

Minutes of NIC board meeting – Reykjavik, 6 December 2008

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by the Chair, Jens Allwood.

2. Election of secretary

Henrik Bøhn was elected Secretary of the meeting.

3. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes of last year's board meeting were read.

4. Other information

Jens Allwood informed the meeting that a national Swedish organisation for intercultural communication, The Swedish Network for Intercultural Communication, had been established at a meeting in Örebro in April 2008.

Liene Locmele informed the participants that there would be a summer school devoted to intercultural communication at the Vidzeme University College, Latvia in the summer of 2009. The staff were looking forward to receiving students. Jens Allwood asked the organizers to forward the school's web address so that it could be posted on the NIC web page.

Iben Jensen also asked for a link to the ICREA home page to be posted on the NIC web page.

Lisa Salo-Lee reported that two students had successfully completed their PhD programmes in intercultural communication at the University of Jyväskylä. Jens Allwood added that a PhD student from the University of Göteborg had also successfully defended her dissertation in 2008.

5. The NIC web site and the Journal of Intercultural Communication

The Chair showed some of the major features of the NIC web sites and asked if the participants wanted changes to be made. Natalia Berbyuk Lindström updated the meeting on alterations that had been made on the pages, such as the list of members. The members' email addresses have now been removed, and the meeting accepted this modification. Members were kindly asked to contact the webmaster in order to update personal and academic information.

Professor Allwood also stressed that the quality of the web pages depend on the activity and participation of the NIC members, and therefore encouraged the members to send links to relevant resources, agencies etc.

Then there was a discussion on the Bibliography web page. Natalia Lindström suggested changing it to include topic headings, in order to make it easier for visitors to navigate the page. The suggestion found support among the participants.

Maria Isaksson wanted the key-note speakers to submit written material, such as print-outs of PowerPoint presentations, to be posted on the NIC web pages. The meeting thought this was a good idea.

Iben Jensen suggested that NIC adopt a new logo. Some members are not happy with the logo and would like to see it changed. If there are concrete suggestions for a new logo, these should be submitted to the board well in time before the next NIC conference in Borås next year. The issue will be carefully treated there.

A general presentation of the Journal of Intercultural Communication was then made. Jens Allwood told the meeting that the readership has increased and that as many as 3,500 readers from all over the world now access the site every month. The journal is recognised as a publication of a high academic standard, and 50 per cent of the submitted papers are accepted. In order to alleviate the workload on the editors, a new electronic submission system will now be implemented.

6. Proposal from members

Maria Isaksson suggested a change of name for the sub-category Business Communication to "Organisational Communication" or "Corporate Communication", as she believes that "Business Communication" is now less widely used to describe the academic field internationally. Jens Allwood agreed that with the argument from an academic point of view, but thought that it was a good idea to keep the term "Business Communication" for PR-reasons. Auður Hauksdóttir then suggested that both terms be used.

A question on the best format for the next conferences cropped up. This concerns for example whether papers should be submitted in full to the conference organisers prior to the conference, whether there should be workshops or just 20 minutes presentations with short ensuing discussions etc. It was decided that the matter be decided at a later stage.

7. Election of members to the NIC board

The following changes in the NIC board were decided upon:

From Finland, Saira Poutiainen replaces Lisa Salo-Lee; From Iceland, Auður Hauksdóttir replaces Óddny Sverrisdóttir and Gauti Kristmannson replaces Laufey Erla Jónsdóttir. In addition, Ieva Sture from Latvia will replace Aija Priedite, if it is confirmed that Ms Priedite has withdrawn.

The 2009 NIC board will then be the following:

Norway	Øyvind Dahl	Maria Isaksson
Sweden	Jens Allwood	Nataliya Berbyuk Lindström
Finland	Saira Poutiainen	Nancy Aalto
Denmark	Iben Jensen	Vibeke Andersson
Estonia	Irina Koksharova	Krista Vogelberg
Latvia	Liene Locmele	Ieva Sture
Lithuania	Elena Maceviciute	Renata Matkeviciene
Iceland	Auður Hauksdóttir	Gauti Kristmannson

8. Next NIC conference

The next NIC conference will take place in Borås in Sweden. The topics of the conference will be “Intercultural Information and Communication Technology” and “Intercultural Services and Products”. The dates are not yet ready, but 26-28 November has been suggested. The conference will be hosted by The University of Borås, where Rolf Appelqvist, Michael Lind and Håkan Alm will be contact persons.

9. Other Issues

In 2010 Norway will be hosting the annual NIC conference. Bergen, Oslo, Østfold or Stavanger are possible venues.

10. Closing

Jens Allwood closed the meeting, expressing the gratitude of NIC to the Icelandic organisers.