

MINUTES

10th Annual Meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA)

Date: 21-22 April, 2008

Venue: Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran.

List of participants is attached.

Opening the discussion, Mr. Javed Sadiq Malik, President, Asian Ombudsman Association (AOA), welcomed the participants to the 10th Board of Directors meeting. He thanked the General Inspection Organization of Iran for hosting the meeting. In his introductory remarks, he welcomed the Chief Ombudsman of Thailand as a new member of the Board, as well as greeting the Minister of Supervision of China and Chairman ACRC of Korea, who had recently assumed office. Condolences were offered on the death of Mr. Li Lixiyun, Minister of Supervision, Peoples Republic of China.

Agenda Item No. 1

Approval of the minutes of the last (9th) meeting of the Board of Directors held at Hanoi, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, on 25th April, 2007.

Decision:

The minutes were approved.

Agenda Item No. 2

Approval of agenda for the present (10th) annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the AOA.

Decision:

Agenda proposed by the AOA Secretariat was approved for discussion.

Agenda Item No. 3

Implementation Report on decisions of the last (9th) meeting of the Board of Directors.

The Executive Secretary presented implementation status/ progress on the decisions taken in the last meeting of the Board.

The Board of Directors reviewed the progress in detail. The following points came up for discussion:

- i) No action was required on agenda items No.1, 2, 3 & 7
- ii) On agenda items no. 5,8,10 &13 the Board noted the position and no further action was asked for.
- iii) Agenda items No. 4, 6, 11 &13 there of were listed as separate agenda items of the current meeting.

Agenda Item No. 4

Report of the President on the activities of the Association in terms of clause 5-5(i) of the Code of Conduct of Business of the AOA.

As per clause 5-5 (i) of the Code of Conduct of Business of the AOA, an annual report on the activities of the Association including a report of the activities of the AOA Secretariat was presented by the President before the Board.

2. The Report covered all the activities undertaken during the year 2007 and highlighted achievements such as the upgradation of the AOA website; revamping of the bi-annual news bulletin; establishment of the AOA library; focused approach towards knowledge management, including the development of a proposal for establishing a Knowledge Management Resource Centre and the development of various knowledge products. The report also mentioned that the IOI in its last Board's meeting held at Sydney, Australia allocated CD10,000 for Asian Region, to work for the promotion of Ombudsmanship.

3. The Board of Directors reviewed the progress in detail and expressed its satisfaction on achievements and activities of the Association during the year.

Agenda Item No. 5

Consideration of the status/ progress on (I) Research Studies and (II) Short Studies to be carried out by the member institutions.

I. Research Studies:

During the 9th annual meeting of the Board of Directors, it was decided that all members may complete their research projects before the 10th (current) annual meeting of the Board.

The following position emerged:-

- i) The Office of the Ombudsman of **Hong Kong**, completed the study on “**Administrative and Financial Arrangements in Ombudsman Offices**”.
- ii) First draft of the study on “**The Role of Civil Society in Promotion of Ombudsmanship**” by Wafaqi Mohtasib, **Pakistan** has been posted on the AOA website for comments and feedback by the members.
- iii) The General Inspection Organization, **Islamic Republic of Iran**, gave a comprehensive presentation to the Board on salient features of their research project “**Role of the Ombudsman in Protection of Citizen’s Rights**” and informed that it will be completed and published before December 2008. The main theme of the project was a model law for the institution of the Ombudsman covering various dimensions and aspects of its functioning.
- iv) Representative of Anti Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, **Republic of Korea**, informed that the interim report of their research study on “**Conflict Management through Alternative Dispute Resolution**” will be released by December 2008. He informed that the project covers a comparative study of different countries.
- v) Representative of Administrative Evaluation Bureau, **Japan**, informed that a private institution completed the research on the topic “**Ombudsman an Aid to Good Governance**” but since it was not of requisite quality, it was decided to re-launch the research study, which will be completed as soon as possible.
- vi) Other members informed that they are still working on their research projects.

Decision:

Members were requested to complete their research studies by the end of year 2008.

II. Short Studies:

In the light of the decision of the 9th Board meeting, so far nine short studies have been prepared by the Office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) and have been posted on the AOA website. Studies conducted by other members are awaited.

