



JOINT ZOI/IFZA BOARD MEETING August 29, 2018, The Hague

Summary of the Minutes

The Annual Joint Board Meeting of ZerOrigIndia Foundation (ZOI) and International Friends of Zero Association (IFZA) was held on Wednesday, August 29, 2018, in The Hague.

2. Present and accounted for representing ZOI were Dr R. Samson (Chairman), Mr M. Dixit (Treasurer) and Mr P. Gobets (Secretary). Mr R. Sachdev (Trustee), who resides in India, was absent, as were Dr V.A. van Bijlert (Trustee) out of town for a conference, and Mr P. Keesom (Trustee) indisposed.

Present and accounted for representing IFZA were Ambassador Eric Niehe (Chairman) and Mr Wahid Saleh (Treasurer). Dr Victor van Bijlert (Secretary, see above).

Special invitee, Mr Peter Creemers, to report on progress of design and production of IFZA Honorary Awards.

3. The Board reviewed with satisfaction the accomplishments to date:

- The successful brainstorming session held at the ING Bank on March 23, 2018, focusing on the critical issue of fundraising;
- ZOI Trustees apart, invitees included chief guest Ambassador of India in the Netherlands, H.E. Mr Venu Rajamony, and Indian community leaders;
- Establishing IFZA on July 11th, 2018 in support of the ZOI fundraising campaign with requisite preparatory drafting of Articles of Association by Mr Pierre Keesom;
- Dr Karan Singh, India's Cultural Ambassador, consented to act as IFZA Patron;
- Furthermore, discussion of ongoing fundraising campaign; over 20 individuals and companies were approached this past year, without to date any concrete commitments.
- The short-term aim is to fund the associated *International Conference on Zero* at which the contributors to the *Monograph on Zero* will present and discuss their papers with a view to draft a roadmap for the in-depth research program, which is the longer-term aim.
- Continued collection of contributions to the *Monograph on Zero* book project by the growing list of academics; Brill Academic Publishers, Leiden, are keen to take on the project, pending peer review;

4. Ambassador Niehe briefly recapped his demarche towards a half dozen Heads of Mission at Embassies in the Hague, whose countries played a key role in the story of zero's transmission from India to Europe and beyond.

- The point stressed consistently is that the Zero Project is non-political and non-religious; cohesive rather than divisive.
- Request from the side of the Zero Project is to identify qualified scholars in the respective host country to contribute an article to the *Monograph of Zero* as well as a PhD student capable of doing research on the subject.
- To date Algeria has committed to contributing an article to the Monograph; while all the other HOMs committed to explore the possibilities back home.

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Following the above review, the main focus of discussion at the Joint ZOI/IFZA Meeting was again on the critical issue of fundraising:

- Manish Dixit (Treasurer) proposed to work out in detail the strategy evolved in part based on the recommendations arising from the aforementioned brainstorming session at ING Bank on March 23, 2018;
 - It was proposed to break down into manageable components all upcoming activities of ZOI in order that donations may be more targeted and more modest in scope;
 - To that end Manish Dixit would approach a number of persons in his network active in the IT sector in USA – given the Zero Project’s relevance to binary computer coding and quantum computing;
 - It was furthermore proposed to develop separate but related exhibition proposals in the arts (and later on in education) to raise awareness of the Zero Project among professionals, general public and media.
 - The exhibition proposals will be presented to various museums and art galleries, as well as to individual artists or collectives, who will be invited to produce art objects to be exhibited on the theme of ‘Zero’.
5. Trustee Mr Pierre Keesom had earlier proposed producing a range of Honorary Awards to be granted by IFZA on behalf of ZOI to anyone who joined IFZA.
- As Peter Creemers had designed similar ‘perks’ for the ‘crowdfunding’ part of the Zero Project, he was commissioned for the job at a nominal fee;
 - On the occasion of the meeting under review, he circulated several specimens for approval by the Board members, which were accepted pending a few minor adjustments prior to production by a printer.
 - The main two Honorary Awards are intended for Dr Karan Singh, who graciously consented to act as IFZA Patron; and to Ambassador Venu Rajamony, in his private capacity, in recognition for his support of the Zero Project by issuing on request a video endorsement; attending the brainstorming session at ING Bank; advice extended in meetings held in his office at the Chancery with Manish Dixit and Peter Gobets
6. The Annual Meeting was closed by the Chairman on review of the aforementioned points for inclusion in the Minutes.

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