MGC said that it is always difficult to ask people to pay and some get offended; she said she understood this particular situation and can be an exception because of the Congress but it will also set a precedent.

IK asked how long ASSITEJ would allow members not to pay and keep being members, excluding these particular situations. YH said we should stick to the constitution and resolve things within a limit of 3 years; the Solidarity Fund may also help to solve these issues. IK expressed this was a delicate situation and should come in exceptional cases so it’s not always money from the fund going to them.

YH said that good examples of exceptional cases are Zimbabwe and Ecuador because there is still engagement and participation, but because of the conditions of each country, there is a real and genuine problem with payment, and this is what the fund is for. RF proposed using the GDP as objective criteria to define who can be supported by this fund. In the current system it is not clear why members can choose a particular amount to pay ASSITEJ, and it doesn’t protect centers in really poor countries. YH recalled the possibility of setting fees according to GDP’s had been discussed previously but was felt it doesn’t exactly speak to the money given to the arts. IK also mentioned the per capita affects since India is number 7 in GDP but it changes with the amount of population.

RF agreed to work on finding a different criterion for the next meeting.

MGC expressed that people like Washington are good candidates to get others involved. She said they should pay something symbolic to ASSITEJ because belonging to ASSITEJ will bring better things, so it is not a question of money but of making a gesture of commitment towards the association.

YH disagreed since Zimbabwe is actually running out of money as a country, there are no salaries, no informal trading, and ASSITEJ should be able to find another way for members to pay.

RF said that if the Solidarity Fund is announced, the EC can wait until Cameroon to decide.

IK expressed that it is important to consider the African countries towards the Congress. He also reminded the EC that there was a very bad situation last year in Nepal and they managed to pay, reducing their membership to $75.
YH proposed saying ASSITEJ wants to work more strictly with the 3-year consideration of payment, and if they haven’t paid by the Congress, they can’t vote. In the case of complicated countries, we put the Solidarity Fund in place and see how successful it is until January, and if countries are still in the same situation we can come back to the idea of donating time and work in lieu of payment. RF agreed but also said the EC must think beyond the Congress. NH also said this will be a case by case scenario since every situation is slightly different.

MGC suggested asking Zimbabwe to write something to the EC making a proposal and then it can be voted upon online.

VJ expressed she would like to look into the possibility of ASSITEJ Iceland paying Zimbabwe’s membership fee.

RF mentioned the EC can make exemptions and take the responsibility since it doesn’t exist in the constitution, but there should be an amendment since it is not clearly written that we can do this in particular cases; it is important to find a balance since we only live by the fees right now. MGC said the payment issue goes parallel to the participation issue, so we should also think how to improve participation from countries, because that is the most important thing.

-Swaziland:
YH will follow up since they have also been having a hard time and there hasn’t been much communication.

-Bosnia and Herzegovina:
RF mentioned there is regularly a problem in contacting them; it may be their email address is not correct. MGC agreed to ask Leo Vukelic about them.

-Ukraine:
IK shared that he contacted a girl that was part of the jury in the Ukraine meeting and she said the area had been greatly affected; the theatre in Makiivka where ASSITEJ Ukraine was based is not there anymore, all artists have scattered, and the director now works in Russia.

MvdW agreed to contact Marina Medkova since she had mentioned there was something going on in Kiev. She also said the UNIMA puppet theatre member was still active. MGC mentioned she contacted a couple of Ukrainian artists who were at the April Festival and will insist with them since they haven’t responded.

-Portugal:
RF said Portugal has never answered anything and MGC said the Congress could be an opportunity for them so she will insist. She also mentioned contacting the people DN mentioned since they will be looking at applying.
-Bangladesh:
IK said he has tried to contact ASSITEJ Bangladesh but they never answer. He mentioned money is probably not an issue since they are well connected in government. IK said he will look out for them in the next Asia meeting to connect with them.

RF said Kenya has not paid because Phylemon Odhiambo said they did not have money and Mozambique has not answered anything. YH proposed using the fact that they are involved in a co-production to tell them they need to be official members.

RF also stated it was a problem when members want to pay in cash at an event because it is not always easy to meet them. Singapore is not able to pay in any other way because they are blacklisted; Brazil, Maas Foundation, and Little Art will also pay here.

12.3 Helping Small/Emerging Centers attend Festivals
MvdW shared she had been in Kazakhstan, which is a new center. Uzbekistan and other small centers don’t understand the functioning because they are under the Soviet System regime way of working. For them it is not only a question of money, they also need an official invitation to come to these places, something simple that says ASSITEJ is looking forward to seeing them, etc. MvdW suggested them to apply for Next Generation and to make a research proposal for ITYARN, and then we can send them a letter for funding and visas.

Normally adult productions are the ones who receive funding to go out of these countries. Beyond money, MvdW suggests that ASSITEJ makes sure someone from these countries can go out and bring back ideas, experiences, information, etc.

The other thing that wasn’t understood was that the membership of a center could contain various theatres or individual members, so she encouraged them to invite other theatres. There are 2 main TYA theatres and they met for the first time in many years, so they will try to get together even though it may be politically problematic. Another big issue for them is language.

MGC suggesting stressing the situation and putting artists and companies in contact to see if they can join. She also proposed making a campaign before the Congress telling people to let us know if they need official invitations and four months in advance also asking people to start preparing if they need a visa and asking for letters. YH agreed to be strict about it because people don’t usually prepare with enough time and this will be a problem; it would be great to do this in different languages.

YH said visa regulations have been changed and are stricter now. We need to get the information out early for people bringing their families along to prepare as well. There are exceptions for some countries but a lot of countries will need a visa for South Africa.

ACTION:
1. MGC will contact Ecuador and Portugal one more time regarding their membership payment.
2. MGC will inform Colombia they are no longer considered members of ASSITEJ but are welcome to apply again if they wish to.
3. YH will ask Benin for some payment by November.
4. RF will work on different proposals for criteria regarding membership fee amounts, for the next EC meeting.
5. YH will follow up with ASSTIEJ Swaziland, GADEC, and Nanzikambe.
6. MGC will ask Leo Vukelic about ASSITEJ Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro.
7. MvdW will contact Marina Medkova for information regarding ASSITEJ Ukraine.
8. IK will be in touch with ASSITEJ Bangladesh.
9. MvdW will try to contact ASSITEJ Uzbekistan.
10. DKT will contact Qendra Multimedia from Kosovo.