Decision:

Members were requested to complete their short studies as soon as possible.

III. Fact Sheets:

The members were requested to prepare fact sheets regarding their institutions as per template provided to them, covering legal frame work, jurisdiction, powers and investigative techniques used by them. It was pointed out that most of the fact sheets received were incomplete and required further input.

Decision:

Members were requested to complete their fact sheets by July, 2008, for posting on the AOA website.

Agenda Item No. 6

Progress on the Establishment of the Knowledge Management Resource Centre through donor funding.

During the 9th annual meeting of the Board of Directors, it was agreed in principle to establish a Knowledge Management Resource Centre (KMRC) in the AOA Secretariat through donor funding. The President AOA informed the Board that the Asian Development Bank had agreed in principle to finance the proposed activities through a Regional TA (RETA). Processing of the RETA has already been initiated and final approval for the RETA will likely be obtained by end of April, 2008.

2. The Thai representative suggested the development of key performance indicators for the proposed centre and a mechanism for monitoring of its performance. The Ombudsman of Hong Kong/ Secretary of the Board invited comments of the members on selection of project proposals to be funded from the proposed ADB grant. The President informed the members that a copy of the final project document will be circulated to the members. He also, suggested that since the proposed RETA may be approved in April/May, 2008, while the next Board meeting is to be held in 2009, therefore, key decisions on project implementation could be taken through circulation.

Decision:

Since a number of details relating to project implementation needed to be tied up with the ADB, a three member committee consisting of Vice President, Secretary and a member from the AOA Secretariat was constituted to further work out, if necessary, details with the ADB.

Agenda Item No. 7

Review of the Bye-Laws and Code of Conduct of the AOA.

During the 9th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Asian Ombudsman Association, held on 25th April, 2007, at Hanoi, Vietnam, some members of the Board observed certain discrepancies and inconsistencies in the Bye-Laws and the Code of Conduct of Business of the Asian Ombudsman Association. On the basis of proposals received from the members and input from the AOA Secretariat, proposed amendments were placed before the Board.

Decision:

It was decided by the Board to recommend to the General Assembly that the amendments in Bye Laws and Code of Conduct of the Association be approved.

EXISTING BYE-LAWS	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p style="text-align: center;">BYE-LAWS OF THE ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION (Amended upto 29th April, 2004)</p> <p>1. Name of the Association</p> <p>The Association shall be called “Asian Ombudsman Association”.</p> <p>2. Headquarters</p> <p>The Headquarters of the Association shall be located at Islamabad, Pakistan. However, a member in the host country/region, where the general meeting of the Association is held, may establish an office for the purpose.</p> <p>5. Membership</p> <p>(6) Rights and Obligations</p> <p>(iii) if there is no person performing the functions of or similar to that of a National/Federal Ombudsman in a</p>	<p>1. Name of the Association</p> <p>The Association shall be called <u>the</u> “Asian Ombudsman Association”.</p> <p>2. <u>Secretariat</u></p> <p>The <u>Secretariat</u> of the Association shall be located at Islamabad, Pakistan. However, <u>the Secretariat may be shifted to any other place through a resolution of the General Assembly.</u> Further, a member in the host country/region, where the general meeting of the Association is held, may establish an office for the purpose.</p> <p>5. Membership</p> <p>(6) Rights and Obligations</p> <p>(iii) if there is no person performing the functions of or similar to that of a National/Federal Ombudsman in a</p>

EXISTING BYE-LAWS	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p>country, or the person performing such functions is not a Full Member, the voting rights shall be exercised by the consensus of all the Full Members from that country.</p> <p>(8) Observers Persons interested in Ombudsmanship or similar functions being performed by other bodies may be invited as Observers.</p> <p>6. General Assembly</p> <p>(2) The General Assembly shall be called once every two years <u>by the President</u>. An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the President when important decisions have to be made, or when at least</p>	<p>country, or the person performing such functions is not a Full Member, the voting rights shall be exercised by the consensus of all the Full Members from that country. <u>If there is no consensus among the Full Members, the country shall lose its voting right on the particular issue under consideration of the General Assembly.</u></p> <p>(8) Observers Persons interested in Ombudsmanship or similar functions being performed by other bodies may be invited <u>as Observers in the conferences and meetings of the Association.</u></p> <p>6. General Assembly</p> <p>(2) The General Assembly shall be <u>held within</u> two <u>calendar</u> years. An extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the President when important decisions have to be made, or when at least one-fifth</p>

