



**19th ASSITEJ General Assembly
Cape Town, South Africa
May 22-25, 2017**

National Centers and Individual Members Present:

Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Botswana, Brazil, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Croatia, Cuba, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Lichtenstein, Lithuania, Mexico, Mozambique, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Russia, Serbia, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, Uruguay, USA, Vietnam, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Networks Present:

IIAN, ITYARN, Next Generation, Small Size, Write Local. Play Global

By Proxy:

Nepal, Pakistan, Romania, Slovenia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Singapore (late proxy)



AGENDA

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- b. ASSITEJ World Congress 2020
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- 12. Presentation of the candidates for:
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- 13. ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters
- 14. Open Space Discussion of Working Plan
- 15. Voting
 - a. Place for the Congress
 - b. Artistic Gatherings
- 16. Founders of ASSITEJ
- 17. Friends of ASSITEJ Recognition
- 18. Elections of President:
 - a. Formal stepping down of President
 - b. Election of President
- 19. In Memoriam: Orna Porat
- 20. Elections of Secretary General:
 - a. Formal stepping down of previous Secretary General
 - b. Election of Secretary General
- 21. In Memoriam: Nat Eek, Ann Shaw, Scott Copeland
- 22. Election of the Executive Committee
- 23. Awarding of Honorary Members
- 24. Report back on Open Space discussions
- 25. Welcoming of new EC by President
- 26. Any Other Business
- 27. Closure



1. Introduction

a. Welcome by the President

Yvette Hardie (South Africa), President of ASSITEJ, welcomed the delegates from around the world and thanked them all for their engagement and participation in the first World Congress that takes place in the African continent. She declared the 19th ASSITEJ General Assembly open.

b. Welcome by the Host

Sherri Le Mottee, Chair of the Board of ASSITEJ South Africa, welcomed everyone to Cape Town and talked about the pros and cons of the city. She mentioned that creative arts give hope and the power of transformation to bring something new and different; a space to offer comfort and it is critical to the work of movements like ASSITEJ. Le Mottee reminded everyone that although we normally talk about the future when mentioning children and young people, they are the present, they are here now.

c. Secretary General: Practical information; voting for the agenda

Marisa Giménez Cacho (Mexico), Secretary General of ASSITEJ, went over the agenda and the voting process, as well as practical matters like explaining the translation equipment available (in French and Portuguese).

General voting will be by a raise of hands using color-coded cards to distinguish full members (3 votes) from corresponding members (1 vote).

The General Assembly accepted the agenda by a simple majority vote.

d. Presentation of all members with a focus on new members

Delegates from all the present countries introduced themselves.

2. Nomination of Voting Commission

Yvette Hardie presented the recommendation from the Executive Committee for the Voting Commission: Katariina Metsalampi (Finland), Niclas Malmcrona (Sweden) and Philip Hardy (Ireland).

The General Assembly accepted these candidates as the Voting Commission by a simple majority vote.

The Voting Commission, along with Marisa Giménez Cacho and Roberto Frabetti (Italy) verified the rights to vote of those members present.

3. Approval of the Minutes of the General Assembly 2014

Vigdís Jakobsdóttir (Iceland) proposed the minutes to be accepted as a true record, seconded by Pamela Udoka (Nigeria).



4. Reports from the Executive Committee

a. President – Overview of work of the Association

(See full report as Addendum A)

Yvette Hardie began her report by mentioning this term had been a significant one because ASSITEJ turned 50 years. There was a ceremony in 2015 in Berlin together with ASSITEJ Germany and ASSITEJ France to celebrate the historic moment and recognize those who were part of building the family.

-Dramaturgy:

The dramaturgy selected for this past term was One Step Beyond, with three particular areas of focus: Intergenerational Exchange (always at the heart of TYA; this focus was explored at the AAG15 Augenblick mal!), Interdisciplinary Exchange (how to use different means of communication and disciplines; explored at the AAG16 On The Edge), and Intercultural Exchange (these conversations have begun and will continue to take place during Cradle of Creativity).

-Communication with centers:

Yvette said communication is much of what a president does; lobby for our ideals. She mentioned one of the very important forms for this was letters of support, and particularly at this moment for ASSITEJ Turkey. The National Center in Turkey is in a very difficult situation right now and specifically Tülin Saglam who has been censored by the government. Yvette asked the delegates to think how we can continue to practically engage with them.

-World Day:

There were three very important messages given this term: in 2015 by Malala Yousafzai and Giulia Clara Kessous, in 2016 by Jenny Sealy and in 2017 by Francisco Hinojosa.

-International Cooperation between Associations:

Work towards the idea of international collaboration and cooperation with other international associations, building on relationships to go further. Yvette attended the Congresses for UNIMA and IATC; those for ITI and IDEA were postponed due to conditions of political turmoil and economic uncertainty.

Present in Cape Town are leaders from the different associations: Idoya Otegui (UNIMA), Rob Van Genechten (AITA/IATA), Bert Determann (OISTAT) and Octavian Saiu (AICT/IATC). Robin Pascoe (IDEA) was not able to attend but sent a video message for ASSITEJ.

The four leaders were invited to present themselves to the General Assembly and say a few words.

Yvette Hardie shared that this year had been the first time the World Performance Week had taken place, where the above associations join to celebrate their specific days and to make sure the world understands the importance of live performance.



-National Centers' Handbook:

Yvette said the EC had wanted to examine how ASSITEJ supports its National Centers and decided to create a Handbook, which is not meant to be an instruction manual but rather a highlighting of procedures and other examples that have worked for different places and to see what people are doing to make their centers work.

The EC has been through a process of testing and refining and have arrived at some findings: 72% of the centers are non-profit and none are full-profit; 72% charge a membership fee (with a vast range of fees). We are now looking into how centers are operating and communicating. All National Centers will receive an email to participate in this new questionnaire.

Another main task has been organizing the General Assembly, for which Yvette thanked the EC for their support and ideas as well as organizations and funders who made it possible. She shared with the Assembly, that this term had a superb EC team who worked very hard with programs and activities like the Regional Workshops, Next Generation Residencies and Placements, Artistic Gatherings, etc.

b. Review of the working plan, including the reports of the EC working groups:

• **Policies & Protocols**

Sue Giles (Australia) talked about the main activities for this working group which were:

-Fundraising

There is an immediate disadvantage to having a membership fee, which is that ASSITEJ can't give tax reductions and this provides a great challenge. The working group explored methods like crowd-funding, donations, partnerships, auction, Friends of ASSITEJ and the initiative of the Solidarity Fund.

-Awards

New awards were announced at this Congress (Inspirational Playwrights Award and ASSITEJ Applause for Lifetime Achievement). The selection criteria and process for an ITYARN research award are in development.

-New Networks

Looked into Education, Dance and Music Theatre Networks.

-ASSITEJ Artistic Gatherings and World Congress

Memorandums of Understanding were created.

-New Protocol Guidelines

ASSITEJ Communication Policy, Data and Information Storage Policy and Guidelines for Communication at ASSITEJ Artistic Gatherings.



-International Collaborations

Collaboration with UNIMA and ITI for the World Performance Week.

-Inclusive Association

Received positive call to action from IIAN.

-Financial Systems

Association has been registered and financial accounting is performed in Italy.

-EC Book

Record of the meetings and activities of the EC.

- **Publications**

Manon van de Water (USA/Netherlands) gave the report for the working group.

There have been three ASSITEJ Magazines during this period:

2015 – “One Step Beyond: Intergenerational Exchange” (presented in Berlin; this was a special edition with two sections one for the 50th Anniversary and the other for the theme of Intergenerational Exchange).

2016 – “One Step Beyond: Interdisciplinary Exchange” (presented in Birmingham).