13. Specific Items of Business

   a. ASSITEJ Archive guidelines
   MGC mentioned the Secretariat will be sending an archive per year to the Frankfurt ASSITEJ Archives (May-May each year). She went through the different categories of the 2014-2015 files and asked for material from each EC member for the individual files. MGC announced that the May 2015 – May 2016 file is almost finished.

   b. Visit to Cape Town before Congress
   MGC asked when it would be good to go to Cape Town to verify that all the requirements and conditions for the Congress are. YH suggested the meeting happen right after Cameroon or Korea because that way it could be potentially a round trip. MGC should be present and one or two other people. Ideally someone from projects should be there and maybe FF.

   c. International Associations (UNIMA, IATC, ITI, etc.)
   YH said one way to push forward on the collaboration is to build towards the performance week and then invite the International Associations to the Congress as delegates or guests and have a meeting with them.

   MGC said this performance week already happened this year in Mexico promoted by Centro Mexicano del Teatro (Isabel Quintanar), which included a conference and reading of the messages, and representatives from the International Associations in Mexico were recognized and awarded by professionals of the different fields. The event closed with a performance. Although it was not a whole week, it was an event that condensed the presence and activities of all the associations.

   YH expressed that ASSITEJ is the driving force of these collaborations at this moment, so if we want to make something happen, we must suggest something concrete where they can accept, reject or propose things. There was a suggestion in Warsaw to have a joint logo for performing week and all associations would use this logo as well as their own logo. World Day would be part of the International Performance Week; this would be an easy way to connect us all. NH also proposed a joint statement that connects World Day and performance week. YH said this was a good idea but it is very difficult to write something jointly with the other associations.
MGC proposed having events similar to the Young Critics event, but for scenographers, puppeteers, etc.

NH said that to strengthen the campaign maybe it was about coordinated press PR coverage, more about promoting cultural entitlement around children and adults, about quotes from people of the different associations that can add value to the campaigns.

KO proposed having each director’s statement, a joint statement that is made from individual statements. YH agreed to propose this idea and say that due to collaboration we decide to announce an international performance week, which includes these important days, and each has a statement that relates to it. After the idea is proposed, guidelines can be negotiated. This way it becomes a joint advocacy statement on the value of arts and centers of the different associations cooperate and help celebrate this week and raise awareness.

YH said that there had been talk of spreading each other’s information, looking into the possibility of a common blog page for people to comment on performance week. NH said this could be easy to set up but would be a lot of work to put together and to monitor the content.

VOTING:
1. Does the EC accept the new membership application form from Peru?
   IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS
2. Does the EC agree to accept Burkina Faso with an offer to pay one year for two years of membership?
   IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

ACTION:
1. EC members will send information on their individual trips to the Secretariat to complete files for the ASSITEJ Archives.
2. MGC will make a list of archive filing categories and put it on Dropbox.
3. Secretariat will let Peru know of their acceptance and include a sentence about being inclusive.
4. MGC will let Burkina Faso know that they have been accepted with a membership at the price of one year for two years.

14. Meeting with Kim Peter Kovac on Write Local. Play Global Award

KPK informed there had been a discussion within WLPG on how to adjudicate the award, given the different languages and traditions, how to judge the work and excellence between the different plays. They suggest having three awards instead of one, and these will be for someone, of any age, who is inspirational in subject matter, by being an example, by originality, etc. As a way of adjudicating this, WLPG suggests an essay that tells why this person was inspirational and how they changed the life of the writers in their region or in the world. It is subjective like every award, but based on how they are inspiring, what the story on the writer is.
The three honors allow different regions, different ages, and different ASSITEJ inspirational playwrights.

The jury process has not been totally articulated but there will be around 7-10 people from around the world, and hopefully have lively discussions about why they are good examples for ASSITEJ. The idea is to have an open call for nominations, asking for a 500-600 word essay and maybe a translation of a couple of pages of play into English, but don’t want translation to be a burden, they want to base it on the story of the playwright. The idea is not for the award to be a lifetime achievement one.

YH commented that the award was a great idea, but expressed that timelines are tight, given where we are in relation to the Congress. She asked if the call could be sent out in the next newsletter so that nominations could be ready by the Cameroon meeting and KPK agreed to this.

YH asked about ideas to have something extra on the nominee which requires some effort and gives something to show at the award ceremony and place on the website as a celebration of the playwright. She also asked what the winners would be given (an article, recognition, space on the web, etc.).

KPK said it depended on the Congress, but there could be sections of the work read with actors or maybe web presence. YH also said they could receive a certificate with a citation.

VJ asked if this could be link to AF’s idea of having plays in the magazine and YH said maybe they could be extracts of the plays with an introduction of the playwright and also have it in their original language.

KPK agreed that the nomination could ask for a page of what is really representative of their work, or their most recent work.

AF suggested reading a part of the plays in original language during the Congress. YH said the awards evening will be something special and since it is on the last evening before the end of the Congress, we must figure out when the reading could happen.

YH expressed that since there are more awards and more people now, it must all be done appropriately and let the people know with time for them to be there and know they will have a space that honors them.

VJ asked KPK if WLPG needed help from the EC to find the selecting committee/jury and KPK accepted and said maybe some EC members could also be jury. MvdW said it would make sense to have input from an EC member if there was a nomination from their particular country.

KPK agreed to work on a proposal for a possible jury list.

KPK said the deadline for nominations will be in September and asked for help from the Secretariat in distributing the call.

YH said all three new awards should be included in the ASSITEJ newsletter along with the Award for Artistic Excellence, and the selection will be made between the Cameroon and Korea meetings.
The deadline can be November 10 so we have a report in Cameroon, the selection happens between meetings and then we ratify choices in Korea. Congress registration will open in January so it gives good time for people to know if they were nominated.

SFF asked how the jury would work if they are around the world and KPK said they can use email, Skype and other ways to make it happen. YH agreed it doesn’t have to be complicated since they won’t be looking for one winner, there will be a process of short listing and part of the jury can decide on the plays from their regions.

VOTING:
1. Does the EC agree to officially endorse the WLPG Inspirational Playwrights Award, embark on this process and announce it after this meeting?
IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

ACTION:
1. Secretariat will help with the distribution of the Call for the WLPG Award.

