

Minutes from Nordic Network of Intercultural Communication

Board meeting

21st Nov 2003

Agenda:

1. Election of a secretary
2. Minutes from the previous meeting
3. Information
4. Publication of NIC Symposium papers
5. Journal of Intercultural Communication
6. Next NIC Symposium NIC 11
7. Election of NIC Board members
8. Other issues

Minutes:

1. Monika Chutnik volunteered to be a secretary and was duly elected.

2. Minutes from the previous meeting were discussed.

It was stated that the website had not yet taken its desired form. The plans have been realised only to a limited extent. The planned electronic forum did not exist at all. Nataliya Berbyuk stated that there had not been enough information suppliers and lack of interest for the electronic forum. Nataliya Berbyuk invited all NIC members to be more active in supplying information, in general. Iben Jensen suggested that participants could provide links to institutions where intercultural communication can be studied.

The Multimedia intercultural library was again discussed and members were also here invited to make contributions.

The issue of conference language was discussed. It was stated that English as a working language is not compulsory. Every participant can use their own language, with the risk of not being understood by others.

3. Information.

Øyvind Dahl presented the history of NIC. According to the established order of conferences, Norway could host the next NIC symposium.

Mihai Frumuseln remarked that NIC could and should be a model for similar associations world-wide.

Jens Allwood underlined that people from other than Nordic cultures are welcome in the organisation.

Øyvind Dahl stated that the difference between NIC and SIETAR Europa refers to their foci of interest, NIC being more oriented towards academic research, SIETAR – towards business consulting. He added that SIETAR Europa is more strictly divided into country groups. In his opinion, intercultural communication is vividly present also in Balkan countries, but there is a need for more intercultural training.

Bilyana Martinovsky suggested that NIC could initiate creation of intercultural organisations in other countries.

Lisa Salo-Lee mentioned a French-canadian organisation called ARIC devoted to intercultural communication. Its working language is French.

Elena Maceviciute volunteered to be a representative of Lithuania in NIC Board.

4. Publication of NIC Symposium papers

Jens Allwood stated that publication of papers in the Journal of Intercultural Communication is welcome from all interested people, in particular NIC members. However, it should be understood that all papers are subject to peer review. He invited all participants in the conference to submit their papers as soon as possible. A selection of these might also be published in paper form.

5. Electronic Journal “Intercultural Communication”

Jens Allwood presented data proving that the readership of the journal is growing (regarding number of hits and number of visitors). Today, there are on an average 100 readers/day. It was discussed how electronic journals could be cited. It was suggested that they should be cited with the name of the journal and a web address. Elena Maceviciute stated that the electronic journal was the only source regarding intercultural communication which she was able to find in the Internet.

6. Next meeting

Øyvind Dahl stated that the next NIC Symposium could take place in Kristiansand in Norway. It will be organised by Agder University College. Its units: Center for Multicultural Activities, Faculty for Economy and Society, and the Gimlekollen College for Media will cooperate to organise NIC Symposium 2004. The contact person in Norway is Eva Maagerø from the Center for Multicultural Activities, eva.maagero@hia.no ipso facto representing the NIC 2004 Symposium Organising Committee.

Jens Allwood underlined that Göteborg is willing to provide Eva Maagerø with all information they have and that it will be sent to her. He also stated that the local Organising Committee is responsible for finding funding on their own. However, they should receive all possible help regarding information about funding sources.

Nataliya Berbyuk insisted that such information should be shared by all NIC members and sent to her so that it could be placed in the common internet space. She stressed that in many cases it is possible to apply for a grant together and that members of one organisation should be helpful to each other.

Øyvind Dahl said that the organising committee has already contacted Filonova.

Maria Isaksson stated that NIC Board has absolutely no influence on the conference fees. This depends on the local organising committee.

Nataliya Berbyuk promised to send links regarding funding sources to Øyvind Dahl so that he could forward them to the symposium organising committee.

Øyvind Dahl stated that the Organising Committee will create a website and that links to this website should be visible on the NIC main site as soon as possible.

The Board members expressed their thankfulness for the offer from Kristiansand, offered to share and send all relevant information which they have, and make a link on the main NIC website.

Initial plans for the years after 2004 were also made. In 2005 the conference could take place in Tampere, Finland, which was tentatively accepted by a representative from Tampere, Pentti Vanhaho. He promised to discuss this notion with other participants from Tampere, coming from Tampere University. For 2006 Denmark, RUC university college was suggested This was also tentatively accepted by Iben Jensen.

7. Election of NIC Board members

Øyvind Dahl suggested that Elena Maceviciute from the Faculty of Communication, Vilnius University, elena.maceviciute@hb.se could be a representative of Lithuania. She was promptly elected a new board member.

Christoph Schmidt cschmidt@abo.fi was elected a new Board member from Finland in the place of Narendra Kumar.

The new NIC Board consists of:

Norway	Øyvind Dahl	Maria Isaksson
Sweden	Jens Allwood	Beatriz Dorriots
Finland	Liisa Salo-Lee	Christoph Schmidt
Denmark	Iben Jensen	Malene Gram
Estonia	Lenn Rahnu	Marju Lauristin
Latvia	Aija Priedite	
Lithuania	Elena Maceviciute	

It was stated that members of the Board who have been inactive for a few years can be replaced with new Board members representing the same country. It was also stated that one can be re-elected. All present members of the Board agreed on both decisions.

8. Other issues.

Øyvind Dahl suggested to update links to other intercultural communication Nordic centres. He also suggested adding links to own and other articles which had appeared in the Internet.

It was agreed that all information regarding links or website updates should be sent to Nataliya Berbyuk natasha@ling.gu.se or to Betriz Dorriots beatrize@ling.gu.se

Lisa Salo-Lee suggested that students could look for relevant links as a part of their project work at the university.

Øyvind Dahl insisted that the NIC main site should be completed with information about NIC printed publications.

Maria Isaksson suggested that the link to the Symposium site could be placed in a more visible place.

Nataliya Berbyuk stressed difficulties which appear while creating an electronic library. She requested technical help.

She also suggested that links sent to her should be provided with the approval of the institution in question so that there are no doubts whether the link can be placed in the NIC website or not.

Many thanks for the creators of the website and for the activity of Jens Allwood were expressed.