2017 – “One Step Beyond: Intercultural Exchange” (presented in Cape Town).

The ASSITEJ Newsletter has been created and sent out to members on a regular monthly basis, 34 in total during this three-year period.

The newsletter is now linked to the ASSITEJ website homepage, where readers can see the introduction by EC members and the most important news of the association as well as different news and articles from the centers.

- **Promotions**

François Fogel (France) and Nina Hajiyianni (UK) presented the report for this working group.

The main project has been the World Day campaign, which is the one global campaign that connects all the members. They talked about the aims of the campaign (promotion, advocacy, opportunities to connect) and the tools that have been used for this (message, film, press release, social media, toolkit, logo). The last film made for this campaign, by ASSITEJ Norway, was a wonderful film that communicated quality and diversity of art made for children.

A new and more dynamic website was created for this term, trying to make it more accessible and multilingual (English, Spanish and French).

- **Projects**

-ASSITEJ Artistic Gatherings:

Wolfgang Schneider (Germany) gave a report on the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2015 in Berlin, Germany. He mentioned it all started with the idea of intergenerational exchange and the importance of bringing the next generation together. The AAG15 had also been a space for much



• cultural exchange: for ASSITEJ Encounters, presentations, networking and promotion; there was a lot of artistic impulse through participation. The ceremony to celebrate the 50 years had been a real bilateral collaboration with France, the country where everything started for ASSITEJ. Wolfgang mentioned it had been a great success, especially for German TYA companies because the idea and practice of coproducing is still happening today.

Steve Ball (UK) gave a report on the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016, *On The Edge*, in Birmingham, UK. He informed that this event had been a coproduction between TYA UK and TYA Ireland. The symposium part of the program was led by TYA Ireland and TYA UK led the performance program. There was a total of 14 productions and a budget of about half a million EUR; the Arts Councils of UK and Ireland had been generous with the funding, as well as the City Council of Birmingham. The team of OTE had an external evaluation made as well as further feedback. They recognized the cultural diversity in UK and Ireland and secured further funding in order to address this.

Steve shared that when the name 'On The Edge' had been decided, it was also to coin a phrase that UK and Ireland were islands on the edge of the world; they had not anticipated Brexit, but are confident that OTE proved the UK is continuously committed to cooperate and collaborate.

A printed version of the *On the Edge* report was distributed among delegates.

Stefan Fischer-Fels (Germany), Diana Krzanic Tepavac (Serbia), Daniel H. Fernández (Argentina), Imran Khan (India), Vigdís Jakobsdóttir, and Nina Hajjianni gave a report on the activities of the **Projects Working Group**, which consisted of:

-Artistic Encounters:

These have been taking place for the last two terms and they've improved each time. This is where artists face other artists and TYA professionals. A dialogue and exchange about the art and work of creating TYA. It is important to address relevant questions for the here and now so they are fluid and flexible and are adapted to each gathering.

For the first time the AAG15, had a more theoretical focus with very powerful impulses. It focused on dynamic questions having to do with intergenerational exchange. The Encounters led people from different parts of the world to think of practical projects and how to work together. These encounters brought young artists into the discussions and were less hierarchical and more of a fruitful discussion dialogue.

For the AAG16, the idea of interdisciplinary was widened to artistic identity and freedom of speech.

The last Encounter for this term will happen here in Cape Town. Intercultural Exchange has a deeper meaning that we want to find out about. There will also be an *Open Space* to brainstorm of possibilities and ideas in the field; we can give ideas for the dramaturgy of the next three years.

-Next Generation Residencies:

This program helps bring young artists into ASSITEJ, to connect with other people from around the world, to develop skills and think about international exchanges. Residencies are always within a festival and for a group. The program in Warsaw had 23 participants from 23 different countries,



Berlin had 42 participants from 21 countries, Birmingham had 22 participants from 15 countries, and Cape Town has 28 participants from 19 countries.

-Next Generation Placements:

The idea of this program is to invite and welcome young artists into ASSITEJ, with an opportunity to learn and work with artists in a different country. Placements are individual and provided by a host in a prominent festival. The last 3-year period had exciting and diverse offers.

There was a total of 9 different offers (Germany, North Ireland, South Africa, UK, Germany, Serbia, Italy and Croatia), we have received 73 applications from 13 countries to participate and 10 artists have been selected and invited. There is an open call for new offers yearlong, and there are currently 5 new offers (Croatia, Germany, Norway and 2 from Serbia).

The program's main problem is financial. ASSITEJ has formed a financial support grant with the money raised through the Auction that could supply support for 5 grants of \$500 USD; 4 grants were given this period.

-Auction:

Many young artists and practitioners from around the world are interested in the Next Generation programs and although we would like to include everyone, many cannot afford it and the EC is committed to raise funds to support these young artists to participate. The Auction is a very important project for this and has been successful because of the members around the world. This year, it will take place on May 24 at Artscape where the EC will also be running a bar with drinks from all over the world and the money raised at the bar will also go to support Next Generation.

-Regional Workshops:

The idea was presented at the last Congress as a new ASSITEJ Project. Two workshops took place last year, one in Cameroon in November and one in Uruguay in December. The first project was coordinated by ASSITEJ, ASSITEJ France and ASSITEJ Cameroon, dedicated to playwriting and entitled 'Shaping Stories'. The second was a dance workshop with 25 professionals from Uruguay, Venezuela, Spain, Chile, Brazil and Argentina.

The third workshop will happen in Cape Town from May 23-25 with a group of 16 participants from Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Madagascar, Congo, Rwanda and Togo.

From the evaluations of the participants, it is clear these workshops have been a great experience and contribution for them. One way forward is to focus on the regional level and connect artists in continents and regions.

The workshop is a place to develop skills and share experience. One center is linked with other centers in the region to host workshops for TYA artists. The first step is to think about the skills needed and then ASSITEJ can help with workshop leaders; centers must find the necessary funding.

c. Secretary General

(See full report as Addendum B)

Marisa Giménez Cacho gave a summarized report on the last three years of the Secretariat, which consisted of the following points:



-Transfer of the office from Croatia to Mexico City:

No physical documents were received, and this was the beginning of a more digital era for ASSITEJ. A partial EC meeting was held in the framework of the IberoAmerican Theatre for Children and Young People Festival and Congress in August 2014, where meetings with Yvette and Marissa Garay took place regarding the organization of the work for the Secretariat.

-Funding of the office:

The office in Mexico was financed by the Mexican Fine Arts Institute and the Ministry of Culture but it wasn't easy, it meant a lot of negotiations to obtain the necessary funding in time. The approximate support received was of \$44,367 USD per year.

-Communication with centers:

75 out of the 98 members have regular communication with the Secretary General.

-New applications for ASSITEJ membership:

In 2014 applications were received from Chile for individual membership and from Next Generation to become a network.

In 2015 applications were received from Georgia and Namibia for individual membership and from Belgium, Kazakhstan, Kenya and Mozambique to become National Centers.

In 2016 applications were received from Bulgaria and Egypt for individual membership and from Chile and Peru to become National Centers.

In 2017 applications were received from Ukraine for individual membership and from Bulgaria and Pakistan to become National Centers.

Only those who have paid their fees are now members, the rest have not become official members.

-ASSITEJ 50th Anniversary/ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2015 Augenblick mal!:

The Secretariat worked in coordination with ASSITEJ Germany for the Gathering and Jubilee ceremony. This implied many letters, emails, listings, budgets, designs, production of the magazine, etc.

-ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2016 On the Edge:

The Secretariat worked in coordination with TYA UK. This implied many letters, emails, listings, budgets, designs, production of the magazine, and everything ran smoothly. The performance selection, symposium organization and selection of international participants in the different projects was in the hands of TYA UK and TYA Ireland.

