

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE ASIAN OMBUDSMAN ASSOCIATION (AOA) 28-11-2005 HONG KONG, CHINA

Agenda Item No.1

Approval of the minutes of the last meeting of the Board of Directors held at Seoul, Republic of Korea, from 28th April 2004

The President requested the Board to consider and confirm the minutes of the last meeting of the Board held at Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 28th April 2004.

DECISION

2. The Board unanimously approved the minutes of the previous meeting of the Board of Directors held at Seoul, Republic of Korea, on 26th April, 2004 (Annex-A/Page. 25-40).

Agenda Item No. 2

Approval of draft Agenda for the present meeting of the Board of Directors of the AOA

3. The President requested the Board to consider and approve the Agenda for the Board of Directors' meeting.

DECISION

4. The Board unanimously approved the Agenda for the present meeting of the Board of Directors of the AOA (Annex-B/Page. 41-42).

Agenda Item No.3

Consideration of the AOA Office's proposals regarding topics and mode of financing, to be selected by the member countries/ institutions for research and study.

5. In accordance with the decision of the Board in the last meeting, the suggestions for improvement in the proposals submitted by the Sub-Committee of the Board of Directors in its paper, were invited, but no suggestions/ comments were received. The AOA Office worked out a list of topics on which the member institutions could carryout research. The list is annexed at Annex-D/Page-43. The member institutions were requested that while selecting the topics they may also suggest the mode of financing for research from the following three options:

- i. the expenditures will be borne by the institution interested in carrying out research;
- ii. expenditure may be met partially on request from the AOA; and
- iii. the research may be carried out on bilateral basis with any other institution within the AOA countries by exchange of research fellows.

6. The President requested the Board to consider the proposal.

7. The Secretary AOA gave the background of the Agenda item that how need for the research and study among the member institutions was felt and the issue was considered and discussed in the last two meetings of the Board of Directors held at Macao, China and Seoul, Republic of Korea. Accordingly, a Sub-Committee was formed which met in Islamabad, to draft a working paper to further deliberate upon the issue. On the basis of the working paper, the

members of the Association were requested to select the topics along with mode of financing, on which they want to carry out research. However, no response was received from any member. She emphasized that the idea of research and study is worthwhile and should be pursued actively to justify existence of the Association.

8. The President said that after the formation of the AOA, the Ombudsmen and like institutions are meeting at the Association's forum from last many years. Now, in order to achieve the objectives of the AOA, we have to show concrete progress towards these ends, for our mutual benefit, by sharing our experiences.

9. The Vice Minister for Supervision, Ministry of Supervision, People's Republic of China said that the research can be useful for the Board of Directors and General Assembly in improving its working to strengthen the cause of Ombudsman-ship in the Asian Region. He identified two other topics for research i.e.

- i. How can the administrative supervision organs (Ombudsman's Office) protect the public interest?
- ii. How to strengthen the capacity building of the administrative supervisory organs (Ombudsman Office).

10. It was also mentioned by the Chinese Vice Minister that expenditure on research on the above topics would be borne by the Ministry of Supervision.

11. On a query from the representative of Japan, the Secretary AOA explained that for academic research there would be no need of funds. However, for the research involving travelling, boarding and lodging there would be a question that who would bear the expenditure? Whether the concerned office would be

ready to bear the expenditure or they want the expenditure to be borne by the other countries or from the AOA funds.

12. The representative of Iran emphasized that before choosing one of the topics, there is a need to consult the university which would be involved in the research and after having consent of the university, proposal for research be placed before the Board for approval. On completing the process, the research should be carried out. It was emphasized that project should be completed in time. Islamic Republic of Iran endorsed the topics and termed them as good and stated that all the countries can benefit from the research carried out on these topics, provided the results of the research and recommendations made there in are implemented. He further stated that each country may choose one topic and follow up the research. The research can be carried out by the institution itself or by involving some local universities. The concerned institution or university should provide the funds. The subject for research should not only be of national importance but also of international concern. He also emphasized that the subject of research should be comprehensive. It should identify the strength of one institution in cross-cultural environment.

13. The member from Malaysia emphasized that the results of the research should be provided to the other countries. The information on working of the Ombudsman office and like institutions collected from member countries be provided to other countries/ institutions by displaying it on the website of the AOA and internet. In this context, the AOA Secretariat in collaboration with other members may draft a Memorandum and forward it to the members for their

consideration. He also emphasized on the need to spell out the objectives, modalities, and mode of financing of the research.