EXISTING BYE-LAWS	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p>one-fifth of the Full Members request and submit a written agenda within one month.</p> <p>(6) The General Assembly shall be chaired by the President or in his absence by the Vice-President and by the member who is organising the conference. In case of election of the President or the entire Board of Directors, the most senior member present in office shall preside.</p> <p>7. Board Of Directors</p> <p>(2) The Board of Directors shall be elected by the General Assembly, for a term of four years, but shall remain in office until the new Board of Directors has been elected. The Board of Directors shall be entitled to co-opt members.</p>	<p>of the Full Members request and submit a written agenda within one month.</p> <p>(6) The General Assembly shall be chaired by the President. <u>In the absence of the President, the Vice President shall chair the meeting. During the election proceedings for the office of the President or for the entire Board of Directors, the senior most incumbent Ombudsman present from amongst the Full Members, who is not contesting the election, shall preside over the session of the General Assembly.</u></p> <p>(2) The Board of Directors shall be elected by the General Assembly, for a term of four years, but shall remain in office until the new Board of Directors has been elected. The Board of Directors shall be entitled to co-opt members; <u>provided that a co-opted</u></p>

EXISTING BYE-LAWS	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p>(3) The Board may decide matters by circulation. The place of meeting (if any) shall be decided by the President in consultation with other members of the Board, and in such meetings the quorum shall be five.</p> <p>(10) The President and the Treasurer are jointly to sign all financial matters: provided that, for the purpose of meeting the operational expenses of the Headquarters, the President may, in each financial year, approve expenditure up to US\$ 1,000.</p> <p>8. Secretariat</p> <p>(2) The Auditor, selected for four years from amongst the Full Members, shall be responsible for examining the financial management of the Association and submitting annually a written report to the General Assembly.</p>	<p><u>member shall have no voting right.</u></p> <p>(3)(a) <u>The Board shall meet once every year. The place of meeting shall be decided by the Board;</u></p> <p>(b) <u>The quorum for the Board’s meeting shall be five; and</u></p> <p>(c) <u>The Board may also decide matters of urgent nature by circulation.</u></p> <p>(10) The President and the Treasurer shall jointly sign all financial <u>account statements.</u></p> <p>(11) <u>The annual budget shall be approved by the Board.</u></p> <p>(2) <u>Audited Accounts of the Association shall be presented before the Board by the Treasurer.</u></p>

EXISTING CODE OF CONDUCT	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p style="text-align: center;">ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION <u>ISLAMABAD</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CODE OF CONDUCT OF BUSINESS</p> <p>I. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Full Membership</p> <p>(1) to investigate the grievance of any person or body of persons concerning any decision, recommendation or any act committed or omitted by any administrative authority over which <u>his</u> jurisdiction exists;</p> <p>1-2 <u>A person or</u> an institution desiring to become a Full Member of the A.O.A. should submit an application in</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION <u>ISLAMABAD</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;">CODE OF CONDUCT OF BUSINESS</p> <p>I. APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP</p> <p>Full Membership</p> <p>(1) to investigate the grievance of any person or body of persons concerning any decision, recommendation or any act committed or omitted by any administrative authority over which <u>the jurisdiction of such authority exists;</u></p> <p>1-2 An institution desiring to become a Full Member of the A.O.A. should submit an application in the prescribed</p>