-19th ASSITEJ World Congress and Festival Cradle of Creativity:

Collaboration with ASSITEJ South Africa for this Congress and for the elaboration of: invitation letters, lists of delegates, calendars, schedules, meetings, encounters, public moments, production of magazine, brochure, etc.

-Arrangements and negotiations for EC meetings:

For this 3 year term, these meetings took place in Perth, Australia, Berlin, Germany, Kristiansand, Norway, Birmingham, UK, Yaoundé, Cameroon, Seoul, South Korea and Cape Town, South Africa.



-Website:

Sustained, nurtured and updated by the Secretariat.

-Newsletter:

Began with the previous format and changed to new format in May 2015.

Website homepage changes every month with content of the current newsletter; both the website and newsletter have the same structure.

-Magazine/ASSITEJ promotional leaflets:

Follow up on process (edition, design and printing) of the magazine.

Campaign for selling ads as a way of funding.

Design of yearly promotional leaflets and ASSITEJ double page advertisement by the Secretariat designers in Mexico.

-Twitter and Facebook:

Updates and posts of the main calls and activities.

-World Day Campaign/Logos:

Creation of various logos for ASSITEJ.

Promotion of World Day using toolkit, messages, film and logo.

-Emails:

Many, many emails sent and received; we insisted much in participation.

-International Invitations:

Festivals in China, Korea, Italy, Denmark, Japan, Cuba and Spain.

-Archives:

The Secretary General is in charge of keeping records for the work of the office: administrative, protocols, policies, reports, etc and having internal ASSITEJ archives as digital files. However, to have a rich and complete ASSITEJ archive in Frankfurt collaboration from all centers is needed; it is important to send hard copies of materials such as: posters and programs of the main TYA events in the center and or country, books, magazines, awards, etc. In charge of the archives in Frankfurt is Jürgen Kirschner and ASSITEJ Germany is very involved with this work.

d. Treasurer

(See full report as Addendum C)

Roberto Frabetti explained it was very important to be transparent in the use of the resources, which are mainly the membership fees.

The association currently has **96 members** of which **78 are National Centers, 4 networks** and **14 individual members**, from a total of **90 different countries**.



Regarding the membership fees, Roberto said there was a good level of solidarity from the members, given that 25% of the members pay 59% of the total income from membership fees (they pay over \$300 USD/EUR), and 56% of the members pay 33% of the total income from membership fees.

However, the situation is a bit unbalanced and Roberto asked everyone to consider their level of fee and, if possible, try to increase it since this money supports the activity of the association.

There are new procedures that are linked to ASSITEJ's new registered status and procedures governing the financial transactions of ASSITEJ.

Roberto described the proposal of the *Solidarity Fund*, which is a rotational fund and the fundraising proposal to support the campaign Take a Child to the Theatre.

He explained the financial situation of the association through different tables:

-Statement of assets and liabilities

Roberto mentioned there are \$49,000 USD of reserve but since we are not an association that creates profit, this money must be used. There was a special fund created in order to allow 2 centers to participate in the current Congress. Other debts refer to extra hotel nights for the EC who must stay one more night due to flight availability, payment for Marissa Garay (EC executive assistant) and payment to ASSITEJ Norway for the World Day video.

-Profit and loss account (SG office)

The Ministry of Culture in Mexico gave the support for the Secretariat through ASSITEJ, paying the grant through our bank account. The money was all spent.

-Profit and loss account (income)

In Warsaw, the approved budget was of \$58,000 and the result was \$65,000, which is 13% more. The relation in USD and EUR in Warsaw was significant, and now with the depreciation and increase in fees we are still above.

The advertisements collected in 2017 covered 90% of the costs of the magazine; 10% was practically covered by the Secretariat who covered some costs for the 2014 and 2015 magazines.

Traditional funding is very difficult for ASSITEJ; in this term all the result of fundraising was from the Auction.

The ASSITEJ account is in EUR and the present budget in USD, so we must always keep in mind exchange rates and their variations.

Friends of ASSITEJ donations were \$2,500 by six people. Roberto thanked Hassan Erkek (Turkey), Paul Harman (UK), Kim Sookhee (Korea), Katariina Metsalampi (Finland), Philip Hardy (Ireland) and Sue Giles (Australia).

-Profit and loss account (expenses)

Nine EC members requested reimbursement for air travels in 3 years, and 5 did not request any. The mission budget for Next Generation stated \$1,500 and we spent \$2,000; \$500 were raised from the Auction in 2014.

Support for this Congress in South Africa was of \$16,000, which was more than double than what was expected.



Roberto said ASSITEJ was able to accept payments by bank transfers, PayPal and, in very extraordinary cases, Western Union.

Roberto commented that the goal is not to create a profit but to use the money to support the aims of the association.

-Income and costs (percentages)

Income from membership fees (68%) can support the costs for management.

Roberto commented that investments in projects is very little.

He invited all members to respect the time for paying fees, which are due January 1st.

Audit:

Paul Harman, who was in charge of the audit along with Noel Jordan, vouched and confirmed there was truth in Roberto's report. Paul shared he had looked into many documents (bank accounts, double-entry system) and they all clearly show where they come from and what they are for.

e. Feedback from floor and acceptance of reports

The General Assembly approved the reports given by the President, Executive Committee, Secretary General, Treasurer and the Financial Report by a simple majority.

5. Network Reports:

Yvette reminded everyone that networks are now full members of ASSITEJ, autonomous, can lead activities, propose projects and have criteria they must fulfill. At the moment there are four voting networks and the Next Generation network is trying to solidify what it is. Yvette also said it was important to remember that networks had been included as a mechanism of inclusivity. She also said networks had given people an opportunity to become involved in some aspect of ASSITEJ, where there is no National Center. Countries represented within networks have not been counted yet, and this will surely increase the number of countries in ASSITEJ to over 100.

a. Small Size

Katariina Metsalampi, Chair of Small Size reported on the network.

Katariina gave a short introduction on what the network is about. She mentioned that the network was founded in 2007 and it is there second time in an ASSITEJ Congress as a full member. This time they will be participating with a Focus Day.

Katariina said Small Size began with 38 members from 20 countries and currently has 60 members from 27 countries, working around the world with their own events and research and using the network as a kind of meeting point. There are also common events like the Small Size Days that take place since 2015 at the end of January.

b. Write Local. Play Global

Jenny Koppera (USA) and Karin Serres (France) gave the report on the network.



Jenny and Karin explained what WLPG is about, and said it is open to all theatre practitioners interested in TYA writings.

They explained that the network now has a newsletter of its own and is active on social media. They have also brought a lot of work to the previous Artistic Gatherings and the Congress to promote and incorporate playwrights. During the current Congress they have several events happening like 'A Sense of Play', African playwriting slam and the creation of an Epic Poem.

c. IIAN

Vicky Ireland (UK), Secretary of IIAN, gave the report on the network.

One of the main goals for IIAN is to make sure nobody is left out, no child and no artist. IIAN was recognized as a network in the 2014 Congress in Warsaw. Initially the network was supported by the Arts Council in England and now support from the Kennedy Center in USA.

Vicky suggested that anyone who is interested in inclusivity within their events, should add it to their initial budgets. She thanked the steering group from OTE who contacted IIAN from the start for planning, and there was accessibility in many formats. She challenged ASSITEJ centers to find their IIAN leaders and come back to the network to get involved.

Vicky shared the IIAN Declaration with the General Assembly and said the network would look into the details for creating their own award.

d. ITYARN

Manon van de Water presented a report on the network.