14. The Secretary, AOA emphasized that:

- i. all the Board's members either identify one of the topics suggested by the AOA Secretariat, for research or suggest their own topic;
- ii. inform the General Assembly about their recommendations;
- iii. the mode of financing should also be indicated; and
- iv. later the universities may also be consulted in selection of the topics of research.

15 President while summarising the discussion said that;

- i. research is necessary for us to be able to draw strength from each other's organizations for improving working of our own organizations.
- ii. the list of topics for research indicated in the working paper is no more than indicative, to which each member country should add and identify one particular topic of research, which they would like to do in a year or two. This should be done either today or tomorrow latest so that we can incorporate these in the minutes;
- iii. the funding arrangements for the research should be flexible, to be left to the member countries, to work out in the context of their own national settings and if necessary, some request for funding could be made for possible assistance by the governments of the member countries of the AOA.

- iv. while selecting the topics, those topics should basically be selected which could be helpful in strengthening and empowering the relevant organizations of the Ombudsman or like institutions in each other's countries and to be able to more effectively protect the interests of the citizens against maladministration, in the cross cultural context.

DECISION

16. It was unanimously agreed that
 - a. list of topics for research indicated in the working paper is no more than indicative . Each member country may identify one particular topic of research, which they would like to do in a year or two;
 - b. funding arrangements for the research will be flexible and left to the members to work out in the context of their own national settings and if necessary, possible assistance by the governments and other members of the Association should be requested;
 - c. selected topics, for research should basically focus on strengthening and empowering the relevant organizations of the Ombudsman or like institutions in each other's countries. This will be helpful and effective in protecting the interests of the citizens against maladministration in a cross-cultural context; and
 - d. members may choose the topic for research along with mode of financing now and if after consultation with the relevant institution or the university they want to change it, the Association will be flexible enough to allow research on the topic suitable to them.

17. On recommendations of the Board, the members selected following topics for carrying out research: -

- i. ensuring the independence of the Ombudsman's office (Wafaqi Mohtasib, Pakistan);
- ii. administrative arrangements to enhance the independence of Ombudsman Office (Hong Kong);
- iii. strengthening investigation functions of the Ombudsman and how to make government agencies accept recommendations made by the Ombudsman (Republic of Korea);
- iv. how can the administrative supervisory institution (Ombudsman) protect the public interests (People's Republic of China);
- v. role of Ombudsman in enhancing the citizens' rights (Islamic Republic of Iran);
- vi. the Ombudsman-An Aid to Good Governance (Japan);
- vii. the Ombudsman and integrity of the Government (Macao);
and
- viii. the role of Ombudsman organization in enhancing good governance and delivery of services of the public sector (Malaysia).

18. It was recommended that members of the General Assembly in the forthcoming session may be asked to select one of the topics mentioned in the working paper or identify their own subject of research along with mode of financing and forward their proposal to the AOA's Secretariat at their earliest convenience so that the research subjects may be allocated by the Board.

Agenda Item No.4

Consideration of the request of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan regarding reduction of Annual Membership fee to US\$ 200/-, as a special case.

19. The General Assembly vide its Resolution dated 29th April 2004, accepted the Full membership of the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan. In response to the AOA's Office fee Invoice, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan vide her e-mail dated 16th March, 2005, expressed that being a newly established institution with limited resources and on account of some unavoidable circumstances, her country was unable to pay the full membership fee as required under Article 1-7 of the Code of Conduct of Business of the Association. She has requested to be allowed to continue Azerbaijan's membership at a fee of US\$ 200 per annum, beginning from the calendar year 2005.

20. As there is no provision in the Byelaws and the Code of Conduct of Business of the Association, regarding reduction in the amount of annual membership fee, therefore, with the approval of the President, it was intimated that the matter would be placed before the Board of Directors of the Association in its next meeting.

21. As per Byelaws of the Association, there are four categories of members i.e. Full Members, Associate Members, Honorary Life Members and Individual Members (Article 5 of the Bye-Laws). The General Assembly fixed the annual membership fee for different categories as follows:

Full Members: US\$ 1000/- (Article 1-7 of the Code of Conduct)

Associate Member: US\$ 150/- (Article 1-14 of the Code of Conduct)

Individual Member: US\$ 100/- (Article 1-14 of the Code of Conduct)

Honorary Life Member: Nil.

22. It will not be in the interest of the Association to allow a different subscription structure for the same category of membership. It is suggested that considering its constraints, the Commissioner for Human Rights of Azerbaijan, may be asked to change the status of membership, if so desired, from Full Member to Associate Member.

23. The President requested the Board to consider the request of the Commissioner for Human Rights as well as the proposal mentioned above to resolve the matter.

24. The Secretary AOA said that in case of IOI, the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan, changed membership from institutional to individual member. Reducing fee is not an option for Board. In case of CIS countries whatever course of action we will adopt, it will be repeated. The General Assembly has already amended the relevant clause of Byelaws authorizing the Secretary 'to suspend the membership in case of default for payment of dues, after serving three reminders or communications.

25. The member from Japan indicated that other members have no difficulty in payment of membership fee. In the absence of rule, we are not in a position to have a reduced fee structure. So we can downgrade the membership of the Republic of Azerbaijan to Associate Member.

26. The representative from Islamic Republic of Iran, said that we should obey the rules, Byelaws and Code of Conducts and the request of Azerbaijan as such

cannot be acceded to, unless the Byelaws of the Association are amended. He proposed that the Republic of Azerbaijan, could participate in the Conference as an observer. In case of Iraq, we considered the proposal and decided that if a country has special circumstances then we can consider its case when things have stabilised in that country, the position can be reviewed.

27. The member from the Republic of Korea, said that the AOA should consider the request of the Republic of Azerbaijan, by asking it to change its membership from Full Member to Associate Member.

28. The member from Malaysia, said that we should first ask Azerbaijan, to change its membership. They should accept membership as Associate Member and after normalcy in financial position their membership can be restored as Full Member.

29. The member from People's Republic of China, supported the AOA office's proposal and said that we should respect the Byelaws and accommodate Republic of Azerbaijan, request and should be given an option whether it would continue as Full member of the AOA and pay the prescribed fee or accept the down gradation in its membership to Associate membership. After that we should inform the General Assembly accordingly.

30. The President observed that there will be no discrimination in implementation of charter and Rules of Business of the Association and the Byelaws and Code of Conducts shall be followed. It was agreed that the Commissioner for Human Rights, Republic of Azerbaijan, be offered either to pay the requisite fee for the Full membership or accept the down gradation in the

membership status from Full Member to the Associate Member. Accordingly, she accepted Azerbaijan's membership as Associate Member.

DECISION

31. The Board recommended to the General Assembly to change the membership of the Commissioner for the Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan, to Associate member. The Board also approved the draft resolution (Page-58) for placing before the General Assembly for consideration/ ratification regarding change of membership status of the Commissioner for the Human Rights of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Agenda Item No.5

Invitation of proposals from member countries/ institutions for appropriate utilization of AOA Funds, presently, having a balance of US\$ 101,229.18

32. Presently, the Association has funds amounting to US\$ 101,229.18 in its account, generated from the annual membership subscription. It will be appropriate that some portion of the funds may be invested in the form of fixed account and bonds or any other suitable investment for optimum return. Further, proposals may also be invited from the members, regarding use of funds to promote the cause of Ombudsmanship in the Asian Region.

33. The President requested the Board to consider the proposal.

34. The Secretary AOA said that our objective is to make our association more effective. If we indulge in the activity of investing and financing, it will be a full time job. IOI on this aspect appointed a task force to look into the issue.

35. The member from Republic of Korea said that investing in financial market is profitable as well as a risky venture. He suggested that the utilization of funds in promoting the Ombudsmanship by conducting the research will be beneficial to Ombudsmanship.

36. The President AOA mentioned that the US Dollar account maintained by the AOA Head Office is a saving account and some profit on it is earned as is evident from the income and expenditure statement. Profit earned on deposit is US\$ 575/-. So it is earning something, but the issue is whether more can be earned by placing the amount in some other account having a higher and safe rate of return or government bonds having a guaranteed fixed rate of return. It was proposed that a Sub-Committee consisting of Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Secretary of the AOA may be constituted to examine the issue of alternate investment in safe and government guaranteed instruments with a better rate of return than the existing savings account.

37. The member from Islamic Republic of Iran mentioned that we can buy some international debentures and can also invest in the research, building website and establishment of AOA Office. We can have a body consisting of Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Secretary, to consider the possibilities of investment.

38. The member from People's Republic of China, said that the funds are generated from the membership subscription of the AOA. This is not a commercial organization. We should maintain maximum stability in the funds. First priority is the safety and second is the value added to the funds for

optimum and safe return. Portion of funds may be invested in the bonds guaranteed by the government and the loss (if any) may be borne by the concerned country/ institution, where the funds are invested.

DECISION

39. It was decided to setup a Sub-Committee consisting of Secretary, Treasurer and the Executive Secretary of the AOA, to explore the possibility of investing the funds in safe and government guaranteed instruments with competitive rates of return. The recommendations of the Committee will be placed before the Board in its next meeting.

Agenda Item No. 6

Invitation of proposals from member institutions for holding the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors in 2006 and the 10th Conference of the AOA in 2007.

40. The President informed the Board that in the last meeting of the Board of Directors held on 26th April, 2004, in Seoul, Republic of Korea, it was decided unanimously that subject to confirmation within six months time from Malaysia, the Conference in 2007, would be held in Malaysia, in May or June, 2007. Malaysia vide its letter dated 13th December 2004, has showed its inability to host the 10th Conference of the Association due to some unavoidable circumstances.

41. The President requested the Board to invite fresh proposals from the member countries/ institutions for hosting the Board of Directors meeting in 2006 and biennial Conference of the General Assembly, in 2007.

42. The member from Malaysia apologized for not being able to hold the next meeting of AOA due to the following reasons:

- i. General Elections in the country in 2007.
- ii. Restructuring of Ombudsman's Office.
- iii. Ombudsman has been assigned to conduct a public opinion poll about government policies.

43. The President AOA offered to hold the next Board of Directors' meeting in Pakistan subject to approval by his successor. Confirmation will be made latest by June 2006.

44. The member from Islamic Republic of Iran proposed to use the AOA, funds for hosting the conference.

45. The Secretary AOA, thanked Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, for the services rendered by him as Ombudsman of Pakistan and President of the AOA. She stated that since, all the members of the Board of Director have hosted the conference once; therefore, they may repeat their offer for hosting the conference.

46. The Secretary AOA concluded that we have not been able to find the host of next conference in 2007. General Assembly will be appraised about the position and will be requested to delegate the powers to Board of Directors for deciding the venue and date of the next meeting. However, in order to avoid such situation in future, all the members should decide in advance and get prior approval of the Government to hold next General Assembly meetings and Board of Directors' meetings, so that in future we have a choice.

DECISION

47. The following decisions were made: -
- i. the offer of President AOA, to hold the next annual meeting of the Board of Directors in 2006, subject to confirmation by his successor, was accepted by the Board; and
 - ii. the Board approved the draft resolution (Page-60), to delegate the authority by the general assembly to the Board of Directors to fix the venue and dates of the 10th AOA Conference, to be held in 2007, for placing before the General Assembly for consideration/ ratification.
- P.S. National Ombudsman, Minister, Inspector General of the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam, expressed his willingness to hold the biennial Conference of 2007 on confirmation of its membership of the Association by the General Assembly. Accordingly, he was thanked for the offer by the President and the Secretary and informed that a formal communication to the effect of membership and acceptance of his offer to hold the next biennial conference would be sent to him.

Agenda Item No. 7

The Executive Staff of the Association may be allowed to meet their expenditure incurred on participation in the Association's meetings/ conferences, from the AOA Funds.

48. Since, the inception of the AOA, expenditures of the Executive Staff of the Association on boarding, lodging and Air-travel, to attend the meetings/ conference of the Association are being met from the annual budget of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman)'s Office. Sometimes, it becomes difficult to get the approval from the Government of Pakistan. Now, the Association has sufficient funds, therefore, in future on the pattern of the International Ombudsman Institute (IOI), boarding, lodging and Air-travel of the Executive Staff (the Executive Secretary and the Office Manager) on attending the meeting/ conference may be met from the AOA's funds.
49. The President requested the Board to consider the above proposal.

50. The Member from Malaysia said that this facility should be extended to other institutions also that do not have the funds. The modalities indicating type of travelling class, hotel accommodation and amount of Daily Allowance, be mentioned in Code of Conduct of AOA. . Some portion of budget for the purpose be allocated in the annual budget plan of the AOA. He also suggested some part of expenditure should be borne by the AOA and some by the host.

51. The Secretary AOA, said that she has no objection to the proposal, in principle. The members would be concerned about the expenditure incurred on administrative matters. The IOI members have observed that too much expenditure has been incurred on Administrative heads of accounts and less on research projects. Since, IOI Board has already taken the decision on that, it becomes difficult for them to reverse the same. We should further consider the proposal and decide it later on.

52. The member from Islamic Republic of Iran, proposed that the detail about the expenditure should be mentioned in Code of Conduct. Some portion should be borne by the AOA and some by the host. The detail about modalities should be left to the President.

53. The President said that before taking decision we should consider that we have two accounts– a Rupee account and the US\$ Account. The rupee account is the one-time contribution of the Government of Pakistan to the Association while the dollar account is generated from the annual membership subscription fees. From Rupee account we are meeting the routine monthly expenditure incurred on telephone, fax, website etc.

54. The Secretary AOA suggested that Treasurer should arrange a discussion and working paper on the issue, in consultation with the Secretary and the President and delay the decision for one more year.

DECISION

55. The members agreed to the proposal, in principle. However, it was recommended that in order to sort out modalities, the Treasurer would arrange a discussion and draft a working paper in consultation with the President and the Secretary of the AOA, for decision in the next annual meeting of the Board.

Agenda Item No. 8

Reports, Decisions, Findings and Articles published in the member countries/regions in their local languages may be translated into English, for exchange of the material and benefit of the members.

56. Important decisions/ findings, reports and articles published in member countries/ institutions in their own national/ local languages may be of interest to other members and sharing of experiences on the subject between the members may be fruitful. The members may be asked to send such reports, articles, findings, etc. to the AOA Headquarters Office along with translation in English, which may be circulated among the member countries/ institutions.

57. It is also proposed that the member countries may forward the electronic/ soft copies of the important material to the Headquarters of the Association, for its display on the Association's website. The members/ institutions, which have

not yet launched their websites, may also be requested to launch them for the benefit of the other members of the Association

58. The President requested the Board to consider the above suggestions.

59. Representative of Malaysia suggested that in order to make AOA more active, news bulletin of AOA about its activities be arranged, so that members can share information and experiences with each other.

60. The President said that the proposal for releasing the biannual news bulletin, focusing on the activities of the members and the material/ information they want to share would be taken up by the AOA Secretariat. Member institutions should provide the English translation of the useful material to be shared with the other members. For the purpose the services of an expert called 'Bulletin Officer' may be hired for compilation and editing of the bulletin. The President AOA may be authorized to incur the expenditure up to US\$ 500/- per annum, for honorarium of the Bulletin officer. The Bulletin Officer can be engaged from inside or outside the Office of the Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman), Pakistan. The first Bulletin will be issued by the end of July 2006.

61. Secretary, AOA suggested that the information material should be forwarded to AOA office in English. President may be authorised to incur the expenditures up to US\$ 500/- per annum on hiring the services of Bulletin Officer. However, disbursement should be on discretion of the President AOA and position on the subject be reviewed in the next meeting of the Board.

62. Representative from People's Republic of China, termed the proposal useful for exchange of information among members and suggested that

members should adopt different approaches in the dissemination of information, like placing the information on AOA website.

63. Representative from the Republic of Korea, offered to provide the services for liaison in electronic exchange of information/ material so that all the member institutions can benefit from it.

64. Member from the Macao, proposed that the bulletin should be on quarterly basis. This would enhance cooperation among the members.

DECISION

65. The AOA Secretariat will publish a bi-annual news bulletin focusing on the activities of the members and towards this end the following action will be taken:-

- i. the member institutions would be required to provide the English translation of the material/information to be shared with the other institutions, to the AOA Secretariat;
- ii. the services of an expert, called 'Bulletin Officer' would be hired by the AOA Secretariat for compilation and editing of the proposed Bulletin;
- iii. the President AOA has been authorized to grant honorarium up to US\$ 500/- per annum to the Bulletin Officer;
- iv. the first issue of the Bulletin will be released by the end of July 2006; and
- v. the position will be reviewed in the next meeting of the Board.

Agenda Item No. 9

Consideration and approval of the financial statements of the AOA Accounts for the period from 25th April 2004 to 20th November 2005.

66. The financial statements of the accounts of the AOA, including income and expenditure statements and balance sheets up to 20th November, 2005, prepared by the AOA Secretariat are at Annex-E&F/Pages. 52-55.

67. The President requested the Board to accord approval to the financial statements.

68. The President briefed the Board that all the members have paid their annual subscription except the Ombudsman of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir, Pakistan, and AOA Secretariat could not contact him on account of the destruction of the infrastructure of all the Government offices, as a result of the earthquake on 8th October, 2005. In order to generate some profit on deposits, the President suggested changing the AOA Pak Rupee Current Account to saving account.

