

**Minutes of Meeting for Worship for Business
of Asia West Pacific Section, FWCC
held at Bukal ng Tipan, Manila, Philippines
1- 7 April 2011**

2011/1 Clerk's Welcome

After a period of silent worship, the Clerk, Dilawar Chetsingh, welcomed us all and remembered the serious calamities which have occurred in recent past in our region.

2011/2 Recording Clerk, Reporters and Epistle writing group

We make the following appointments:

Kenneth Co, Salomon Samuel, Anna Wilkinson and Helen Webb to prepare our Epistle;
Julian Stargardt, Francisca Bautista, Jim Palmer and Therese Anne Asis as our Reporters;
Helen Bayes as Recording Clerk and Carmela Lao as Assistant Recording Clerk.

2011/3 Remembrance of Friends who have died

We give thanks for the grace of God in the lives of Friends who have been associated with AWPS and who have died since our previous Gathering:

Graham Hodgkin AYM
Elsie Bennett A/NZ YM
Margret Caverhill A/NZ YM
Helen Johnson A/NZ YM
Patricia Lawson PNG worship group and A/NZ YM
Owen Jackson FAU (China)
Bernice (Bunny) Thompson FAU (China)
Hiroshi Sakamoto JYM
Daniel Yakub Masih MIYM
Jai Singh GCFI
Kamal Prasad BMMS
Nahomia Dass BMMS

2011/4 Greetings received

We receive greetings from :

Maxine Cooper, Presiding Clerk, Australia YM
Linley and Clare Gregory, Co-Clerks, Aotearoa New Zealand YM
Sunny Singh, President, Bhopal YM
Marisa Johnson, Secretary, Europe and Middle East Section
John and Lois Ocol, in Canada
Various Friends from Japan YM, including Sachiko Yamamoto and Seiichi Kondo
Sue Ennis, Australia YM
Devdas Shrisunder, on behalf of Indian Friends
Samuel Ramlal, Hoshangabad MM, MIYM

Greetings are also included in travelling Minutes for Janet Scott and Nadine Hoover.

We ask the Clerk to send our thanks and return greetings to these Friends.

2011/5 Representation

We record the presence of Friends from the following Yearly and Monthly Meetings and Worshipping Groups:

- Philippines Evangelical Friends International Ministries
- Aotearoa New Zealand Yearly Meeting
- Australia Yearly Meeting
- Bundelkhand Yearly Meeting
- Bhopal Yearly Meeting
- Hong Kong Monthly Meeting
- General Conference of Friends in India
- Marble Rocks MM
- Mahoba YM
- Mid-India YM
- Nepal Friends Evangelical Church
- Indonesian Friends Evangelical Church
- Philippines Unprogrammed Friends Group
- Singapore Worshipping Group
- Japan YM
- Seoul MM
- Daejon Worshipping Group and Daegu Worshipping Group
- Myanmar Friends Evangelical Church

2011/6 Invited Guests and Visitors

We welcome our invited guests:

- FWCC General Secretary, Nancy Irving
- Paul Anderson North West YM, USA
- Nadine Hoover New York YM USA and Indonesia
- Janet Scott, Britain Yearly Meeting

We welcome visiting Friends:

- Nanik Nanik and Veronica Wuri Lukitasari, Indonesia
- Rose and Raffi Gaid enquirers in PUFG, Davao
- Lal Thla Muana, Myanmar Evangelical Friends Church
- Arun Massey Christian Friends Trust, Karnakata
- Franklin Russell and Marilyn Fusel, Philadelphia YM

We welcome Friends in International Membership:

- John Taylor
- Kenneth Co

2011/7 Minutes of the last Section Meeting (2008)

We note that the Minutes of the last AWPS Business Meeting, held in Bhopal in 2008, were published in the AWPS Newsletter of December 2008 and that these Minutes were accepted at the time.

