

***MINUTES OF IMIA***

***9th ANNUAL GENERAL***

***MEETING***

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**Buenos-Aires, October 17th 1987.**

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## BUENOS-AIRES (ARGENTINA)

- OCTOBER 17, 1987 -

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1 - The Meeting opened at 9.30 am. with the President, S. KAIHARA who thanked V. YACUBSOHN for his kind hospitality.

S. KAIHARA also presented apologies for the absence of J. FLINT who, at the last moment, was prevented from joining us even though he had put in a lot of effort to prepare this meeting.

V. YACUBSOHN expressed his pleasure for receiving the IMIA General Meeting in his country.

After some practical information, V. YACUBSOHN expressed that he would have been pleased to welcome P. REICHERTZ who unfortunately died on August 6 this year ; he also expressed sympathie to D. SHIRES who had the great pain of loosing his daughter some months ago.

S. KAIHARA expressed the sadness of every IMIA members in the face of these dramatic events and pursued by reviewing of the enormous contributions made by our friend Peter REICHERTZ.

A minute of silence was observed in his memory.

2 - R. SALAMON presented the apologies and proxies of :

- MELBYE (IFIP)
- J. FLINT (Treasurer). Proxy to S. KAIHARA
- D. SHIRES (Honorary Fellow) who misses his first general meeting of IMIA
- SOLHEIM (Norway) - Proxy to H. PETERSON
- B. BARBER (Vice President EFMI) - Proxy to R. SALAMON
- HORBACH (F.R.C.) - Proxy to R. SALAMON
- SCHERRER (Switzerland) - Proxy to R. SALAMON
- GELL (Austria) - Proxy to R. SALAMON
- MORALES (Cuba) will be represented by Sonia HERNANDEZ .

The "final" members list is presented in (APPENDIX 1).

### 3 - AGENDA (See APPENDIX 2).

The Agenda was approved with some modifications :

- Item 9.6 ("Nomination Committee") is added
- Item 10.5 will be discussed with Item 17
- Item 14.2 ("Others Proposals") is added
- Item 16 disappears
- Items 19.1 and 19.2 disappear.

### 4 - MINUTES

- The minutes of G.A. Meeting, October 86, Washington, are adopted.
- The assembly is informed that the minutes of the Board Meeting (Berlin, May 1987) were adopted by the Board Meeting on October 16, Buenos-Aires with two modifications (OUYANG and SALAMON were present but not listed).

### 5 - IFIP General Assembly, Budapest, September 1987 (APPENDIX 3).

The IMIA President was present in Budapest for a short period of time and asked J. MICHEL (Trustee) to present the IMIA Report.

J. MICHEL said that the IFIP was very impressed by IMIA activities.

S. KAIHARA reported that IFIP formed a Committee to review IMIA activities. This is IFIP routine procedure. The committee members are MELBYE (Chairman) and KAIHARA (APPENDIX 4). After a long discussion about the various advantages and disadvantages of our association with IFIP, it was decided that the review report be presented to IMIA AGM for discussion before it was submitted to IFIP.

### 6 - SECRETARIAT REPORT

In the absence of J. FLINT, S. KAIHARA presented a report from the working consisting of P. REICHERTZ, J. FLINT and himself.

The group recommended that, considering that no single method of communication was perfect, for computer mails, BITNET EARN seemed the most appropriate for IMIA and every member should try to have access to the network.



## **7 - REGIONAL MEMBERS**

### **7.1 - EFMI**

A report was presented by R. SALAMON in the absence of B. BARBER (see APPENDIX 5).

### **7.2 - IMIA Latin American Group**

S.KAIHARA welcomed SIMON MARIO TENDER from Uruguay. V. YACUBSOHN (Secretary) and R. RODRIGUES (President) presented IMIA-LAC activities.

R. RODRIGUES informed us about the difficulties encountered by Cuban colleagues for joining Medinfo 86 in Washington because of the problem of obtaining a visa.

## **8 - INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

### **8.1 - WHO**

S. MANDIL explains the increasingly better relations between WHO and IMIA by the correlation of :

- \* IMIA orientation from "Medical Informatics" to "Health Informatics".
- \* Big efforts made by IMIA for "internationalization" of its activities such as links with Latin America, Africa, Asia and so on.