15. Next EC Meetings

FATEJ dates are November 11-18. For the EC, these will be the arrival and departure dates respectively.

YH asked who would be able to attend this meeting, since many will have problems with attending both Cameroon and Korea. NH will not be able to attend because she will be in the middle of a production but suggests the new international representative for TYA UK to take her place. MvdW won’t be able to attend since she will be in the middle of work and will ask Geesche Wartemann. IK will not attend either since the dates are very close to TIFLI, and will talk to Ashish Kumar Ghosh to see if he is available. DF is still not sure, it will depend on the funding he receives and the dates of the Uruguay Regional Workshop. RA will check with Ady Beeri.

b. South Korea – ASSITEJ Korea Winter Festival, January 2017
MGC said Kim Sookhee had offered 5 nights, and she asked for one more although this sixth day will not include meals.
There are two options for dates of the meeting either January 4-10 or January 10-16, since they are still fixing the dates of the festival. The EC would all be available for the 4-10 meeting, and around five members won’t be able or are uncertain about the 10-16 meeting; MGC said she would speak to Kim Sookhee.

c. Cape Town, South Africa – ASSITEJ Congress, May 2017
The ITYARN conference starts on May 16, although the Congress officially starts on May 17th. This event may have to take place at City Hall, since there are some issues around accessibility at the
University of Cape Town campus. The deadline for this call for papers, workshops, abstracts is September 15th.

The first EC meeting will be the game-sharing playground.

-Venues:
Each venue has an age focus to make it easier for people and schools.
Artscape is a large theatre center with an opera house (seats 1200), theatre, small studio theatre, and out spaces around it like a circus tent; some performances may also be outdoors. (Youth, High Schools, 13+)
Baxter Theatre is around on the side of the mountain and has a large theatre, concert hall, studio theatre, the option to use the stage of the main theatre as a flipside, a small theatre, and various rehearsal rooms; also space for showcase of literacy projects and storytelling. (Early Years, Junior Primary)
City Hall is a large building with lots of halls and will probably have 5 theatre spaces in there, which we can determine how flexible they are. (Primary School, Junior High School). This is also where the Congress itself will be and possibly the EC meetings.
ITYARN Conference: University of Cape Town Drama Department, Hiddingh hall campus
Cultural Hubs will be offsite, outside of the main space, in community spaces.
Hubs in underprivileged parts of Cape Town will work with ASSITEJ South Africa for help in hosting.

There is not much funding confirmed yet, but there is some funding for training 50 young people to run hubs (10 per hub), so in the future they can continue to run events there.
There will be buses to take and return people at Cultural Hubs.

Opening ceremony will be directed by a young theatre maker who came through the Magnet Theatre Project: Thando Doni.
Each venue has a special ceremony attached to it.

May 27th will be the last Saturday of the month, and Cape Town has city walks taking place, and these will have a particular precinct which links into open-air, free performances.
There is an idea to create several pieces for heritage sites, but this will depend on funding.

Fringe will exist in smaller theatres in Cape Town; others who are not programmed on the festival can showcase here.

SG asked if there could be teasers of the different experiences for people to understand how they will work. YH said ASSITEJ South Africa has been working on that, and will be posting teasers in a monthly way. RA also suggested using the newsletter.

YH said it had been too troubling to get into rural areas in order to make things practical, but this is still a possibility for companies who are traveling to the Congress and want to do additional work.

YH mentioned there had been over 650 applications for the festival, more than there have ever been in any Congress; the idea is to choose between 35 and 50 depending on finances.
There is a South African selection committee with about 10 people and an International committee with 8 people to help get to a better shortlist and then the South African committee will take over. The productions will be about 50/50 in terms of representation from Africa and the rest of the world, including collaborative productions as part of the African selection.

Hopefully the program will be finalized by November.
Registration process will open in January.

For the General Assembly YH mentioned making each day memorable, for people to walk away from the Congress having a good feeling of having connected with people. Part of this will be honoring our own with the awards, honoring ASSITEJ founders, and thinking how to do something about the end of the 50-year celebration.

VJ agreed to recognize resilient individuals and how much they’ve given to the field. She encouraged thinking about how ASSITEJ could use and involve them more. Maybe Next Generation can be linked to older members so it becomes interactive; newcomers can approach people who have been in ASSITEJ for many years.
YH mentioned ASSITEJ South Africa is working on a young critics forum and have talked about intergenerational dialogue in South Africa; it would be great to create a space to match up young people in South Africa with experienced people from ASSITEJ.
There will be a Next Generation moment in South Africa to which Friends of ASSITEJ are invited, and if there are interested connections there can be a buddy/mentoring system.
NH also suggested little sessions as small group activities that are informal.

The call for the Next Generation program still needs to go out. NH said it should be out ASAP because of the timelines, and said they had given September as deadline for OTE. Call should go out in the upcoming newsletter and decisions made before Cameroon if possible. YH said they’d start with 25 participants, hoping to make it around 30-35, so people will be shortlisted and if there is more funding, they will be included. NH mentioned that alumni from OTE can select the alumni for Cape Town.

RA enquired on accommodation and YH said they would identify hotels close to the university and central activities with reduced rates; there will be lots of options within Cape Town. The city center is easy to get around by walking, buses are quite reliable and Uber is also a cheap and easy option. By Cameroon, EC and Next Generation accommodation will be known, and information for delegates will be available at the beginning of the year or maybe earlier.

YH asked EC members to engage with ASSITEJ members and find out if they will be sending delegates, and to bear in mind deadlines for bids and elections; names and places must be in 3 months prior to Congress (February). There is instruction from the New Constitution to get support for the 2018 bid, so we need to work it out between now and Cameroon and not wait until May 2017. (EC can decide on the AAG18 if they feel the meeting is too soon, in order to have time for fundraising and preparation).
YH asked EC members to inform in Cameroon if they will stand again for the EC or if there will be someone else from their countries standing.

d. Future EC meetings
YH explained the process for the AAG18 selection is that the EC calls for a meeting then hold a General Assembly meeting online and if there is no quorum, the EC decides. This all needs to happen by Cameroon.
MGC said Ireland mentioned they could host it in the final Small Size festival in Galway, if there were no other proposals. For 2019 there are proposals from Norway, Denmark, USA, France, India and China. YH said Azerbaijan was also a possibility although she was not sure for when. She also mentioned that those who don’t get the gathering can be suggested to host EC meetings.
IK said the EC should encourage or support one center per term, who cannot organize an EC meeting, to host one with support and budget from ASSITEJ. The past meetings in Argentina and India both helped make the centers much stronger, and in the case of India this also created a now annual festival.
MGC suggested also making calls to the members for EC meetings.

