

Biennial General Meeting of the IALS, 19th April, 2013

As usual the Biennial General Meeting of the IALS was held during the conference.

The agenda of the meeting was as follows:

1. The Executive and Advisory Committees

Earlier three members of Executive Committee had announced plans to step down at Heidelberg. These were: John Bray who has been President for six years; Kim Gutschow who has served as Editor for six years; and Gareth Wall who has been Treasurer/Membership Secretary for four. Since there were no nominations to the vacant position of President from the wider membership, the Executive Committee requested John Bray to continue his service for a further two-year term. The meeting ratified the immediate re-election of the sitting President a further two-year term.

The nomination of Andrea Butcher as Treasurer/Membership Secretary to succeed Gareth Wall was ratified and applauded by the members. The nomination of Sunetro Ghosal to succeed Kim Gutschow as Editor of *Ladakh Studies* was also confirmed and ratified. John Bray expressed gratitude to Kim Gutschow and Gareth Wall for their hard work and their many contributions to the Association.

Seb Mankelow who is currently serving as IALS Webmaster has announced plans to step down from this position after the next conference in 2015. The Association would welcome offers by volunteers to work with Seb on the website. The Advisory Committee continues unchanged.

2. Publications

John Bray outlined the current position regarding publications associated with the IALS. Three publications are currently in hand:

- A volume on art and architecture is to be published by Brill (Netherlands) later this year. This draws on selected papers from the 13th, 14th and 15th conference.
- A collection of papers on contemporary Ladakh will shortly appear in *Himalaya* journal in the US. This draws on contributions by IALS authors in recent conferences, with some additions.
- Blaise Humbert-Droz is currently editing a volume on the natural environment, which also draws on contributions from the most recent conferences. It includes papers from the Heidelberg conference

With regard to the Heidelberg conference:

- Rob Linrothe has kindly agreed to edit a 'volume' of selected papers from the art and architecture panels, to be published online by the *Revue des Études Tibétaines*.
- Petra Maurer has likewise kindly agreed to coordinate a collection of papers on history and related subjects. We have a journal in mind but this has yet to be confirmed.

We would welcome suggestions by aspiring editors for other publications drawing on conference papers, for example on contemporary political and social developments. These could either be self-standing publications (if we can find the right publishers) or special editions of journals – again depending on the journal concerned.

As ever, we also have the opportunity publish selected papers in our own *Ladakh Studies*.

3. The 2015 conference (17th IALS Conference)

After several discussions with Kargil members, the Executive Members proposed Gulzar Hussain Munshi supported by other Kargil members to hold the 17th IALS conference in Kargil in 2015. The meeting supported the proposal. As regards the date of the conference, Gulzar proposed to hold a meeting in Kargil on their return together with the IALS Secretary to fix the date, venue and other necessary arrangements.