

Annual General Meeting(AGM)

1. The AGM of the 14th IAPTC held at National Defence College, Nigeria on Oct 2008 was chaired by Mr **Jonas Alberoth**, as the President of IAPTC.
2. The President apprised the house of the issues that were discussed during the AGM held at Sweden and ECM held in Nigeria in March 2008. The issues were circulated as Agenda Points to the members. They were discussed and passed by the house as under:

Agenda - 1:“Roles and Responsibilities Of The Association”

The paper on the Roles and Responsibilities of the Association is designed to clarify the practices that have emerged over the years in relation to the roles, responsibilities, criteria and procedures related to all aspects of the IAPTC concept – the membership, presidency, secretariat, host, chairs of functional committees, executive committee, the annual conference relationships with the UN and regional and international organizations, and other aspects and modalities of the concept. This document has been developed in part to address some of the questions that arose during the 13th Annual Conference in Stockholm in 2007.

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the AGM note the various roles and responsibilities of the component parts of the IAPTC process, and the fact that it is a dynamic concept capable of adaptation to the needs of the current membership”.

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda-2: Costs/Funding and the IAPTC”

The paper on Costs and Funding of the Association reviews the challenges of, and current practices regarding, the need for a certain level of funding for the IAPTC. This document has been developed based on discussions both in conference plenary and at the AGM during the 13th Annual Conference in Stockholm in 2007, and on further analysis and deliberations by the Executive

Committee. The paper draws several conclusions: that membership fees are not appropriate; that any external funding be stable (i.e. 5 year plan); that any external funding be provided in the form of a grant to the host; that the Executive Committee needs to explore possible funding sources for Annual Conference speakers and for assistance to Institutions that cannot afford to travel to the Annual Conference; that countries and institutions accepting that responsibility of Host of an Annual Conference have certain financial responsibilities; and that IAPTC members willing to assist, form bilateral support relations with less able institutions.

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the AGM support the conclusions of the paper, specifically that there be no membership fee and that the Executive Committee and the Membership at large strive to assist the annual host and/or less-able institutions with funding for the annual conference. The Executive Committee further proposes that it be empowered to continue reflect on this matter, with a view to seek solutions to the funding issues identified in the paper”.

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda – 3: Information and Discussion “Strengthening the IAPTC”

During the 13th annual conference in 2007, a proposal was made regarding a perceived need to strengthen the IAPTC. The matter was discussed in detail during the Executive Committee Planning Meeting in March 2008, identifying and examining potential no-cost measures and assumed or shared low-cost measures, as well as measures requiring funding support.

A number of ideas were deemed feasible, some of which are the subject of separate papers. They include:

- Strengthening the regional relationship within the IAPTC framework
- Development of a bi-annual newsletter (separate proposal)
- Commitment of research and other **additional resources by the Presidency**
- Enhanced use of an **improved web-site**
- An Education and Training Peacekeeping Award (**Separate proposal**)
- Commitments by members – to the newsletter; to identifying and publicizing activities in the spirit of the IAPTC, and to taking lead role in IAPTC follow-up matters.

The matter of “improving” or “strengthening” the IAPTC should remain alive and ongoing issue for the Annual General Meeting and the Executive Committee. Ideas are welcomed from members, regional groupings, individual institutions, past presidencies and chairs, and others. To the extent that ideas are offered with supporting resources, so much the better.

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the AGM note the possibilities for strengthening the Association and agree that individual members, where possible, support them. It is further proposed that AGM request the Executive Committee to keep these issues under review and continue to identify additional possibilities for strengthening the IAPTC”.

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda - 4: Information and Discussion “A Regional Support Process for the IAPTC”

The paper on a regional support process builds on the concept developed by Africa of the African Peace Support Trainers Association _ APSTA. Since the last conference in Sweden Latin American countries have also formed an Association, which was briefed to members at the 14th annual conference. The paper encourages other regions – Europe, Asia/Pacific and North America to consider similar concepts.

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the AGM welcome developments in this area and encourage additional regional bodies. It is further proposed that opportunities for regional gatherings and regional presentations be considered for the program of the annual conference”.

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda- 5: Information and Discussion “Adapting and Improving the Annual Conference Concept”

The Annual Conference has been adapted each year since its founding in 1995, in order to meet members’ wishes and needs. As a part of the broader strengthening process for the IAPTC this policy should be continued.