For these reasons WHO is helping IMIA more and more. For example :

- \* Good links with Working Groups 1, 6 and 9 and some Working Conferences were prepared with WHO participation (Geneva, Victoria).
- \* Some members of IMIA actively participated in an International Consultation of WHO for the preparation of a report "Present and Potential Uses of Informatics and Telematics in Health" in response to a request from the Executive Board of WHO with the aim of assisting national health authorities in introducing, enhancing and managing the uses of Informatics in the health sector.
- \* Some members of IMIA will be invited to attend Regional Committee Meetings of WHO every time Informatics will be among the chosen topics.
- \* Some members of IMIA are invited in Florence (Italy) in November 87 as consultants for the way of building a Center of Evaluating Software.

\* Finally in May 1988 for the 40th anniversary of WHO each IMIA representatives will receive a letter (from S. MANDIL and S. KAIHARA) asking them for their participation (Video or Posters).

S. KAIHARA thanked very much S. MANDIL and wishes to continue and amplify these very good relations with WHO.

8.2 - J.L. WILLEMS gives a brief report about the WMA activities.

IMIA received an invitation to name a representative to attend the 59 th World Medical Assembly held in Madrid October 4-8, 1987.

Unfortunately, these dates are near those of our G.M so that none of IMIA members attended the WMA meeting.

### 8.3 - IBI

No information was received except that IBI was involved in the organization of the Havana Conference (February 88).

### 8.4 - I.H.F.

No information.

## **9 - COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### 9.1 - Membership

\* The Application of the Swiss Society for Medical Informatics for Membership of IMIA is presented by R. SALAMON, seconded by A. de TALENS and accepted unanimously with the membership Fees called "Third Category" (600 swiss Francs for 1986).

\* S. KAIHARA informs the G.M. that the Korean Society of Medical Informatics was formed in September 1987 although it has not applied for membership. Dr NARON was accepted as Corresponding member for Thailand.

\* A long discussion was opened about the difficult problem of the situation in USA.

- They have not payed their membership fees for at least 2 years.

- There are some internal problems between few different Medical Informatics Association.

A decision was taken to ask S. KAIHARA and H. PETERSON (with A. GOSE) to investigate the situation.



### 9.2 - Publications

In replacement of P. REICHETZ, S. KAIHARA proposed the nomination of J. Van BEMMEL (as Chairman) and T. PIEMME (as Co-Chairman) for this Publication Committee. No other proposal has been made by the Assembly.

### 9.3 - Newsletter

A. GOSE presented the newsletter Vol 12, n° 1, the first one she has co-edited with O. RIENHOFF (APPENDIX 6).

It is a very good job and the assembly congratulated the editors. This newsletter will be edited twice a year.

### 9.4 - Publicity

The point was made by A. GOSE. Since the previous booklets were lost, 1000 new copies are going to be reprinted.

### 9.5 - Bylaws

H. PETERSON proposed some changes in the Bylaws as decided at the Berlin meeting in May 25, 1987. Only the points 4.2.1., 4.3.1, 4.3.2 and 4.7 were revised (APPENDIX 7).

Note that the "General Assembly" will be changed to "Annual General Meeting".

The proposal was seconded by A. GOSE and accepted unanimously.

### 9.6 - Nomination Committee

\* D. SHIRES (Chairman of this committee) proposed J.L. WILLEMS to be Vice President Elect. There is no other proposal in the Assembly.

This proposal was seconded by S. KAIHARA. No secret vote was demanded. The results of the vote were :

1 Abstention

0 No

13 Yes

S. KAIHARA congratulated J.L. WILLEMS. J.L. WILLEMS thanked everybody and told us how much he was honored and conscient of the hard but interesting job he will have to do.

\* S. KAIHARA proposed two nominations for Honorary Fellows for two well known friends who acted (and will continue) so efficiently in the field of Medical Informatics : H. PETERSON and D. LINDBERG.

This proposal is seconded by R. SALAMON and unanimously accepted.

## **10 - FINANCIAL REPORT**

10.1 - In the absence of J. FLINT the reports were presented by S. KAIHARA who thanked J. FLINT for his very good job (as treasurer and for secretariat).

10.2 - Financial Statements for the year ended December 31, 1986 (APPENDIX 8).

Its Approval was proposed by S. KAIHARA, seconded by P.J.H. PANSEGROUW. Adopted unanimously.

