



**Assitej Executive Committee Meeting  
Mantova, Italy  
30 October - 3 November, 2017**

**Present:**

Yvette Hardie, President, South Africa (YH)

Louis Valente, Secretary-General, Denmark (LV)

Roberto Frabetti, Treasurer, Italy (RF)

Daniel H. Fernandez, Vice President, Argentina (DF)

Sue Giles, Vice President, Australia (SG)

François Fogel, Vice President, France (FF)

Stefan Fischer-Fels, Germany (SFF)

Pamela Udoka, Nigeria (PU)

Tatiana Bobrova, Russia (TB)

Ernie Nolan, USA (EN)

Manon van de Water, ITYARN (MvdW)

Cecilie Lundsholt, Norway (CL) (30th-31st)

Seok-hong KIM, South Korea (SHK)

Bebe de Soares, Chile (BDS) (28th-29<sup>th</sup> in working group before the EC-meeting)

Kenjiro Otani, Japan (KO)

Yin Xiaodong, ASSITEJ China, Counsellor (YX)

Simeng Kong, ASSITEJ China, (International coordinator and translator)

Lea Motzfeldt (Assistant, Denmark)



## **AGENDA:**

1. Welcome from President and Host
2. Apologies
3. Proposal and Approval of Agenda
4. Next EC Meetings
5. Review of EC Participation in SEGNI New Generations Festival
6. General Reports:
  - 6.1 President's Report
  - 6.2 Secretary General's Report
  - 6.3 Treasurer's Report
7. Overview of 2017- 2020 Working Plan
8. Presentation of Working Group Status Reports
  - 8.1 Policies, Protocols & Fundraising Group Report on work done in Italy and tasks still to be done
  - 8.2 Publications & Promotions Group report on work to be done during meeting
  - 8.3 Projects & Network Group report on work to be done during meeting

Discussion and input to these tasks from EC
9. Specific Issues
  - 9.1 Issues around the Lifetime Achievement Award (Letter from Spain, Niclas Malmcrona)
  - 9.2 Discussion of Three Year Dramaturgy
10. Focus on ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering – Status report from China
  - 10.1 China to report on progress so far
  - 10.2 Status of applications for productions and curation
  - 10.3 Discussion of curation/artistic programme and structure of conference with EC
11. Work in the Working Groups



12. Reports from the Working Groups
  - 12.1 Projects Group
  - 12.2 Publications & Promotions Group
  - 12.3 Policies, Protocols & Fundraising – if necessary
  
13. Reports from the Professional Networks
  - 13.1 IIAN
  - 13.2 ITYARN
  - 13.3 Next Generation
  - 13.4 Small Size
  - 13.5 WLPG
  - 13.6 Young Dance Network (in progress)
  
14. Overview Reports from Regions
  
15. Memberships
  - 15.1 New Member Applications: Burundi; Uzbekistan; Algeria; other
  - 15.2 Problematic Memberships: Iran; Bulgaria; other
  - 15.3 Induction of new members: suggestions
  
16. Specific Items of Business
  - 16.1 Circulation of Texts
  - 16.2 Openers of newsletters
  - 16.3 Proposal of The Game (Task moves On) – if not included in Working groups
  - 16.4 Sign MOU with China
  - 16.5 Sign EC book and other documents
17. Any Other Business
18. Closure

## **1. Welcome from President and Host**

President Yvette Hardie (YH) welcomed all the Executive Committee (EC) members. An especial welcome was given to all the new EC members, among these Kenjiro Otani, who had been elected as a co-opted member, and Mr. Yin Xiaodong who had been elected as counsellor (until August 2018).



## 2. Apologies

- Bebe de Soares attended the meeting of the working group 'Protocols, Policies & Fundraising' from 27<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> November, but was not able to attend the EC meeting.
- Cecilie Lundsholt would have to leave on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

## 3. Proposals and Approval of Agenda

YH outlined the usual routine of an EC meeting and presented the agenda.

CL proposed to move point 16. 'Next EC Meetings' to point 4 in order to be present in the planning of future meetings.

The agenda was revised and officially approved.

## 4. Next EC Meetings

LV informed the EC of the confirmed dates for '**Panoptikum' in Nuremberg 2018**. These are; 23<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> January, 2018. KO informed that he would not be able to attend, MvdW would have to leave on the 27<sup>th</sup>, CL can attend from the 25<sup>th</sup> and would have to leave on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

LV informed the EC of the confirmed dates for the **ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in Beijing, China 2018**. These are; 18th-24th August, 2018. It was proposed that the EC would arrive August 16<sup>th</sup> and depart August 26<sup>th</sup>, this suggestion was approved by YX.

