

Minutes of the NIC Annual Meeting in Tartu, November 29, 2013

1. Opening of the meeting

Jens Allwood opened NIC Board Meeting 2013 and introduced the agenda. There were no remarks about the agenda, which was, accordingly, unanimously approved.

2. Electing secretary

Krista Vogelberg was elected secretary.

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were read, discussed and approved.

4. Reports from members

Jens Allwood reported on the SNICC meeting that took place in Karlstad, the theme was power in intercultural communication

Øyvind Dahl spoke about NOFIK. There was no NOFIK-conference in 2013. The last conference was in November 2012. NOFIK decided to organise a conference every second year, i.e. there will be one in 2014. (It has not yet been decided when and where.)

Line Alice Ytrehus spoke about a new open access journal. The first issue will come out next November. The journal will have predominantly thematic issues.

Members from Sweden spoke about a new programme in Karlstad, devoted to issues of intercultural communication and a new programme on internationalization in Jönköping.

New journals have appeared in the field ("Intercultural Pragmatics", etc)

5. The Journal

Jens Allwood gave a survey of the policy of the Journal of Intercultural Communication and its achievements.

NIC and its journal were created as an alternative to SIETAR, which is a little biased toward the USA. The journal has no thematic issues. The articles must concern intercultural or cross-cultural issues.

The editorial board comprises 46 members from 15 countries in all continents. The rejection rate is approximately 50%.

So far, a total of 426 papers by authors from 67 countries have been submitted to the Journal.

The Journal has roughly 2000 visitors per month, from a large number of countries from all over the world. The greatest number of readers are from the USA.

Jens Allwood told all those present that they are welcome to submit their contributions.

6. Proposals from members

Saila Poutilainen pointed out a need for a new logo. She mentioned that the subject had been brought up at the previous board meeting. At the University of Jyväskylä a project was started for designing a new NIC logo. The results were circulated in the NIC mailing list, but received very little response.

Pavel Rodin showed the versions of the logo suggested in the framework of the project. These were viewed and discussed. However, no great enthusiasm was evinced by the board members. The members did not like the colours of the new logos. It was also pointed out by several members that most of the versions shown tend to portray NIC as a purely Nordic organization, which it is not.

Jens Allwood expressed his preference for the existing logo (designed in 1995 by a Jyväskylä team and depicting children round the globe). Øyvind Dahl pointed out that the only problem with the existing logo is its low resolution. The image becomes blurred when enlarged. It was suggested that the existing logo be improved by enhancing the resolution.

7. Members of the NIC board

The list of members of the current board was shown. Certain e-mail addresses need to be changed. New e-mail addresses: for Iben Jensen: ij@learning.aau.dk, and Hanne Tange: tange@cgs.aau.dk.

Øyvind Dahl took the floor. Having been member of the NIC board for twenty years (i.e. since the very beginning of NIC), he suggested that his post be filled by a new person, proposing Line Alice Ytrehus (LineAlice.Ytrehus@NLA.no), professor of intercultural studies at NLA Høgskolen, Bergen. She gave her consent. The proposal was unanimously approved by board members.

Maria Isaakson proposed a new board member instead of herself: Per Inge Båtnes (Per-Inge.Batnes@hioa.no), Assistant Professor of the [Institute for International Studies and Interpreter Education](#) in the Faculty of Education and International Studies at the HiOA. He was not present at the meeting but had expressed his consent in writing. He was likewise unanimously approved by the members of the board.

The updated list of board members was introduced and unanimously approved by the board members.

8. Next NIC conference

The University of Iceland in Reykjavik has offered to organise the 2014 NIC conference. The University of Iceland has been working on establishing a new International Language Centre which will function under the auspices of UNESCO. Accordingly, the topic proposed for the

conference is “Language – Culture and Communication”. The dates will be Nov 27 – 29, 2014, with an extra day for sightseeing for those who are interested. The board accepted the proposal unanimously.

9. Other issues

NIC 2015 will be held in Sweden. Jens Allwood suggested Jönköping, Karlstad, Västerås and Gothenburg as possible venues.

The 2016 NIC conference will take place in Bergen Norway 2016. Øyvind Dahl suggested that the NOFIK-conference in 2016 might be integrated into the NIC-conference in Bergen in November 2016, to ensure greater participation and exchange of ideas.

Saila Poutiainen informed those present of the publication of a new book.

NIC webpage was discussed. Jens Allwood encouraged everybody to send relevant interesting information to the webpage.

It was suggested that the button “Join mail-list” should be removed from the site as it actually does not function properly and is misleading for people (several cases were cited where a new person pressed the button and was sure he or she was on the list, while actually getting no mails).

Irina Koksharova pointed out problems with e-mail connection with Iceland – NIC members from Iceland did not get the mails from Tartu sent to the general mail-list and were therefore unfortunately unable to attend the conference, though willing to do so.

Øyvind Dahl and Jens Allwood discussed the relevance of various sections of the webpage. It was decided not to change anything.

Øyvind Dahl reminded the board members of the beginnings of the organisation, reading from the Introduction to “Intercultural Communication and Contact. Selected Papers Presented at the Nordic Symposium in Stavanger, Norway, 24.-26. November 1994”. “During the symposium the participants organised a meeting with the aim of establishing a Nordic forum for intercultural communication and contact. It was decided that we should establish The Nordic Network for Intercultural Communication (NIC) for the purpose of 1) organising an annual conference on intercultural communication, 2) updating a members roster”.

10. Closing of the meeting

Chair of the meeting

Secretary of the meeting

Jens Allwood

Krista Vogelberg