

Minutes for IAMS Executive Committee meeting
10 May 2011, 5pm GMT

The meeting began shortly after 5pm GMT.

Cathy Ross took roll. Present via telephone were Jon Bonk, Ann Chow, Paul Kollman, Cathy Ross, Rose Uchem, Mike Vähäkangas and Mariel Deluca Voth.

Apologies for absence had been received from Gerard Goldman, Ken Miyamoto, Kima Pachuau, and David Singh.

Jon Bonk asked Paul Kollman to lead a prayer.

Cathy reported on Anne Henriksen, who is still in Denmark tending to her ill brother. Jon asked that our prayers and thoughts be conveyed. And he asked Cathy and Anne to keep us posted on developments. (*From Paul: an email today [May 16] to CMS personnel spoke of Anne's brother's ongoing difficulties.*)

Toronto Meeting

The first item of business was a report on the Toronto meeting, led by Jon, with Cathy, Paul, and Mariel—all of whom were also in Toronto in mid-April—also contributing. Documents had been distributed beforehand and they served as the basis for discussion.

Jon began by thanking Ann for her great assistance so far.

Then we planned to look at the following:

- *Minutes of the Toronto meeting prepared by Ann
- *Also a tentative timeline
- *Subsidy questionnaire
- *Menno travel document
- *A draft of registration questions
- *Active members list—with numbers from each country.
- *Budget, including Crux books
- *Provisional program
- *Jon's presidential letter
- *Jon's VISA invitation letter

Jon began with some general comments. We have worked to curtail expenses in good cooperation with hosting committee. The budget for Toronto is right now \$100,000 less than Lake Balaton budget—hopefully this will be realistic!

*Looking at general timeline, he noted that the draft budget is done. Caterers are being solicited, with a decision hoped for by June 11. The blog website is also in progress.

*Jon also described the fruitful meeting in Toronto on immigration issues. We are hopeful that if people follow expectations there should be few problems at the border.

*Paul asked a question about catering, especially for lunch, where the options would be to have St. Michael's prepare a bag lunch to be delivered or to engage other caterers. Ann is looking into options and prices.

*Jon then went through the subsidy questionnaire, which is shaped by needs for criteria to adjudicate among applicants and to describe accurately our expectations for applicants. He described the form, especially the 3 questions that ask potential applicants: A) why attending is

important for them; B) how the theme of the conference connects to their work; C) and how much funding can be secured on their own, with recommended minimum of \$200. Other aspects of the form were explained by Jon—e.g., expectation of room-sharing, that the visa had to be obtained by the applicant, that Menno travel was to be the one making all travel arrangements. Questions followed. Mariel suggested that the form have some introduction like “please read the following before applying.” Rose liked the tone of the questionnaire. Jon said that we hope to offer more than 30 subsidies, but it will depend on how much applicants need.

*We then looked at the Menno travel agency document, which notes that IAMS qualifies for various humanitarian fares, with conditions given. Cathy noted that the form seems clear.

*We then looked at the draft registration form, with its many questions. It is very detailed, with a variety of pages and fields, including 27 personal questions. Ann says this is the “ideal document” from which we can work/revise due to changes connected to software availabilities, expenses, etc. The exposure trips listed here are under construction by the local committee in Toronto. There is a page on visas, also one for travel details, also one for legal stuff. On the subsidy application page (p. 5) “stipend” should be replaced by “subsidy”. On the legal page it states that there will be no refunds for conference fees after June 1, the reason being that St. Michael’s will not reimburse us afterwards. There are also Pay Pal and other payment methods listed and described. Members of the executive committee will be asked to go through the revised registration form in a “test run” in June, and this will help Ann fine-tune the instrument.

*Active members list. We need to get more active members. The letter from Jon points this out. Mika spoke of trying to get access to his data on the website in order to pay up; Mariel also. Jon asked Cathy and Paul to look at website, especially because the invitation to pay up connects to a website where the password is requested. We need to make it work optimally and Cathy will work on this. Rose in Nigeria has worked with the website with some success.