The dates for the **ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering in Kristiansand are September 2<sup>nd</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. The EC will Arrive August 30<sup>th</sup> and depart September 8<sup>th</sup>.

KO informed the EC of the dates for the **World Congress in Tokyo, Japan 2020**. These are; 14<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, 2020. He suggested the EC should arrive May 12<sup>th</sup> and depart May 25<sup>th</sup>.

### **ACTION:**

1. LV will send a confirmation email on dates for the upcoming EC meetings.
2. YH reminded the EC that they are still looking for offers in the beginning of 2019 and in 2020 (prior to the Congress).

## 5. Review of EC Participation in SEGNI New Generations Festival

YH reminded the EC to be present and to engage in the festival program and social events. RF informed the EC that ASSITEJ Italy was expecting to have an informal meeting where they could share ideas and ask questions.



## **6. General Reports:**

### **6.1 President's Report**

***(See full report as Addendum A)***

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

- General
- ASSITEJ-related business
- Travels
- ASSITEJ SA News
- Cradle of Creativity

YH reported on what had happened since 'Cradle of Creativity' (Cradle). She informed the EC that a full report of Cradle could be found in the dropbox (this does not include the external evaluation, the financial report, or pictures). YH encouraged the EC to document anything that comes out of Cradle, she has also encouraged NG to do this. YH will share the finances with the EC when available.

### **6.1 Secretary General's Report**

***(See full report as Addendum B)***

LV gave his report, which consisted of the following points:

- General
- Organisation
- Funds
- Concrete work (newsletter, website, AAG 2018, invitations and travels, official letters, correspondences and new members.)

### **6.2 Treasurer's report**

***(See full report in Addendum C)***

RF gave his report, which consisted of the following points:

- Budget and accounting
- Membership and Member fees
- Some key points (seed-funding, solidarity fund, fundraising working group)



#### **VOTING:**

In favour of suggesting members to increase their membership fee by inserting (in the membership letter, as a new level) the amount of 200 EURO, a fee the treasurer can encourage members currently paying 150 EURO. **Unanimously passed (1 abstention).**

### **7. Overview of 2017-2020 working plan**

YH went through the means approved at the General Assembly, and reminded the working groups to continuously focus their work in relation to the working plan. Since Ms. Simeng and Mr. Yin would only be attending parts of the meeting, they would begin with the presentation of the project and networks group.

### **8. Presentation of Working Group Status Reports**

#### **8.1 Policies, Protocols & Fundraising Group Report on work done in Italy and tasks still to be done**

YH presented the upcoming work for the Policies, Protocols & Fundraising Group to be done in Mantova.

These tasks included:

- Identify what aspect of the working plan relates to the group.
- Who is responsible for each aspect.
- MOU with China to be signed in the end of this meeting. Timelines and understandings for the MOU with Norway will be discussed. A draft has been made for the MOU for the World Congress in Japan, which will be signed during the AAG in Beijing 2018.

Fundraising:

- The working group has discussed the challenges and possibilities of fundraising for ASSITEJ.
- A call will be made.
- LV has suggested to hire Lene Thiesen to do some research.

LV added that the EC needs to aim to attract people who can open doors, which demands that it is attractive to get involved as well. YH added that it would be good to start it up in Germany. Maybe Goethe will be able to assist with funding? YH to speak to Meike Fechner about possibilities and report before end of meeting.

Funding campaign for 'Take a child to the theatre' (pilot project): Profit should go directly to specific activities in national centres, and the organizational work. The working group is looking into material that could work cross culturally, and help national centres to explain what ASSITEJ is.

SG added that an extra page on the website with the question 'why' could be useful (so that members can understand the rationale and approach)



YH suggested asking national centres approx. 10 questions which could help map specific needs that could be beneficial when explaining funders what centres around the globe needs.

Seed-funding project: The working group prefers to fund projects that are representing the thinking of ASSITEJ – not necessary a product but also ways of working e.g. with inclusivity, child participation, language etc. An example could be a new translation method, which could be used in the gatherings (and as such benefit the association). A call will be made for these ideas.

Awards: there needs to be a clearer distinction between the different awards and the communication needs to be clear.

New centres: The working group will discuss possible processes for new members

‘Policies and Protocols handbook’: SG and YH will look at ways to design and make the ‘Policies and Protocols’ document more user-friendly.

## **8.2 Publications & Promotions Group report on work to be done during meeting**

FF presented the upcoming work for the publication & promotion group, to be done in Mantova. These included:

- What to do in terms of corporate identity.
- Who takes the lead in the different fields.
- How to go further in the graphical and corporate identity.
- Toolkit, and world day message / video.
- Design of the website and newsletter.

