

**Proceedings and minutes of the Meeting of SWARBICA Executive Board and General
Conference,
5-7TH MAY 1997, Tehran**

At the outset Mr. S. H. Shahrestani Director General of Iran National Archives Organization opened the meeting on 5 May, 1997. and expressed his satisfaction and happiness that all the SWARBICA members were present in the meeting and welcomed the participants Thereafter Mr. Atique Zafar Sheikh Secretary General of SWARBICA on behalf of other members thanked Iran National Archives Organization (INAO) and Islamic Republic of Iran for hosting 7th SWARBICA Meeting and General Conference after a lapse of 6 Years, enabling this branch of ICA to be reactivated again. Present as members at this meeting were:

- 1) Mr. Seyed Hassan Shahrestani, Director General of INAO
- 2) Mr. Atique Zafar Sheikh, Director General of National Archives of Pakistan.
- 3) Dr. K.D.G. Wimalaratne Director General of National Archives of Sri Lanka.
- 4) Dr. Sharifuddin Ahmed, Director, of National Archives of Bangladesh.
- 5) Mr. H.D. Shing, Deputy Director, National Archives of India
- 6) Ms. Sanu Nani Kansakar, National Archives of Nepal.

The meeting discussed at length the items of the primary agenda (copy enclosed) and the following decisions were taken:

1. Newly elected SWARBICA office bearers are:

- Chairman: Mr. S. H. Shahrestani (IRAN)
- Vice Chairman: Mr. S. Sarka (INDIA)
- Secretary General: Mr. Atique Zafar Sheikh (Re-elected) (PAKISTAN)
- Treasurer: Dr. K. D.G. Wimalaratne (SRI LANKA)

2. Treasury Problems and payment of dues arrears were discussed in detail .It was determined that all members should remit their dues for t996 and their arrears to the INAO's external account till the end of June 1997, in order to enable the present treasurer (INAO) to submit full accounts of the treasury to New Treasurer, Director National Archives of Sri Lanka Demand letters in this regard should be given by INAO to the member countries before they have Tehran.

3. In order to reactivate the SWARBICA Branch, following activities were approved and decided upon.
 - a) A 3 day Awareness seminar to be held by the National Archives of Bangladesh in April or May 1998, (The Exact date would be announced 6 months prior to the Seminar) Local hospitality and accommodation would be provided by the host country to SWARBICA treasury would make the travel arrangement of the participants.
 - b) The next SWARBICA Executive Board Meeting will be held in Colombo -Sri Lanka in Oct, 1998.
 - c) SWARBICA shall publish regularly its archival journal at least once a year. Member countries should send their archival essays and articles on their country's history/archives for the next planned issue to the Director General, National archives of the Pakistan before September 1997.
 - d) Publication of SWARBICA Newsletter; the first issue of the revised Newspaper will be published by INAO provided that Member Countries send their appropriate materials till 30 June 1997.
4. The New membership of Maldives and Bhutan was discussed: Letters with reference to this meeting (5 May) should be sent persuading them to become SWARBICA members.
5. No member was nominated to attend ESARBICA General Conference though. It was decided that only a letter of acknowledgement be sent to their secretariat. On 6 May, a General conference of SWARBICA members and scholars from Iran and archivists of the Iran National Archives Organization was held. Mr. Shahrestani, Director General Iranian National Archives Organization, Presided over this conference and all the representatives and heads of National Archives of the members countries made presentation on the archival activities in their respective countries including the details of the growth of the National Archives in their own countries .They also identified some material which could be of use to other member countries specially for Iranian scholars. This conference continued for about four hours. After the presentation by each member country a Question Answer session was held in which many points of common interest were discussed and ways and means were suggested for exchange of material of interest to each other. Earlier all the new office bearers were introduced by the chairman Mr. Shalrestani and the conference expressed its satisfaction and approval of election of new office bearers after a lapse of six years.

Next day on 7 May, 1997 again the meeting of the Executive Board was held in which the future activities of SWARBICA as mentioned above were confirmed and it was stressed that now onward we may stick to our schedule of activities .All the members were again reminded to settle the dues. The new Treasurer was requested to look into the matter personally with the cooperation of ex-treasurer and try to settle the treasury matters as early as possible. He was also requested to inform all the member countries of the new Treasury Account which will be opened by him in Sri Lanka, so that in future all subscription should be remitted to new account in Sri Lanka. At the end of the Board

Meeting the members passed the following resolution and expressed their gratitude to the Govt. of Islamic Republic of Iran for their hospitality etc.

During the course of their stay in Iran all the participants spent their some time in the under - construction building of the Iran national Archives Organization and paid visits to some museums and exhibition in Tehran.

RESOLUTION

The participating member countries resolved to place on record their appreciation and thanks to the Govt. of Islamic Republic of Iran and Director General, Iran National Archives Organization and his staff for the Excellent arrangements and hospitality extended to the participants of the member countries.

In connection with the Archives Day which is celebrated by the Iran National Archives Organization on 7th May each year, the president of Islamic republic of Iran Ayatollah Hashmi Rafsanjani, addressed the Archivists and scholars of Iran and participants of the SWARBICA Executive Board meeting on 8th May, 1997, in the president house. He spoke about the importance of archives and preservation of cultural heritage. He assured that the Govt. will give full support to the Iran National Archives Organization in completing it's under construction building and reorganizing it with better future programmes for development.