EXISTING CODE OF CONDUCT	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p>the prescribed form to the President, with a copy to the A.O.A. Secretariat at <u>Benevolent Fund Building, Zero Point, Islamabad, Pakistan</u>. The following supporting documents shall be annexed to the application: -</p> <p>1-5 The Board of Directors will consider the recommendations of the Committee. The Board may accept, reject, defer the application or pass any other orders subject to ratification by the General Assembly of the A.O.A..</p> <p>1-11 An application for Associate or Individual Membership should be accompanied by an application processing fee of US\$ 150/- or US\$ 100/- respectively, in the form of a Demand Draft in favour of the A.O.A. Secretariat. Should application for Membership be denied, the application processing fee will be refunded.</p>	<p>form to the President, with a copy to the A.O.A. Secretariat. The following supporting documents shall be annexed to the application: -</p> <p>1-5 The Board of Directors will consider the recommendations of the Committee. The Board may accept, reject, defer the application or <u>make any other recommendations for</u> ratification by the General Assembly of the A.O.A.</p> <p>1-11 An application for Associate or Individual Membership should be accompanied by an application processing fee, <u>the quantum of which shall be determined by the Board from time to time</u>, in the form of a Demand Draft, in favour of the A.O.A. Secretariat. Should application for Membership be denied, the application processing fee will be refunded.</p>

EXISTING CODE OF CONDUCT	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p data-bbox="398 316 631 347"><i>Membership Fees</i></p> <p data-bbox="309 405 1120 606">1-14 The Associate Member or Individual Member shall, within two months of the approval of their membership, pay the Annual Membership Fee which at present is US\$ 150/- and US\$ 100/- respectively.</p> <p data-bbox="309 683 1120 750">II ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p data-bbox="398 794 1008 826">Notification of and Nomination For Election</p> <p data-bbox="309 849 1120 1050">2-2 Nomination shall be made in the prescribed form (Form 2002-2A) and sent to the President, with a copy to the A.O.A. Secretariat, before the stipulated closing date for nominations.</p> <p data-bbox="309 1107 1120 1174">Eligibility for Nomination and Election to the Board of Directors</p> <p data-bbox="309 1219 1120 1420">2-4 Nomination for election to the Board of Directors shall be in writing signed by the candidate and one proposer and one seconder, <u>who shall be Full Members of the Association who are</u> eligible under para. 2-3. <u>Full</u></p>	<p data-bbox="1263 405 2051 660">1-14 The Associate Member or Individual Member shall, within two months of the approval of their membership, pay the prescribed Annual Membership Fee, <u>the quantum of which shall be determined by the Board from time to time.</u></p> <p data-bbox="1240 683 2051 750">II ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS</p> <p data-bbox="1330 794 1939 826">Notification of and Nomination For Election</p> <p data-bbox="1263 849 2051 1050">2-2 Nomination shall be made <u>on</u> the prescribed form (Form 2002-2A) and sent to the President, with a copy to the A.O.A. Secretariat, before the stipulated closing date for nominations.</p> <p data-bbox="1240 1107 1984 1174">Eligibility for Nomination and Election to the Board of Directors</p> <p data-bbox="1240 1219 2051 1362">2-4 Nomination for election to the Board of Directors shall be in writing signed by the candidate and one proposer and one seconder eligible under para. 2-3.</p>

EXISTING CODE OF CONDUCT	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p><u>Members nominating or seconding candidate(s) and/or accepting nomination to stand for election to the Board of Directors, will be asked to confirm their eligibility by stating that they have paid their annual membership fees and have no other outstanding dues of the A.O.A..</u></p> <p>2-5 Nominations shall reach the President at least three days before the date set for the general meeting.</p> <p>2-6 The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors comprising the President, the Vice President and the Secretary, duly assisted by the A.O.A. Secretariat staff shall scrutinize the Nomination Papers and confirm the eligibility of the candidates <u>and the Full Members who have proposed and seconded the nomination.</u></p> <p>2-7 All nominations shall be open for inspection at the <u>annual</u> general meeting and the declaration of the President of the number of nominations received shall be deemed final.</p>	<p>2-5 Nominations shall reach the <u>A.O.A. Secretariat</u> at least three days before the date set for the general meeting.</p> <p>2-6 The Executive Committee of the Board of Directors comprising the President, the Vice President and the Secretary, duly assisted by the A.O.A. Secretariat staff shall scrutinize the nomination papers and confirm the eligibility of the candidates, <u>proposers and seconders defined under para 2-3.</u></p> <p>2-7 All nominations shall be open for inspection at the General Assembly meeting and the declaration of the President of the number of nominations received shall be deemed final.</p>