Manon mentioned the network currently has members from five continents. In 2015 ITYARN published a book from selected essays from the 2014 Warsaw Congress edited by Gesche Wartemann (Germany), Tülin Saglam (Turkey) and Mary McAvoy (USA), plus a book from the 3rd TYA Critics and Researchers International Forum on Aesthetics in TYA. There have been a total of 4 Forums in Buenos Aires and the 5th one is now being planned for July 2018. These forums are ASSITEJ Projects, organized every other year by The Theatre for Children and Young People Independent Practitioners Association (ATINA – Argentina), in collaboration with the Theatre Researchers and Critics Association (AINCRIT – Argentina), and the International Theatre for Young Audiences Researchers Network (ITYARN).

Other activities from the network have been the ITYARN Public Moments with board members and students from the University of Hildesheim. Events in between: conferences in Beijing, organizing symposiums in Birmingham together with Philip Hardy, and the ITYARN Conference before the current Congress, which was spread over two days.

The network now has a new website (<https://ityarn.wordpress.com/>) where people can register online. Membership is free.

e. Next Generation

Nina Hajjiyanni and Minoovash Rahimian (Iran) gave the report on the network.

Nina explained the network is different from the program of residencies and placements. The network is an informal community of alumni that has existed as an online group. The network has



many questions regarding its purpose, how to strengthen and how it can allow participants to continue to connect. One of their goals is to think of where spaces can be created and how new concrete activities can be developed beyond ASSITEJ, as well as to develop other models of Next Generation programs.

Minoovash shared some of what her experience has been within Next Generation. She was part of the cohort in 2014 in Warsaw and was later invited to be a leader of the program in 2015 in Berlin. Each year the Next Generation group has some sort of presentation and manifest, and she wrote the one for 2015 along with Diana Rojas. Minoovash was also invited to Birmingham but was not able to obtain a visa. However, together with two other Next Generation participants (from Tel Aviv and Brisbane) she managed to work on a presentation and video for a project they would like to develop and haven't been able to because of political reasons. They are currently looking for someone to support them with a residency.

Nina said the network should be able to advocate for support from other bodies because Next Generation participants ultimately want to create work and spaces for discussion. The network could also have a strong role in creating placement opportunities.

6. Issues submitted by Centers

a. Argentina

María Inés Falconi presented two issues on behalf of the center:

- 1- The last General Assembly voted for the registration of the association in Italy, and one of the aims was to apply for funding to private/public institutions. ASSITEJ Argentina considers external funding is needed for ASSITEJ Projects. The Ibero American network considers the possibility of a committee dedicated exclusively to applying for funding.

Yvette Hardie responded that this was an excellent idea that the Policies & Protocols working group had tried to have fundraising as a portfolio but hasn't really worked. She asked if the proposal was for a support committee to the EC and María Inés affirmed that it was a proposal for a special committee for funding and applications, integrated by people from different regions.

Yvette suggested that people who feel have expertise in this region could volunteer and maybe one member of the EC could also sit there as a link. She said maybe it could come from the regional networks so there is geographical representation. Louis Valente (Denmark) asked for it not to be an obligation to have someone from every region in order to make it feasible for people to attend meetings. Yvette proposed they could meet annually at Artistic Gatherings and exchange emails or Skype conversations in between. Bebe de Soares (Chile) said the main issue was not finding opportunities to apply for, but having the time necessary for applying, to which María Inés said the idea is for this special committee to complete the application.

Yvette proposed that, if there was general agreement from the Assembly, the new EC can put this forward since it will require management and discussion.



The General Assembly agreed to have a special committee for fundraising applications, by simple majority.

- 2- María Inés expressed that all present members had paid a fee to attend the Congress and many times it is very complicated for countries to obtain the money since the fee is very high. She said that some centers have been asking for some time now that at least one member of each delegation can attend for free so there is representation from everyone. It would be fair and equal for everyone to have the same right to attend.

Yvette commented that from her experience as a Congress host, it is very difficult to dictate what the funds raised can be used for. Funders are different around the world and they will choose to cover particular things; in South Africa, for example, African funders weren't interested in hosting international delegates. She then said it could probably be proposed in the ASSITEJ budget for next term, but only for those centers that are in good standing. Imran Khan agreed that it had to be related to the participation of all centers but that doing this uniformly wouldn't serve because many countries can and should pay. Rather, he proposed looking for a system that allows those who can't have access to Congress, to attend. María Inés agreed and also added that it could be a condition for the hosts to support those centers who apply for this benefit.

Yvette asked Roberto Frabetti if the support that has been given to Congresses in the past could be configured to say it will be for Next Generation and for one delegate per country, if required. This money can be to cover the registration fee for a certain number of countries and if the quote is not used then it goes back into the budget. Roberto responded it was probably more a part of the contract between the host and ASSITEJ, and it is very important we have the opportunity to organize the Congress and registration fees are a contribution to the organization. It was agreed that the EC will continue to discuss the issue.

b. Czech Republic

Vladimír Hulec presented three issues on behalf of the center:

- 1- The first was an invitation to Czech festivals and events.
- 2- African Festival in Prague would like to contact African countries to create a special program.
- 3- Invitation to be a part of the program for the Prague Quadrennial 2019; will look into the possibility of a Next Generation event.

c. Germany

Meike Fechner gave a short presentation on the ASSITEJ Archives, on behalf of Jürgen Kirschner. She mentioned all members can contribute to the archives and Jürgen has designed a special circle of communication. Material can be submitted at any time, the idea is to make the archives truly international. These archives are part of the intergenerational exchange that has been talked about; to document experiences and knowledge for the next generations.

d. Korea

Seok-Hong Kim presented two issues on behalf of the center:



- 1- There are too many children dying in actuality in the Middle East and around the world. How can ASSITEJ help in these circumstances with substantive action?
- 2- How can we have access to the archives in Germany? Is there a website accessible to everyone?

e. IIAN

Katrine Gabb stated IIAN wanted to propose a change to the ASSITEJ statement to include the terms: ability, gender and sexual orientation. This because it is important to ensure that no child is left behind in being involved in theatre.

Yvette Hardie clarified this was a statement on the ASSITEJ website that the EC fashioned to explain what ASSITEJ is and includes terms that echo phrases from the Constitution. The EC will make the change/addition on the website.

f. Next Generation

Nina Hajiyianni mentioned the network was looking for support for the development that was previously outlined in the Next Generation report.

g. Nigeria

Pamela Udoka raised the issue of the acceptance of non-ASSITEJ members in the Next Generation program. She said this takes control away from the country's ASSITEJ center and should be a benefit reserved for ASSITEJ members.

Yvette shared that the EC has previously had this conversation and discussed whether the center should have a role in this decision. In general, it was felt that this program brings people who are unexpected, who can then join the center. She gave the example with the Next Generation program in Cape Town, where the host asked the participants if they were members of ASSITEJ and if they weren't, encouraged them to become members. This is the way it has been done until now and we will see the results at the end of this experience.

Selloane Mokuku (South Africa) said this probably depends on each country and context and proposed it become an obligation for certain countries.

Yvette said she worried about closing it down and losing inclusivity because many times they do become members so it can be used both ways. There have been centers in the past where the board has been very selective with who they put forward for opportunities. Selloane then asked that the information should be shared because it may be important to help the center, as a matter of principle.

Pamela then said it wasn't necessarily a matter of the center holding ultimate power, but for ASSITEJ or the host to ask the center if they know the person who is applying. Nina Hajiyianni suggested developing a mechanism in the way calls are made as well.

Ralph Chimanikire (Zimbabwe) also said it would help for the center to assist the applicant and complement to become a team and spread the word of ASSITEJ. Washington Masenda (Zimbabwe)



agreed that this was a way to respect a center and their service, and to use the center as a channel and help the center to grow.

