



International Association of Business Communicators Asia/Pacific Region

MEETING MINUTES **TUESDAY 21 JUNE 2022**

7.00pm	Melbourne/Sydney/Brisbane
9.00pm	New Zealand
2.30pm	Bangalore
5.00pm	Singapore/KL/Hong Kong/Quezon
6.00pm	Tokyo

ZOOM CONFERENCE

Present: Mel Kettle, Mark Woodrow, Sunita Venugopal, Ritzi Villarico-Ronquillo, Bhavya Sharma, Kristy Christie, Katherine Loftus, James Howe, Lauren Nowak, Belle Tiongco, David Imber, Justine O'Brien, Nicola Joubert, Kristina Michel, Melinda Coyne, Jyoti Khan, Kane Choa, Samara Williams, Gabriel Tan, Moushmi Balachandran, Jo Curkpatrick, Andrea de Palatis, Ross Monaghan, Jesus Uranga

Absent: Kazuko Kotaki, Monika Lancucki, Shane Hatton

Call to order and conflict of interest disclosure

The meeting was called to order at 7.04pm. No conflict of interest was declared.

Welcome and 2021 AGM Minutes

As Chair, James welcomed all members who registered and attended the 2022 AGM, including the proposed new Board members. **The 2021 AGM minutes was moved by Kristy Christie, seconded by Sunita Vengopal and passed unanimously.**

Chair's report

The Chair acknowledged the difficulties of the past 12 months with the pandemic continuing and evolving across the region and the globe, presenting challenges for IABC and communicators in general. Despite this, he remarked that it highlighted the invaluable role that communicators play and the importance of the support of communicators by IABC.

James then went on to discuss the report by the Centre for Strategic Communication: So How Do You Really Feel? The State of Mental Wellbeing in the Communication Profession and encouraged everyone to have a read through. He called out that two thirds of respondents said their mental health had deteriorated since the start of the pandemic. And as we enter a period of economic instability, there is an increasing need for IABC, like everything, to show support to members and demonstrate value.

He then moved on to acknowledge the achievements of the Board across portfolios overseeing stability in membership numbers despite the challenges, achieved a significant increase in MALs, received record numbers of applicants from diverse backgrounds for the COTY Awards and continued success in Gold Quills and certification.

These results are the culmination of our strategy and approach which aligned with IABC's Stronger Together strategy.

Unfortunately, during the year, for multiple reasons, the Hong Kong chapter closed. James thanks Jen Hilton and her team for their work and is pleased to see that most have become MALs.

He then moved to thank the Board members for their tireless commitment with the majority staying on for FY23, and all chapter leaders across the region for volunteering their time and experience. A special thanks was made to Kristy Christie as friend of so many in the region, acknowledging her commitment through six years on the IABC APAC Board.

James is optimistic about the future as to how the region will be placed to further support Chapters and members. This is a great organisation achieving great things. **The Chair's report was moved by James Howe, seconded by Justine O'Brien and passed with majority.**

Finance report (presented by the Chair)

The APAC Board continues to operate in a fiscally responsible manner, and goes into its new term in a strong financial position despite recording a net loss of \$6,009.

We operated at a slight loss during 2022 due to investing in our members through Leadership Institute, grants, scholarships and event attendance. Outstanding revenue expected from the Africa region has cleared as of this meeting, though after the finance report was filed.

At year end, 31 December 2021, bank holdings were \$121,854.95. As at 30 April 2022, bank holdings were \$130,701.19.

Our financial activity will continue to remain conservative in light of current global issues. **The 2022 AGM finance report was moved by James Howe and seconded by Katherine Loftus, and passed with majority.**

Approval of APAC Region Board 2022/23 Slate

Kristy, Immediate Past Chair, in her role as Chair of the Nominating Committee, shared the protocol and process used in the APAC Region Nominating Committee, and outlined the rationale for the growing Board slate.

James Howe, Chair, discussed the pleasing volume of applicants for the 2023 Board and cited the strength of the work of the region as a driving reason. The APAC Region Board 2022/23 slate was presented by James, outlining their assigned portfolio. **Jo Curkpatrick moved the motion to accept the 2022/23 IABC APAC Board slate; Justine O'Brien seconded and the motion was passed with majority. Those on the slate abstained.**

The Chair then thanked the Immediate Past Chair and welcomed Katherine Loftus as incoming Chair.

Remarks by Vice Chair, Incoming Chair of APAC Board

Katherine thanked the Chair and Past Chair for their commitment and support during a year of growing uncertainty and instability globally. She expressed her appreciation for the unwavering support, wisdom and diplomacy of Kristy and commended the Board for donating their most valuable asset - their time - over the past 12 months.

She remarked that in 2023, the region would continue to practice good governance and building on the foundations of the great work laid by Kristy and James, Katherine is excited by the new talent coming onto the Board. She is buoyant for the year ahead as we're able to reconnect, grow our strong member base, and advance our profession.

Remarks by Immediate Past Chair of 2021/22 APAC Board

Kristy expressed her gratitude for the efforts of James and Katherine, calling out Katherine's ability to go above and beyond which was demonstrated during her time as Vice Chair. She is confident that Katherine's leadership comes at a time when the region needs it most.

She cited the diversity in representation on the Board as the reason for the region's continual growth and is looking forward to the next chapter.

A special acknowledgement was given to Ross Monaghan who is rolling off the Board but staying on as an adviser. She then thanked all the chapter leads for their leadership and dedication in the region which sees APAC go from strength to strength.

The meeting concluded at 7.43pm AEST by James as Chair of the AGM.

Minutes recorded by Lauren Nowak (Secretary) and reviewed by James Howe (Immediate Past Chair) and Katherine Loftus (Chair).