

# Minutes of the NIC Annual Meeting in Aarhus, November 23, 2012

## Opening:

Jens Allwood opened NIC Board Meeting 2012 and introduced the agenda

### 1. Electing Secretary:

Irina Koksharova was elected secretary

### 2. Minutes of last meeting:

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

### 3. Proposal from members:

Nancy Aalto proposed a new logo for NIC last year. The present logo was designed in Jyväskylä, and has served for many years. Jens Allwood expressed the opinion that if the present logo has served for so many years, there is no reason to change it, unless we have a good new proposal

### 4. Members:

Correction was made to the name of one of the Icelandic members. Correct spelling "Gauti Kristmannsson". The Latvian and Lithuanian members were not present. The Board member from Norway was not present at the meeting however expressed the wish to continue collaboration with NIC. All NIC board members presently on the list were re-elected.

### 5. Other information:

#### Norway:

The university has a new professor of ICC: Ms Line Alice Ytrehus She is professor of intercultural studies at NLA Høgskolen, Bergen. ICC is taught in Stavanger, Bergen, Oslo, Kristiansand and Halden. A Festschrift in honour of prof. Øyvind Dahl: "Forståelsens gyldne øyeblikk", was published in 2011 at Tapir Akademisk Forlag, Trondheim. In Norway we have created an organization: Norsk forening for interkulturell kompetanse (NOFIK). NOFIK organized its second conference in Bergen 15-16 November this year.

#### Denmark:

There are new courses in ICC. There is some activity on ICC in Copenhagen School of Business. ICC is developing in South Denmark mostly; most work is done by Hanne Tange in Aarhus University. The Business School in Aarhus no longer exists and that causes some administrative problems. The Business school in Copenhagen has expressed interest in ICC research done in Aarhus

#### Sweden:

ICC courses are offered at about 10 universities. The university of Gothenburg Masters program in Communication has 3 ICC courses. The Swedish network for studies of intercultural communication SNICC, <http://sskkii.gu.se/nic/snicc/> had a successful meeting 13 September, 2012 in Jönköping, attended by researchers, teachers and practitioners.

Finland:

There will be a book, *Theoretical Turbulence in Intercultural Communication Studies*, which will include about 12 articles by presenters at last year's NIC conference in Helsinki. The articles are currently being reviewed and the book should be out sometime in 2013.

Estonia:

Courses appear in the University of Tartu – an ICC course is now taken by all the students of Humanities and may be elective for all students of the university. More ICC courses are taught at MA level. Courses are mostly taught by the Institute of Romanic, Germanic and Slavonic languages, the Institute of Social Sciences, and the ICC Institute in Tallinn.

Iceland:

Not so many intercultural courses exist in Icelandic universities. At present it is not possible to make research compared to big universities in Iceland, however, there is a forum for discussion of ICC topics, and the university organises conferences.

The application of Icelandic authorities for funding of the centre of Multilingualism and ICC was accepted. Financed by the above mentioned project, a new building for the centre of Multilingualism and ICC (apprx. 3300 square metres) will be built. The construction starts in spring 2013 and finishes in late 2014.

The representative from Iceland raised an important issue of the diversity of the languages, and expressed irritation about the central role of English at international conferences. It was suggested that more discussions in L1 should be held at NIC conferences. It was added that numerous multilingual conferences are organised in Iceland and that is interesting experience. Multilingualism was suggested as NIC policy. Jens Allwood added that each site is free to organise their conferences in their own way.

#### **6. NIC website:**

Jens Allwood showed the members the renewed NIC website and informed that at the moment a new person was managing it and was doing it quite successfully as the website became more elegant.

Øyvind Dahl drew the attention of the organisers of the next conference to the guidelines of organising NIC conferences.

#### **7. Next NIC conferences:**

The NIC 2013 conference will take place in Tartu in Estonia and will be organised by the University of Tartu, Institute of Germanic, Romance, and Slavonic Languages and Literatures; and the Department of English Language and Literature. Krista Vogelberg introduced the preliminary dates of the conference 28 – 30 November 2013 as well as the topic for the conference *Separation vs Integration: Challenges of Bridging Cultural Contrasts*.

NIC 2014 – Iceland

NIC 2015 – Sweden

NIC 2016 – Norway

#### **8. Other issues:**

Bhim Narayan Regmi, a representative of Central Department of Linguistics, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu, Nepal spoke and thanked the organisers of the present conference and introduced a suggestion for NIC to possibly arrange a conference in Nepal. He additionally mentioned that Tribhuvan University would be interested in NIC members' support in organising new ICC courses. He also mentioned Centre for Communication and Development Studies in Nepal.

Eduard Khakimov, a representative of Udmurt State University, Russia spoke and also suggested that NIC should expand further. He also introduced an idea of making NIC website more informative by uploading more media data from the conference. The representative was interested in participating in the next NIC conference and suggested the organisers of NIC 2013 contact Russian ICC organisations. Eduard Khakimov added that NIC should involve more students and make the forms of presentations more varied, by introducing poster sessions, for instance. Jens Allwood commented on the suggestions saying that all the work on NIC website is voluntary and if members are interested in posting material they may volunteer to do that. NIC has repeatedly involved students at its conferences and different conference organisers have included various forms of presentations: poster sessions, workshops, etc. This is certainly possible again.

#### **9. The Journal of Intercultural Communication – the NIC journal:**

Jens Allwood reminded NIC members about the publishing opportunities, for conference presentations to the 19:th NIC conference in Aarhus, in the peer reviewed Journal of Intercultural Communication. He also mentioned that the journal is fairly successful and gets approximately 3000 visitors every month. Numerous articles are submitted monthly.

#### **10. Closing**

By Chair person Jens Allwood  
Secretary

Chair person

Irina Koksharova

Jens Allwood