Marisa Giménez Cacho also reminded people that one thing are the members and another the artists. Next Generation is an opportunity for artists and ASSITEJ is financing the structure to invite them. The tricky thing is to choose the people who will improve their work through the NG program. Marisa mentioned there had been good and bad examples of participants from Mexico, those who took the opportunity and have done wonderful work and grown as artists, and others who were only fishing for opportunities to travel.

Yvette said this was something that needed further discussion, and that for the Cape Town experience, they had tried to compromise by letting centers know, receiving feedback and then encouraging people to engage with their centers. At the end, there will be an evaluation from the host and proposals to continue improving, along with the Next Generation network.

h. South Africa

Yvette spoke about maintaining global connections in times of financial and political crisis and how to be smarter about using technology, which is becoming more affordable and accessible. Some of the possible options the EC could work on are online workshops or podcasts that speak to specific skills.

i. Sri Lanka

The center submitted the following issue:
Assistance to strengthen the ASSITEJ Asia Network.

j. Vietnam

Truong Nhuan raised the issue of how to take art to poor children who cannot come to theatres in developing countries. He mentioned he would like to learn from other countries' experience in developing TYA.

7. Proposed Changes to the Constitution

(See full proposals as Addendum D)

Yvette Hardie read the proposed amendments, from the EC, to the Constitution. In order for the amendments to pass they must be approved by 2/3 of the General Assembly (106 votes).

Article 7.3

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.

To:

Every time it meets, the General Assembly shall ratify the accounts for the period between one General Assembly and the next against the mission budget set at the previous General Assembly.



The General Assembly approved the proposed change by 2/3 majority (151 votes in favor).

Article 7.4

Members more than six (6) months in arrears lose the right to vote in the General Assembly.

To:

Members who have not paid fees for the year in which the General Assembly is meeting, lose the right to vote in the General Assembly.

The General Assembly approved the proposed change by 2/3 majority (168 votes in favor).

Article 10.1.4

Add:

This permanent deputy is able to exercise a proxy vote on behalf of the existing Executive Committee member for the duration of the meeting, in order to let him or her participate fully.

María Inés Falconi asked what happens when someone who wasn't voted for, replaces someone who was as a deputy. Yvette clarified that the Constitution states elected members must say who their deputy will be in case they are not able to attend.

The General Assembly approved the proposed change by 2/3 majority (150 votes in favor).

Article 9.2.2

Voting by proxy is permitted, and the proxy must be given in writing.

A centre or network wishing to transfer its proxy must do so in writing.

A delegation from a national centre or a network can hold proxy for only one other national centre or network. A national centre or network with full membership can hold proxy for any full or corresponding member.

A national centre or network with corresponding membership can hold proxy only for a national centre or network with corresponding membership.

To:

Voting by proxy is permitted. A center or network wishing to transfer its proxy must do so in writing.

A delegation from a national center or a network can hold proxy for only one other member (whether national center or network).

A full member (whether national center or network) can hold proxy for any full or corresponding member (whether national center or network).

A corresponding member (whether national center or network) can hold proxy only for another corresponding member (whether national center or network).

The General Assembly approved the proposed change by 2/3 majority (131 votes in favor).

Articles 9.3.2, 9.6.1, 9.6.2, 10.3.8 and Definitions



Change all mentions of ASSITEJ International Meetings/Global Gatherings to *ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering*.

The General Assembly approved the proposed changes by 2/3 majority (131 votes in favor).

Article 10.1.3

The Executive Committee has the right to co-opt persons as members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee also has the right to appoint Counsellors for the period of its mandate, who may attend, without voting rights, meetings of the Executive Committee during their time in office.

To:

The Executive Committee has the right to co-opt persons as members of the Executive Committee. These persons will have full voting rights.

Article 10.1.4

Counselors may come from a country already represented on the Executive Committee.

The General Assembly approved the proposed changes by 2/3 majority (161 votes in favor).

Article 10.3.12

The Executive Committee is entitled to request an external Audit of the accountings of the Association should this be required.

To:

The Executive Committee is required to audit the accountings of the Association. This can take place through an internal audit from a recognized member of the Association. The Executive Committee is also entitled to request an external audit of the accountings of the Association should this be required.

The General Assembly approved the proposed change by 2/3 majority (161 votes in favor).

Additional clause 12.3 and 12.4

If the seat of the association is held in a country where English is not the language of communication, all essential official documentation will be translated into the language of the seat, as required by the laws of that country.

The Association will make every effort to be inclusive of non-English speakers in all communication and activities, wherever possible.

Regarding 12.4, María Inés Falconi said 'every effort' was not enough; perhaps it should be clearer and say to have all documents translated into specific languages. Yvette Hardie stated this would be a problem because we go back to a situation where we have multiple languages and it is not possible to translate everything. We look more at the way in which it operates and being more



responsive to languages of particular places. We are trying to put the spirit of what we feel the association tries to do at the moment; if people come along afterwards, they can understand it is important to be inclusive to all non-English speakers, but not describing how to do that. This is the aim, then in the Policies & Protocols Handbook we can say how to do it.

Kim Sookhee asked what the criteria had been for choosing the available translation languages for this Congress (French and Portuguese) and Yvette explained they were the colonial languages in Africa, so the EC felt it would be most inclusive of African delegates and this was the priority.

The General Assembly approved the proposed changes by 2/3 majority (161 votes in favor).

Article 9.8.4

A centre or network with full membership may have only one representative on the Executive Committee.

To:

Each center or network with full membership may have only one representative on the Executive Committee.

Additional clauses 9.8.5, 9.8.6, 9.8.7

Each elected Executive Committee member must come from a different country, with the exception of two members only, provided that one has been proposed by a national center and one by a network.

In this case two candidates from the same country may be admitted, provided that both make the minimum number of votes (50% of the voting members).

The number of network positions in the Executive Committee cannot exceed the number calculated as a proportional number of network members voting as opposed to national center members voting.

Kim Peter Kovac (USA) clarified it should be 50% of the votes and not of the voting members, and Yvette agreed to correct the mistake.

Regarding having two candidates from the same country, Bebe de Soares asked if there was a problem that she was Brazilian and was a proposed EC candidate from ASSITEJ Chile but there was also another proposed EC candidate from ASSITEJ Brazil. Yvette clarified this was fine since she had been proposed by Chile.

The General Assembly approved the proposed changes by 2/3 majority (162 votes in favor).

8. Working Plan Proposal: 2017 – 2020

a. Content of proposed working plan

(See full proposal as Addendum E)



Yvette Hardie went over the new working plan proposed by the EC. She said it would be discussed in detail during the Open Space where anyone could give input.

The working plan consists of the aims of the association and the means to achieve these.

b. Budget Proposal: 2017 – 2020

(See full proposal as Addendum F)

Roberto Frabetti presented the Mission Budget 2017-2020, containing the results of the 2014-2017 budget, prudential budget (historical criteria and other calculations), conditional budget (if we are able to achieve this income) and total budget (if income is achieved, it can all be spent).

Regarding the membership fees, Roberto explained the prudential budget has 7% less against the final budget because it is possible that the position of the EUR changes and a large part of the fees are paid in EUR. He also said it could be that fees are increased, there are new members, there is a coin depreciation, members increase their own fees, etc.

Within the EC core costs, the amount for travel reimbursement increased because it wasn't all used this term.

In this case, the mission budget presented is with a loss because part of the reserve would be used; there could be a profit if there are no unforeseen costs.

c. Voting on the working plan and budget

Yvette said that even though the working plan will be refined through the Open Space, the Assembly would need to vote on whether we can take it forward to explore at that point, or if there is something not being proposed.