YH mentioned that the new EC should ideally meet somewhere around September-October 2017, but if it is not possible, there is a possibility to meet in January 2018 in Germany at the Panoptikum Festival.

RF stressed it was very important for new members to meet as soon as possible because it is very difficult to understand the duties of ASSITEJ as a newcomer without a meeting.

e. Meeting with Cathrin Blöss
CB from the German Children’s Theatre Festival Panoptikum was present to officially propose an EC meeting in Nuremberg in January 23-28, 2018 within the frame of the festival. The board of ASSITEJ Germany would also hold a meeting at the same time.

It is an annual festival for children up to age 12 and they present up to 12 European performances and 10-12 from Bavaria. It will be Panoptikum’s 10th anniversary in 2018. The artistic director of the Panoptikum Festival is also vice-president of ASSITEJ Germany.

**ACTION:**
1. MGC will contact Kim Sookhee regarding the dates for the EC meeting in Korea.
2. NH will communicate with the Next Generation network on their intention about the Congress.
3. MGC will look into the possibility of Mexico for the AAG18.

16. Any Other Business

The Projects working group got in touch with Leandro Kees, Argentinean choreographer who lives in Germany, regarding the Uruguay workshop and he said he would be in Argentina around that time so the trip will be shorter and ASSITEJ can save some money to pay a fee.
RF said it was possible to have a contract with ASSITEJ Uruguay and for this, ASSITEJ supports the workshop with a fixed grant and then the center pays directly to the workshop leader; this model can be used for future workshops. MGC agreed to work on a draft of the contract. YH said the next stage is to designate this project as an ASSITEJ Project. The EC went over the criteria and agreed that this project fits most of it. An official request is needed from ASSITEJ Uruguay to designate it as a project; then it can be approved by email, and then we can write the contract as part of the support. In this particular instance, since ASSITEJ is spearheading it, we are piloting it. VJ recalled that the EC had already accepted the model of regional workshops and YH said every workshop will be a single project because hopefully this will become a model for other people to respond and come to us, if they wish to make a workshop. YH also said ASSITEJ France must write a formal letter regarding the Cameroon workshop and then sign a contract.

VJ also said this is partially based on a successful model of the Taboo Workshop Project and DF and Gabriel are very familiar with that model, and DF is part of the EC as well as of the project. She also said it was important to designate DF as the EC member responsible for the Uruguay Regional Workshop, and to make sure there is someone documenting the event. Before the workshop, there needs to be a model designed to evaluate the project, to know if it’s working and how to measure its impact.

There is an understanding that workshop leaders will be paid, so VJ and DF will propose a set rate.

YH expressed the EU project should also be designated as an ASSITEJ Project if it’s successful and this would be the formal way of ASSITEJ interacting with it.

**ACTION:**
1. MGC will work on a draft for the regional workshop contract between ASSITEJ and ASSITEJ Uruguay.
2. VJ and DF will propose a set rate to be paid to regional workshop leaders.
3. YH will write to DN regarding making the EU Funding project and ASSITEJ Project.

17. Closure
ADDENDUM A

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Birmingham, UK
July 2016

1. ASSITEJ-related business:
   a. International co-operation between the associations:
      I have been in contact with UNIMA, IATA and IATC to look for collaborations towards the
      Congress. As you know, we now have a public agreement towards co-operation with
      UNIMA, which was made at the UNIMA Congress, and is supported by Secretary-General
      Idoya Otegui and various members of the board. It was interesting to witness another
      organisations’ Congress and to compare with our own. I have some thoughts which I will
      share with you regarding formats and approaches.
      Margareta Sorenson, President of IATC, has also agreed to the co-operation agreement and
      we discussed the possibility to host a Next Gen critics residency at the Congress, along with
      our young critics programme.
      Robin Pascoe, President of IDEA, and I met in Beijing and we have had some further
      discussions about links with IDEA about some kind of engagement within the Congress.
      ITI and IDEA have had to cancel their Congresses in 2016 due to violence and uncertainty in
      the places where these were due to happen.
   b. Writing of letters of support for Serbia and for individuals, Writing letters of welcome for
      various international festivals
   c. Updating of archives with Information from President’s correspondence etc. – ongoing
   d. Engagement with the World Day 2016 – writing the message, reviewing and giving input to
      the video etc.
   e. Engagement with ITYARN and Write Local.Play Global about the new awards, as well as
      working with the PPF committee on ideas for the Lifetime Achievement award.
   f. Engagement with EU funding application for Senegal, Italy, South Africa.
   g. General correspondence with members ongoing: sending examples of African plays to Cuba
      and USA; communicating personally with all national centres around asking for applications
      to Congress; dealing with enquiries from Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan for memberships –
      conversations with Simon Wong and Ivica Simic about possibility of independent Asian
      theatre makers network.
   h. Engagement with ASSITEJ Sweden to create a project with Southern African countries:
      Voices of flight – unfortunately, unsuccessful
   i. Engagement with World Cultures Connect to see if there are possible synergies and ways
      we can work together
   j. Thundafund: no further action has been taken on this given that the regional workshops to
      happen in Cameroon have taken a slightly different direction due to various factors...
   k. Wrote several magazine articles for different publications and chapter for Stubborn Little
      Thumblings (La Baracca’s publication)
   l. Contributed to work on the ASSITEJ magazine.
   m. Participated in organisation of Theatre in Transformation conference in South Africa.
2. **Travels:**
Since last October there has been a great deal of travel for me:

**Attended:**

a. Netherlands in October, after the EC meeting in Norway, for the opening of “Red Earth Revisited” in Amsterdam
b. Malta Showcase 2015, 15-19 November – was able to connect with IFACCA (International Federation of Arts Councils & Cultural Agencies) there as our meetings coincided, and will be engaging with them further with a view to the 2017 Congress; the South African National Arts Council CEO is on the board of IFACCA which is useful.
c. FETEN festival in Gijon, Spain, 21-26 February 2016, as well as symposium on “The Cultural Capital of Performing Arts for Young Audiences in Europe” – this was an excellent showcase of performances, and I was able to make significant links for possible funding from Spanish cultural agencies for the Congress
d. Visioni di Teatro, Visioni di Teatro – at La Baracca, Testoni Ragazzi – was able to have a “mini-EC” meeting with Marisa, Vigdis, Diana and Francois, which was very productive.
e. New Visions New Voices Festival – and International Playwrights Intensive in Maryland and Washington DC from 18 -30 April: opportunity to build interest in ASSITEJ World Congress in USA
f. UNIMA World Congress and World Puppet Festival in Tolosa/San Sebastian – May – announcement of co-operation agreement
g. Bright view (Schone Aussicht) in Stuttgart – was part of a discussion around politics and theatre for young audiences; was able to connect with Meike Fechner about the development of a Music Theatre global network to meet in Cape Town and to launch there… along with other participants and organisers of the Happy New Ears congress and festival to be held in Mannheim later this year (November); also met with Gabi dan Droste who is keen to drive the Dance theatre global network and we have done some basic work around creating a description and starting list possible members.
h. Beijing, 2nd International Drama Education Congress, in May with Manon. Gave a keynote speech around the value of dramatic activity and theatre for children and young people. Value of this was to alert Chinese to ASSITEJ work, to interest them in what we are doing in South Africa and to invite people to participate in the Congress. Also, to speak to Simon Wong and others about the Independent Asian Artists Network

**Upcoming travels:**

a. Serbia for BITEF and IATC International conference (27-28 September) & Next Generation Critics; with possibility of Cultural Diplomacy conference although this seems to clash with my next invitation
b. Budapest for 100, 1000, 1 000000 Stories Festival, where I will be on the Jury 1-8 October
c. Cameroon for EC meeting (FATEJ): 11-18 November

**Invitations not yet accepted:**

a. 4th Baku International Theatre Conference will take place on 7-8 November 2016. This year’s theme
is "Multiculturalism and theatre." (NOTE: They have expressed interest in hosting an Artistic Gathering)

3. ASSITEJ SA News:

a. National:

- **Kickstarter Project:** Arts education project in 20 schools in 4 districts and 2 provinces; the pilot study in the benefits of the arts and of theatre for children over a 2 year period, which trains up artist-facilitators, teachers and children directly, and which brings theatre productions into schools – feedback so far is excellent and we are seeing great responses from the schools, teachers and learners.
- Biggest platform yet at National Arts Festival: 20 productions this year as well as other events.
- Obs Family Festival successful, along with World Theatre Day activities around the country
- Touring of 5 congress incubation productions to schools – reached around 13 000 children in five provinces
- We hosted the **African Youth Theatre and Dance Festival** (June, Artscape), which allowed 60 young South Africans (16-17) to develop skills in criticism and reflection – and to work on sharing these through a variety of media – this is a warm-up to the ASSITEJ World Congress next year.
- We have run several showcases of work in different parts of the country and will still have platforms this year at Hilton Arts Festival, Cape Town Fringe Festival, Muizenberg Festival, Wushwini Festival and our Vrygrond Family Festival.

b. International:

- New Visions/New Voices South Africa - 5 SA writers attended the 2016 NVNV festival in Washington, the writing was very well received, and we hope that several of the plays will be presented at the Congress
- Co-production between Speelteater Holland Studio and ASSITEJ SA – Red Earth Revisited - toured to Spain, World Puppetry Festival and has received another invitation to Spain
- Hosted Vamos Theatre (UK) for two weeks of full mask workshops and interaction with a range of theatre-makers in SA.
- Magnet theatre project with Barbara Kolling (Helios) around the continued development of theatre for the early years has resulted in the creation of four new pieces for young audiences from Cameroon, Rwanda, Zimbabwe and Kenya
- Assisting Patchwork with tour to Reunion (July)
- Assisting Mother to Mother with tour to Rwanda: Ubumuntu festival
- Residency of Theatre Thump (French company) in SA working in schools in Cape town and touring a production. They are currently presenting two of their productions on our platform at the National Arts Festival

c. Cradle of Creativity:

- The call for papers has finally been publicized and needs to be shared, see [www.assitej2017.org.za](http://www.assitej2017.org.za)
  Deadline is mid September. Selections and invitations by mid-October. Veronica Baxter from UCT will be present this festival and will meet with Manon and Geesche and myself to discuss
the Conference and Focus Days as well as possible publications to come out of the 2017 Congress.

- **Call for productions:** Finally received over 650 applications from 82 countries. This is wonderful, and we thank all the EC for their assistance in publicizing the call. I will give a fuller report when we look at the Congress specifically. It is however challenging dealing with this number of applications with a small staff and several of them being part time and volunteer. We will be providing copies of all submissions to the Archives in Germany, which will allow for a large collection of TYA at this moment in time to become part of our records.

- **Relationships developed with:** Puppets for Peace – side event; Clowns without Borders – side event; Universities for a student exchange programme; Schools for a schools programme etc.

REPORTED BY: Yvette Hardie, President

1 July 2016
Generals from November 2015 to June 2016:

**Communication with the Centers**

Communication with members is done day by day via emails (responding to different inquiries).

The following official letters were sent from the Secretariat since October:

- **ASSITEJ Germany** – Regarding 50th anniversary expenses.
- **ASSITEJ Norway** – Thank You letter for hosting EC meeting.
- **Etoundi Zeyang** – Accepting the invitation for an EC meeting in Cameroon.
- **Ivica Simic** – Regarding the material from the Secretariat in Croatia.
- **Maurice Yendt** – Response endorsed by the EC.
- **Rania Refaat** – Individual member acceptance letter.
- **ASSITEJ UAE** – Informating they are no longer considered members due to lack of communication and payment.
- Support Letter for **regional workshops in Uruguay**
- **ASSITEJ Nigeria** Support Letter for opening of bank account.
- **ASSITEJ Austria** Support Letter for center’s funding.
- **China Children’s Theatre** 60th anniversary letter.
- **ASSITEJ Serbia** Support letter for center’s funding.
ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering ‘On the Edge’:
-Support/invitation letters for EC members (Ady, Daniel, Diana)

-Support/invitation letters for: Hamadi Dimassi as African Counselor; ASSITEJ Korea, ASSITEJ Nigeria, ASSITEJ Chile, and ASSITEJ China for funding and visas.

