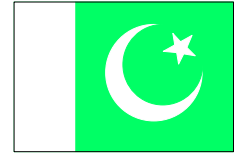




SWISS PAKISTAN SOCIETY



Minutes of the 28th AGM of the Swiss Pakistan Society (SPS)

Held at Biel on 11th October, 2008

Attendees (list available on request) / Agenda: distributed earlier

1. The meeting was opened by Mr. Thomas Wernly (TW), President of the Society

Summary (TW):

TW thanked the patron (Her Excellency Mrs. Ayesha Riyaz, Ambassador of Pakistan) and her staff for extending their active support to the Society. He also thanked Mr. Peter M. Niederberger, the ex President of the Society for his attendance. He condemned acts of terrorism in Pakistan which have been on the rise in the recent past. One minute of silence was observed to honor the victims of these terrorist acts.

2. The agenda was adopted unanimously.

3. Address of her Excellency Mrs. Ayesha Riyaz (AR), Ambassador of Pakistan

Summary (AR):

AR conveyed her optimism concerning the future of SPS and expressed appreciation for its efforts in the humanitarian domain. However, she emphasized the need for making these efforts known on a wider scale. She noted that some truly gigantic efforts of SPS have not been more widely recognized. AR suggested that SPS should place a high priority on expanding its menu of cultural activities. There are many possibilities in this area which should be capitalized on.

She also asked the SPS to focus more of its resources on signing up new members.

AR reminded the audience that next year Pakistan and Switzerland will celebrate the 60th anniversary of their relations. An exhibition of historical artifacts from the ancient "Gandhara" Civilization is planned in collaboration with the Rietberg Museum in Zurich. The drive for new members and stepped up cultural activities will coincide with the new year in 2009.

4. Minutes of the 27th AGM were approved unanimously.

5. Mr. Saad Khan (SK) and Mr. Sohail Mirza (SM) discussed the activities of the SPS in recent years. Detailed presentations & reports are available upon request. A summary is provided below:

Summary (SK-Cultural):

SK described past cultural events including picnics organized by SPS in Neuchatel in 2007 & 2008, which were a great success. An Eid Party was organized in Geneva in 2007, and SPS sponsored a Pakistani Booth at AISSEC (Geneva) with the help of Pakistani students.

Summary (SK-Humanitarian & Technical):

Substantial humanitarian and technical work was accomplished. In addition to 7 Pakistani doctors that were trained at the Swiss Paraplegic Center, Nottwil, Col. Asad Qureshi was trained as spine surgeon in Switzerland. The SPS arranged the shipment of 18 Functional Electrical Simulation Units to Pakistan and trainers from Swiss Paraplegic Center (Nottwil) went to Pakistan to “train the trainers” in Pakistan.

World renowned spinal surgeon, Prof. Max Aebi who offered his invaluable help immediately after the Earthquake, made seven trips to Pakistan. During his visits, Prof. Max Aebi trained several doctors and operated on numerous individuals. SPS is now collaborating with Prof. Aebi on a major project to modernize spine treatment facilities in Pakistan. The formation of a Pakistan Swiss Spine Foundation is in progress with Liaqat National Hospital as a possible initial venue of operations.

Several projects were initiated, including: simple water disinfection (SODIS), cost effective solar food dehydration, and high performance solar water disinfection. Some were successfully completed while others are being actively followed-up. (Pls see the presentation of SM).

Collaboration with Pakistan’s pre-eminent architect, Mrs. Yasmeen Lari, in the Northern Areas has proved itself to be very fruitful. Mrs. Lari’s activities, centered in the Northwest Frontier Province, are aimed directly at improving the economic status of women. Her initiatives cover a wide scope, including: Destiny Roti, handicrafts, low cost solar dehydration of fruits and vegetables, hygiene, education, proper toilets, water, and wastewater management. (See also the presentation of SM.)

Summary (SM - Humanitarian and Technical)

SM highlighted some of the projects, together with Mrs. Lari and highlighted the need for improved technology transfer. He pointed out the tremendous potential of the Society as a platform for progress. He noted that the SPS can be a catalyst for economic activity and technology transfer and an extended arm of the Embassy to be beneficial for Pakistanis and Pakistan.

SM emphasized the need to think through humanitarian projects in their entirety. Planning for sustainability and preparing for potential problems evolving from the activity should be part of the project. As an example, he noted that when households get running water for the first time, a wastewater disposal problem is created. Without proper planning this can have devastating consequences for the community being served.

He briefly touched upon several projects including: Destiny Roti, Re-forestation Drives, Schools, Water, Wastewater, and the establishment of a Research Center in the North to study local flora and fauna, growth of biological crops and plants, and the development of milk based businesses.