Pierre-Paul Savoie (Canada) and María Inés Falconi asked to receive the working plan via email in order to go through it since it was too much information, and vote on it the next day. Carlos de Urquiza (Argentina) agreed and said this was a very intense 3-year working plan that should've been presented a month earlier so that the General Assembly could study it and formally accept it having previously analyzed it. We cannot know if the proposed project and priorities can be realized with the budget proposed by the treasurer. He agreed that it was too late now, but asked that for the future the working plan should be sent beforehand to all centers in order to have a clearer opinion; this would also be more democratic.

Yvette agreed but also said it is very difficult to prepare the budget before the end of the financial period because the situation is clear only in the last month. It is a difficult proposal to realize but Yvette agreed to try and work on a draft that could be sent in the future, even if it is not the final proposal. The final version of the working plan is usually refined during the last EC meeting, which happens right before the Congress.

Stefan Fischer-Fels suggested approving the working plan and budget since it was the work of the EC, but advising the new EC to integrate the ideas of the Open Space.

Pierre-Paul agreed that discussion time is needed at the next Congress before voting on the working plan.



• Yvette asked the General Assembly to vote in principal on the working plan and budget and entrust the new EC on how they work to include the material from the Open Space.

The General Assembly agreed in principal on the proposed working plan for 2017-2020 by simple majority.

The General Assembly agreed in principal on the proposed budget for 2017-2020 by simple majority.

9. Biddings for:

a. ASSITEJ Artistic Gatherings 2018 – 2019

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

-ASSITEJ China:

Mr. Yin Xiaodong, Chairman of ASSITEJ China and President of the China National Theatre for Children, presented the bid to hold the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 in Beijing on July 6-14.

The Gathering would be hosted jointly by ASSITEJ China and the China National Theatre for Children, who will make an application for support to the Ministry of Culture in China. Both organizations annually host the China Children's Theatre Festival and international theatre forums, among other events. China National Theatre for Children has two main venues that would be used, as well as other smaller venues nearby. The Gathering would be an excellent showcase for Chinese performances and an international platform to promote what happens around the world.

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2019

-ASSITEJ Croatia:

Leo Vukelić, President of ASSITEJ Croatia, presented the bid to hold the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2019 in Cakovec and Rijeka on October 19-29. The Gathering would be hosted in collaboration with the Cultural Center in Cakovec and the Rijeka City Puppet Theatre in the time of two festivals: National ASSITEJ Festival in Cakovec and Review of Puppetry in Rijeka. There will be a special train to travel between both regions and different packages accessible to international delegates.

The idea is to hold 20 Croatian and 20 international theatre productions, as well as hold spaces for the different activities of the networks.

Leo introduced members of the team who were present: Renata Carola, Romano Bogdan, Magdalena Lupi Alvir, Miran Hajos.

-ASSITEJ France:

The bid to hold the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2019 in Nantes on April 3-7 was presented by François Fogel, Gregory Vandalele, Estelle Derquenne, Karin Serres and Nicolas Marc on behalf of Scènes d'enfance - ASSITEJ France and the Festival Petits et Grands. The festival is one of the most important for young people in France and Europe and has institutional as well as governmental support; it is a biannual event dedicated to the whole family. A significant part of the performances



are addressed to early childhood and conventions are organized to gather professionals from the performing arts.

-ASSITEJ Norway:

The bid to hold the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2019 in Kristiansand on September 2-8 was presented by Eivind Haugland, Hilde Annette Aakre and Cecilie Lundsholt on behalf of ASSITEJ Norway and the SAND International Festival of Performing Arts for Young Audiences. SAND Festival is an ASSITEJ Norway festival, so the event would be an exclusive ASSITEJ event happening in one main venue and common meeting points for delegates. The idea is to have around 10-15 productions, seminars, workshops, encounters, and for all delegates to be able to attend the events in order to create a common frame of reference. The Gathering will include a Next Generation program and is looking into inclusivity in terms of accessibility and languages.

b. ASSITEJ World Congress 2020

Kenjiro Otani presented the bid to hold the ASSITEJ World Congress 2020 in Tokyo on May 21-31, on behalf of ASSITEJ Japan, TYA Japan and TYA Asia Network. The name of the festival will be *For the Unknown Future*. Smaller local festivals in other cities will take place right before the Congress so people outside Tokyo can see what the festival and ASSITEJ are about. The General Assembly and Encounter would take place from the 25th to the 29th of May.

Regarding a timeline, Kenjiro mentioned they would begin to take applications in January 2019 with a deadline of April 2019 for international applications and June for domestic ones. Decisions would then be ready by the end of August 2019.

The organizers are thinking of inviting 20 international productions and 30 domestic and Asian productions, as well as a Next Generation program that includes a performance with them. The Congress will ask for support from the networks as well.

Kenjiro presented the 60 Japanese delegates who were present and supporting the bid in Cape Town.

10. Discussion of the Bids

Ernie Nolan (USA) asked Croatia, France and Norway if there was any possibility of moving their bid for 2021.

Leo Vukelic said it was the only possibility for them to be the kick-off of Rijeka as the European Town of Culture, so 2021 would not be possible for them.

François Fogel said the current agreement given to ASSITEJ France ends in 2020, so it will be the end of a cycle and they are not sure if they will have the same support afterwards.

Hilde Annette Aakre said that although SAND has seen a large development over the last few years, it is not an ongoing situation and they currently have support and funding from local authorities, and 2019 is a strategic opportunity to boost the festival and its development.

11. Presentation of the Outgoing EC by President

Yvette Hardie invited the outgoing EC to come forward:



• Marisa Giménez Cacho (Secretary General), Roberto Frabetti (Treasurer), Asaya Fujita (Vice President), Vigdís Jakobsdóttir (Vice President), Stefan Fischer-Fels (Vice President), Sue Giles, Nina Hajjiyanni, François Fogel, Imran Khan, Diana Krzanic Tepavac, Daniel H. Fernández, Manon van de Water and Razi Amitai.

Yvette mentioned this has been an extraordinary collection of people who worked very hard throughout the last years. She thanked them all and the work they each did and said it had been a privilege to serve with them and invited those not standing again (Marisa, Vigdís, Nina, Imran, Diana and Razi) to say a short goodbye.

12. Presentation of the candidates for:

a. President

South Africa – Yvette Hardie

She began by saying she had thought of stepping down but then came to the conclusion that the last six years have been to learn what it means to be president, and the last three years she mainly focused on the Congress so she would also like to leave feeling this will all be rooted within the association and will go beyond. She assured the General Assembly that she would step down in 2020 and asked everyone to think in the future of the association and how to nurture the new leadership.

b. Secretary General

Denmark – Louis Valente

He gave a short presentation on himself and his work in TYA. Louis mentioned it was important to have access to the office in Spanish and he would maintain this connection that Marisa Giménez Cacho achieved.

Louis commented that he had a strong board of 11 members behind him who would be supporting the Secretariat. The decision was made together with the Danish Theatre Centrum, a national center financed by the Ministry of Culture with a lot of knowledge and a long tradition of TYA in Denmark; this is where the current ASSITEJ Denmark office is located and where the ASSITEJ Secretariat will be.

c. Executive Committee

The 22 candidates gave a short presentation on themselves and why they would like to form part of the ASSITEJ EC.

