

SCECSAL

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING OF THE 18TH STANDING CONFERENCE OF EASTERN, CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN AFRICA LIBRARY AND INFORMATION ASSOCIATIONS (SCECSAL XVIII) HELD ON FRIDAY 18TH JULY 2008 AT MULUNGUSHI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTER, LUSAKA-ZAMBIA

AGENDA

1. Present
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of the agenda
4. Obituaries
5. Personalia
6. SCECSAL subscription
7. Correction of Minutes of the SCECSAL XVII
8. Matters arising from the minutes
 - SCECSAL secretariat
 - SCECSAL author award fund
9. Financial statement (Report to be given by Tanzania)
10. Country reports
11. SCECSAL 2010 host bids
12. Handing over of chair
13. SCECSAL XVIII resolutions
14. Any other business

1. PRESENT

2. Botswana
3. Kenya
4. Lesotho
5. Malawi
6. Namibia
7. South Africa
8. Swaziland
9. Tanzania
10. Uganda
11. Zambia

2. APOLOGIES

2.1 No apologies were received

3. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

3.1 The agenda was adopted as presented

4. OBITUARIES

4.1 Obituary messages were received from Library Associations.

5. PERSONNALIA

5.1 The following information was received from the Library Associations present at the conference:

- i. Zambia: Dr Vitalicy Chifwepa attained a doctorate degree;
- ii. Zambia: Dr Justin Chisenga elected president of the African Chapter of the International Association of Agricultural Information Specialist (IAALD);
- iii. Malawi: Mrs Margaret Ngwira, Mrs Kazamira, Mr Chiweza and Mr Gray Nyali received Presidential appointments to Board of Directors of Malawi National Library Service;
- iv. Zimbabwe: Dr. Mbambo-Thata appointed IFLA Africa Section Chairperson;
- v. Uganda: Dr Odongo attained Full professorship;
- vi. Namibia: Veno Kauaria appointed Director of Namibia Library and Archive Services;
- vii. Namibia; Ellen Namhilaa appointed University Librarian, university of Namibia;
- viii. South Africa: Mr Juliano Kabamba appointed as Senior Director, University of Free State Library;
- ix. South Africa: Dr Buhle Mbambo-Thata appointed Executive Director UNISA Library and Chairperson IFLA Africa Section;
- x. South Africa: Lindy Nhlapo, Manager IFLA Regional Office for Africa
- xi. South Africa: Ellen Tise elected President-elect, IFLA;
- xii. Kenya: Mrs Irene Kibandi appointed Director, Kenya National Library Services

6. SCECSAL XVIII SUBSCRIPTIONS

6.1 It was reported that all active members had fulfilled their financial obligations to SCECSAL. The members however encouraged non active associations in the region especially from Zimbabwe, Angola, Mozambique, and Ethiopia to ensure that they organize themselves and make payments.

7. CORRECTION OF MINUTES OF THE SCECSAL XVII

7.1 The following corrections to the minutes were made:

- “Swaziland” to be included on members present
- To indicate “XVII Tanzania SCECSAL” on the heading
- Minute 5: To change ”Dr Bugongo” to Dr “Kigongo”
- Minute 12: To read “Uganda handed over to Tanzania.”

7.2 The minutes were adopted with a proposal by Uganda and seconded by Swaziland

8. MATTERS ARISING

Secretariat

8.1 The members wondered as to why out of 25 eligible SCECSAL member countries, attendance at SCECSAL Conference was usually only from 9 or 10 countries.

8.2 It was reported that invitations had been sent to all but only the ones present responded. There was need to find out and establish whether the affected countries had established Library Associations. It was further proposed that in the case where Library Associations existed, the presidents should be sponsored to encourage their participation.

8.3 It was reported that IFLA/LIASA were coming up with a directory of Library Associations and the next host for the conference could use it to see who to invite from the potential member countries

8.4 It was proposed that the dates for the next SCECSAL conference be shifted from July as it coincides with the 2010 Soccer World Cup to be held in South Africa and too close to the IFLA conference. It was felt that there could be an influx of people in the region and in addition many professionals may not have enough resources to attend both SCECSAL and IFLA.

8.5 A mandate was given to the host country (Botswana) to come up with favourable month for SCECSAL IX in 2010.

8.6 The Webmaster complained that he was not getting content from member Library Associations for the SCECSAL website. He indicated that he would update the website and remove information that requires constant updating from the members. It was proposed that the country reports be sent to the webmaster in electronic format at least 2 weeks before the date of the conference to enable him publish them on the website for participants to download.

8.7 It was resolved that resolutions made at the conference be posted on the website.

Author Award Fund

8.8 Malawi reported that funds for the Author Award were being safely kept. The organizing of the award was the duty of the hosting Library Association. Zambia indicated that they had sent invitations for the award to various Associations but no nominations were received. However Zambia apologized for not having followed up the issue with national Associations

8.9 It was proposed and agreed that the awards for the best paper presenters as was the case at SCECSAL XIV (2000) in Namibia and SCECSAL XV (2002) in South Africa should be introduced at future SCECSAL conferences. Arrangements for these awards should be left with the host Association.

9. AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

9.1 The financial report was presented by Tanzania Library Association (TLA).

9.2 Observations made were as follows;

- i. To have the figures translated into US\$ and not Tanzania Shillings for an easier understanding by the general membership
- ii. The accounts needed to relate to SCECSAL and not TLA.
- iii. A separate account should have been opened for SCECSAL and not use the TLA one in order to ensure transparency.

9.3 TLA apologized for the oversight and promised to work on the observations made by the members

9.4 Zambia proposed and Kenya seconded to accept the Financial Report subject to the above-mentioned changes.

10. COUNTRY REPORTS

10.1 It was agreed that soft copies of the country reports should be left with the Secretariat. In additional copies were to be given to the webmaster so that they could be posted on the website.

10.2 The members observed that there was need to have time to make presentations of the country reports so that members learn from each other's experiences.

10.3 It was proposed and agreed that there should be a standard format of writing the country reports.

11. SCECSAL IX 2010 HOST BIDS

11.1 Three bids were received by the secretariat, these being Botswana, Swaziland and Malawi.

11.2 All the three bids were received later than 6 months before the conference. Since constitutionally all the bids were received late, it was resolved that for this time round as an exception the bids would be accepted. It was also agreed to propose amendments to the constitution to avoid the crisis that had occurred.

11.3 After formal presentations by the three bidders, the members voted for Botswana as the host for 2010 SCECSAL IX, while Malawi would be on standby.

12. HANDING OVER OF CHAIR

12.1 Tanzania officially handed over the chair to Zambia.

13. SCECSAL XVIII RESOLUTIONS

13.1 Taking into account the outcomes of the discussions of the Conference, the members resolved that:

- SCECSAL member library associations should work together, share experiences and lessons learned in order to address the absence of library and information policies in some countries in the SCECSAL region.
- SCECSAL member library associations should strengthen networking and partnership linkages to facilitate knowledge sharing, collaboration and service delivery.

- SCECSAL member library associations should develop appropriate advocacy programmes to enhance the status of the library and information profession and support for libraries and library services in their countries.
- Library and information professionals in the SCECSAL region should adequately acquaint themselves with issues related to Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), especially copyright, and its impact on access and provision of library and information services.
- Library and information professionals in the SCECSAL region should acknowledge that there is need for a paradigm shift in the way the core business of the profession is conducted. They should be pro-active and strive to improve the image of the profession.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

14.1 Three proposals, based on a document prepared by Dr. Ali Mcharazo of Tanzania Library Association, were presented as a possible way forward for SCECSAL. These were:

- i. To reconfigure SCECSAL to resemble IFLA and have the secretariat stationed in one country
- ii. To have a congress of library and information associations to host on rotation basis
- iii. To maintain the current status

14.2 It was agreed that each Library Association looks at the above proposals and settle for one, then give feedback to the main committee before the end of the year. It was proposed that Dr Chisenga Justin coordinates the fora.

CHAIRPERSON (TLA)

SECRETARIAT (ZLA)