Action: Cathy to get Hugh to change reminder message (done)

*Overall Conference budget. There is a reasonable total but considerable fund-raising is certainly still needed. Ideas have been solicited. Now that we have details we can make specific requests for support. “Flights” on this budget is the line-item for those receiving subsidies—according to Menno Travel, \$64000 is seen as reasonable for 30 airfares in summer 2012. Cathy asks Jon to send his letter of request for support—it can serve as template for our own letters.

Action: Jon to send template fundraising letter

Action: All to fundraise!

*Provisional program. The opening welcome will be from First Nations people of Canada, organized by the hosting committee. All plenary speakers have agreed and formal letters will go out later to them. We need to organize certain details around other sessions. We on exec are urged to arrive 3 days earlier and stay one day later—to set up and clean up. The hosting committee is working hard.

*Ann asks that our travel arrangements be communicated to her early. *Ann signed off...*

Review of presidential letter and other docs in preparation.

Jon explained its purpose—for reassurance and to issue an invitation. He’ll send it to Cathy, she’ll send it to membership.

Action: Cathy to ask Hugh to send to all members

Jon also has prepared a VISA letter to help visa applicants.

Study Groups

Each Executive committee member is to accept responsibility for one study group as described in the email of 28 April. They are as follows:

Ken and Paul on World Christianity

Kima on ethnic minorities

DABOH overseen by Jon, with Michael Poon

Mika will oversee the Interfaith group

Rose will oversee Gender

Cathy will oversee Healing with Christoffer Grundmann

Gerard will oversee BISAM with John Prior

Action: Exec members to contact IAMS member in charge of study group or find an IAMS member to lead and liaise with them. All to report back at next Exec meeting on progress.

We've decided to ask for abstracts by Jan 2012, to accept or reject them by the end of February, and have full papers 1 June.

Action: Cathy to change on website (done)

Mika asked about the desirability to keep alive the possibility of so-called "parallel sessions" along with the ongoing study groups. As set forth now, we only have study groups. After some discussion, it was decided that as the conference draws near and papers are submitted, we can redesignate groups to make them more or less formal—or have some sessions that would be less formally organized—so that something like the older notion of "parallel sessions" might indeed return. As Mariel noted, other terms like "conversation groups" or "interest groups" can also be used to describe different sorts of sessions.

New members

Led by Cathy, we then looked at potential new members, of whom there were several "batches" sent out in emails.

Accepted - 16

Rejected - 2

Follow up - 9

Action: Cathy to notify new members (done)

Financial Report:

None provided by David Singh, on hold for next meeting. (*N.B.: It has come in since the meeting.*)

New editor-designate for Mission Studies

Kirsteen Kim is happy to accept. She has also been granted some administrative assistance from her university. John Prior is also happy to serve as associate editor. Cathy offered some details about Kirsteen Kim, who teaches at Trinity Leeds. All agreed to move forward on her nomination, which will be taken to Assembly in 2012 for formal ratification.

Action: Cathy to notify Kirsteen and John (done)

Any other business

1) Cathy will be sending PDF from website of the IAMS Constitution. We are asked to look at it. (done)

2) Jerry Anderson expects to finish IAMS history later this summer. We considered how best to proceed with publication and circulation. Likely the text will be 120-130 pages. Maybe we should use the Toronto Assembly as place/time to acknowledge and celebrate it. Should we use also *Mission Studies*? How will Brill react? It is hard to know. Other possibilities include publishing through OMSC, Eerdmans, or Orbis? The question was asked: is the book designed to make money or simply inform? Could it be an online publication?

3) Next meeting: Aug. 29. Noon GMT or so (7am, US).

The meeting adjourned about 7pm GMT.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Kollman (with help from Cathy Ross!)