

THE MARINE BIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION OF INDIA
Post Box No. 1604, Ernakulam North P.O.,
Cochin 682018, India

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING HELD ON 10 FEBRUARY 2009

Dr. Sunil Mohamed, Secretary welcomed the President Dr. G. Syda Rao, Former Presidents of MBAI, former office bearers of MBAI and all members to this Special General Body. He informed the members that it is a historical occasion as it was the 50th General Body of MBAI and the present one was being held as per the suggestion by the President Dr. G. Syda Rao that election of new office bearers could be held when all members assemble for MECOS 09. Dr. Mohamed then presented the Secretary's report in brief. He highlighted the activities carried out by the association during the current year, culminating in the organization of the international symposium, MECOS 09. He requested all members especially senior members to update their address and e-mail with the MBAI secretarial office and also in the website of the MBAI (www.mbai.org.in).

He then requested President to address the members. Dr. G. Syda Rao welcomed all members to the special session and expressed his happiness that all senior members are present. Dr. Syda Rao added that it is a memorable day for all present.

The only agenda was that of election of new office bearers. No nominations have been received from members; therefore Dr. Mohamed suggested that the existing office bearers continue with the honorary task, but with some changes as shown below.

S No	Position	Present Office bearer	Remarks
1	President	Dr. G. Syda Rao	By default – no election
2	Vice President	Dr. N.R. Menon	no change
3	Vice President	Dr. K. Raman	Has expressed difficulty in continuing due to health problems. Replacement suggested is Dr. N.G.K. Pillai, Former Secretary and Former President
4	Secretary	Dr. K.S. Mohamed	no change
5	Editor	Dr. E. Vivekanandan	no change
6	Treasurer	Dr. Somy Kuriakose	no change
7	Associate Secretary	Dr. Rekha Nair	no change
8	Associate Editor	Dr. T.S. Naomi	no change
9	Associate Treasurer	Dr. A. Nandakumar	no change
10	Exec Council Member – 1	Dr. K.K.C. Nair	no change

11	Exec Council Member – 2	Dr. A.A. Jayaprakash	Has expressed difficulty in continuing. Replacement suggested Dr. K.K. Vijayan
12	Exec Council Member – 3	Dr. A. Gopalakrishnan	no change
13	Exec Council Member – 4	Dr. C.P. Gopinathan	no change
14	Exec Council Member - 5	Shri. J. Narayanaswamy	Agreed very graciously to vacate the position for Dr. M.R. Bhoopendranath of CIFT
15	Exec Council Member - 6	Not existing earlier. As per the constitution, the sixth member can be from outside the headquarters. However, no travel funds are to be used for attending meetings.	Mr. G.P.K. Achari, proposed the name of Dr. A. Gandhi from Andhra Pradesh, and it was seconded by the President.

All members unanimously passed the above nominations.

Dr. Mohamed then read out the mandate of MBAI and requested members to offer suggestions for improvement.

- Dr. Srinath suggested that the MBAI develop a knowledge centre where information about marine biology can be posted in the website.
- Dr. U.K. Gopalan suggested that a newsletter on activities may be brought out.
- Dr. N.G.K. Pillai pointed out that sending copies of Journals by post is a costly affair. Discussions were held, and it was decided to approach the postal authorities to clarify the rates, and the executive council is empowered to take a decision.
- Dr. G. Gopakumar suggested that an award in Dr. S. Jones memory should be established preferably by 2010 using the interest available from the Dr. Jones Memorial fund.
- Dr. Rita Jayasankar suggested that the biodata of all members should be prepared to which Dr. Mohamed replied that space to enter details of all members is available in the MBAI website and that the database is searchable. He encouraged all members to update their information on the website.
- Dr. N.G.K. Pillai suggested that chapters of MBAI should function at Chennai, Mumbai and Vizag and that more members can then be enrolled. Dr. Nammalwar replied that he is a life member since 1967 and he is ready to start a Chennai Chapter and Dr. Satynarayana Rao agreed to start a Vizag chapter.
- Dr. K.K. Vijayan suggested that a student exchange programme with foreign universities be started.

- Regarding Life Membership fee, Dr. N.G.K. Pillai suggested that the amount should be raised. Though discussions were held, no final conclusion was reached, although in general, it was agreed that an increase is very much necessary. Members asked the executive council to evolve a new and just rate.

(Action: New Executive Committee)

The Vote of Thanks was proposed by Associate Secretary Smt. Rekha J. Nair.

The meeting ended by 7 pm and it was followed by dinner and cultural programme at CMFRI lawns for all MECOS delegates.