The following obituaries were made and sent:
-Orna Porat
-Ann M. Shaw
-Mr. Kim Eui-Kyung

**EU Funding Project**

We have been following up with Dirk Neldner regarding the EU funding project *The life of the others*, especially in communicating with Lola Lara, although she has not been very responsive.

Exchange of magazine advertisements with Dirk.

**New Applications**

We received applications from Chile and Peru.

**ASSITEJ Logo**

The ASSITEJ logo was adjusted to the theme of inclusivity for 2016.

**World Day**

World Day logo was adjusted to theme of inclusivity.

Toolkit was adjusted with help from Promotions Working Group.

Translation of toolkit, messages and logo.

Communication with ASSITEJ Nigeria regarding the payment for the World Day Video 2016, which is still pending.
Website

New sections:
- ASSITEJ International Archives
- AAG16 On The Edge

Homepage:
- Association Links
- 2016 Inclusivity Year
- WD Video 2016
- WD Messages 2016
- Magazine 2016 (magazine orders).

We created a draft Prezi explaining Next Generation Residencies versus Placements to be discussed in this meeting.

We collected information on ASSITEJ Honorary Members; this needs to be edited in order to be published on the website.

We have been constantly updating the information on the website.

Newsletter

We have been responsible for editing, formatting and sending it to Yvette and François for final revision.

Many times we don’t receive information from the centers and we have to look it up in order to include it.

The newsletter has been posted on Facebook and Twitter.

We have been translating the most important material into Spanish as well.

Magazine/Leaflet

Negotiation for budget and follow-up of the whole process until printing.

Calls and other materials sent to the centers

The calls for the newsletter have been sent regularly.
Monthly newsletters are sent through *Send In Blue*.

World Day logo, message, video and toolkit were sent out to national centers, individual members and networks.

Call for ASSITEJ Magazine.
Call for Magazine advertisements.

**ITYARN** Call for papers – ASSITEJ World Congress (sent in English and Spanish).

**Baku International Theatre Conference Invitation**

Call for **Schoolyard Stories Project**

**Twitter and Facebook**

Updates and posts of the main calls and events have been made constantly, and we have shared information from other events.

**Artistic Gathering 2016**

We have been in constant communication and following up with the UK team regarding *On the Edge*.

**ASSITEJ Archives**

We sent the completed ASSITEJ archive files for *May 2014-May 2015* to Jürgen Kirschner at the Frankfurt Archives.

We have been working on the file for Ivica’s period and we reached out to Leo Vukelic who sent the material he found in Croatia to Jürgen Kirschner as well.

**Office in Mexico City**

We have a new collaborator at the office: Ignacio Ponce (Nacho), who has taken the place of Ernesto mainly helping us with the website and mailings.

We’ve been in constant communication with the people from the Ministry of Culture who give us funding; to sustain this funding we send them copies of our meeting minutes and full reports of what we do for them to see and understand the work we do.
The first 3-4 months of 2016 were a critical stage for us, but even with the difficult situation in Mexico we have managed to improve. We received some funding at the end of last year with which we have been able to cover Maui’s salary for the whole of 2016.

**International Invitations**

I attended the following festivals:
- **Visioni di Futuro, Visioni di Teatro**; in Bologna, Italy  
  (Gave a talk on *The Relationship between Arts and the Early Childhood in Mexico*; there was a small EC meeting with present members where we discussed the workshops for Cameroon; there was a Europe 8+ Network meeting among other subjects).

- **April Festival 2016**; in Copenhagen, Denmark.  
  (Participated in ‘Pecha Kucha’ with the theme of *Identity on Performing Arts for Children and Young People in Mexico*. Contact and communication with people from IberoAmerica – Cuba, Brazil, Chile that attended April festival)

I will not able to attend because of budget restrictions:
- **China Children’s Theatre Festival**, but Vigdís will be going.

**Upcoming Invitations**

Invitation to attend Japanese Union Theatre Companies for Children and Young People Congress, (JIENKO) in July; Tokyo, Japan.

Invitation to **Baku International Theatre Conference**.

Invitation to Cuba in October to the **Festival de Teatro de Camaguey**.

**IberoAmerican Centers/Report**

- Call for XIX ASSITEJ Spain Award for TYA plays.

- Phone call with **Ecuador**: they said they would pay, but after some confusion with PayPal, we didn’t hear back from them. We wrote after the earthquake but never heard back either.

- Good communication with **Cuba**, who have been participating actively.
- Little contact with Colombia; after speaking with them on the phone and proposing a payment plan, we never heard back. Daniel has been more in touch with them.

- Phone call with Peru: they sent their application, but we translated it since they didn’t.

**ASSITEJ MEXICO:**

- We have made the necessary links between Mexico, Brazil and Mozambique to make possible a coproduction between Brazilian Company La Trupe de Truoes, Mexican Company La Máquina Teatro and Mozambican playwright Rogerio Manjate.

- A Mexican researcher (Yoloxochitl García Santa María) won the ASSITEJ Spain Essay Award.

- We have tried to make particular emphasis in promoting ASSITEJ’s activity with Mexican artists.

- **FITPA** The first theatre festival for early years is happening in Guadalajara, Mexico, organized by Susana Romo after her experiences in ASSITEJ.

- The company Teatro al Vacío had a one-month residency at the Visioni di Futuro, Visioni di Teatro in Bologna.

- There is a Mexican young actress Georgina Saggiante Montero who will be present here in Birmingham for Next Generation.

- The company Tijuana Hace Teatro was present in Denmark and met with Batida Company.

- Preparations towards the presence of Mexico in the 2018 ASSITEJ Korea Festival.

- **Theaterwelt**, for the first time in the fifth edition of this cycle, two readings of German plays for children were presented. Only One Day, by Martin Balscheit, with the company Finisterra Project and Three Head, by Carsten Brandau, with the Company Oniria.

Marisa Giménez Cacho
ADDENDUM C
TREASURER REPORT - EC BIRMINGHAM JULY 2016

The Report starts with the Financial Statement 2015, that we must approve according to our Constitution.

Art. 7.3. The financial year shall run from 1st January to 31st December every year. Within 4 months after the end of the financial year, the Treasurer shall prepare the “financial statements” to be submitted for approval to the Executive Committee. The financial statements need to be approved by the Executive Committee before the month of December of the year after the end of the accounting period.