EXISTING CODE OF CONDUCT	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p data-bbox="398 316 712 347">Procedure for Election</p> <p data-bbox="304 408 1120 549">2-9 The most senior member of the Association, who is not a candidate for any position, shall be invited to conduct the election as Presiding Officer of the session.</p> <p data-bbox="304 632 945 663">III. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYE-LAWS</p> <p data-bbox="304 705 1120 845">3-2 The proposal of amendment shall be forwarded to the A.O.A. Secretariat in Islamabad, Pakistan in writing <u>on a hard copy.</u></p> <p data-bbox="304 871 936 903">V. OFFICE OPERATION/PROCEDURE</p> <p data-bbox="304 928 1120 1069">5-1 The Secretary, Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)'s Secretariat, Pakistan, shall be the Ex-Officio, Executive Secretary of the A.O.A..</p> <p data-bbox="304 1104 1120 1305">5-2 The Executive Secretary will be assisted by the Director (Coord), Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)'s Secretariat, who shall be the Ex-Officio Office Manager of the A.O.A..</p>	<p data-bbox="1236 316 1550 347">Procedure for Election</p> <p data-bbox="1236 408 2051 609">2-9 The most senior member <u>as defined in Bye-law 6(6),</u> of the Association, who is not a candidate for any position, shall be invited to conduct the election as Presiding Officer of the session.</p> <p data-bbox="1258 632 1877 663">III. AMENDMENTS TO THE BYE-LAWS</p> <p data-bbox="1258 705 2051 794">3-2 Proposals for amendments shall be forwarded to the A.O.A. Secretariat in writing.</p> <p data-bbox="1236 865 1868 896">V. OFFICE OPERATION/PROCEDURE</p> <p data-bbox="1330 919 2051 1059">5-1 <u>The Executive Secretary and the other staff shall be appointed by the Board on the recommendations of the President.</u></p> <p data-bbox="1330 1104 2051 1244">5-2 <u>The terms and conditions of the appointment and service of the Association's staff shall be approved by the Board of Directors.</u></p>

EXISTING CODE OF CONDUCT	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS
<p data-bbox="304 316 1003 347">Duties and responsibilities of A.O.A. Headquarters</p> <p data-bbox="304 370 1048 402">5-5 The A.O.A. Headquarters shall be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="448 427 1120 737">i. preparation and submission to the Board an Annual Report on Association activities including a report of the activities of the A.O.A. Headquarters and, at the time of the Conference, submit a report to the regular meeting of the Association members; <li data-bbox="448 775 1120 973">j. perform all duties proper to the A.O.A. Headquarters and such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned to by the Board or by the President; and <li data-bbox="448 995 1120 1311">k. the officer(s) of the A.O.A. Headquarters may be called on to sit in an official capacity on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="497 1110 721 1142">• <u>the Board</u> <li data-bbox="497 1165 1120 1311">• <u>such other Committees established by the Board from time to time as the Board consider appropriate.</u> 	<p data-bbox="1263 316 1921 347">Duties and responsibilities of A.O.A. <u>Secretariat</u></p> <p data-bbox="1263 370 1944 402">5-5 The A.O.A. <u>Secretariat</u> shall be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="1352 434 2051 743">i. preparation and submission to the Board an Annual Report on Association activities including a report of the activities of the A.O.A. <u>Secretariat</u> and, at the time of the Conference, submit a report to the regular meeting of the Association members; <li data-bbox="1352 766 2051 963">j. perform all duties proper to the A.O.A. <u>Secretariat</u> and such other duties as may, from time to time, be assigned to by the Board or by the President; and <li data-bbox="1352 986 2051 1136">k. the officer(s) of the A.O.A. <u>Secretariat</u> may be called on to sit in an official capacity <u>in any meeting of the A.O.A.</u>

Agenda Item No. 8

Consideration of applications for membership of the AOA of:-

- i. Lok Ayukta (Ombudsman), U.P., India and**
- ii. The Authorized Person of the Oily Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (Ombudsman) as full member.**

The Office of Lokayukta, U.P, India, and the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (Ombudsman) applied for Full Membership of the AOA. The Executive Committee of the Board while considering the working paper prepared by the AOA Secretariat recommended to the Board of Directors to accept both the applications, subject to the applicants completing any remaining formalities

Decision:

- i) The Board of Directors approved to recommend to the General Assembly the membership application of the Authorized Person of the Oliy Majlis of the Republic of Uzbekistan for Human Rights (Ombudsman), for full membership of the AOA.
- ii) The Board noted that the application of the Lokayukta, Uttar Pradesh, India as a full member is in order. However, the Lokayukta, Madhya Pradesh, India who is a senior member of the Association, may be informed about the decision of the Board.

