



Indian Association, Geneva

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Indian Association Geneva (IAG) held online on 06 February 2021

The 2021 Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Indian Association Geneva was held virtually on Zoom and opened at 5:00 pm. Since the quorum of 30 members was not present, as per the Constitution the AGM was reconvened after a lapse of 10 minutes with the 22 members who were present.

IAG's President Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa welcomed the participants and requested a member to chair the AGM meeting, as required by the Constitution rules of procedure for the meetings of the AGM. Dr. Wadhwa proposed Mr. Rajagopalan Sampatkumar to chair the AGM. This was seconded by all the members attending the General Assembly. Mr. Rajagopalan Sampatkumar kindly agreed to chair (referred as Chairperson in the minutes) the meeting.

Following his welcoming remarks, the below-mentioned agenda as proposed in the invitation letter was adopted:

1. [Approval of minutes of AGM held on 25 January 2020](#)
2. [Consider and adopt the annual report for 2020](#)
3. [Consider and adopt the audited statement of accounts for 2020](#)
4. [Approval of Constitution of The Indian Association Geneva \(Update\)](#)
5. Consider for approval the new Executive Committee
6. Handing over to the new Executive Committee
7. Nomination of Auditor
8. Fix annual membership dues
9. Any other business

1. Approval of minutes of AGM held on 25 January 2020

The Chair asked if there were any suggestions or comments with regard to the minutes of the AGM held on 25 January 2020. The Chair had a question regarding the minutes of 2019 AGM minutes where it was stated that the President of IAG at that time mentioned that he was expecting a contribution from the Indian Embassy in Bern. The Chairperson wanted to know if there was any further development in that regard. Dr Maneesh Wadhwa responded that IAG received the contribution from the Indian Embassy in Bern and he would like to cover this under the agenda item on the audit statement. As there were no other comments/suggestions, the minutes of AGM were adopted.

2. Consider and adopt the annual report for 2020

The Chair invited the President, Dr. Wadhwa to present the 2020 annual report.

Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa presented the report as follows:

IAG Membership 2020

During 2020 the membership strength dropped significantly due to COVID-19, around 70% of members paid their membership. Dr. Wadhwa thanked all IAG members for their support during these difficult times.

COVID-19 Donations

A public charitable trust under the name of Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations (PM CARES) Fund has been set up. This fund's purpose is to specifically cater to the health and economic ramifications caused by the global pandemic. IAG members contributed a total of CHF 2150 and the IAG Executive Committee matched the amount of contribution as a part of mandate to contribute to humanitarian cause. Dr. Wadhwa thanked IAG members for their contribution to the call.

Events

Dr. Wadhwa said that most part of the year we all were confined to lockdown, thus the engagement and participation of our members and friends of India was very limited. During 2020 out of 8 planned events listed below only 3 were held in person and one virtual compared to 18 events conducted in 2019 celebrating Indian festivals together with Indian diaspora and friends of India.

Dr. Wadhwa added that as soon as the situation gets better IAG will resume its activities to bring the community together. In the meantime, IAG will organise virtual events to engage with our members.

Following is the list of events IAG committee planned during 2020:

1. Annual General Meeting	25 January
2. Flag Hosting ceremony on Republic Day	26 January
3. Cancelled - Holi, Ugadi, Baisakhi & Easter	04 April
4. Cancelled – Sitar Concert	30 May
5. 74th Independence Day Celebration	15 August
6. Cancelled – Navratri Celebration	03 October
7. Cancelled – Diwali, Eid, Gurburab and Christmas Celebration	21 November
8. Virtual Meet and Greet with H.E. Ambassador Mr. Indra Mani Pandey	20 December 2020

Contribution from Permanent Mission of India, Geneva and Embassy of India in Bern

Dr. Wadhwa said that both Permanent Mission of India, Geneva and Indian Embassy in Bern continue to strengthen its role with Indian Association Geneva, Indian diaspora and friends of India in and around Geneva area.

H.E. Ms. Monika Kapil Mohta is the newly appointed Ambassador of India to Switzerland in Bern. She succeeds Ambassador Mr. Sibi George as of August 2020. Whereas H.E. Mr. Indra Mani Pandey, Ambassador Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva succeeds Mr. Rajiv Kumar Chander as of September 2020.

With the above mentioned two changes, IAG Executive Committee is fully engaged and had the pleasure to meet the newly appointed H.E. Ambassador Mr. Indra Mani Pandey in November in his office in Geneva. Dr. Wadhwa was very pleased to share that Ambassador Pandey assured to continue his support and looks forward to working together with Indian diaspora in and around Geneva by listening to the community.

On behalf of IAG committee Dr. Wadhwa extended his sincere gratitude for an excellent relationship, involvement and support on continuous basis, and was looking forward to working together with Permanent Mission of India in Geneva and Indian Embassy in Bern. He also thanked Mr. Shaibal Roy Chowdhury, Counsel General of India in Geneva and the Nominated member to the Executive Committee of IAG for his commitment and support for the IAG.