*The EC discussed the world day video.*

YH suggested Latin America or the U.S. should make the next video, since they are some of the member countries that haven’t had this opportunity before. DF added that he would be happy to check what opportunities they could offer from Argentina.

LV questioned whether there were any ideas on how to format the video differently, since the viewers have decreased in the last years. SG added that it is perhaps more a matter of presenting it in a different way using compelling media. YH pointed out that what might be more important than many ‘likes/views’ is how it is used as an advocacy tool for those who need to be convinced. Furthermore, YH mentioned that the EC needs to start thinking about a possible writer for the World Day Message.

*The EC discussed the criteria for a possible writer.*



MvdW reported on the status of publications:

- Deadlines and negotiations on the Magazine will be arranged with YX. The second language will be Mandarin, and they will have to provide this for all the articles. A call for the Magazine will be contextualised when the dramaturgy is decided.
- The ITYARN publication has been delayed due to illness and all board members being very busy. MvdW suggested launching it in Norway instead, since it is much cheaper to ship them to Norway than to China.

In relation to this, SFF mentioned the importance of also bringing some critical ideas (articles) into China. MvdW suggested bringing some articles from previous publications, which could be translated. YH saw this as a good compromise.

RF mentioned that he and SG had discussed the idea of producing gadgets/merchandise (t-shirts) expressing the theme of the gathering.

### **8.3 Projects & Network Group report on work to be done during meeting**

SFF presented the upcoming work for the Project group, to be done in Mantova. He emphasised that the first priority was to contextualise the three-year dramaturgy. Besides this the project group will:

- Need to work deeper into the regional workshops, create new ideas – have to think about the upcoming workshops, need to be more ‘offensive’ to search for what is possible. Best tool to go into regions.
- Need to have a critical look at ‘placements’, how to create something that is attractive. Seek more advanced mechanism.
- Create a tool which is accompanying the seed-funding. Solidarity is a project of ASSITEJ – need to react to seed funding with a project. YH commented that the fundraising group will contribute with some ideas about that.
- Need to be better at looking at issue and what the consequence is for the network.

*The EC had a discussion on the themes for the three-year dramaturgy starting from a whiteboard presentation the project group had presented.*

YH summarised the discussion: She referred to the point that it is important that the group finds ways to concretize the projects, and emphasised that the way these projects/themes are communicated is important, this is a task for the project group to bear in mind how to concretize the ‘imagining the future’ theme into workshops etc.

EN proposed that the project activities could be live-streamed. YH agreed and mentioned ‘Dialogue for community’ that could possibly document it, they had been useful during cradle, and they raise their own funds. YH will ask them to be in contact with YX.





## 9. Specific Issues

Issues around the Lifetime Achievement Award (Letters from ASSITEJ Spain and Niclas Malmcrona)

YH summarized what has been done in regards to the awards. There are two ways of awarding:

- 1) Honorary membership/president (recognition of the service given to the association).
- 2) Artistic excellence award (recognition of artistic achievement).

Additional awards:

- 1) WLPG award.
- 2) ITYARN research award (were not given during the congress due to lack of processes).
- 3) Lifetime achievement award (recognition of how they have contributed to the field of TYA.)

YH mentioned that she believes the specific critique of the process is really about how these processes were communicated. Now the EC would need to decide how to respond.

LV reported from the meeting he had with ASSITEJ Spain in regards to their critique of the Lifetime Achievement Award.

- 1) First the critique concerned the lack of information prior to the General Assembly. They would have liked to receive more documents, such as the financial report/mission budget and the working plan before the General Assembly, since they find it impossible to review a budget four days before a meeting.

YH explained that all relevant documents were sent before the congress, but the fact is that the finances and working plan are only finalized at the congress. However the EC might want to consider finalizing the working plan at the last EC meeting. RF added that membership fees are also finally received during the congress and that it is therefore not possible to do the mission budget either since these fees contribute with 80% of the resources. DF proposed to send a draft, but not necessarily the final plan. RF explained how the constitution has to present the budget from the end of congress to the beginning, and that it is therefore better to find time during the congress to analyse the budget. YH added that the constitution says that relevant documents have to be send by the SG two months before (not specifically the working plan or budget) – she mentioned that the EC need to be diplomatic, and explain how they have acted in accordance to the constitution. DF proposed that the budget could be presented in the beginning (as a presentation) and at the end (in relation to the voting) YH agreed but mentioned that they might have to consider this for all reports then. LV added how it is in many cases normal practice to send such information out prior to a general assembly, but due to the nature of the work in ASSITEJ it is impossible. He agreed that this should be diplomatically formulated and that they should also express that they do however understand the need to view such documents beforehand.