10.3 - The G.A.M. was informed of the Interim Financial Statements of June 30, 1987 (APPENDIX 9).

10.4 and 10.5 - will be discussed with point 17 because they are based on a 5 % increase of fees.

This financial report lead to important discussions summarized as follows :

\* Why was IMIA's loan to MEDINFO 86 in US dollars and not in Swiss Francs as usual ?

Because of that, IMIA has lost near 25 % of this loan.

S. KAIHARA is asked to investigate this question with J. FLINT.

\* MEDINFO is the main financial support for IMIA and MEDINFO 86 in Washington was a great mean with a budget near three millions US \$. The benefits for IMIA were presented to be close 100 000 US \$.

It seems to be only 27,000 US \$.

A lot of IMIA representatives express their deceit and understanding. They asked for an investigation. An audit is presently made in USA for MEDINFO 86 and IMIA will ask for the results of this Audit.

\* Some countries did not pay the Membership Fees in years 86 and 87 and an action was made by J. FLINT and/or S. KAIHARA to recover these fees.

On the other hand, Belgium and South Africa were listed as not having paid the IMIA membership on a document sent by J. FLINT.

It was a mistake as J. WILLEMS (for Belgium) and P.J.H. PANSEGROUW (for South Africa) gave the A.G.M. participants the proof of their payment.

Information will be sent to J. FLINT in that sense.



## **11 - MEDINFO**

### **11.1 - Medinfo 86**

Based upon the attendance (3000) and from a scientific perspective, MEDINFO 86 was a great success. But as we had discussed before, some unresolved financial problems remain.

### **11.2 - Medinfo 87**

Doctor OUYANG presented a report on Medinfo 89 (see APPENDIX 10). The A.G.M. was informed that the Editorial Committee will not be changed but B. BARBER has accepted to act as chairman.

### **11.3 - Medinfo 92 and future Site Requests**

S. KAIHARA proposed J.L. WILLEMS for chairman of a Site Selection Committee for future MEDINFO.

The proposal was seconded by H. PETERSON and adopted unanimously.

J. WILLEMS will ask H. PETERSON, D. SHIRES and R. SALAMON to be members on this committee. It was already decided that the formal proposal for MEDINFO 92 must be sent to this committee before April 1st 1988.

Further information will be sent to every IMIA representative before the end of 87. The decision of the Site Selection will be taken in the Annual Meeting in Geneva, September, 1988.

## **12 - FUNDING MECHANISM FOR THE WORKING GROUP**

A proposal was made to give a grant to new Working Groups :

- . 2500 Swiss Francs for WG9
- . 2500 Swiss Francs for WG8

The proposal was made by S. KAIHARA, seconded by R. SALAMON and accepted unanimously.

## **13 - WORKING GROUP**

### **13.1 - WG1**

A working Conference is in project in 1989 in Victoria (see Item 15).

### **13.2 - WG3**

No report

13.3 - WG4

No report. KENNY will be asked to stay chairman for one more year.

13.4 - WG5

Ambulatory Care Information System.

Because of the death of P. REICHERTZ, chairman of this Working Group, S. KAIHARA proposed to end this group.

The proposal is seconded by A. de TALENS, adopted with 3 abstension. Because it is a crucial area it was decided to wait for the Hanover Conference (1988) for a new proposal of a Working Group on this topic.

13.5 - WG6

A Working Conference will be organized in Geneva, September 12 to 15, 1988 (see Item 15).

13.6 - WG7

No report.

13.7 - WG8

H. PETERSON presents the report of this very active group in place of K. HANNAH. The group has some financial problems and it was the reason of our previous decision (Item 12).

13.8 - WG9

A report was sent by O. RIENHOFF (APPENDIX 11). This group has good links with WHO (S. MANDIL is member of this group) and is involved in the Habana Conference (see Item 15).

13.9 - WG10

A Working Conference is in project in Nijmegen, the Netherlands (see Item 15).

### General Remarks about Working Groups

- \* S. KAIHARA asked each chairman to send him the names of the members of the group.
- \* A. GOSE proposed to make periodical change in chairmanship.
- \* WG must be more involved in Regional Conference or in Medinfo (example EFMI-Roma).
- \* Some audit and general thinking must be elaborated and it will be good to organize a meeting with all the chairmen of these groups. H. PETERSON is asked to think about this decision.