Sponsorship

Dr. Wadhwa said that our long-term sponsors continue to support our association. During 2020, since our sponsors were affected by pandemic thus it was decided by the IAG Executive Committee that as gesture of goodwill for their continuous support, no monetarily contribution to be collected from our 2019 sponsors and to publish their advertisements in our digital version of membership directory. Following is the list of our sponsors:

- Platinum Sponsor: Hinduja Bank and Small World Money Transfers
- Gold Sponsor: Madhura Marche and Restaurant Jardin de Malyar (France)
- Silver Sponsor: Jean Logistics Consulting
- Bronze Sponsor: King Curry and BrianOBrain

Member Mobile App

Dr. Wadhwa reminded the members that since 2017 IAG has put in place a digital member management infrastructure with an aim to provide seamless experience where an application can take care of reservations and payments for an event in advance with a single click. Later in 2018, we have launched new Member App. The new app can be download from Apple store “Wild Apricot” for members. The new app allows

- check, modify and maintain their profiles up-to-date, no more manual errors
- consult Membership directory at their fingertips
- send Email or Call to other members
- book events and pay online, straight through process helps minimizing food wastage and eliminating queues at the venue

Dr. Wadhwa thanked all our members for their continuous support in undergoing digital transformation.

Financial Report

Dr. Wadhwa said that there was an excess of income over expenditure of CHF 8,026 in 2020. and the treasurer Mr. Pujari will present the detailed report under the next agenda item. The Chair thanked Dr. Wadhwa for

presenting a very comprehensive report with all details. The Chair asked, as only 70% of the members paid their membership will there be any efforts by the Executive Committee to encourage the remaining 30% to pay their dues for 2020?

Dr. Wadhwa responded that in the past we used to send reminders to the members who had not paid at least 2-3 times however due to the current situation in COVID times we decided to refrain from reminding them to pay their dues. He added that he would like to suggest that all members to pay their membership fees for 2021 as early as possible.

As there were no other comments/suggestions the Chair proposed that the Annual report be adopted. Mr. Khosla Mr. Ravindra Chopra seconded it. The report was adopted.

3. Consider and adopt the audited statement of accounts for 2020

The Chairperson invited the treasurer, Mr. Pujari to present the report.

Mr. Pujari said that last year we were at par with the expenditures and the income. We have a balance of CHF 8026. We had booked halls for our events and paid their fees at the beginning of the year. However, all events were cancelled due to COVID. The Geneva Cantonal authorities will let us know in June if they will reimburse that amount or give us a credit note.

The Chairperson invited the auditor, Mr. Pachauri to present the report.

Mr. Pachauri presented the report as follows:

- (i) Both the income and expenditure for the year 2020 have declined, when compared to 2019. The main reason for such a decline, as explained by the IAG Executive Committee (EC), is the COVID pandemic restricting any public activity to be conducted during the year. It was also stated by the EC that the income collection, specifically on account of sponsorship, promotions and special events were significantly reduced, as these are linked to the conduct of the association activities, which couldn't be conducted due to lockdowns. The only contribution received during the year was from the Indian Embassy in Bern and has been recognized as revenue for the year. No other commitment has been made or recognized for the year.

Recommendation: The membership revenue has remained reasonably consistent while several other revenue lines have shown significant fluctuations owing to COVID 19. From a sustainability point of view, therefore, it is recommended to continue structuring future spending of the annual budgets with anticipated (and more reliable) annual membership revenue estimates/trends as baselines.

- (ii) On the expenditure side, payments have been made for bookings of halls etc for activities which couldn't ultimately be implemented during 2020. The EC has confirmed negotiations with vendor(s) for recoveries or adjustments to future activities. However no decision has been reached with the vendor(s) till the date of signing of this report and the attached financial statements. Therefore, in line with the cash-based accounting policy and associated best practices, such payments have been expended. If, and when, a decision is reached with the vendor(s), confirming the recovery (partially or wholly) or the adjustment of such advance payments to future activities, accounting adjustments would be made in the fiscal year in which the payment is received back or the activity is conducted as applicable.

Recommendation: It is recommended that a note be introduced in the financial statements especially in cases where expense recoveries may be under consideration. Currently the cash basis of accounting is used. However,

it would be useful to a reader of the financial statements, to be able to assess if the cost recoveries being discussed are material (substantial) or not.

- (iii) It is the EC's assessment that COVID 19 has had an impact on the activities, revenue and associated expenditures of the association during 2020. However it is EC's expectation that this is only temporary and has no impact on the going concern assumptions for the association. In line with the requirements within the regulations, the expenditure has been kept within the revenue recognized for the year. The net assets (Assets- Liabilities) position of the association remains healthy.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the EC continues to discuss projection scenarios at the AGM in its ordinary meeting as a general rule, and more specifically, for 2021, so as to mitigate risks of either lack of revenue or a sudden increase in activity expenditure, without revenue in hand.