Every time it meets, the General Assembly shall ratify the “mission budget”, in which the financial statements of the solar years between one General Assembly and the next are merged.

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<td>6.704,36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DONATION &amp; FRIEND OF ASSITEJ</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>0,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERESTS AND Rounding</td>
<td>77,35</td>
<td>84,21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VARIATIONS OF RATE EXCHANGE</td>
<td>656,89</td>
<td>715,16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL PROFIT</strong></td>
<td>40.543,28</td>
<td>44.139,46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>LOSS</strong></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EC TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENTS FOR EC MEMBERS AND COUNSELLORS</td>
<td>909,81</td>
<td>990,51</td>
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<td>COSTS FOR HOTEL EC MEMBERS &amp; COUNSELLORS</td>
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<td>967,63</td>
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<tr>
<td>COSTS FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY</td>
<td>563,50</td>
<td>613,48</td>
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<tr>
<td>SECRETARY GENERAL OFFICE EXPENDITURES</td>
<td>8.460,39</td>
<td>9.210,83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NEXT GENERATION PLACEMENT - REIMBURSEMENT</td>
<td>921,09</td>
<td>1.002,79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ASSITEJ MAGAZINE 2015 - COSTS</td>
<td>9.305,33</td>
<td>10.130,71</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 2: Balance sheet of the period 1st January 2016 – 20th June 2016. The rate USD /EUR (1,1332) is ECB rate at 20th June. The positive result is not trustworthy because a large part of the costs are not accounted yet: no magazine costs, no costs for the 2nd semestner, only 40% of the costs for Secretary general Office.
TABLE 3: “Profit and loss account” for the period June 2014-June 2016. This is the current situation of the “Mission budget”. It is presented in USD. The exchange rates are the ECB values at 31st December for 2014 and 2015 and at 20th June for 2016.
You will find again the total amounts as “Actuals” in the next table (Table 4: Budget Projection), that allows us to have a clear overview of the situation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2016</th>
<th>TOTAL PERIOD</th>
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<td><strong>BUDGET</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Period: 5 June 2014-20 June 2016</strong></td>
<td>(5 Jun-31 Dec)</td>
<td>(1 Jan-31 Dec)</td>
<td>(1 Jan-20 Jun)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT</strong></td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
<td>USD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PROFIT</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER FEES 2014 - Overdue amount</td>
<td>552,42</td>
<td>239,51</td>
<td>156,99</td>
<td>948,92</td>
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<td>MEMBER FEES 2015</td>
<td>18,536,52</td>
<td>1,273,84</td>
<td>19,810,36</td>
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<tr>
<td>MEMBER FEES 2016</td>
<td></td>
<td>16,714,35</td>
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<td>16,714,35</td>
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<td>15,509,16</td>
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<td>32,138,56</td>
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<td>ASSITEJ MAGAZINE - ADVERTISEMENTS 2014 (Overdue amount)</td>
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<td>1,230,30</td>
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<td>1,230,30</td>
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<tr>
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<td>6,704,36</td>
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<td>4,914,74</td>
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<td>4,914,74</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1,349,87</td>
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<tr>
<td>AUCTION IN SUPPORT OF ASSITEJ</td>
<td>994,33</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>994,33</td>
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<tr>
<td>OTHER REVENUES, INTERESTS AND ROUNDING</td>
<td>113,73</td>
<td>84,21</td>
<td>13,73</td>
<td>211,68</td>
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<td>44,139,46</td>
<td>38,582,82</td>
<td>85,732,64</td>
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<td>ASSITEJ THEATRE DAY PROMOTION VIDEO 2015</td>
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<td>1,677,58</td>
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<td>1,677,58</td>
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<td>7,125,75</td>
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<td>6,964,79</td>
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<td>16,175,62</td>
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<td>967,63</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEXT GENERATION PLACEMENT - REIMBURSEMENT</td>
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<td>1,002,79</td>
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<tr>
<td>COSTS FOR 50TH ANNIVERSARY</td>
<td>613,48</td>
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<td>613,48</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
TABLE 4: Budget Projection. It reports the Actuals amounts, compared with values of the New budget approved in Berlin (Apr.2015). The Projection is in USD. In Berlin we also defined some costs linked to some uncertain incomes (fundraising...), to be spent only if we had the income (totally or partially). The projection is to analyze and to debate together. What is presented is only a suggestion.

