



**Minutes of the teleconference of the  
EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA REGIONAL BOARD  
held on 16 September 2010**

**Present:**

Dr Lazaros Savvides (Chairman)  
Dr Ebrahim Al-Gallaf  
Mr Faisal Eissa  
Eur Ing Savvas Savvides  
Mr Faith Golly  
Mr Hisham Rojoa (Observing. He will join the Board from 1 October 2010)  
Mr Chris McLoughlin  
Mr Keith Parr  
Dr Agnes Segal  
Ms Alex Taylor, Local Network Communications Manager  
Dr NF Chin (Observer from the Global Operations Board)  
Mr Max Thomson (Observer from the Global Operations Board)

**Apologies**

1. Apologies for absence were received from Mrs Michelle Busson, Board Secretary and Mr Imran Ansari who was due to observe the Board meeting as he will be joining the Board from 1 October 2010.

**Chairman's Introduction and Welcome**

2. The Chairman welcomed everyone and introduced the 3 observers. He reported on the meeting of the Global Operations Board which had been held in Bangalore on 20/21 June. Agreement had been reached on the procedures for setting up and closing Local Networks; a recommendation that LN committee members should serve for a maximum of 3 years; and that the Global Operations Finance Committee should remain in existence for a further year to oversee spending of the 10/11 allocations which they had just made and retain a global overview of the LN expenditure. Board members were reassured that the Finance Committee would not interfere in the allocation of 11/12 money to the Local Networks.

3. Discussions had also covered the lack of a formal plan for regions other than India and China; the need for transitional membership rates for graduating students; the lack of budget for Regional Boards to initiate development locally; the potential for regional volunteer conferences and the continuing frustrations over lack of volunteer access to member data.

4. Keith Parr challenged the received wisdom that it is essential to retain graduating students. He postulated that it was important to introduce them to the IET and give them a positive experience so that, later in their lives, they will return to membership.

**Minutes**

5. The minutes of the meetings held on 13 April, (EMEARB(10)M4), 23 April (EMEARB(10)M5), and 25 May (EMEARB(10)M6), were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

6. There were no matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda.

## Management Performance Report

7. The report was noted, but the lack of regional information in the financial figures was regretted. Staff were asked to work with the Finance Department to provide basic financial information about membership subscription income and any major event expenditure and income in the EMEA region.

### Action: Agnes

A query was raised over the distinction between TPN event attendance and Community events attendance on page 7 of the report which staff present were unable to answer.

(Post meeting staff note: the TPN events are categorised as those run by the IET Events Services Department and the Community events are categorised as those run by the TPN volunteers themselves. Agnes has raised a further query about corporate level reporting of Local Network event attendance which is in the strategic KPIs.)

8. A brief resume of the membership gains and losses by Local Network in the region was presented. Congratulations were offered to Bahrain, Cyprus and the Czech Republic for their successful recruitment. It was noted that both Egypt and Greece have been successful in recruiting young professionals.

## Local Network Activities

9. It was acknowledged that not all the Local Networks in the region are fully aligned to the IET strategy and committed to a one-team working with staff. Ebrahim gave a short presentation outlining some of the problems he perceives that the remote LNs face. In particular highlighting legal and financial constraints imposed by the country in which they are operating, difficulties in managing the committee structure and no clear guidance as to the purpose of the activity that is expected. He stated that the EMEA board should, in his view, get more closely involved in the affairs of the LNs in their area and continuously remain aware of their successes and frustrations in order to be able to assist them.

10. Discussion centred around the committee structure and it was emphasised that knowledge exchange and promotion of the IET were far more important than committee structures. Faith explained that in Nigeria he was encountering people who were more interested in bearing office titles than in actually doing anything. In recent times he had endeavoured to engage new people and give them a role without giving them a formal place on the committee until they had shown themselves capable and willing to work on activities.

11. It was agreed that further discussion of the barriers facing LNs should be deferred to the meeting in the afternoon. (Joint meeting with GB&I RB).

12. Alex then presented an overview of the financial position of the LNs in the region pointing out that the percentage of the whole LN budget which had been allocated to the region had increased in 2010. EMEA has nearly 10% of the whole despite the fact that it has only 5% of the membership. This situation has arisen because, in the past, the budgets have been determined by a "bottom-up" approach.

13. Paper EMEARB(10)5 Appendix D listed the LNs which the Global Operations Board Finance Committee had identified as requiring additional support. It was agreed that individual members of the Board should take responsibility for making contact with these and that time in a future meeting should be allocated to discuss each one in depth.

### Action

Network	People to make contact
France	Lazaros and Savvas
Germany	Lazaros and Savvas
Sweden	Chris
South Africa	Chris

Turkey	Keith and Ebrahim
Iberica	Faisal
Norway	Chris

Staff note post meeting: In view of Keith's resignation and Ebrahim retiring from the Board it will be necessary to find another volunteer to work with Turkey if the Board feels that is a priority.