### 14 - PROPOSED WORKING GROUP

14.1 - The chairman of W. Group on Expert System in Medecine will be proposed until the meeting in Hanover (September 88).

14.2 - A proposal of a Working Group on "Wide Area Health Information Systems" is made by A. PEREZ de TALENS (and H.J. ROELANTS). It was decided to first, organize a Conference on this topic hoping that the results of this Conference would lead to the constitution of such a Working Group.

### 15 - WORKING CONFERENCE

Past : A report was made by J. MICHEL on Working Conference "Progress in Biological Function Analysis by Computer Technologies which took place in Berlin, GDR, May 19-23, 1987 (APPENDIX 12) chaired by J. WILLEMS. It was a great success.

Approved : A report was made on the Havana Conference February 1988 (see APPENDIX 13) by Sonia HERNANDEZ and A. CASTILLO. They asked IMIA to send a representative of IMIA . This help was done though the grant of MG9 (see Item 12).

Conference of WG6 "Computerized Natural Medical Language Processing for Knowledge Representation". Hosted at WHO, Geneva, Switzerland, September 12 to 15, 1988 is in a very good way. The chairman is Roger COTE.

Proposed : 3 Working Conferences are officialy proposed to the AGM.

- \* A Working Conference on Medical Informatics : Educationnal Issues and Trends is proposed by R. SALAMON at University of Victoria, Canada, in April-May 1989. The chairman of Organization Committee will be D. PROTTI, of Scientific Committee will be J. MOEHR, of Editorial Committee will be R. SALAMON.



The proposal was seconded by S. KAIHARA and adopted with the following results : 1 Abstention, 12 Yes.

A loan of 5000 Swiss Francs was asked for this Working Conference.

The motion presented by R. SALAMON, and seconded by S. KAIHARA was adopted unanimously.

\* A Working Conference proposed by F. GREMY on "Methodological Approaches to Medical Technology Assessment" in Montpellier (FRANCE) in June or early September 88 was presented by R. SALAMON. The chairman will be C. FLAGLE for Scientific Program and F. GREMY for Organization. The proposal was seconded by S. KAIHARA and adopted with 1 Abstention, 12 Yes.

A loan of 5000 Swiss Francs was asked for this Working Conference. It was adopted unanimously.

\* A Working Conference on "Towards New Hospital Information System" was proposed by Working Group 10 in the Netherlands, May 14-18, 1988. The motion was presented by J. WILLEMS seconded by A. de TALENS and adopted with 12 Yes, 1 Abstention.

No loan was asked for.

## 17 - MEMBERSHIP FEES

\* A motion was proposed by A. de TALENZ : "Not to Apply the 5 % fees increase decision which was made during the General Meeting in Lisboa, Portugal in 1985".

The motion was seconded by YACOBSON.

R. SALAMON explained that the motion will be voted by some European Representatives he had the proxies, but not by himself.

The results of the vote was : Abstention 4, In Favour 6, Against 9.

So the decision of 5 % increasing fees will be applicable for 1988.

\* No Reorganization of the structure was proposed.

\*The budget for 1988 was proposed by S. KAIHARA, seconded by R. SALAMON and unanimously adopted.

## **18 - SECRETARIAT**

Various possibilities will be continued and be explored.

## **19 - FUTURE MEETINGS**

19.3 - The Board Meeting will be held in Singapore May 29 and 30

19.4 - The Annual General Meeting in Geneva (WHO building) is proposed on September 17 and 18 (the 16th will be a board meeting). The proposal was made by R. SALAMON and seconded by H. PETERSON, unanimously adopted. Because the Meeting will be held in a WHO building, the future participants are advised that SMOKING WILL BE FORBIDDEN.

19.5 - No Decision yet. Marocco will be perhaps the site of this board meeting.

19.6 - The motion of a AGM in 1989 in Beijing (October 14 and 15) was presented by Dr YOUNGANG, seconded by S. KAIHARA and unanimously adopted. For 1990 some proposals are known from South Africa and France, but decisions will be made later.

## **20 - OTHER BUSINESS**

S. KAIHARA was empowered to decide what must be done from IMIA in the memory of P. REICHERTZ.

S. KAIHARA closed the meeting at 7 PM by thanking again V. YACUBSOHN for his kind hospitality and by thanking all the members present hoping they will also participate to next year's meeting in Geneva.