DRAFT
EMEARB(10)M3
12 March 2010

Minutes of the teleconference of the
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA REGIONAL BOARD
held on 9 March 2010

Present:

Eur Ing Dr L Savvides (Chairman)
Dr E Al-Gallaf
Mr F Eissa (items 1- 4.1)
Mr C McLoughlin (item 1)
Mr K Parr
Eur Ing S Savvides
Dr A Segal
Mrs B Gurney, Board Secretary
Ms A Taylor, Local Network Communications Manager

Minutes of previous meetings

1. The Board reviewed the draft Minutes of the meeting held on 10 February 2010 (EMEARB(10)2 and revised Minutes were agreed.

Local Network Plans for 2010/11

2.1 The Board received paper EMEARB(10)3 which outlined the planned activities of EMEA Local Networks in the 2008/09 and 2009/10 sessions and felt that it had an opportunity to influence the Plans that would be produced for the 2010/11 session and, in due course, to remind them that it was important to return audited accounts on time. It could be advantageous if members contacted Networks from different parts of the region to understand the differences in approach. It was agreed that each member, excluding Agnes, should contact a number of Networks with a view to establishing a friendly relationship with them and encouraging a suitable range of activities to be planned. In the absence of Chris and Faith, Networks were allotted as follows:

Faith:	Mauritius, South Africa, Nigeria (with assistance from Faisal)
Faisal:	Malta, Egypt
Lazaros:	France, Czech Republic, Cyprus
Keith:	Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, Germany, Iberica, Benelux
Ebrahim:	Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Bahrain
Savvas:	Israel, Hellas, Gibraltar, Italy
Chris:	Ireland

ACTION: All members

2.2 The following points were made in discussion:

a) Although Egypt was not a Local Network, there was a determination that it should move forward. Faisal would take a special interest in this and it therefore needed to be included in the above list.

b) The best way to learn about the situation of each Network was to talk with them and understand their peculiarities.

c) There were certain key messages that could be passed onto Networks such as the reason why returning metric information was important and the role

Networks could play in recruiting and retaining members for which specific resources were available but under-used.

d) There were some straightforward steps that Networks could take which would have an impact on membership recruitment. The Regional Reports that had been produced contained membership statistics but did not provide detailed gains or losses over the last 5 years. It would be more beneficial to make contact with Networks, obtain some input, give some output, listen to them, gain their trust and then elicit any further desired information that would be useful.

e) Networks should be encouraged to arrange PATW competitions with a view to the winner of the Regional final attending the Global final in London. Chris, as the GOB Finance Committee rep, should alert the Committee at the allocation meeting of the Board's desire to see this competition in EMEA Network Plans and that this step might require additional funding over and above their guideline budgets. This was likely to be achievable as the Finance Committee was keen to widen the reach of the PATW. One Network would need to budget for the Regional Final. It was acknowledged that some past competitions had run more successfully than others in terms of organisation and recruiting and retaining members and Alex could source the Networks which ran successful ones. Petr Cesak had run successful events in the Czech Republic and it was agreed that Lazaros would contact him for some feedback and that Alex would send the Board the links to the step by step guide and Regulations.

ACTION: Alex Taylor
Lazaros Savvides
TO NOTE: Chris McLoughlin

f) Members requested to see 2008/09 and 2009/10 Plans as it would be useful to see the activity that had been planned in the past.

ACTION: Beryl Gurney

g) Although at the moment the Board's efforts should be concentrated on encouraging existing Local Networks, any new opportunity that came to light could be considered. There was a possibility of activity in Botswana and Savvas would pass the background information he possessed onto Faith and Keith.

ACTION: Savvas Savvides

Terms of Reference

3. The Board considered the proposal to revise the Board's Terms of Reference (EMEARB(10)3) and noted that the Board of Trustees required the Board's response in time for its June 2010 meeting. Keith and Faisal had compiled some other suggestions and it was agreed that the issue would be debated via the Discussion Forum to be completed by the next teleconference. Keith would initiative this. The outcome should reflect only the EMEARB's Terms of Reference.

ACTION: Keith Parr
All members

Dates of Next Meeting

4.1 The next two telephone conferences were arranged for 2 pm Tuesday 13 April and 2 pm Tuesday 25 May (UK times). The date of the next physical meeting was discussed and the following points were made:

a) There was sufficient budget to have two further face to face meetings this year although it might not be good practice as guidance stated that a maximum of two per year should be held. Each meeting cost approximately £10,000.

b) The Board considered whether it could use any unspent budget on promoting some further Local Network activity, a competition for a best event or a combined LN/TPN event. It could be a good PR opportunity in the region to show that the Board was stimulating activity in Egypt for example. Any event would need to be well organised and financially viable. It was pointed out that if a Local Network wished to organise a good event then it was likely that the Global Operations Board Finance Committee would agree to fund it. The difficulty was likely to be finding the manpower to organise and run it.

c) MedPower was taking place in November in Cyprus which could be an opportunity for a physical Board meeting to allow networking with delegates to take place.

d) It would not be a good idea to have a meeting in both September and November. A meeting could be combined with the President's Address on 7 October.

4.2 It was agreed to finalise the date of the next face to face meeting on the Discussion Forum.

ACTION: Agnes Segal

New Board Member

5. Two new members would join the Board next session, one elected and one appointed, when Faith and Ebrahim left the Board. It was possible for the Board to nominate a person up until August. The constitution stated that one of the three elected members should be aged less than 30 and the new elected member ideally needed to be in this age bracket. The Board should take note of possible candidates that were put forward by Local Networks. There was a possible YP candidate from Mauritius who was being encouraged although he might not have the time commitment. It would be preferable to elect somebody who could bring some fresh ideas to the Board but sometimes newcomers found that the process of collecting 10 signatures to support their nomination to be a barrier. The Board may be able to offer their assistance in this respect.

Staff Note: The member person specification for a member of a Regional Board can be found at: http://www.theiet.org/about/organisation/boards-committees/reg-spec.cfm

Any Other Business

6. Lazaros confirmed that he had received one very positive response to the personal message he had sent to the EMEA stakeholders. Savvas advised that he had received several responses to the Newsletters.