2011/8 Decisions taken by the Section Committee since the last Section meeting

We ratify the following decisions which have been made by our Committee since the last Section meeting:

- establishment of a Global Change Committee with a membership of 10 and appointment of its members on the recommendation of the nominations committee initially and as and when vacancies arose.
- establishment of a Finance Committee and appointment of the members on the recommendation of the nominations committee.
- approval for funds to be collected and paid through the Treasurer for relief after the typhoon and floods in the Philippines in 2009.

Appointments:

Michael Corbett as Associate Secretary until this Gathering

Taisoo Kim Watson as Associate Treasurer until 31/12/2011

- members of the section committee on the recommendation of the nominations committee - Bong Soo Kwag, John Ocol (until he moved to Canada), Lydia Tabingo (after John Ocol moved to Canada)
- approval of payment of the Secretary's fare to Indonesia Yearly Meeting 2010, following her visit to Singapore Friends
- acceptance of the new software package provided by the World Office for the AWPS website
- approval and assistance towards funding of Taisoo Kim Watson's visit to Japan and South Korea.

2011/9 Reports of Yearly Meetings and other Groups represented

The following reports have already been published in the AWPS Newsletter:

December 2010: Singapore Worshipping Group and Philippine Evangelical Friends International Ministries

March 2011: Seoul Monthly Meeting, Australia Yearly Meeting, Aotearoa New Zealand Yearly Meeting, Mahoba Yearly Meeting, Marble Rocks Monthly Meeting, General Conference of Friends in India, and Hong Kong Monthly Meeting.

We hear reports from Bhopal YM, Mid India YM, Philippines Friends Unprogrammed Group (PFUG, Bohol), Fred Ashmore from Singapore Worshipping Group and Japan Yearly Meeting. We note the difficulties being experienced in Japan, such as damage to Friends' buildings and fears about radioactive material spreading from the Fukushima nuclear plant and the hard work being done by Japanese Friends along with other Japanese people, to assist in relief.

2011/10 Secretary's report

We receive the Secretary's report, which reflects on the spiritual challenges raised by the natural disasters in our region, and the challenge of being empowered rather than paralyzed, and to act in ways uniquely Asian in our Quaker responses, as we live the Kingdom of God and work fruitfully. Valerie also encourages meetings to study Friends traditions and practices, to share our Quaker faith and ideas with Young Friends and encourage them to write about their own beliefs and experiences. She reminded us that God will provide all that is needed when someone is called to serve. She also encouraged meetings at home to study the materials provided for the World Gathering in Kenya, 2012.

2011/11 Clerk's report

We hear from our Clerk about the progress of the Section in its 26 years. He spoke of the work of the Committee, which includes responding to recent growth, introducing improved procedures and electronic advances and establishing a financial reserve for future needs. He spoke of our confidence in Young Friends and encouraged meetings to pay attention to their needs in ways which may bring them into leadership roles.

2011/12 Report of one of our members of the International Membership Committee

We hear a report from Julian Stargardt describing the work which he, Michael Payne and Marilyn Payne have been doing to support isolated Friends and small meetings. He reported on a Skype meeting with other sections on this work and the liaison with Harry Albright at the World Office.

2011/13 Report on Silver Wattle Quaker Centre, Australia

We hear from Helen Bayes about the establishment of the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre in Australia. Funds to buy the property have been raised among Friends, and courses and retreats are being held. There are opportunities for low cost stays for those willing to help with some work. Details are on the website is www.silverwattle.org.au. Friends are encouraged to take a copy of the Silver Wattle DVD and show it at their meetings. It will also be shown at an Interest Group.

2011/14 Reporters – change of appointment

We accept the name of Cris de la Cruz as a Reporter, to replace Therese Anne Asis who is unable to serve at this time.

2011/15 Treasurer's report

We hear and accept the Treasurer's report. Our attention is drawn to the need to make the costs of all our Gatherings self-funding. This means the overall costs of the Gatherings must be shared as much as possible.

In the past this has been achieved by generous donations from Friends towards the cost of fares and accommodation for representatives from groups, which cannot afford the costs.

This is unsustainable and the Finance Committee asks the Section to consider very carefully how Gatherings may be funded in the future.