- 2) The second critique concerned the nomination process, where ASSITEJ Spain believes a national centre should be consulted if a network proposes someone from the country of the centre.

LV proposed that the centre could be informed about the nomination, but should not have the right to change the decision. YH added that the language in the constitution was improved at the congress to treat networks in the same way as centres, which ensured that it is not a right of the centre to be involved in the networks actions. MvdW found it unethical to go back to consult with national centres, since the networks also functions as a place for people who for some reason cannot be part of the centre. YH proposed to make the nominations open to all members, so that everyone would have the chance to comment, but they should not be obliged to consult with national centres. RF added that the Lifetime achievement award were not solely connected to people from ASSITEJ, and as such, it is not important to consult with the national centre. MvdW stressed that it would complicate the process if all members had the chance to comment on the nominations and that it is a standard procedure that only the jury decide nominations. YH proposed to make it as an announcement but decisions/comments are solely for the jury to make.

**ACTION:** LV and YH will construct a response to ASSITEJ Spain.

**VOTE:** In favour of making a public announcement of nominations for the ASSITEJ awards prior to a General Assembly. **Unanimously passed (1 abstention).**

## **10. Focus on ASSITEJ Artistic Gathering – Status report from China**

**- See full report as Addendum D.**

### **10.1 China to report on progress so far**

YX gave his report, which included the following points:

- ASSITEJ China/China National Theatre for Children (CNTC) has received support and permission from the Culture Ministry of China.
- Announced the dates and encouraged the EC to participate in the closing ceremony of the festival (August 25<sup>th</sup>).
- They plan to involve two other cities from east and west China to be included as part of the festival.
- They have received 134 applications (from 35 countries and 5 continents) they hope to have at least one performance from each continent.
- They have established seven working groups.
- The gathering will be co-hosted by ASSITEJ China and CNTC, where the executive office is.
  - YX is the president of both centres and can involve 200 employees.
- They hope to announce the performances at the end of December.



- More than 150 audiences will be involved.
- Funding: They expect to receive funding from sponsors and the government.
- Venues: 6 venues available. CNTC: 2 venues (700 seats, and 200 seats).
- They are hoping the EC can recommend artists / institutions to host different workshops.
- The program for next generation is a new activity in this area and they would appreciate ideas.
- They will arrange a summer-camp for children, which they have good experience with. They encouraged delegates to bring their kids to participate in this.
- They will arrange an open day for theatre creation: to involve kids to learn more about the creation of performances.
- They will arrange free programs for disabled children and children from poor areas.

## **10.2 Status of applications for productions and curation &**

### **10.3 Discussion of curation/artistic programme and structure of conference with EC**

YH thanked YX for the clear report and ensured the EC's full support. She expressed her excitement about the possibilities and what was presented. She asked about the number of performances. YX said that the selection process had just begun, but that a minimum of 12-13 shows was possible.

SG asked whether the AG would be part of the promotion of the festival or whether it will have a separate form. YX said there would be a separate promotion especially for this gathering, even though it is involved in the festival. YH asked whether they had thought of the opportunity to target audience/ artists around China who might not attend /be attracted to the normal festival but who might be interested in the AG? YX said that a special promotion for the artists of China will be made, and that they are hoping for a good exchange between Chinese artists and artist's from abroad.

LV asked how much ASSITEJ China would be involved in the content of the workshops etc. YX answered that they will ask the EC to help make the content for the workshops and seminars. YH suggested that Chinese and international artist's could also work together to construct a workshop. YX agreed.

RF asked whether they had considered ways to involve the networks. YX answered that when returning to China they will make a general plan including the networks in the program. They would like suggestions from the networks as well.

YH asked what they had thought in regards to translations. YX answered that a translator will be there during the conference, and that they will also engage several volunteers to translate into English, both at formal and informal set-ups.

MvdW explained the procedure for the magazine, which will be in English and Chinese (can be sent in English early February). There will be room for 5 articles from China. The group will need



someone to work with from China. She emphasised the importance of advertisements since this is where most of the funding comes from. YH added how Chinese adverts would be appreciated, and that this is also good exposure for them. YX said that someone from the publication and promotions group would contact MvdW to discuss the details.

FF asked what possibilities they had in regards to access to certain communication platforms. YH added that they had to think of ways to get around this, perhaps making parallel communication platforms where someone has to translate what is being posted on Facebook and vice-versa. YX said that at least one person could be in charge of this. DF added that Spanish and French translators might also be necessary. YX is hoping to hire volunteers who can speak more languages.

LV questioned how registration and selections would be managed. YX said there would be an online registration and that it should be possible to make some changes to make it open for everyone. There will not be a selection process for delegates. SG questioned whether they had thought of using less formal venues, such as studio spaces or a black box. YX said they would also try to look for such places.