### **New Local Networks**

#### **Egypt**

14. Faisal indicated that there was a strong feeling amongst IET members in Egypt that they wanted to set up an IET Local Network in addition to the BEIE Office. Agnes explained that under the new proposals for a joint group in Egypt the problem of IET members not having any control of the way in which institution money was spent should not persist. She was strongly of the opinion that the new joint group should be given a chance to work before the IET set up anything separately. Faisal agreed to recommend this approach to the members in Egypt

**Action: Faisal**

15. The board noted that Agnes would be attending a meeting of the BEIE on 3 October. Lazaros indicated that he would be in Egypt at the end of October and would be happy to meet members at that time. Faisal agreed to convene a meeting for Lazaros to meet the members if that was felt to be helpful following the outcome of the meeting on 3 October.

**Action: Faisal**

#### **Ghana**

16. The visit to Ghana by Lazaros had been much appreciated by the members. The Ghanaian Government is supportive of the initiative to implement IET activity in the country and there is an opportunity for the IET because the Ghanaian Institution of Engineers is focussed around Civil Engineering so the IET resources in the electrical engineering area would be valued by engineers. The current limitations are that practically all of the members there are in Vodaphone. Members from a wider range of disciplines will need to be recruited for a Local Network to be successful. It was agreed to continue supporting the initiative and provide funding on an event by event basis.

### **EMEA Business Plan**

17.  
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18. Board members were particularly interested to pursue the opportunities for IET Accreditation of university degree programmes in the region. They were concerned about their inability to influence the priorities of the staff team responsible for accreditation. Alex assured the Board that Dan Canty, manager of that team had seen the plan and was keen to discuss the detail with the Board and develop proposals for ways in which the opportunities could be exploited. It was agreed that he should be invited to attend a future Board meeting and an appropriate agenda item included.

**Action: Michelle**

19. Some concerns were raised that the cost of travel associated with the physical meetings was very high. Agnes had included costs for 3 physical meetings because she believed the work of the Board would require detailed discussions unsuitable for telephone conferencing. Also there were concerns that the amount of money additional to meeting costs that had been included in the bid for would not be sufficient to cover all the travel envisaged by members of the Board. It would be essential for the Board to monitor its expenditure once the budget was

agreed and to use the budget to maximum effect; optimising the time spent at meetings, optimising the efficiency of travel and ensuring that there was agreement on prioritisation of activity.

#### **Dates of meetings for the 2010/11 session**

20. In light of the budget discussions it was agreed that dates for the meetings throughout the whole of the coming session should be set as soon as possible, the format agreed and the location of physical meetings established. This would allow a firm estimate of committed expenditure and allow further activities to be planned once the budget for 2011 was confirmed.

**Action: Michelle**

#### **Communications to volunteers in the region**

21. The chairman thanked Ebrahim for all the work he had done responding to members' queries and producing the newsletters. Following Ebrahim's retirement from the Board it was agreed that Savvas would undertake to respond to queries. Staff were requested to ensure that the generic email address [emearb@theiet.org](mailto:emearb@theiet.org) should be routed to Savvas from 1 October 2010

**Action: Michelle**

22. Faisal agreed to take responsibility for the newsletters. In an earlier meeting the Board had agreed that they should aim to despatch 3 newsletters per year in September/October, January/February and June/July. (Minute EMEARB(10)M4 7.2 refers). All members were asked to put forward suggestions for content for an edition to be released in October at the start of the new session.

**Action: Faisal supported by all members**

#### **Items to be reported to the Global Operations Board**

23. The main item was to present the plan and budget bid and convince the Board to ask the Trustees for as much development money as possible. Other items to be mentioned included the Board's concern to see financial information relating to the region; the actions to be taken in support of the Local Networks; progress in establishing IET activity in Egypt and Ghana; and the Board's wish to find a way to influence prioritisation of specialist staff activities such as Accreditation.

**Action: Lazaros**

#### **Other Business**

24. Faisal gave a brief report on his experiences in managing a Present Around the World competition in Egypt and his plans for the regional final, which will include finalists from 5 countries, due to be held on 25 September. He was congratulated on the tremendous success of this initiative and it was agreed that his suggestions for improvements and tools to support the volunteers managing these competitions should be passed on to the relevant members of staff.

**Action: Agnes**

25. It was agreed that all the LNs in the region should be encouraged to run heats of the PATW competition. Faisal and Hisham were asked to take a lead in promoting it to the networks.

**Action: Faisal and Hisham**

#### **Chairman's concluding remarks**

26. Lazaros thanked the whole Board for their work throughout the year and the observers of today's meeting for their contributions. He expressed his sadness that Ebrahim and Faith would be retiring at the end of September. Each had brought valuable experience to the Board and had made a unique contribution. He expressed the wish that they remained involved in IET

activity and assured them that any contributions they were able to make in an unofficial capacity would be warmly welcomed.

27. Keith announced that he had decided to resign from the Board at the end of the session. Lazaros accepted his resignation but expressed his regret at this decision. He thanked Keith for the ideas, energy and enthusiasm he had brought to the Board.

28. The meeting closed at 1.30 pm and members of the Board joined members of the Great Britain and Ireland Board and some representatives of the Global Operations for lunch in advance of a joint meeting to be held in the afternoon.

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23.9.10¶