We agree that AWPS will not be able to subsidise representatives' expenses to the extent that has been possible in the past. It will be necessary for all groups to bear some of the cost of their representation at future Gatherings. We ask them to start planning how they will do this in preparation for the Gathering in 2014.

We accept the Treasurer's audited accounts for 2008 to 2010.

We also hear that many Friends have been generous in their financial support for relief efforts after floods in the Philippines in 2009. We are now asked to assist with the costs of repairs to damage to Friends properties caused by the recent earthquake and tsunami and relief activities in Japan.

2011/16 Expenses of Treasurers' attendance at Gatherings.

We hear a recommendation from the Section Committee for the cost of the fares and accommodation for the Treasurer to attend Section Gatherings in future being built into AWPS budgets.

We note that a Treasurer may not be able or willing to meet this expense personally in future. The Gathering was informed that the other FWCC Sections cover the costs for their Treasurer to attend Gatherings. We agree to include this as an item in future AWPS Budgets.

2011/17 Applications for affiliation

17.1 Application from Daejon Meeting, South Korea

We hear how this group began as a study group in 2004 and has held Meetings for Worship since 2009. The membership is now 14 plus several enquirers and meets weekly for one hour. They have received supportive visits from Australian and German Friends and their study groups have attracted 170 people. The group has appointed a clerk, recording clerk and accountant.

The Clerk of Seoul Monthly Meeting has expressed her happiness at this application. She has given us a message from Seoul Monthly Meeting, which welcomes the application for recognition of Daejon Friends.

We support this application and as this still a small group, we refer it to the International Membership Committee of FWCC.

17.2 Christian Friends Trust in Karnataka, India

We hear from Arun Massey that he started his ministry in Karnataka in 1995, offering refuge and protection for temple prostitute girls. Since then, he and his wife have established 6 Friends Churches and various cell groups. When EFI heard about his ministry it offered support for his work. CFT and the service organization, Caring Hands,

became affiliated with EFI in 2010.

We note that the CFT has over 200 members and could be recognized as a YM of AWPS. However we need to become more familiar with the group and we ask CFT to welcome a visit by Friends appointed by the AWPS Committee. The Visitors will gather information and bring a recommendation in respect of this application to be considered at our next Business Meeting in Kenya in April 2012.

2011/18 Venue and date of the next meeting in 2014

In order to keep air travel expenses down and maximize participation for the whole region, our Handbook states that every second Gathering is to be held in either India or the Philippines, as far as possible.

We receive greetings carried by John Edwards of Darwin Worshipping Group (South Australia Regional Meeting) and hear their offer to host the Gathering in 2014 in Darwin. This has advantages of closeness to the region with good air services. Darwin is a multicultural city and can be seen as 'more Asian' than other Australian cities.

Concerns are expressed about airfares to Darwin from some parts of our region and about Australian processes for issuing visas. These and other aspects will be considered by the Section Committee, which will then ask Australia Yearly Meeting, as the parent body of South Australia RM, to consider inviting the 2014 Gathering. We consider that the Darwin Worshipping Group would need assistance from SA RM in hosting the Gathering.

This matter will be brought before the next Business Meeting in Kenya in April 2012.

We also ask Friends to start thinking about the venue for the Gathering in 2017.

2011/19 Nominations Committee

We appoint David Purnell (AYM, 2nd term), Thomas Watts (A/NZ YM, 2nd term), Betty Pulido (PEFIM), Sachiko Yamamoto (JYM), Swarnlata Brown (BMMS) and Boon Yi Kwag (Seoul MM) to the Nominations Committee from the end of this Gathering until the end of the Gathering in 2014. David Purnell is asked to convene the first meeting of the committee.

2011/20 Young Friends

Thomas Owen (A/NZ YM) has reported that YFs are widely dispersed and use different names for their groups. The AWP YF Gathering will be held immediately after this Gathering. The first official YF event was held in 2008 after the Bhopal Gathering. Three YFs of the AWPS, Emily Chapman-Searle AYM, Piyush Augustine Mahoba YM and John Ocol PEFIM, are now on the FWCC YAF Committee working to continue the mission of the 2005 World Gathering of YFs.