Argentina – Daniel H. Fernández

Australia – Sue Giles

Brazil – Paulo Merisio

Chile – Bebe de Soares

China – Yin Xiaodong

Croatia – Leo Vukelic

Estonia – Toomas Tross

France – François Fogel

Germany – Stefan Fischer-Fels



Hungary – Gyuri Vidovszky
India – Udaya Bhanu Garikipati
Israel – Yonit Dayani
Italy – Roberto Frabetti
Japan – Asaya Fujita
Korea – Seok-Hong Kim
Nigeria – Pamela Udoka
Norway – Cecilie Lundsholt
Poland – Ewa Piotrowska
Russia – Tatiana Bobrova
USA – Ernie Nolan
UK – Mark Powell
ITYARN – Manon van de Water

13. ASSITEJ Artistic Encounters

The Artistic Encounters took place on May 24th as an informal, interactive experience and sharing around intercultural exchange facilitated by the EC.

14. Open Space Discussion of Working Plan

The Open Space Discussion of the proposed working plan also took place on May 24th and was facilitated by the EC.

15. Voting

The Voting Commission gave out the voting ballots to each National Center and Network via a roll call.

Niclas Malmcrona read the voting procedure from the ASSITEJ Constitution.

EC candidates must receive 50% of the votes from the General Assembly and there will be a maximum of 13 members elected, apart from President and Secretary General. If more candidates receive 50%, the 13 candidates with higher number of votes will be chosen. If candidates 13 and 14 have the same number of votes, there will be an additional election.

No delegation can vote for more than 13 candidates or it will be a void ballot.

Candidates for Artistic Gatherings and Congress also need 50% of the votes.

The total of present votes was 163, so 50% will be 82 votes.

a. Place for the Congress

The General Assembly voted for the 20th ASSITEJ World Congress 2020 to take place in Tokyo, Japan with a total of 158 votes.



b. Artistic Gatherings

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018

The General Assembly voted for the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2018 to take place in Beijing, China with a total of 148 votes.

ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2019

The first round of votes was as follows:

Croatia – 37 votes, France – 55 votes and Norway – 69 votes. None of the candidates reached 50% of the votes.

Croatia was eliminated from the second round for receiving the lowest number of votes.

The second round of votes was as follows:

Out of 164 valid votes France received 74 and Norway received 90.

The General Assembly voted for the ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering 2019 to take place in Kristiansand, Norway with a total of 90 votes.

16. Founders of ASSITEJ

The video made for the 50th Anniversary of ASSITEJ was shown to the General Assembly.

Wolfgang Schneider said a few words regarding the founders of ASSITEJ and the history of the association. He mentioned that ASSITEJ is not made through national policy or political framework, but rather an organization of individuals, artists and new personalities working in the field, which is based on the idea of UNESCO.

Wolfgang mentioned a few people present who were legends of the association like Honorary President Harold Oaks (USA), Stephan Rabl (Austria), Vicky Ireland, Paul Harman, Kim Woo Ok (Korea), Niclas Malmcrona and Adolf Shapiro (Russia) who has been present at every World Congress since 1965. He also mentioned the National Centers represented at the very beginning (USSR, Czechoslovakia, German Democratic Republic/Federal German Republic, France, UK, USA, Israel, Netherlands, Spain, Belgium and other countries coming together. ASSITEJ is like a little United Nations an organization coming together with a very strong idea for the rights of the child and as an instrument to promote the performing arts.

Wolfgang shared his first experience with ASSITEJ that had been in Adelaide in 1987.

He mentioned the connections with Africa had begun with the EC meeting in Nairobi, Kenya in 1993 and future ones in Zimbabwe and Rwanda.

Wolfgang said that in times of so much nationalism, racism and intolerance, it was also time for more movements without national definitions but with the best professionals in TYA.

17. Friends of ASSITEJ Recognition



• Marisa Giménez Cacho informed that Friends of ASSITEJ is a very important way to support the Next Generation program and ASSITEJ would like to recognize those people who have contributed.

A presentation with pictures of the current Friends of ASSITEJ was shown and explained that the different levels depend on the amount donated.

Gold level friends: Kim Sookhee, Hassan Erkek, Harold Oaks, Ann Shaw (USA), Vicky Ireland, Peter Manscher (Denmark), Paul Harman, Oleg Labouzin (Russia), Niclas Malmcrona, Nat Eek (USA), Marina Guo (China), Jeremy Turner (UK), Katariina Metsalampi, Fumie Naiki (Japan), Stephan Rabl, Wolfgang Schneider, Kim Woo Ok, Michael Ramlose (Denmark), Ivica Simic (Croatia), Jessica Machin (Australia), Yuriko Kobayashi (Japan).

Silver level friends: Sue Giles, Sameer Khoury (Israel).

Bronze level friends: Peter Westphael (Denmark), Luiza Monteiro (Netherlands), Peter Jankovic (Denmark), Soren Ovesen (Denmark), Philip Hardy, Kim Peter Kovac, Claudia Mayer (Sweden), Birgitta Granbacka (Sweden), Bernt Höglund (Sweden), Annette Eggert (Denmark), Tony Mack (Australia), Felicia Moritz Malmcrona (Sweden), Henrik Köhler (Denmark), Tülin Saglam, Ragnhild Sorvig (Norway), Klaus Eggert (Denmark).

Marisa invited people to become Friends of ASSITEJ and reminded existing friends that they could keep contributing. She mentioned there had been two events the previous night linked to Friends of ASSITEJ, a cocktail where they were able to get to know the Next Generation participants, and the ASSITEJ Auction.

Sue Giles came forward to talk about the Auction.

The total amount raised was of 39,350 ZAR, which is equal to 2,717 EUR and 3,055 USD, and an extra 6,000 ZAR were collected from the bar.

18. Elections of President:

a. Formal stepping down of President

Yvette Hardie thanked everyone and officially stepped down from her role as President.

b. Election of President

The total number of votes of the General Assembly had increased at this point to 165.

The General Assembly elected Yvette Hardie as President of ASSITEJ with 158 votes.

19. In Memoriam: Orna Porat

A short film made by ASSITEJ Israel in memory of Orna Porat was shown to the General Assembly.

A short presentation was made remembering Marjorie MacLean (Canada) and Vicky Ireland said a few words.



20. Elections of Secretary General:

a. Formal stepping down of previous Secretary General

Marisa Giménez Cacho was grateful to the Assembly for the recognition given to her achievements and work as Secretary General.

She thanked those who invited her to participate for the first time in an ASSITEJ event in Montreal and Buenos Aires, which took her to continue attending ASSITEJ events. She said that although she had been somewhat skeptical of ASSITEJ at the beginning, she realized the importance the association could have to many artists in different countries and the more you are involved with ASSITEJ, the more it gives you back. She shared that her first term in ASSITEJ had been for learning about the dynamic and functioning of the association, her second term was more proactive mostly focused on her work on the magazine, and then she was invited to become Secretary General for her third term.

Marisa said the Secretariat is a position of service to the ASSITEJ community, very much executive/office work that brings with it situations where you can learn a lot from. The experience that this job brings contributes to professional growth. It is a privileged position since it offers the opportunity to serve, which we did with a lot of passion and devotion and now it is time to deliver the position to someone else.

She thanked Yvette for her support and capacities as President.

Marisa officially stepped down from her role as Secretary General.

b. Election of Secretary General

The total number of votes had increased at this point to 166.

The General Assembly elected Louis Valente as Secretary General of ASSITEJ with 155 votes.

21. In Memoriam: Nat Eek, Ann Shaw, Scott Copeland

A short film made by TYA USA in memory of Nat Eek, Ann Shaw and Scott Copeland was shown to the General Assembly.

Kim Peter Kovac shared a few words and said all three had been important people at the beginning of ASSITEJ and had served as great mentors.