YH thanked the EC and counsellor for the good discussion.

### **11. Work in the working groups - Decisions on three-year dramaturgy:**

The final dramaturgy was announced before the working groups went out to work in the working groups. These are:

#### **Overall: TOWARDS THE UNKNOWN**

Imagining the future: Inventing the map (AG Beijing - China, 2018)

Confronting the present: Surveying the landscape (AG Kristiansand - Norway, 2019)

Beginning the journey: Pioneering the future (WC Tokyo - Japan, 2020)

### **12. Reports from the Working Groups**

#### **a. Project and network group:**

Responsible persons for every issue were selected, these are:

- Dramaturgy and connection to gathering (KO)
- Regional workshops (DF)
- Placements (PU)
- Encounters (CL)
- Networks and connection from project group. (EN)
- Leading and making reports (SFF)



The project group presented their work, which included the following points:

**Delegate participation:** Idea, to make the delegates prepare a small input (giving them the role), in order to have as many delegates participating as possible.

**Making a declaration:** Idea to collect 150 ideas, these could be put on the wall and as such give people the chance to comment on it and imagining the future happening in Beijing. The EC could write out a 'declaration' from this (could be put on the website too. The idea would be to make a public summary as a declaration from each gathering).

SG mentioned the need to consider the difference/use of imagining vs. dreaming. Imagination is better as it allows for the negative whereas dreaming is encouraging utopian thoughts (dystopia vs. utopia). KO added that perhaps it is okay that dreaming is seeing the idealistic future, whereas in Kristiansand realities will be confronted. YH added that through dystopia it is possible to see things that might help us to the future we want.

LV stressed the importance of communicating the dramaturgy as clear as possible, and suggested that the group should use visual inputs during the workshops (e.g. PechaKucha). YH proposed to exclude the subtitles ("Inventing the map" "Surveying the landscape" "Beginning the journey") from the titles, but use them in the text and explanation only. This was agreed.

SFF added that the encounter should be announced during the opening ceremony to ensure that as many as possible will attend. KO added that the group would encourage networks to make seminars and workshops on the themes as well.

**Regional workshops:** DF mentioned the idea and need to re-think regional workshops. SFF added how they are investigating the two emerging questions: 1) 'who knows about regional workshops?' (which would also be beneficial for an application) 2) What is our offer? (Standards and curriculums should be made for ASSITEJ regional workshops, explaining what is unique for ASSITEJ regional workshops.) PU added how they need to focus on the specific region, as there are different needs from region to region.

YH mentioned that they need to follow up on the 'skills ordered' as they should be able to detect who needs what from this.

#### **a. Publications & Promotions Group**

MvdW presented ideas/overview for the Magazine (including timeline, guidelines etc.).

RF suggested that a summary and/or some articles should be sent to the national centers, so they could translate it to their native language. MvdW approved this idea.



FF presented what had been discussed in regards to the promotions for AAG 2018 and of the visual identity of ASSITEJ in general. The working group will like the graphic design to be focused on creativity, inclusivity, professionalism, and childhood. The working group proposed three possible designers to execute the task, these are:

- 1) The French team, which have also been responsible for the design of the website, it is beneficial that FF have a good connection to them already, however it could be considered to be created with a Eurocentric approach.
- 2) South Korean team, proposed by SHK, would be able to make a reasonable budget.
- 3) Cape Town team, who did all the design for Cradle of Creativity.

The design team would have to be briefed by the end of November, so the production can be finished by the end of January.

YH mentioned that they have to be careful on how the information is provided, since in China, the law prohibits Google and twitter.

TB mentioned that when they receive the information and leaflet on the AAG they need to create a page on the website dedicated to the AAG 2018. Furthermore the promotional video for the AAG in Beijing needs to be upgraded.

PU questioned the use of SoMe in China. YH mentioned that perhaps a VPN account would have to be created, so that important information could be posted. TB believes this is ethical question, and that the EC should not use the international page to promote information on SoMe channels that is not allowed in China.

SG shared the 'promotion idea' from the 'policies, protocols and fundraising group' to create T-shirts especially made for each of the gatherings (potentially different colour for each year). YH added that the same design team who makes everything else should make the designs. EN will investigate production prices / solutions.

FF asked the EC whether they had any suggestions on a writer for the World Day Campaign. YH proposed that the group should make an analysis of where it would be useful to have a writer from, and suggested a writer from Asia. Following names were suggested:

- Ban Ki moon (SHK mentioned that he is not so popular in Korea).
- Haruki Murakami (Writer, Japan)
- Ryuichi Sakamoto (Musician/Actor/Dancer, Japan – he often advocates for children's rights)

DF shared that Uruguay would be open to do the World Day Campaign video and presented some of the work from their website: (<https://www.lacasadelarbol.uy/>).