The two proposals for change from 2007 to 2008 were implemented during the 14th Annual Conference: the first to trial the idea of “thematic discussions” – topics proposed and led by members; and the second was to insert the possibility for regional gatherings and presentations during the conference.

It was further suggested that the ideas Bazaar return to its original format – namely that in addition to organizations (or individuals) sharing information about their programmes and capabilities and opportunities, new concepts, techniques and technologies in the education and training field be shared.

The AGM will be asked to comment upon the two areas of change, and will be asked for any new ideas for 2009?

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the AGM note the two new programme items and instruct the Executive Committee on areas for further reflection”.

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda - 6: IAPTC Peacekeeping Education and Training Awards proposal

Based on discussions that began in the margins of the 13th Annual Conference and continued at the Executive Committee meeting in March 2008, the AGM is invited to consider that the IAPTC offer a “**Peacekeeping Education and Training Award**” to an individual or a group.

The award will be offered to an individual or group that excels in his/her/its peace operations education and training responsibilities in terms of dedication and extra effort, or exceeding standards or objectives, or initiating and implementing a successful new program, or developing new training concept(s) and ideally some combination of the foregoing.

Nominations for the award will be submitted in **a format to be notified on the IAPTC web site with a deadline of 1st of March each year**. The Executive Committee will design the nomination format, as well as the form of the actual presentation.

The Award will be publicised on the IAPTC web site and in the bi-annual newsletter (if newsletter concept is agreed by AGM). **The secretariat will e-mail the memberships of 2007 and 2008 to notify them of the award, and will remind the current (2009) membership of the award in late 2008.**

The Executive Committee will review nominations during its annual planning meeting and determine the award recipient. **A minimum of three nominations** will be required in order to have a selection process. The Presidency, or the Secretariat on behalf of the Presidency, will inform the **award recipient's sponsor accordingly.**

The award will be presented at the Annual Conference, with the first award to be issued at the 15th Annual Conference in Australia.

Members of the Executive Committee may not nominate anyone, nor can there be a nomination from a country represented on the Executive Committee (with the exception of ex-officio members).

The sponsoring country is encouraged to bring the award recipient (or a representative if a group is to receive the award) to the annual conference. The individual or group receiving the award will be invited to speak during the annual conference program on his/her award-based training project(s)/activities.

The concept of this award will be implemented on a trial basis in 2009. The Executive Committee will continue to develop the proposal further, based on guidance and suggestions from the membership. Members are also encouraged to offer additional thoughts on the concept at any point following the 14th Annual conference.

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

"It is proposed that the AGM agree to direct the Executive Committee to implement, on a trial basis, the above 'Peacekeeping Education and Training Award Concept', amended as necessary based on discussions and further guidance from the AGM".

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda - 7: Patron Concept

During the meeting of the Executive Committee in Abuja in March 2008 the members considered the concept of “patron” for the Association. This topic had been raised on previous occasions over the 14 year history of the IAPTC but never seriously discussed.

A patron is someone who will countenance, protect and offer influential support to the Association. The individual would be expected to contribute to the advancement of the objectives of the IAPTC. There are no financial implications, save that if the Patron participates in an IAPTC activity **then the host, or other willing member country/institution, would cover all expenses.**

If the AGM agrees to this proposal, IAPTC members, i.e. those participating in the 14th annual conference in Abuja, are requested to submit the names of possible individuals for such a post, for consideration by the Executive Committee at its 2009 planning meeting (which normally occurs in March). Ideally such a person **should have a significant peace operations background.** A name will then be proposed to the membership summer 2009. After agreement by the membership the intent would be to **ask the patron to participate in the 15th annual conference in Australia.**

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the concept of a patron for the IAPTC be adopted and that members offer names of possible candidates prior to the March 2009 meeting of the Executive Committee”.

“The Executive Committee further proposes that it be given the authority, after polling the current membership by e-mail, to appoint a patron”.

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda -9: Information and Discussion” Other Issues from the 2007 Annual Conference”

During the Annual General Meeting a number of questions and comments were raised but which drew little discussion (in part due to time constraints). These were dealt within one paper and, in the main, require additional follow –up.

Proposals to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the AGM agree that a key to strengthening participation, in terms of diversity and regional representation, is the commitment of current members and regional associations to **support the secretariat and host in spreading information about the IAPTC.**

It is further proposed that the current rotational policy for hosts be continued.

