

FESTMIH Board Meeting and Action Points Amsterdam, 17th of March 2006

Present

Pierre Ambroise-Thomas (France), Zeno Bisoffi (Italy), Martin Boeree (President, The Netherlands), Marcel Hommel (United Kingdom), Esther Jurgens (*policy advisor* NVTG, The Netherlands), Thomas Junghanss (Germany), Dominique LeRay (Belgium), Stephane Talboom and Caroline Favre from the KIT Congress secretariat.

Apologies for absence had been received from Michel Pletschette (United Kingdom), Pascal Magnussen (Secretary, Denmark), Patrick Van der Stuyft (Treasurer, Belgium)

Marseille Congress

Overall conclusion: the Marseille Congress was a success, with more than 1300 participants engaging in scientific discussions and networking. In financial terms the meeting was less successful and was the balance set at a loss of € 13,000. Factors that contributed to this situation were the relative high preparation costs (meetings scientific committee), expensive handling of abstract, media coverage etc. Carefull planning and a clear policy on payments of keynote speakers and exemption of payments for facilitators is recommended. The meeting acknowledged the dilemmas and concluded that monitoring of financial status and communication with the congress organisation on these issues is crucial. On a more positive note, the financial loss did not have an effect on FESTMIH financial balance.

Board issues

Minutes of the FESTMIH board meeting (14th of September 2005) were accepted, one adjustment: the Italian Society also hosted a session during the 4th European Congress TM and IH in Marseille. Administrative issues: addresses of member societies were updated and placed on the website. Next Assembly is scheduled during the Amsterdam Congress in 2007. Next board meeting will take place in Verona in the autumn.

A speech of gratitude was given to Marcel Hommel and Dominique LeRay (both of them were Presidents of the FESTMIH) for their enthusiastic contribution to the FESTMIH in the last years.

Amsterdam Congress

Preparations for the Congress are well underway. The website is operational (www.trop-amsterdam2007.com) and the first announcement has been distributed. New elements at the Congress are the sessions 'Meet the professor' and 'Where are we ...?', and satellite symposium. The scientific programme is subject to discussion the day after the board meeting. At the end of the meeting a brief tour on the venue for 2007 (the RAI congress centre) was provided.

Congresses 2009, 2011

The Italian Society for Tropical Medicine will host the 6th European Congress, in Verona in 2009. They will prepare a flyer to be ready next year. Decisions on the venue are being discussed. No decision was taken on the host country for the 7th European Congress in 2011. Possible candidates: Austria, Spain, Eastern Europe.

Important to note that in 2011 the event will coincide with an international Congress International Health in Brazil.

The timeframe for the congresses was discussed briefly, and suggestions made to organise a smaller event in between two bigger congresses, eg during an annual meeting of a national society (or a joint meeting of two national societies).

Future activities

The FESTMIH workplan 2006-2007 was discussed (see annex). In order to follow up on ideas to expand activities of FESTMIH and support to new members it was decided to send out a questionnaire to member societies to get their views on the role of FESTMIH. Further actions in this area will be discussed at the next board meeting, based on the outcome of the quick scan. The questionnaire will be distributed using the tropNet mailinglist (network on infectious diseases). Efforts to get the Polish society involved in FESTMIH were stranded. The website is functioning well and Marcel Hommel remains webmaster.

Last year, an editorial on FESTMIH was published in TM/IH. It is the intention of the Board to make more use of this platform, in order to generate publicity and stimulate the debate on issues in international health. Ideas for articles were mentioned including: the Amsterdam Congress, the centennial celebration of the Dutch society, the process of organising European Congresses on tropical medicine, or articles on specific issues in international health. Furthermore, FESTMIH should explore its ambitions and limitations, make use of strategic alliances with other networks and look into ways to establish partnerships with organisations in the South.

Action points

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Amsterdam Congress 2007 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send letter to member societies to draw attention to the options to co/host a session at the European Congress - Investigate EU opportunities for sponsoring | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Boeree Martin Boeree, KIT Congress secr.?, Esther Jurgens |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Board issues | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inform treasurer (Patrick Van der Stuyft) on the need to organise the audit and registration of the adjusted Constitution and statutes of FESTMIH - Treasurer to send out reminder to member societies to pay the contribution - Next board meeting – dates: | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Boeree Patrick Van der Stuyft Martin Boeree |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare questionnaire for members and distribute through tropNet mailinglist | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Martin Boeree, Esther Jurgens, Thomas Junghanss / Zeno Bisoffi ? |

Annex

FESTMIH Workplan 2006 - 2007

Establish direction of Federation and support to new members	Quick scan (questionnaire member societies)	2006
Networking and exchange of knowledge	Organise congresses Amsterdam 2007; Verona 2009	2007
Expansion of the Federation	Contact potential members (esp. Eastern Europe)	2006
Bridging the gap between national societies	Increase use website as linking pin between the members (discussion, dissemination of information on activities) and to promote national societies (events, activities)	Ongoing
Active promotion of the work of FESTMIH	Publication of articles (TM/IH, magazines of national societies), PR during congresses and (inter)national meetings	Ongoing
(co)Sponsoring / financial support for activities in the interest of tropical medicine and international health	To be decided, based on financial possibilities	