Agenda Item No. 9

Performance assessment of the Manager Coordination.

The President AOA briefed the Board about the assignments completed during the last year and the future work plan of the Manager Coordination.

Decisions:

The Board decided as follows:

- i) His performance may be constantly monitored and placed before the Board in its annual meetings.
- ii) The President was authorized to review the salary package of the Manager Coordination within the maximum limit of US\$1000 per month as authorized by the Board in its 8th annual meeting.

Agenda Item No. 10

Audit report of the AOA accounts.

The audit report prepared by M/s WA Associate (Pvt) Limited, for the period 1st January to 31st December, 2007, was placed before the Board of Directors.

Decision:

The Board approved the placement of the Audit Report before the General Assembly.

Agenda Item No. 11

Approval of AOA Annual Budget 2008.

The Executive Secretary briefed the Board about the financial proposal for the AOA annual budget 2008. The Standing Commissioner, Republic of Korea, was of the view that preference may be given to further improvement of the website, while the Vice President AOA, was of the view that optimal use of the AOA library will be ensured if member countries benefit from the same. The Chief Ombudsman, Thailand, was of the view that efforts must be made to obtain material from regions other than Asia for the benefit of the members. The representative from Japan raised the issue of translation of the material supplied by different countries into English. The Secretary of the Board suggested that proper cataloguing of the material may be done. The President AOA, informed the Board that cataloguing of the collected material is already underway and that the website had recently been improved substantially and further improvements will be made with the

passage of time. He also agreed with the suggestion that the AOA library may be equipped with additional literature on relevant subjects. Regarding the translation of material, members were of the view that material in any language can be supplied to the print library with its synopsis in English.

Decision:

The Board approved the following financial proposals for the AOA budget 2008:

(in US\$)

Sr. No.	Items	Budget proposal 2008
1	Remuneration of Manager Coordination	8000
2	Telephone, fax, internet & web hosting & maintenance charges, postal & courier service charges, stationery and Office equipment	1000
3	Fee of the Auditor	500
4	Establishment of the Print Library	3000
5	Printing	1000
6	Miscellaneous expenditure	1000
	TOTAL	14500

Agenda Item No. 12

11th AOA Conference at Bangkok, Thailand in 2009.

The Ombudsman of Thailand informed the Board that they are planning to host the Conference in November 2009. Members will be informed about the exact dates within next two months to allow them enough time to plan their schedules.

2. On the theme and format of the Conference, the Head of the General Inspection Organization Republic of Iran, proposed that country reports and research papers may be presented in the Conference.

Decisions:

- i) AOA Secretariat may invite the proposals from members about the theme and sub-themes of the 11th Conference.
- ii) Executive Committee will select the theme, sub-themes and decide about the format of the conference from the proposals received.

Agenda Item No. 13

Investment and Use of AOA Funds.

In order to make better use of the available funds having a balance of US\$153,073/-, on 1st of January 2008, the Secretariat proposed that:

- i) Provision be made for recurrent expenditures for three years, using actual expenditures of 2007, as a benchmark, with 10% increase per year.
- ii) The balance funds be:
 - a) made available for members to use on specific initiatives; and
 - b) invested in a suitable instrument with maximum returns.
- iii) It was also proposed that:
 - a) some amount may be earmarked for provision to the members for specific purposes, However, the issue of determining the criteria of allocation was required to be decided by the Board; and
 - b) eligibility of new institutions may be based on quality and nature of proposal, as the main criteria.

Decisions:

- i) It was decided to await outcome of the final decision on the funding of Knowledge Management Resource Centre from Asian Development Bank.
- ii) CD\$10,000 allotted by IOI to Asian Region may be used by the members separately. The Chairman, Anti Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Republic of Korea, in his capacity as the Regional Vice President of the IOI

may , finalize and share with the Board, the proposed criteria and mechanism for use of the CD\$10,000 regional grant.