It is further proposed that a paper on the need for, and ideas on, collective training standards be undertaken by a member or group of ‘members of the willing’.

It is further proposed that information on Best Practices on the UN’s Best Practices web site, can be shared in meetings of regional associations, can continue to be shared during the IAPTC annual conference, and can be posted on the IAPTC’s web site.

It is further proposed that the matter of **tracking trainees be a thematic discussion topic**, or a Special Training issue, during the 15th Annual Conference, or be assumed for further research by a volunteer member.

Decision: Approved by the members.

Agenda - 10: IAPTC Newsletter

During 13th Annual Conference the Presidency undertook to develop and IAPTC Newsletter, in response to members’ suggestions. A sample of such a newsletter has been circulated. The intent is to circulate a newsletter twice a year: one prior to end year (starting 2008), essentially highlighting key aspects of the Annual Conference; and a second newsletter in mid-summer (starting 2009) designed in part to inform on the following annual conference (summary of appropriate Executive Committee planning meeting deliberations), in part to generate interest in the following annual conference, to inform each other on Members’ news, and to include articles of interest.

The **current sample** copy, together **with a copy of this document**, will **be placed on the web site by the Secretariat**. Further, the **Secretariat will notify the many** organizations and individuals with an interest in the IAPTC of

the existence of the current newsletter and the Newsletter concept; i.e. the memberships from the 12th and 13th conference.

Members are encouraged to reproduce the Newsletter for further distribution to interested parties in their home country. An electronic version of the sample letter is included in the Conference CD, issued at the end of the conference.

The 2009 Past Presidency (FBA, Sweden) agrees to **draft the next two newsletters: for 2008 (end year) and 2009 (summer)**. These Newsletters will be placed on the IAPTC website and also circulated in electronic version **by the Secretariat to the 2008 and 2009 memberships**. The subject of the Newsletter will be placed on the agenda of the AGM at the 15th annual conference, with a view to determining its success and utility and to determine drafting responsibilities for the future.

Important to the success of this proposal is that members provide the Past-Presidency with news from the organizations or activities, and articles that may be of interest to the broad membership (anna-linn.pearsson@folkebernadotteacademy.se and david.lightburn@folkebernadotteacademy.se), with a copy to the Secretariat (sect@iaptc.org)

Members are also encouraged to propose additional ideas for Newsletter format and type of content.

Proposal to the AGM from the IAPTC Executive Committee

“The Executive Committee proposes that the AGM agree the above approach to an IAPTC News letter and agree to review the situation at the 15th Annual Conference”.

Decision: Approved by the members.

3. **Members Issues.** Members from different countries also raised questions regarding different aspects of IAPTC.

(a) **Prof Ximena Jimenez (Chile)**. Could it be considered to ask Peacekeeping Centres/Regional Centres to present during the next conference ‘some issues’ which will be useful and interesting for all.

(b) **Brig Syed Kausar Shah (Pakistan).**

(i) The host could consider inviting maximum senior officers presently deployed in the Peacekeeping missions to deliver talks during IAPTC annual meets.

(ii) Weightage should be given to major TCC while nominating new members of the chairs of various committees. The articles of the association do not say anything on the regional balance to be maintained. As the Secretariat is the permanent entity, it should not be considered to maintain regional balance. Lastly, the selection should be done during the AGM and left to the ECM.

(c) **Maj Gen Robert Gordon (UK).**

(i) As the military participation is large, there is a need to have an additional Military Committee Head for dividing the military members in two groups and making it more effective.

(ii) There is also a need of representatives from other regions in order to make the organisation more functional and thus the regional balance should not become a burden.

(iii) Organisation of Functional Group Discussion should be broken into sub groups.

4. **Theme.** The members approved that the theme of 15th IAPTC conference be finalised during the ECM to be held in March 2009.

5. **Host of 2010 Conference.** Bangladesh was approved to host the 16th IAPTC meet in 2010.

6. **Americas for 2011 Conference.** The members were informed that the 17th IAPTC will be held in the Americas. The institutes/centres of Americas were asked to interact with respective governments and forward their application to the Secretariat by August 2009.

7. **Closing Remarks.** The President thanked the participants for their enthusiasm and suggestions on ways to improve IAPTC and making it more interactive, vibrant and

functional. He also thanked the organisers of the Annual Conference for making the event an important chapter in the history of IAPTC.