Follow-up: It was stated that the EC will continue to look at the estimations from the previous years in planning these events and will continue to do so. As there were no other comments/suggestions the Chair proposed to **adopt the audited statement of accounts for 2020**. The report was approved unanimously by the AGM. The report was adopted.

4. Approval of Constitution of The Indian Association Geneva (Update)

The Chair said that the updated Constitution had already been circulated to the IAG members. The Chair proposed to add highlighted in **bold**

- Under Article 3 (b) Membership dues shall be normally paid at the beginning of each calendar year. A penalty of CHF 10 will be charged after 31st March. New Members enrolling after 30th June shall pay at half yearly rates **for that year**.
- Under article 6 (a) (ii) **Two members** nominated by the Permanent Mission of India to UN and Consul General of India office in Geneva. They should be members of the Association.
- The Chair said that under 6 (i), based on the decision that was already made in the last AGM and as Mr. Pachauri pointed out it is already in practice now. We are only formalising it now by amending the article 6 (i)

As there were no other comments/suggestions the Chair proposed the approval of the amendments to the Constitution of The Indian Association of Geneva. The amendments were adopted unanimously by the AGM after taking in account certain changes in the text of **article 6**.

5. Consider for approval the new Executive Committee

The Chair said that the last 4 years have been a great time for the Indian Association of Geneva. He thanked Dr Wadhwa and the IAG Executive Committee team for their hard work. He said that the Association has been receiving cooperation and support from the PMI & Counsel General of India office in Geneva and Embassy of India in Bern and in effect IAG has made great strides. The Chair suggested Dr. Wadhwa and his team to continue this progress and proposed that the same Executive Committee continues for 2021-22. The Chair added that what the present Committee has done in terms of using the various tools available, it has been very useful

and remarkable to move into the digital age. He said that we need people with vision and initiative to do things in a modern way and that is what Dr. Wadhwa and his team has been doing. He thought it would be fair and essential for IAG that this continuity should not be broken and therefore he would like to propose that the same Executive Committee continues for 2021-22. Mr. Arun Pabari and Ms. Maria Essenbergs seconded the Chair's proposal. The Chair invited other suggestions from the floor. There were no other comments or suggestions, Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa thanked the Chair and proposed the following Executive Committee for 2021-22:

President Dr. Maneesh Wadhwa

Vice-President Mr. Betsen Baby

Secretary Mrs. Sadaf Shamsie

Treasurer Mr. Sameer Pujari

Members:

Mrs. Parwati Menon

Mrs. Upasana Sharma

Mrs. Sumana Konuganti

Ms. Ruby Bhat

Ms. Aushee M. Gupta

Extended Members:

Mrs. Daksha Sanghvi

Mr. Pardeep Prasad

Mr. Srinivas Konuganti

Mr. Anand Mamtora

Mr. Sumeeth Sharma

Mr. Vinay Khosla

Member (Nominated):

Mr. Shaibal Roy Chowdhury (Consular General of India in Geneva)

The Chair thanked Dr. Wadhwa and requested the AGM to approve Dr. Wadhwa's proposal.

Dr. Wadhwa's proposal was approved unanimously by the AGM. The Chair requested the new Committee members to briefly introduce themselves to the AGM. The Consul General of India, Mr. Shaibal Roy Chowdhury congratulated the new IAG team.

6. Handing over to the new Executive Committee

As the office bearers of the new Executive Committee are the same as the previous year there was no hand over.

7. Nomination of Auditor

The Committee thanked Mr Pachauri for doing an excellent job as an Auditor since 2018. The Chairperson called for nominations and since there were no other nominations presented, proposed the appointment of Mr. Nakshatra Pachauri as the new auditor for IAG. This proposal was approved unanimously by the AGM. Mr. Pachauri suggested to the AGM that there should be a term established for the auditor of the IAG as a standard operating procedure which may not be co-terminus with the committee, but no more than 3-4 years the same person should be the auditing the accounting for IAG. The Chair said that right now there is no Constitutional provision which puts a time limit on the election of the IAG auditor. The Chair added that we can keep it in mind that after a maximum of 5 years of term a new auditor should be appointed. The Chair suggested that it would be useful if the auditor himself suggests and trains the new auditor as it is a specialised task and we need someone who has the relevant expertise and knowledge.

8. Fix annual membership fee

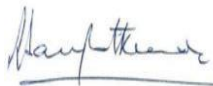
The membership fees remain unchanged. It was agreed that the last date of payment of annual membership fees will be 31 March and thereafter a penalty of CHF 10 will be charged.

9. Any Other Business

The Chair thanked the Executive Committee for the excellent job they have been doing and wished them good luck for their new term. The Chair also thanked the members of the AGM to enable him to conduct the AGM..

Mr. Khosla and Mr. Ravindra Chopra also congratulated Dr Wadhwa and his team for all their efforts and hard work.

The meeting was adjourned.



Mr. Rajagopalan Sampatkumar
AGM Chairperson



Mrs. Sadaf Shamie
IAG Secretary, IAG