

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
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MINUTES OF THE 48th GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON 7 DECEMBER 2007

The 48th Annual General Body Meeting of the Marine Biological Association of India was held in the Conference Hall of CMFRI on 7th December 2007. The meeting was chaired by the President of the Association, Prof. (Dr.) Mohan Joseph Modayil. At the outset, President welcomed all the members and thanked the members specially those from outside CMFRI; he emphasized that this showed their commitment to the Association. President informed the members that CMFRI had just been part of a mega event and that members should look forward to further celebrations in 2008. President suggested that the Association has one year ahead to plan for its Golden Jubilee and requested members to give a serious thinking to it. He then urged all members to increase membership by motivating at least one more member to join adding that thus by the end of the next five years, the Association will be strong. President then requested Secretary, Dr. N.G K Pillai to present his report.

Agenda 1: Report of the Secretary

Secretary, Dr. N.G K Pillai welcomed the President and all other members to the 48th Annual GB. He then presented the report for the previous year. He thanked the President for allowing the Association to have some space in the CMFRI Stall at the 8 AFF exhibition counter for displaying its journal and books.

Finally Secretary thanked President for his continued guidance and all the members of the Association for their continued support.

Agenda 2: Editor's Report

President then requested Editor, Dr. A. Jayaprakash for his report. In his report, Dr. Jayaprakash highlighted that during the year, Volumes 38 (2) and 39 (1) have been published. He also thanked the President for his continued guidance and all the members of the Association for their continued support.

President then requested Treasurer to present his report. Mr. Nandakumar, Associate Treasurer, presented the report in the absence of Dr. Srinath, Treasurer.

After the presentation, President requested the members to raise clarifications for any doubts if needed. The report was passed unanimously.

Agenda 3: Any other matter

President urged the members that for any Association to be effective, the membership number should be increased to at least 1500. He suggested that serious steps should be taken to strengthen the Association. He added that it would be advantageous to have an interactive website where the last journal e-papers could be put for free download, with the last two issues on payment. He also suggested that the email addresses of over 3000 authors who had contributed papers to the 8 AFF could be used to write to them for membership and paper contribution.

Dr. M.S.Rajagopal suggested some activities for the coming year in the event of the Golden Jubilee of MBAI:

1. Before next December, the Association must bring out a supplement in the local dailies on the Association and its activities.
2. Programmes like Quiz; Discussions for students should be conducted.
3. Some activity should be held every month

President agreed that the suggestions were very good and should be carried out. He suggested that the money in the name of the Association should be used productively. He suggested having an office for the Association with paid staff to look into day to day activities. He added that to grow, style of functioning of the Association should change.

Mr. Narayanaswamy suggested that back volumes of our journal should be given to fishery institutions/ colleges in the city.

Secretary replied that this activity has already been done and students who approach are being given back volumes of Special Symposia's etc. He added that Rs. One lakh has been generated by sale of the Journal; he further suggested that earnest efforts are needed to increase the sale of the Journal. Replying to Dr. MS Rajagopal's suggestion, Secretary added that a decision was taken in the Last GB to hold a Seminar -MECOS 2008; for this participation from all members is necessary.

Dr. E Vivekanandan emphasized that the Journal is the main organ of visibility; at present we have around 15 papers per issue. Hence, he suggested that the visibility of the journal can be further improved by inviting articles from abroad. Moreover, 2 - 4 components could be included in the journal -for eg. Letters, reviews, Notes. He also enquired whether it is possible to have satellite organizations in various institutions in the country.

Dr. MS Rajagopal replying to Dr. E. Vivekanandan's suggestions added that every Regional/Research Centre of our Institute could have a nucleus of the Association. The Scientists at the centres could also have interactive sessions with the school students of the area. He further added that at the time of inception of the Journal, the primary objective was a venue to publish journals, but now it has to change to improve visibility.

President agreed that the suggestions were very good and stressed that only collective effort could help the Association succeed. He stressed the importance of a full time working office where papers can be accepted online, referred and sent to authors online. President cited the example of Asian Fisheries Society where the office has only 1 Secretary who handles office along with 14 Councilors in different parts of the world. The interactive website can help reduce time a lot, he added. President then suggested forming a core group who can meet and suggest measures to improve the working of the Association.

Dr. Paul Raj also emphasized that a core Group is needed to suggest recommendations to the Association.

Dr. E Vivekanandan suggested that if an interactive website can be formed within a short span, then an International e-conference can be held in November 2008 before the main conference and the discussion which arises can be held as part of the National Symposium in December 2008.

Dr. Sunil Kumar Mohammed suggested that the minutes of the GB be circulated online first. Regarding the Brochure of the Association, he added that only certain objectives are being followed. Replying to the point raised regarding letters column in the Journal, Dr. Sunil added that such a column can't be followed in this Journal as it's not a fortnightly one.

President, Dr. Modayil then suggested that a cut off date (within 60 days) be proposed for the designing of the interactive website

(Action: Dr. Sunil Kumar Mohammed)

Secretary then informed the members that Ms. Menaka has been appointed in the Association for Secretarial Assistance, adding that support from all members is needed.

Dr. E Vivekanandan emphasized that the journal work should be done online. He added that the actual problem is the quality of the papers being received as Dr. Jayaprakash was actually rewriting most of the papers. A dedicated team is required for this. He suggested that the core group look into these aspects also.

Dr. Paulraj added that a lot of work was already done on the proposed National Seminar.

Dr. Vijayan emphasized that if the quality of the paper doesn't improve, then the impact factor will be affected. Moreover an e-paper can help reduce cost of printing also. He agreed with Dr. E Vivekanandan's suggestion of Review papers as then the total number of general papers can be brought down and only good papers need be presented.

Dr. Kurup suggested having linkages with MBAI, UK.

President agreed with the views of Dr. Kurup and added that reciprocal web linkages could be made

Dr. E. V Radhakrishnan suggested that additional information like jobs, etc can be put on the website.

Dr. Ravi suggested having a Members Directory for the Association.

President, Dr. Mohan Joseph added that once the recommendations are put forth by the Core Group, rules will have to be looked into as the Association is a registered one.

After discussion a **Core Group** was selected to meet and suggest recommendations by
February first week **(Action: Core Group)**

1. Dr. Sunil Kumar Mohammed (Member Secretary)
2. Dr. E. Vivekanandan
3. Dr. A Gopalakrishnan
4. Dr. K.K Vijayan
5. Dr. Madhusudhana Kurup
6. Dr. Ravi

Secretary then informed the members about the discussions in the last Executive Committee on 27 July 2007:

Various positions have fallen vacant in the Committee:

1. Editor: Consequent to the retirement of Dr. Jayaprakash
2. Treasurer: Consequent to the transfer of Dr. Srinath
3. Executive Member: Consequent to the transfer of Dr. Rajagopal.

Dr. Somy Kuriakose was subsequently elected to the post of Treasurer, Dr. E. Vivekanandan to the post of Editor, Smt. T.S Naomi and Dr. Geetha Antony to the post of Sub-Editors and Dr. Jayaprakash to the vacancy of Dr. Rajagopal as Executive Member.

Secretary then thanked former editors, Dr. Jayaprakash and Dr. C.P Gopinathan for their sincere efforts in the publication of the Journal. He added that since the format of the Journal has already been changed as per international standards, work has already been started on the next issue of the Journal. He then informed all members that Dr. A Gopalakrishnan has done commendable work by enrolling 17 new members during the last one year and requested all Scientists to enroll their students as Members in the Association.

President then suggested that such commendable work should be acknowledged with a Memento.

Proposing the Vote of Thanks, Secretary thanked the President for his continued support and guidance, the Vice Presidents, all Executive members, other members for their continued support and guidance and for initiating such a productive discussion. He further thanked Dr. T. Balachandran, Retd. Scientist, NIO, members from CUSAT and Dr. K.K C Nair, for taking pain inspite of their busy schedule to attend the GB and Mr. Sivadas, Mr. Subbharaman, Mr. Thampi and Ms. Menaka for the help rendered. The meeting ended at 5 pm.