YH mentioned that the festival page on the website needs to be updated, there is a rise in showcases compared to festivals, so maybe there needs to be a distinction on the website to also



announce showcase – will create more visibility. LV. Will update with FF. LV. Link so they could do it themselves. Make a format, Google format e.g.

**ACTION:**

- The working group will send a message to the EC to ask for more ideas on writers.
- DF will look for designers for the World Day Campaign video.
- TB will create an ASSITEJ Instagram account
- EN will investigate production solutions for T-shirts.

**b. Policies, Protocols & Fundraising – if necessary**

YH presented the work of the group. The most urgent task was to create and distribute the call to create an “ASSITEJ fundraising group”; they had discussed the possibility to establish this group during the next EC meeting in Nuremberg, Germany. However they would have to hear the host from Panoptikum whether it is possible to have a ‘think-tank’ day working with this.

YH presented the ‘Seed fund and call for ideas’. MvdW asked whether the call should be open to people who are not members of ASSITEJ. YH believe they need to be members, since this idea contributes to the DNA of ASSITEJ - they need to be engaged, however it doesn’t need to be an idea from the top level or the national centre, it can be from a member from anywhere.

*The EC discussed and edited the call.*

SG read the ‘pilot fundraising campaign’ for the ‘Take a child to the theatre today campaign’. She added that the group would need to consider where to place the money.

**13. Reports from the Professional Networks**

**13.1 IIAN**

MvdW presented this report: Besides the reported, MvdW emphasised the importance of making China aware of issues related to disabilities. SG shared that she has given Mr. Yin and Ms. Kong the overall ASSITEJ approach to inclusivity, so that the seven Chinese working groups will know how inclusivity could be included, which they are very open and positive about.

**13.2 ITYARN**

Mvdw presented this report: ITYARN propose to move the ITYARN publication to Norway (official launch should be in connection to an AAG). MvdW steps in for Geesche Wartemann (as long as she is ill). YH mentioned that the Chinese needs an indication of how much time they need etc. MvdW will organize this with the board. YH further added that they need to investigate what





universities can be approached, and connect to local researchers and find out whom the articles will be translated for.

### **13.3 Next Generation (2. Report – drive/ 2017 Mantova, reports)**

MvdW presented this report.

SFF mentioned that it would be good to have thoughts from the networks on the dramaturgy. YH agreed and added that the dramaturgy should be sent to the networks as soon as possible, so they can focus their upcoming activities in accordance to this. YH further mentioned that the NG will be celebrating their 10<sup>th</sup> year anniversary in 2018, and that this celebration should be organised with China. SG asked about the distinction between projects organized by NG and by ASSITEJ. YH clarified that ASSITEJ is responsible for the bigger events, however they will try to make NG take more responsibility of the placement programmes. SSF added that NG should also contribute to the dramaturgy, and that they should be encouraged to participate in the workshops.

### **13.4 Small Size**

RF presented this report.

### **13.5 WLPG**

No report was presented. However FF updated the EC on the plans, these included:

- A translation of the 20 pages report on WLPG (into English from French)
- Ambition to organize two sessions for the next year (in November and December). However they need to find more funding.
- The possibility of establishing a French speaking international network.
- Attempt to make the writers attend the International day for playwriting (1<sup>st</sup> June)

### **13.6 Young Dance Network (in progress)**

No report was presented.

## **14. Overview Reports from Regions**

### **North America:**

This report was presented by EN.

### **Asia:**

SHK and KO presented this report:

- China, Korea and Japan have worked on the on-going showcase.
- Pakistan (new member) is eager to learn and participate.
- Continuing Asian TYA meeting in Okinawa – they seek to develop such meetings.





LV said that Mr. Shimoyama also has another TYA network and asked whether it could be included. SHK believes it is possible to combine their work. KO added that Mr. Shimoyama's network started with a festival network, but has now developed into a network bringing all the developments across Asia into his festival. They will try to get him more involved in ASSITEJ. YH added that it is good to work closely alongside them and find ways to engage them.

**Germany:**

SFF shared that a new report, based on the exchange of arts, titled: "Fair cooperation's: a new paradigm of culture diplomacy in arts management." has just been published (however only in German so far). It provides the best practice of some elements, which are also relevant to ASSITEJ. For ASSITEJ Germany it is first time since its existence, that a study of the state of art has been published. It, for one, investigates who ASSITEJ are not reaching etc. it provides as such concrete material to view the needs from data, which can also be used to present to politicians. YH asked whether he would be able to share the questions used to make the analysis, since this is something ASSITEJ also want to investigate globally. SFF will translate the main questions. SFF also emphasised the importance of promoting the placements programme, since the national centres can miss the opportunities if they do not see it on the website.