Summary (others)

- Mr. R. Thöni (SEPP Basel) gave a brief description of the SEPP to the members. This is a project under way for the past 10 years enabling the schooling of about 250 children, mostly from underprivileged areas of Lahore (detailed report can be obtained from SEPP, (www.sepp-pakistan.ch)).
- A recorded message of Brigadier (retired) Mr. Yasub Ali Dogar appreciating the work of SPS and the need to collaborate further was played for the audience.

The list of new members is as follows:

Individuals / Families

- Lisa Ross Magenty
- Khurram Shehzad
- Huong Huyn
- Faiza & Hasan Murtaza
- Jan Vankrunkelsven

Corporate

- Somicon AG - Basel
- SEPP (Swiss Educational Project Pakistan)

The General Body unanimously approved conferring an **honorary membership** of the Society on **Mrs. Yasmeen Lari**. The General Body also unanimously approved an honorary membership for **Mr. Saad Khan**. **Pro memoria:** Brig. Retd. Yasub Ali Dogar and Prof. Max Aebi have already been awarded an honorary membership of the SPS.

6. Financial Matters

Accounts of the SPS were audited by and Mr. S. M. Attia and Mr. Rana Fayyaz. The auditors found the accounts to be in order. Mr. Attia pointed out that the presentation of accounts should be re-formatted to be in line with GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles). He will, at a later date, advise the new board to adapt the new system.

The budget was presented for the next year with a total inflow of CHF 8900.- vs. the planned expenses of CHF 4400.-

It was pointed out that cultural functions requested by many require a financial undertaking by the organizers beyond their financial limits. The Board will deal with this issue in detail during its next meeting.

7. Elections

The new Board was elected as follows:

- President: Mr. Thomas Wernly
- Executive Vice President: Mr. Sohail Mirza
- Secretary: Mr. Nazim Rahman
- VP Zurich: Mr. Saad Khan
- VP Geneva: Mr. Dildar Rabbani
- Electronic Editor: Mr. Nazim Rahman

- Auditors: Mr. S. M. Attia / Mr. Rana Fayyaz

8. Issues raised by the former VP – Geneva

Although plausible and well meant, the General Body believes that addressing these by incorporating new clauses in the by-laws of the Society will unnecessarily make the Society bureaucratic and rigid. Hence the General Body (**while respecting these views**) will not recommend the amendment of by-laws.

9. Board Recommendations

The board recommendation to appoint standing committees for (a) Humanitarian and Technical Assistance & (b) Cultural Activities was approved. These recommendations are in line with the 27th AGM (item 6) where the Board was asked to come up with necessary proposal.

The by-laws shall be amended / augmented as follows:

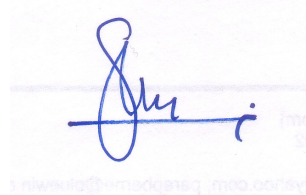
- (1) The Board shall conduct the affairs of the Society and represent it to the outside world. It shall determine the Society's program of activities and supervise its finances. It shall draw up its own procedure.
- (2) When deemed necessary the Board may create Standing Committees and give them appropriate mandate (such as Standing Committee for Humanitarian and Technical Activities and Cultural Activities). These Committees shall report to the Board.

10. Miscellaneous

- a. SK presented a list of awards given to him for the work of SPS. These include a shield by the Federal Relief Commissioner and a Certificate of Commendation by President Pervaiz Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz.
- b. Recognizing his tireless efforts and excellent contribution to the cause of the Society, a watch was presented to SK by TW on behalf of the Society.
- c. The dwindling membership issue was once again brought to discussion and the new Board was asked to pursue the matter as a high priority issue.

The meeting was adjourned and the guests were treated to a meal at the Rotihaus (Zollhaus) Restaurant.

On behalf of the Board



Sohail Mirza

Web Resources:

- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Yasmeen_Lari,
- <http://www.jazbah.org/yasmeen.php>
- www.pakistanheritage.org/main.html
- www.karavanpakistan.com
- <http://www.hirslanden.ch/de/Aerzte/card.cfm?DoctorID=1343>
- www.sepp-pakistan.ch/fileadmin/Docs/2007_SMS_Project_Manager_Annual_Report.pdf
- www.swisspak.com

Distribution:

- Attendees
- SPS Members
- Electronic Editor (for necessary changes to the SPS Web site)
- Secretary (for necessary changes to SPS documents)

Dated: 20th October, 2008

Bärenbrunnenweg 8
4144 Arlesheim (Switzerland)