

International Economic Association

Meeting of the Outgoing Executive Committee

Tsinghua University,
Beijing, China

Sunday 3 July 2011
10:00AM to 12:30 PM

MINUTES

PRESENT:

President: Masahiko Aoki – Chairman
President-elect: Joseph E. Stiglitz
Secretary General: Joan Esteban

Members: Ken Binmore
Peter Englund
Timur Kuran
Ying-yi Qian

Adviser: Jean-Paul Fitoussi

Secretariat: Julia Cunico
Marie David
Veronique de Labarre

Excused: Lucas Papademos, Treasurer
Eytan Sheshinski, Vice President
Kaushik Basu
Guillermo Calvo
Janos Kornai
Victor Polterovich
Marcello de Cecco
Jinglian Wu

The President opened the meeting welcoming the members present. He presented the Agenda as distributed in advance and indicated that items 7, 9 and 10 would be discussed again and developed later at the Council meeting.

1. IEA Statutes amendments

The Secretary General recalled that, following a mail vote, the statutes had been amended and allowed the Executive Committee to propose an expanded list of nominees, 15 instead of 12, to the Council for election.

2. Sixteenth world congress

The President expressed his deep gratitude to Ying-Yi Qian and to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) for the arrangements made for this congress, for their support and hospitality.

He then gave the floor to Ying-yi Qian, chairman of the LOC and Dean of Tsinghua University.

Ying-yi Qian reported that the preparation went smoothly and that the Congress was financially supported by the following banks and private entities:

- CITIC Group
- China Investment Corporation
- China Construction Bank
- China International Capital Corporation
- Toyota
- McKinsey Company

Besides, the Congress benefited from the cooperation of:

- The Economist
- Caixin Media

He informed the meeting that the budget was balanced, also due to the fact that the Congress was being held in Tsinghua University's premises.

Ying-yi Qian briefly recounted Tsinghua University's history and outlined that the University was celebrating its centenary.

3. Nominations for membership to the Executive Committee 2011-2014

The President underlined that the proposed expanded list of nominees allowed a more balanced geographical distribution. It should however aim in future at a better balance in gender.

4. Procedure for endorsement of conferences

The President reminded the meeting that, at Janos Kornai's request, he drafted this procedure for endorsement of conferences. The idea was to propose that a subcommittee chaired by the President elect be responsible of organizing round table conferences, the President being in charge of the Congress.

This procedure could not be implemented during the past three years. Hence, the President thought that one possibility would be that a 'steering committee' composed by the President, the President-elect, the immediate past President and the Secretary General would be in charge of arranging roundtable conferences.

At this point, the President elect said that getting funding was a real issue. Members of the Council and Executive Committee should be encouraged to solicit funding in their country. He thought that it might be worthwhile to partner with foundations and think tanks that have an agenda on areas such as globalization, governance. IEA should target the niches where getting together for emerging markets and advanced industrial countries would be particularly valuable. In emerging countries, there were very good economists who did not always have the opportunity to interact.

The President agreed and commented that out of a total of 1000 submissions, he had actually received some very high impressive papers from Chinese and Indian authors.

5. Financial matters

In reviewing the general financial situation of the Association for the years 2008-2010, the Secretary General drew attention to the following points:

- The main recurrent sources of income are membership dues. As member associations do not pay their dues on a regular basis, the association's finances oscillate over a three years period.
- The need to raise \$ 100 000 annually for the Association's running expenses and activity so as to recover a balanced budget
- Additional fund raising efforts should be made in congress years

He concluded saying that increasing IEA visibility would be surely a way to raise more funds and recover a satisfactory level of activities.

The President indicated that the fees structure, designed in 1997, had to be reviewed to reflect the new global situation. This should be the task of the incoming Treasurer. He was convinced that Lawrence Lau was the appropriate person to undertake such changes and to raise outside funding.

6. Membership

The Secretary General recalled the meeting that IEA had so far only one member per country. There was no formal reason for this restriction. An increasing number of thematic, local or regional associations being created, membership could be opened to all these associations. Hence, he proposed to actively approach new potential members, any suggestion by Executive Committee members being welcome.

In that regard, a change of name could be considered: World Economic Association instead of International Economic Association.

He added that the Council would have to be redesigned so that voting rights were shared among members.

During the ensuing discussion, the President proposed individual membership for consideration. Thus IEA could incorporate 3 tiers members: national members, associate members and individual members. The President-elect suggested that a better fee scale structure could allow smaller associations to get more benefits for their dues. He also said that IEA individual members should then have access to a global labor market.

No decision was reached as the President felt that the issues of fee structure and change of names would be dealt by Joseph Stiglitz.

7. The future of IEA

The Secretary General briefly summarized his report underlining that the main goal was to reshape the mission of IEA and to go beyond the World Congress.

He indicated that the IEA website would be redesigned and used:

- as a source of dissemination of the activities of the association and of its members.
- for posting research. IEA could encourage young scholars in emerging markets to submit two or three monthly papers, filtered through the Executive Committee that could be posted.

8. Publications

- Beijing congress volumes

The President informed the meeting that he was planning to edit 5 or 6 volumes of congress proceedings, comprising all invited papers and some additional contributed papers. One volume would be devoted to Chinese economy and translated into Chinese.

- Istanbul congress volumes

The President expressed a genuine concern regarding the proceedings. He said that Guillermo Calvo, at the time Chairman of the congress, had not yet made a decision.

The Committee agreed to the President's suggestion to propose the co editorship to Ercan Uygur, current President of the Turkish Economic Association and Chairman of the Istanbul Local Organizing Committee.

9. CREED

The President acknowledged Jacques Dreze and Kaushik Basu's involvement in the CREED project.

The President suggested that the matter could be discussed again at the Council meeting in the presence of Rohini Somanathan.

10. Global Development Network

The Secretary General mentioned that IEA was a founding member of GDN but was not currently listed anywhere in their Report.

The President elect agreed to contact Ernesto Zedillo, Chairman of the GDN Board, to sort out IEA's role. He then recalled that, initially founded with support by World Bank, the partnership was set up to promote research in developing countries. He acknowledged GDN's achievement in capacity development.

The meeting approved the President elect's suggestion to propose to GDN to join IEA's associate membership.

11. Honorary President

The Executive Committee seconded President's recommendation that the names of Janos Kornai and Jinglian Wu be put forward to the Council for appointment as Honorary Presidents, in gratitude for their services to the IEA.

The President recalled that Jinglian Wu, as President of the host association CACES, had a major contribution in the achievement of the congress.

The President closed the meeting expressing his thanks to the Executive Committee members in attendance as well as to the Secretary General.