

AJ General Assembly 18th November 1999

Minutes of the assembly

Due to the snow, the Assembly started at 7.45 pm. A tea ceremony demonstration happened just before, organised by the Japanese Information and Culture Centre (JICC), located in Berne.

17 AJ members were present and 4 guests participated to the Assembly. The Vice Consul of the Consulate of Japan, Mr Maekawa, could unfortunately not join us due to traffic problems and is therefore excused.

The members of the AJ committee were presented for the new members: Mr Amédée Zryd (AZ), Vice President, Mr Emile Tasev (ET), Secretary, Mr Jean-Michel Henchoz (JMH), and Ms Nathalie Piguet (NP).

1. Introduction

Nadia Nibbio (NN), the AJ President, opened the fourth General Assembly, welcomed the members and thanks the First Secretary of the Japanese Embassy, Mr Hasimoto, for the organisation of the tea ceremony demonstration, and welcomed us in the JICC.

NN warmly welcomed our Japanese guests, Mr Hashimoto, First Secretary, Mr Maekawa, Vice Consul, Mr Kikuchima, JETRO Director, and Mr Imai, Assistant Director.

Before going on with the agenda, NN gave special thanks from the Committee to Mr Sanne Stijve for maintaining the AJ website.

2. Report on 1999 activities

Highlights of last year:

- Validation and integration of all data for the Members' Directory.
- Preparation of the second AJ Bulletin.
- Realisation of the AJ presentation leaflet.

- Information to the students and engineers preparing a trip to Japan (Annual SATW meeting, ...).
- Contact with other organisations.
- Summer barbecue on 24th June in Sullens.

Status of these projects are described in section 4.

3. Account 1998 and budget 1999 presentation

First of all, AZ reminded us that statute will have to be revised to precise some organisational points. The Committee will inform the members before the next Assembly so that the next Assembly will be able to adopt them (election of the Committee, duration of the mandate, date of the General Assembly, ...).

AZ presented also the budget for the year 2000. He presented it as a realistic budget which takes into account the experience of the past years. It includes mainly the known expenses for printing the documents which are almost ready.

ET presented then the accounts of the year 1999, which did not include many expenses. The two auditors (Mr Olivier Chappuis and Mr Jean-Luc Hefti) declared themselves satisfied and then the Assembly accepted the accounts.

4. Projects status and proposals for 1999

NN introduced the actual projects, namely: 1) the 2nd AJ Bulletin, 2) the Members' Directory, 3) the AJ presentation leaflet, and 4) the Internet site.

The project managers presented the status of each project:

- The 2nd AJ Bulletin is managed by AZ in close cooperation with Mr Sanne Stijve. A final draft will be ready in January and published as soon as possible. The main theme is professional experiences in Japan.
- The Members' Directory is managed by NP. A final draft is presented by NP and we expect to print it very soon (beginning of spring).
- The AJ presentation leaflet is managed by JMH. A draft has been presented and received the agreement from the Assembly. The representative from JETRO expressed a strong interest for this document. They see this work as very valuable.
- The Internet site is again managed by Mr Sanne Stijve. JMH expressed the necessity to improve in the future the dynamic of our Web Site, implementing tools that allow us to improve communication between members (introduction of the database, registration of the members, ...).

The members welcomed these results and are waiting for the final documents which will be available soon.

5. Discussion and future actions

Discussions were quite short, this certainly because of the snow and the late evening coming soon. The discussions went through the possibility to make the Assembly at another period but no agreement has been found on that point.

The Committee insisted besides finishing the actual work on the future steps for the association. Namely, starting to find sponsors to create scholarships for people willing to realise a professional trip to Japan. Having almost all our efforts concentrated on producing material to promote the Association, we need now to move on.

6. Greetings - Apéritive - Sushis Party

NN thanked all members for their active participation and wished with all Committee Members to see all of you very soon.

As for last year, members and guests shared sushis and sake and enjoyed the current exhibition in JICC.

For AJ Committee

Jean-Michel Henchoz

20th April 2000