- iii) Funds can also be used for research proposal from members.
- iv) AOA Secretariat will invite research proposals from members and prepare a working paper for distribution of funds. Decision of the members may be obtained through circulation.

Agenda Item No. 14

Campaign to Increase AOA Membership

The AOA Secretariat proposed to launch a special membership drive to reach out to potential members by sending a membership invitation pack that would include printed material such as a brochure on AOA highlighting the benefits of membership, the AOA News Bulletin, and an application form. For this purpose, a separate provision of funds has been made in the annual budget proposal for 2008.

Decisions:

The proposal was approved.

Agenda Item No. 16

Change in Nomenclature and Functions of the Office of the Ombudsman, Republic of Korea.

It was observed that the nomenclature and functions of the Office of the Ombudsman, Republic of Korea has been changed. It has been re-designated as Anti Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, headed by a Chairman.

2. Standing Commissioner, Anti Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Republic of Korea, briefed the Board about the change and informed that jurisdiction and purview of the institution has been widened without curtailing the power it was enjoying previously.

3. The Board deliberated whether this change is to be taken in the spirit of Bye-Law 7(6) as successor of the previous institution or under Bye-Law 5(5) treating the change as a new institution.

Decisions:

- i) While the Board agreed to the viewpoint of the Standing Commissioner, Anti Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Republic of Korea, he was however, requested to forward the law/ rules under which the institution was re-designated.
- ii) The Executive Committee of the Board consisting of the President, the Vice President and the Secretary was given the authority to examine and decide about the status of Anti Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, Republic of Korea, in the light of new law/ rules under which the institution was re-designated. Their report will be placed before the General Assembly in its next session.

While concluding the last session of the meeting of the Board of Directors, the President informed that Ms. Alice Yuen-Ying Tai, Ombudsman, Hong Kong, SAR China, will be retiring before the next Board meeting, therefore, the members will be deprived of her valuable input in the affairs of the AOA. The Board placed on record the contribution and efforts of Ms. Alice Yuen-Ying Tai, in strengthening and promotion of the charters of the AOA. Her close interaction with the members of the Association and the benefits derived from her experience and intellectual input in strengthening the organization were highly appreciated. The members presented their compliments to Ms. Alice Yuen-Ying Tai, on her accomplishments both as Secretary of the Board and as Ombudsman of Hong Kong. It was noted that but for the efforts of Ms. Alice Yuen-Ying Tai, the Association would have not achieved the place of eminence in the international arena.

2. The Board also placed on record its thanks and appreciation for the arrangements and hospitality of the Islamic Republic of Iran and especially to Mr. Justice Muhammad Niazi, President, General Inspection Organization, the deputies, staff of the office and all ranks of his department.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS
10TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE AOA
21-22 APRIL, 2008 – TEHRAN, ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN

PRESIDENT

Mr. Javed Sadiq Malik, Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman), Pakistan.

VICE PRESIDENT

Madam Merceditas N. Gutierrez, National Ombudsman, Philippines.

SECRETARY

Ms. Alice Yuen-Ying Tai, Ombudsman, Hong Kong, SAR China.

TREASURER

Mr. Lee, Kweon-sang, Standing Commissioner, Anti Corruption and Human Rights Commission, Republic of Korea.

MEMBERS

Mr. Wei Wang, Vice Minister, Ministry of Supervision, Peoples Republic of China.

Mr. Justice Mohammad Niazi, Head, General Inspection Organization, Islamic Republic of Iran.

Mr. Takao Ito, Deputy Director General, Administrative Evaluation Bureau (AEB), Japan.

Mr. Poonsup Piya-Anant, Ombudsman, Thailand

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mr. Muhammad Ihtesham Khan, Secretary, W. M. Secretariat, Pakistan.

AOA COORDINATOR

Ms. Viqar un Zeb, Additional Secretary, W.M. Secretariat, Pakistan.

OFFICE MANAGER

Mr. Abdur Rauf, Director, W. M. Secretariat, Pakistan.