The values indicated for the Member fees are linked to the table that you can read below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PROJECTION</th>
<th>NEW BUDGET</th>
<th>ACTUALS</th>
<th>DIFFERENCE</th>
<th>RISK Income risk &amp; Costs linked to this income</th>
<th>Note</th>
<th>PROJECTION</th>
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<td><strong>Currency USD</strong></td>
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<td><strong>MEMBERSHIP FEES</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MEMBER FEES 2014 &amp; Overdue amount</td>
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<td>948,92</td>
<td>51,08</td>
<td>5% group 3 &amp; 4</td>
<td>100,00</td>
<td>1.048,92</td>
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<td>19.810,36</td>
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<tr>
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<td>2.235,65</td>
<td>100% Creditd group 1 + 80% Credits group 2</td>
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<td>19.250,00</td>
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<td>66.673,64</td>
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<td><strong>ADVERTISEMENTS &amp; BOOKSALE</strong></td>
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<td>ASSITEJ MAGAZINE - ADVERTISEMENTS</td>
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<td>11.619,10</td>
<td>7.205,90</td>
<td>Amount 2016</td>
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<td>16.619,10</td>
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<td>BOOKSALE</td>
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<td>100,00</td>
<td>No income expected</td>
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<td>7.835,60</td>
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<td>6,000,00</td>
<td>6,000,00</td>
<td>No income expected ???</td>
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<tr>
<td>------------------------------------------------------</td>
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<td>AUCTIONS</td>
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<td>994,33</td>
<td>0,67</td>
<td>No income expected</td>
<td>0,00</td>
<td>994,33</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>6,000,00</strong></td>
<td><strong>994,33</strong></td>
<td><strong>-6,000,67</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>849,87</td>
<td>2,000,13</td>
<td>2,000,00</td>
<td>No income expected ???</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>FRIENDS OF ASSITEJ</td>
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<td>500,00</td>
<td>500,00</td>
<td>No income expected ???</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>1,349,87</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,500,13</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,000,00</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,349,87</strong></td>
<td><strong>-2,500,13</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER INCOME</td>
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<td>VARIATIONS OF RATE EXCHANGE</td>
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<td>0,00</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERESTS AND ROUNDING</td>
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<td>211,68</td>
<td>148,32</td>
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<td>150,00</td>
<td>361,68</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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<td><strong>646,82</strong></td>
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<td><strong>758,18</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONACULTA GRANT TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL 2014</td>
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<td>32,138,56</td>
<td>-14,798,56</td>
<td>15,000,00</td>
<td>47,138,56</td>
<td>29,798,56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>17,340,00</strong></td>
<td><strong>32,138,56</strong></td>
<td><strong>-14,798,56</strong></td>
<td><strong>15,000,00</strong></td>
<td><strong>47,138,56</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,798,56</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<td><strong>85,413,98</strong></td>
<td><strong>22,861,02</strong></td>
<td><strong>8,000,00</strong></td>
<td><strong>134,763,98</strong></td>
<td><strong>26,488,98</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| EXPENSES                                             |          |      |          |          |                       |      |      |           |
| EC - CORE COSTS                                       |          |      |          |          |                       |      |      |           |
| MEETINGS                                              | 10,000,00 | 1,958,14 | 8,041,86 | 3,000,00 | Budget reduced (amount column "Risk") - Cameroon costs | 5,000,00 | 6,958,14 | -3,041,86 |
| EC TRAVEL REIMBURSE                                    | 12,966,00 | 4,566,52 | 8,399,48 |          |          |          |          |
| BANK CHARGES                                          | 1,558,00 | 1,289,88 | 268,12   |          |          |          |          |
| WEBSITE HOSTING/DESIGN                                | 5,300,00 | 6,484,54 | -1,184,54 |          |          |          |          |
| WEBSITE UPDATING - NEWSLETTER LICENSE                 | 1,452,00 | 955,02 | 496,98   |          |          |          |          |
| ONLINE ACCOUNTING SYSTEM                              | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 |          |          |          |          |
| COSTS FOR REGISTRATION                                | 798,00   | 798,39 | -0,39    |          |          |          |          |
| ACCOUNTANCY FEES                                      | 1,000,00 | 0,00 | 1,000,00 |          | Budget amount | 1,000,00 | 1,000,00 | 0,00     |
| OTHER (GIFTS ETC.)                                    | 500,00   | 0,00 | 500,00   |          | Budget amount | 500,00 | 500,00 | 0,00     |
| RENT OF EQUIPMENT FOR AWARD CEREMONY                  | 501,00 | 501,34 | -0,34    |          |          |          |          |
| ROUNADING AND OTHER LOSSES                            | 444,00   | 144,25 | 299,75   |          |          |          |          |
| **Total**                                            | **34,519,00** | **16,698,07** | **17,820,93** | **3,000,00** | **33,098,07** | **-1,420,93** |           |
| PROJECTS                                              |          |      |          |          |                       |      |      |           |
| ITYARN AND OTHER NETWORKS                             | 1,000,00 | 0,00 | 1,000,00 |          | Budget amount | 1,000,00 | 1,000,00 | 0,00     |
| PUBLICATIONS (2011-2014) COSTS :                      | 0,00 | 0,00 | 0,00 |          |          |          |          |
| PRINT - SHIPPING - DESIGN                             | 23,390,00 | 10,130,71 | 13,259,29 |          |          |          |          |
| OTHER COSTS                                           | 3,000,00 | 0 | 3,000,00 |          | Costs diverted to Magazine | 0,00 | 0,00 | -3,000,00 |
| OTHER PUBLICATION                                     | 3,000,00 | 0,00 | 3,000,00 |          | Costs diverted to Magazine | 0,00 | 0,00 | -3,000,00 |
| NEXT GENERATION                                       | 2,499,00 | 1,002,79 | 1,496,21 |          | Budget amount | 1,500,00 | 2,502,79 | 3,79     |
MEMBERSHIP and MEMBER FEES

At 20th June we are 102 Members: 77 National Centers, 5 Networks and 20 Individual members of 17 different countries (Afghanistan (Afghanistan Bright Stars), Macedonia (Babec Theater Bitola & Buden Teatar) Nigeria (CHAIN), Namibia Chimambila), Uruguay (CUĐI), Venezuela (Dewis Alberto Duran Urbano), Bulgaria (Drama Theatre Targovishte & LIPA), Ghana (GADEC), Pakistan (Little Art & MAAS Foundation), Thailand (MAYA), Georgia (Nodar Dumbadze Professional State Youth Theatre), Philippines (PETA), Kosove (Qendra Multimedia), Egypt (Rania Refaat/El-Pergola Marionettes Theatre), Portogallo (Teatro Nacional D. Maria II), Malta (Ziguzajg International Arts Festival))

The member fees 2016 were paid by 56 members: 42 National Centers, 4 Networks, 10 Individual. The member fees 2015 were paid by 73 members: 56 National Centers, 4 Networks, 13 Individual.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ATINA - ASSITEJ ARGENTINA</td>
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<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ASSITEJ BRAZIL</td>
<td>They will pay in Birmingham - cash</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>ASSITEJ CAMEROUN</td>
<td>Balance in November - cash</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>ASSITEJ CHILE</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>ASSITEJ CHINA</td>
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<td>750</td>
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<tr>
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<td>750</td>
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<td>ASSITEJ HUNGARY</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>ASSITEJ KAZAKHSTAN</td>
<td>They will pay in October</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>750</td>
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<td>ASSITEJ SENEGAL</td>
<td>They paid, but the payment was lost. I am in contact with Mamadou</td>
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<td>150</td>
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<td>ASSITEJ SERBIA</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ASSITEJ SINGAPORE</td>
<td>They will pay in Birmingham - cash</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>150</td>
<td></td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>ASSITEJ TURKEY</td>
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<tr>
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<td>ASSITEJ UNITED KINGDOM - TYA UK</td>
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<td>750</td>
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<tr>
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**TO PAY: 2015 & 2016**

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**TOTAL**: 3,424 1,625 1,499

**TO PAY: 2014 - 2015 & 2016**

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8.350 1.650 1.650 1.925 1.925 1.125 75 18.651 8.902 3.799 2.525 1.925 1.125 75 5.650

Thank you!!

Roberto