22. Election of the Executive Committee

Over 84 votes were necessary in order to be elected, and the General Assembly voted as follows:

Argentina – Daniel H. Fernández (elected with 113 votes)

Australia – Sue Giles (elected with 139 votes)

Brazil – Paulo Merisio (not elected with 66 votes)

Chile – Bebe de Soares (elected with 105 votes)



- China – Yin Xiaodong (not elected with 61 votes)
- Croatia – Leo Vukelic (not elected with 52 votes)
- Estonia – Toomas Tross (not elected with 29 votes)
- **France – François Fogel (elected with 127 votes)**
- **Germany – Stefan Fischer-Fels (elected with 154 votes)**
- Hungary – Gyuri Vidovszky (not elected with 49 votes)
- India – Udaya Bhanu Garikipati (not elected with 52 votes)
- Israel – Yonit Dayani (not elected with 50 votes)
- **Italy – Roberto Frabetti (elected with 146 votes)**
- Japan – Asaya Fujita (not elected with 64 votes)
- **Korea – Seok-Hong Kim (elected with 132 votes)**
- **Nigeria – Pamela Udoka (elected with 130 votes)**
- **Norway – Cecilie Lundsholt (elected with 107 votes)**
- Poland – Ewa Piotrowska (not elected with 20 votes)
- **Russia – Tatiana Bobrova (elected with 92 votes)**
- **USA – Ernie Nolan (elected with 91 votes)**
- UK – Mark Powell (not elected with 65 votes)
- **ITYARN – Manon van de Water (elected with 106 votes)**

The new EC met shortly and decided on the proposals for Treasurer and Vice Presidents as follows:

Treasurer – Roberto Frabetti

Vice Presidents – Sue Giles, François Fogel, Daniel H. Fernández

The General Assembly accepted the proposed Treasurer and Vice Presidents from the EC, by simple majority.

23. Awarding of Honorary Members

Yvette Hardie explained that the EC normally identifies those people who have given a special service to the association and nominates them for honorary membership at the General Assembly.

The people selected as Honorary Members by the EC were:

Kim Peter Kovac (USA), Katariina Metsalampi (Finland), Young Ai Choi (South Korea) and Marisa Giménez Cacho (Mexico).

The General Assembly ratified the four proposals of Honorary Members for the term 2014-2017, by simple majority.

24. Report back on Open Space discussions

Yvette shared there had been discussions on the working plan the previous day and most of the feedback did not change the proposed plan, but only meant additions.



• The moderators of each group gave feedback on the different discussions.

Budget and Fundraising

Roberto Frabetti shared there had been discussion on fees, percentage of members, and how to balance the member fees better.

There was also discussion around the fundraising committee.

New Ideas, Dreams and Questions

Sue Giles said it had been an opportunity for people to talk about the big pictures for ASSITEJ and some kind of grounding aims about the change we want to make with the association. There was also discussion around the idea of our power as an activist organization; child participation and inclusivity were also major issues discussed. In terms of inclusion, the group talked about looking for a way that ASSITEJ can place a budget to ensure access is possible wherever we go.

Regional Workshops

Daniel H. Fernández and François Fogel first presented the project to their group and then asked about the priorities in their regions and what the priorities should be for ASSITEJ to support. There were many interests but the most prominent were: workshops to understand the audience and create direct issues; dramaturgy; support that enforces networks; funding countries where there is no other funds available and designs of all sorts.

ASSITEJ Centers and Membership

Yvette Hardie mentioned some of the things discussed within the group like: having the translation of the Handbook made by the National Centers; an online calendar to collect all events in one space; ways to combat one single person holding on to information and power. The group also spoke of concrete projects as a way to increase sense of membership benefits for National Centers. There was also discussion around practical assistance for members without resources.

Artistic Encounters and Gatherings

Vigdís Jakobsdóttir said there had been many practical suggestions within the group: not having events clash with the Encounters; being creative to help and facilitate with translation; Artistic Gatherings should have more of a developing focus like a continual education event, creating regular spaces for creative interaction; bring successful Regional Workshops back to Congress, and having Open Space at the beginning of the General Assembly.

Dramaturgy of the Three Years

Stefan Fischer-Fels said that parting from Japan's *For the Unknown Future*, it could be something called Past, Present and Future. Past would refer to the mistakes, achievements, and traditions where we come from. Present would be to understand the complicated world we live in, and words to describe it. Future would be looking into what TYA will be like in the future. Another idea was to link Encounters and mottos more, also with the skills of artists; to look at the context of the texts; perspective of acting/directing, and have three different looks into the future.

Another idea was how we make theatre, how we see it and how we dream it.

Inclusivity and Representation in ASSITEJ



• Nina Hajjiyanni said the group talked about: the aims in relation to the website and how it affects the mission of ASSITEJ; promote values of diversity beyond disability as distinct from anti-discrimination; reference identities in relation to the needs of children and artists; continue working on schemes like the Solidarity Fund, representation in the Festival and Congress program and the role of IIAN; consider the language of the host country; bringing local communities into the festival as much as possible, and the inclusion of children as participants and young artists.

Networks

Manon van de Water and Diana Krzanic Tepavac said the group discussed how network special activities and conferences outside of the Congress and Festival dates should be clearly announced because this time not everyone was aware that the ITYARN Conference was starting the days before Congress. ASSITEJ artistic projects should be listed as such on the website, and forms for applications and reports on these projects should be simplified and made friendlier. Regarding new networks, there should be a clear need for them not overlapping with or fulfilled by other networks/National Centers so there are not so many that the organization becomes diluted.

World Day

Imran Khan said there was a suggestion to approach national television in different countries to show the World Day video. This video should also be used to promote ASSITEJ as a global association, which can help with things like fundraising in the future. Different languages should be used wherever possible to promote World Day.

The proposed additions were for: 3.7.4, 3.8.1, 3.8.2, 3.8.5

The General Assembly accepted the addition of article 3.7.4 by simple majority.

The General Assembly accepted the addition of article 3.8.1 by simple majority.

The General Assembly accepted the addition of article 3.8.2 by simple majority.

Regarding article 3.8.5, Eivind Haugland asked what was meant by having children included in decision-making, and Sue Giles explained that there is a great deal of practice about collecting opinions from children because they are rarely allowed power, so it would be great to explore ways to have children really present in matters that concern them.

The General Assembly accepted the addition of article 3.8.5 by simple majority.

25. Welcoming of new EC by President

Yvette Hardie congratulated the new EC and thanked them for their willingness to step up.

26. Any Other Business

Solidarity Fund



• Sue Giles read the proposal from the EC for a Solidarity Fund that had already been presented during the first day of Congress.

Pierre-Paul Savoie inquired about the percentages (75% - 25%) and if this was because we were expecting to support centers more. Roberto Frabetti explained that the main objective is to support members and guarantee support to centers and networks in real distress, as well as guarantee the rights of members to vote in Congress. The EC believes the fund will be achieved and if it is not used for membership they would like to use it for projects. The fund is to show we want participation from all countries. If a center or network would like to request the fund a second time, they must pay back minimum 50% of what was given to them, or they will not be able to ask again for 3 years since this is a rotation fund used to support members.

Pierre-Paul also asked if part of the current reserve would be transferred to the Solidarity Fund, but Sue answered that the intention is for this to be a completely new fund.

Eivind Haugland asked about there being an idea of a plan to pay back since the beginning of the application, to which Sue mentioned it would probably have to be a case-by-case scenario.

Roberto also expressed this is a way for members who are in difficulties, to contact the EC and the treasurer so they are aware of the situation and can find a solution.

Yvette commented the EC has worked on this Solidarity Fund through the entire term, has discussed it, looked at it again and again, and they request the General Assembly to give it an opportunity and try it for the next term.

The General Assembly accepted to give permission to the EC to apply the Solidarity Fund and give members the opportunity to request it, by simple majority.

27. Closure