DECISION

69. The Board noted with satisfaction the financial statement as of 20th November 2005 and approved draft resolution for placing before the General Assembly for consideration/ ratification (Page-57).

70. It was also approved that:

- i. Pak Rupees current account of the AOA may be changed into Saving Account.
- ii. The Ombudsman of the Azad Jammu & Kashmir may be condoned for payment of the annual subscription till return of normalcy in the region.

Agenda Item No. 10

Approval of the Conference arrangements and Agenda of the General Assembly meeting

71. The host of the 9th AOA Conference, Hong Kong, has finalised the programme/ arrangements (Annex-H/Page. 56) for the meeting of the Board of Directors and the General Assembly.

72. The President requested the Board to approve the Agenda for the General Assembly.

73. Secretary, AOA, the host of the conference, briefed the Board of Directors about conference arrangements and informed that the proceedings in the conference will be informal. Each session of the conference will be declared open with opening remarks of the Moderator, followed by a presentation given by the Speaker, talk on the subject by two or three panellists and discussion by the floor. On query from representative of Islamic Republic of Iran, about the selection criterion of the Speakers and panellists of different plenary sessions, she explained, that Office of the Ombudsman of Hong Kong, is a member of Australasian and Pacific Ombudsman Conference (APOC). Therefore, some panellists have been selected on the basis of their expertise regarding the peculiar nature of complaints lodged with the Ombudsman offices of the region and mentioned the complaints lodged by the prisoners as an example.

DECISION

74. The Board unanimously approved the programme and arrangements of the Conference and the General Assembly.

Additional Agenda Items

Agenda Item No. 11

Consideration of Applications for Membership of:

- i. Government Inspectorate of Vietnam, for Full Membership and;**
- ii. The Ombudsman (Akyikathy) Institution of the Kyrgyz Republic, for Associate Membership**

75. The Secretary AOA informed that Government Inspectorate of Vietnam, and the Ombudsman (Akyikathy) Institution of the Kyrgyz Republic, applied for Full and Associate membership respectively, of the AOA. Since both are found eligible under the existing criteria prescribed by the relevant articles of the Bye-Laws and the Code of Conduct of AOA, therefore, the Board of Directors of the AOA is requested to recommend to the General Assembly of the AOA, to accept the applications of the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam as Full Member and the Ombudsman (Akyikathy) Institution of the Kyrgyz Republic as Associate Member, with effect from 1st January 2006.

DECISION

76. The Board unanimously recommended/ approved the draft Resolution (Page-59) for placing before the General Assembly for consideration/ ratification to admit the Government Inspectorate of Vietnam as Full Member; and the Kyrgyz Republic as Associate Member with effect from 1st January 2006, into the AOA.

Agenda Item No. 12

Exchange of Expertise through Providing Training Facilities to other Institutions

77. The representative of Malaysia suggested that in order to benefit from the expertise of the institutions in the region, the training facilities/ expertise available with the institutions might be exchanged. All the members in principle agreed to the proposal and felt the need for exchange of experts, training material, and related facilities. It was agreed that the member countries might identify the needs of training in specific field so that the services of a trainer may be arranged for a group of investigating staff. Regarding expenditure, it was agreed that the host might provide the local hospitality and other logistic arrangements while the AOA may bear the cost of travelling of the trainer.

DECISION

78. It was decided that the members should forward concrete proposals to the AOA Secretariat for consideration in the next meeting of the Board.

Agenda Item No.13

Vote of thank for Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, for the services rendered by him as President of the AOA and Ombudsman of Pakistan

79. As Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, will be retiring as Wafaqi Mohtasib (Ombudsman) of Pakistan on 24th February 2006, on completing his tenure of four years, and this was the last time that he was presiding over the Board's meeting, therefore, the Secretary AOA, placed a resolution before the board offering a vote of thanks to Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada, recognizing and thanking the invaluable services rendered by him, as President of the AOA and

Ombudsman of Pakistan and also wished him a happy and prosperous life in retirement.

DECISION

80. The board unanimously adopted the resolution tabled by the Secretary AOA, offering a vote of thanks to Mr. Imtiaz Ahmad Sahibzada for the services rendered by him, as President of the AOA and Ombudsman of Pakistan and wished him a happy and prosperous life in retirement.