**France:**

This report was presented by FF.

**Nigeria:**

This report was presented by PU. She for one emphasised the goal to engage more Nigerian companies. In relation to that YH referred to the skills ordered review of the EC (what the EC would be willing to offer in regards to activities/workshop/seminars etc.). LV will collect this.

**Russia:**

This report was presented by TB. She also shared an ASSITEJ publication about 'memories about ASSITEJ', which for the moment is only in Russian; however she will work with MvdW on how to translate it into English. TB announced that she would like to host the EC for the King's Festival 2019 (end of April).

**Italy:**

This report was presented by RF.

**Argentina/Latin America:**

This report was presented by DF.

**OCEANA:**

This report was presented by SG.



### **Nordic/Baltic countries:**

This report was presented by LV. LV reported on the situation in Turkey, where 30 Danish delegates had recently participated in a Turkish-Danish ASSITEJ gathering. MvdW asked whether anything else could be done. LV mentioned that it would be good to keep making activities and projects, making sure they will not be isolated. MvdW. Asked about the situation of Tülin Saglam, who have remained in the ITYARN board, but not in the Turkish ASSITEJ Board. LV reported that her official passport has been confiscated and that she has been fired from the University. However LV does not believe it will last forever. Besides this, there was a good spirit between the artists, who are working hard and even “fighting” the government, as they reject to support them.

### **Africa:**

This report was presented by YH.

### **ACTION:**

- LV will collect the ‘skills ordered’ review.

## **15. Memberships**

LV explained that it was difficult to keep track of membership applications, especially due to the lack of time, but also the lack of knowledge and overview of the process, which he is still forming a general view of.

**15.1 New Membership Applications:** *Agenda correction – only application received was from Salomon Peacocks Theatre.*

- Salomon Peacocks Theatre: YH reported on the application, and that they would like to work towards membership as a national centre.

### **Following countries are in the process of becoming members:**

- **The Ivory Coast:** In the process of establishing an ASSITEJ centre (FF is the contact person). FF. reported on the Ivory Coast and the contact with Henry Yao, they are trying to find other partners to build a national centre. With enough members they will apply to establish a centre. FF has made it clear that a membership is a ‘long-lasting-relationship’ and that there should be an activity before establishing the centre, which would ensure and show the willingness to build a centre.

- **Togo** (FF is the contact person, he have requested more precise information on what they imagine.)

- **Malawi:** YH suggest making them an individual member.

- **Algeria:** FF proposes that they join in Nuremberg to find a common ground.

- **Haiti:** LV reported that they have two contacts, and that they are interested in holding a workshop (FF is the contact person). FF presented the contact person from Haiti, whom he had a meeting with in Paris, to explain the work of ASSITEJ.



## 15.2 Problematic Memberships: Iran; Bulgaria; other

**Uzbekistan:** LV reported that they are members, but have not paid for three years, the contact person has retired, LV is now in contact with a person from a larger theatre.

**Benin:** YH reported on the issues. They have not paid their membership for 6 years. YH suggested two approaches: 1) Waiting to invite them to the workshop 'Shaping stories' in Benin, to encourage them to pay their membership. 2) Let them know they cannot be members anymore.

FF proposed to wait. He is in contact with people interested in creating a national centre collaboration in Benin. PU also believes it is better to wait, and encourage them to make an effort. YH suggested that now that the 'solidarity fund' is in place, they could apply for the fund. RF proposed that they should become a corresponding member instead, since it is more affordable. FF and RF will work on the communication.

**Ecuador:** DF reported on the situation.

YH suggested to terminate national centres that have not been activated within 6 months, particularly with those who haven't paid for more than 4 years. Otherwise there are the two solutions. 1) To downgrade to be a corresponding member. 2) Apply for the solidarity fund. However Ecuador might have to be suspended, but welcomed to re-apply, where they can be activated if they pay for the next fees. DF will propose the two options for Ecuador. RF said it could be prepared before Nuremberg, and then decided there.

YH mentioned that in general they need to be more decisive on non-activated members. RF added that non-activated members needs to be sorted, and solutions on these have to be decided. YH emphasised the need to have clear communication with all centres on their fees. She proposed that RF could send a short draft to LV on how to act with the non-activated centres. RF will send an overview and description of the different situations to LV.

**Bulgaria:** RF reported on the situation in Bulgaria where they have a national centre and two individual members. YH added that they need to encourage individual members to join the centre (she reminded the EC that individual members are only members for 3-years before re-applying). YH further emphasised the importance of communication, especially the task of the SG (LV) to communicate with the members how the process works in accordance to the constitution.