As John Ocol has moved to Canada Therese Anne Asis is being considered by the International Nominations Committee as our replacement.

We hear that YFs are clearly active in their YMs and groups and that contact between YFs is expanding in the Section.

2011/21 Appointments

Nominations Committee brings forward these names for appointment to vacancies in office-holders of the Section:

Clerk

Patricia Macgregor, A/NZ YM, from the end of this Gathering until until the end of the next Section Gathering in 2014

Treasurer

Taisoo Kim Watson, AYM from 1st January 2012 until the end of the year of the next Section Gathering, ie 2014.

Associate Treasurer

Geoff Greeves, AYM from 1st January 2012 until the end of the year of the next Section Gathering in 2014.

Executive Secretary

Valerie Joy AYM for a further period until 31st Dec 2012.

Associate Secretary

Ronald Titus, Bhopal YM, immediately after this Gathering until the end of the Section Gathering 2014.

Finance Committee

Anna Dunford A/NZ YM (2nd term), Geoff Greeves AYM (2nd term), Ronald Titus Bhopal YM (2nd term), until the end of the Section Gathering 2014.

General Members of the Section Committee

We appoint until the end of the next Section Gathering, Lydia Tabingo, PEFIM (2nd term), Yukiko Backes, JYM, Anna Dunford A/NZYM, Hyung Reul Kim, Seoul MM, Salomon Samuel, MIYM.

Global Change Committee

Seiichi Kondo JYM, Julian Stargardt HK MM, Vasant Bawa GCFI, Shiny Manuel (Marble Rocks MM), Tom Coyner (Seoul MM), Flor Angel Braid UPFG (all 2nd term). Rosemary Morrow AYM, Marvin Hubbard A/NZ YM and Anna Wilkinson AYM. The Committee will choose its convener(s). Their term is until the end of the next Section Gathering in 2014.

Public Officer

Topsy Evans until the Gathering of 2014

We express our gratitude for the work of each of those who have served.

2011/22 Report on AWPS website – new developments

Valerie Joy reports that our website is managed by a paid worker. A new website management system offered by the World Office has been adopted. It has involved learning so recent up-dates have been difficult. We are requested to visit the website

often.

2011/23 The AWPS Strategic Plan

The Gatherings strengthen our faith in the love of God, heal wounds and promote unity, peace, justice and simplicity. Connections between different traditions of worship are being strengthened by the use of alternating silent worship and programmed worship, the practice of waiting in the Spirit, home groups and also much singing. The warm welcome and kind attention by Philippine Friends has brought a deep and strong tie among us. Friends are experiencing the sense of family, learning from each other in friendship and openness. Friends also feel a new sense of opportunity to contribute.

The presence and presentations of our overseas speakers have been helpful. A 'freedom wall' could be useful to give opportunity to express comments during the Gathering. Translation of Quaker materials into languages of the section is also important to help the sharing of stories.

The Strategic Plan is included in the Gathering papers. Home Groups have discussed it as part of their questions. The strategic plan can be revised and added to in future, an example being the focus on Global Change, which arose at the Bhopal Meeting.

2011/24 Indonesian Friends Church

We hear a presentation from Indonesian Friends about the spread of Friends Churches, and their efforts to become self-supporting through fundraising in their congregations. They now have 30 churches, hold YM gatherings, and are affiliated with the Protestant Association of Churches in Indonesia and provide services including an orphanage and training centre. We note their peace-building activities in war-torn areas.

2011/25 Global Change

The six queries of the Global Change Committee have been discussed at this Gathering and Friends have made valuable responses, which will be taken to the Committee and forwarded to the World Office. The concerns will also be discussed at the Young Friends Gathering. Friends are asked to take back the 6 queries to their Meetings and to send in further responses to the Committee.

2011/26 Epistle

We have heard a first reading of the draft Epistle and comments have been received. We now hear the revised Epistle and accept it.

2011/27 Closing Minute

We thank the hosts of this meeting, PEFIM, and acknowledge the assistance of Unprogrammed Philippines Friends Group. We look forward to meeting again in 2014.

Signed

Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk