

**Minutes of the Meeting of SWARBICA Executive Board and General Assembly and seminar,
12-15th OCTOBER, 1998, Colombo**

The SWARBICA Executive Board Meeting General Assembly and Seminar was officially inaugurated in a befitting ceremony by the Acting Minister for Culture & Tourism Government of Sri Lanka, The Ceremony started with the lightening of the Candle Lamp and two minutes Silence for the ex-Director of Sri Lanka and other archivists who had expired .This was followed by a welcome address by the Director, National Archives of Sri Lanka Dr K.G.D. Wimalaratne, Address by the Secretary, Ministry of Culture Govt. of Sri Lanka Address by Mr. Seyed Hassan Shahrestani President, SWARBICA, and vote of thanks by the Secretary General, SWARBICA, Mr. Atique Zafar Sheikh.

Thereafter the Acting Minister for Culture & Tourism addressed the Gathering which included a number of Scholars, historians, archivists and diplomats and senior citizens. Later the meeting of the SWARBICA Executive Board was held in Colombo from 12-15th October, 1998 as planned in Tehran meeting in May 1997. The following attended the meeting of the SWARBICA Executive Board i.e.

- 1 Mr. Seyed Hassan Shahrestani, Director General, National Archives Organization Iran.
- 2 Dr. K.D.G. Wimalaratne, Director National Archives of Sri Lanka
- 3 Mr. Atique Zafar Sheikh, Director General National Archives of Pakistan
- 4 Dr. Nur-un-Nahar Rahman, Deputy Director Bangladesh National Archives
- 5 Mr. Bala Ram Chitrakar, Representative from National Archives, Nepal.

The Director, National Archives, India, Could not attend the meeting, even though he had collected the Air Ticket sent by Dr Wimalaratne due to some urgent work at home.

The meeting was opened by the President and at the outset he thanked the Government of Sri Lanka and Director of National Archives of Sri Lanka for hosting the meeting and the excellent arrangements for the stay of the participants coming from abroad Thereafter the meeting took up the agenda and discussed it item by item (copy enclosed). The meeting first confirmed the minutes of the Tehran Meeting Before the confirmation of the minutes two items were specifically discussed.

- i) Publication of Journal of SWARBICA to be done by Pakistan. The Director General of National Archives of Pakistan explained the Position and pointed out that there are two difficulties:
 - a) There is not enough material to make it a proper journal. Therefore he requested that some more material should be sent to him for inclusion in the SWARBICA Journal.

b) The matter of finance was also discussed and it was decided that Director General National Archives of the Pakistan should let the treasurer know about the expenses on the journal. It was also decided that 100 copies of the Journal would be sufficient. The plates for printing the title which were available with the Director General Iran national Archives organization would be sent to Pakistan.

ii) Secondly the question of treasury was raised since it was a separate item of the agenda it was decided to discuss it in detail separately. The next item on the agenda was the election of the second vice President. It was unanimously decided that the Director National Archives of Bangladesh would be the second Vice president.

The next item of the agenda was the Treasury problems payment of dues. The meeting noted with satisfaction that most of the participating countries have cleared their dues. The representative of the National Archives of Nepal intimated that a cheque of 1750 \$ is with their embassy in Sri Lanka and would be delivered to the Treasurer shortly. As regards Pakistan the question about the payment of the arrears was raised. The meeting expressed its satisfaction on the papers which have been produced by Pakistan. These papers clearly show that the dues have duly been paid to Bank of Patiala New Delhi, India and Milli Bank in Tehran, Iran. However, in order to get the final report to clear Pakistan from dues it was decided that the Treasurer may write to Bank of Patiala in New Delhi and Milli Bank in Tehran to get the final statement from these banks with regard to the dues paid by Pakistan for the years 1990-94 and 1995.

The next item on the agenda was the report of the Treasurer. A statement of accounts (copy enclosed) was placed before the meeting. Which reflected an encouraging picture of the treasury funds. It also showed the amount spent on the air tickets and out of pocket allowance of participants. It was also said by the Treasurer that some amount would be deposited in the treasury as refund would come from the ticket sent to India. The meeting

Therefore, expressed its satisfaction over the affairs of treasury and congratulated the Treasurer for handling the affairs of the treasury efficiently.

The meeting thereafter, discussed the future activities of SWARBICA. It was decided that besides the Journal, the news letter should continue to be published at regular intervals by Iran. The material for the newsletter would be sent to Iran by all the participating countries.

The next meeting of the SWARBICA board and General Assembly followed by an awareness Seminar would be held in Bangladesh as earlier planned. The delegate from Bangladesh assured the meeting that they would try their level best to hold the Board Meeting of General Assembly followed by a seminar in October, 1999. It was also decided in the meeting that air tickets and out of pocket allowance would be paid by the SWARBICA Treasury and the local hospitality (accommodation meals and transport) would be provided by the Government of Bangladesh. It was further decided that thereafter the next meeting in the year 2000 would be held in Nepal. The participant from Nepal assured that he would convey this to his Director and make maximum efforts to implement the decision of the SWARBICA Board. The meeting in Nepal would also be held on the condition that SWARBICA Treasury will provide air travel and out of pocket allowance. The local hospitality (accommodation, meals and transport) would be provided by the Government of Nepal.

The meeting concluded by passing a resolution unanimously with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

RESOLUTION

The participating member countries resolved to place on record their appreciation and thanks to the Government of Sri Lanka and Director, National Archives of Sri Lanka and his staff for the excellent arrangements and hospitality Extended to the Participants of the member countries.

SEMINAR

A seminar was also held during this period (12-15 October) on Challenges and solutions to conservation and Management of Archival materials in the Next Millennium Number of papers were read by experts and members of staff of the National Archives of Sri Lanka, other experts from Sri Lanka, and a paper was presented by participant from Pakistan. Since the proceedings of the seminar would be published separately by the National Archives of Sri Lanka as such it is not advisable to give here the details of the papers read.