### **ACTION:**

- RF will send an overview draft of non-activated centres to LV.



**VOTE:**

1) *In favour of the following process in relation to new members:* To activate the membership the membership fee has to be paid within 6 months. The membership will hereafter be activated on the website. **Unanimously passed (1 abstention).**

2) The application for individual membership handed in by Salomon Peacocks Theatre (Malawi) was approved. **Unanimously (1 abstention)**

**15.3**

The Protocols and Policies Working group mentioned the need for an induction process of new members. The working group agreed that such a need exists. How the process could look like in details is a work for the future EC-meetings.

**16. Specific Items of Business**

**16.1 Circulation of Texts**

LV reported that he had received a text (manuscript from Sweden) on how to circulate performances. YH sees two main options to circulate new plays.

1. Using an open data-base, this would be easy to organize (however, it wouldn't necessary help plays to go abroad)
2. ASSITEJ selection of great plays in a translated version; this would require more work. It could also be possible to create a multilingual data-base for plays for young audiences. FF is willing to help when this becomes more concrete.

MvdW mentioned that the EC might not have to report from regions and networks in January but only from the areas they haven't heard from. EN. Will contact WLPG for a report.

**16.2 Opener newsletter**

The order was slightly changed, and is now as follows:

- Pamela (December 2017)
- Roberto (January 2018)
- Stefan (February)
- Kenjiro (March)
- Francois (April)
- Tatiana (May)
- Daniel (June)
- Manon (July)
- Seok-hong (August)
- Yvette (September)



- Sue (October)

### **16.3 Proposal from ASSITEJ Israel of a global game ‘the task moves on’.**

YH explained the task. The results would finally be visible at the congress in 2020. The participants will have one month to complete the task or they can opt out. LV mentioned that Yonit offers to be the person driving it, but she proposes having a large centre starting it. SG added that it might be a good idea if Israel starts. YH mentioned that an e-mail address needs to be created for the replies. DF suggested that the replies should be connected to the dramaturgy. LV agreed that this would be a good way to communicate about the dramaturgy

### **16.4 Sign MOU with China**

YH reported on the meeting with YX.

They still need to look for two NG alumnus for the NG in China.

The Project and Networks group proposed having an ‘auction placement’ in China. YH thought it was a good idea, but they need to find time in the program. Perhaps there also need to be a change of words, maybe ‘matchmaking’ instead ‘auction’. SG, YH LV and YX signed the MOU.

### **16.5 Sign EC book and other documents**

*This was postponed to the next EC-meeting.*

#### **ACTION:**

- SFF will investigate specific EU-funding possibilities for the fundraising-working group.
- EN. Will contact WLPG.

### **17. Any Other Business**

RF reminded the EC that EU law would soon require permission to publish ‘personal data’.  
YH added that a correct formulation needs to be contextualized.

#### **SFF added a follow up from the project group, which included:**

- Decision to approach some people (in relation to regional workshops) e.g. in Nigeria. In 2019 KO will go to the Asian network.
- Issue with NG Placements Project. They are not visible and defined enough; suggest linking it with the Next Generation network and making it their responsibility, the Project and Network group would like to have a meeting with NG in Beijing.
- EN suggested using the gathering to offer placement for the NG coming out from Beijing.
- Suggestion to make a workshop in Beijing where the unfinished play can be finished (it was in the magazine and nobody responded).
- It was suggested to put opportunities more visibly on the website.



### **Participation in the festivals combined with the EC-meetings:**

It was decided to be clear about when the EC is present and sometimes to alternate different members from the EC. RF suggested opening the EC meeting agenda with work in the working group instead of the plenary sessions. YH responded that the working groups also need input from all EC members so that the working groups do not work in different directions. The solution proposed was to have the first working group session early in the meeting before going into reports and the rest of the agenda.

### **New idea to create a toolkit about the work in the EC for new EC members.**

#### **Newsletter:**

LV reported that the new 'Three-Year-Dramaturgy' will be presented in the November newsletter. He proposed to make a section solely on 'Opportunities'. This was agreed by the EC.

YH proposed sending a reminder to all national centres to encourage members to subscribe. LV will do this.

YH reported on the response from Panoptikum in relation to a think-tank session. LV asked whether there were any EU-funding possibilities for such a working group – specific funding for experts. SFF will investigate this.

#### **ACTION:**

- LV will send an email to all national senders reminding their members to subscribe to the newsletter.
- SFF will investigate EU-funding possibilities for the working group.

### **18. Closure**

The president once again welcomed the new EC members, thanked everybody for a productive meeting and formally closed the EC meeting in Mantova, 2017.