

MINUTES

of the Meeting of the General Council of the Theosophical Society
held on Saturday, 25 December 2010, at Adyar

PRESENT

Mrs Radha Burnier	<i>President (in the chair) and proxy for Ricardo Lindemann, Greece, E & C Africa and Mexico</i>
Mrs Linda Oliveira	<i>Vice-President</i>
Mrs Kusum Satapathy	<i>Secretary and proxy for West Africa</i>
Miss Keshwar Dastur	<i>Treasurer and proxy for Mr Surendra Narayan</i>
Dr. Dara Tarray	<i>General Secretary, Australia and proxy for New Zealand</i>
Mr Marcos L.B. Resende	<i>General Secretary, Brazil and proxy for Argentina</i>
Mr Jan Jelle Keppeler	<i>General Secretary, Belgium</i>
Mr S. Sundaram	<i>General Secretary, India</i>
Mr Antonio Girardi	<i>General Secretary, Italy</i>
Ms Marja Artamaa	<i>General Secretary, Finland</i>
Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu	<i>General Secretary, France and proxy for Spain</i>
Mrs Manuela Kaulich	<i>General Secretary, Germany</i>
Ms Els Rijneker	<i>General Secretary, Netherlands</i>
Mr Carlos Guerra	<i>General Secretary, Portugal</i>
Mr Tom Davis	<i>General Secretary, South Africa</i>
Mrs Betty Bland	<i>General Secretary, USA and proxy for England - C. & D. a.</i>
Mr Pertti Spets	<i>General Secretary, Sweden</i>
Mr Herry Ispoernomo	<i>General Secretary, Indonesia</i>
Mrs Helen Jamieson	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr. D. K. Govindaraj	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr H. K. Sharan	<i>Additional Member</i>
Mr Sriram Panchu	<i>Additional Member</i>

Present as Observers by invitation:

Mrs. Breda Zagar	<i>Organizing Secretary, Slovenia</i>
Mrs Agnes Gasenyr	<i>Organizing Secretary, Norway</i>
Ms Sandy Ravelli	<i>New Zealand</i>
Dr Dusan Zagar	<i>Slovenia</i>
Mr Colin Price	<i>England</i>
Mrs. Patrizia Calvi	<i>Italy</i>
Mrs. Lavinia Michelle	<i>Indonesia</i>

The list of proxies was read out as above.

The President welcomed those present.

1. Confirmation of Minutes

The Minutes of the meeting held at Adyar on 25 December 2009 having been circulated, were taken as read and signed.

2. Matters arising out of the Minutes

A query was made regarding the mode of election of Additional Members, the results of which had been recorded in the 2009 minutes. In relation to elections held in 2008, it was stated by Mr Sriram Panchu, a lawyer, that no court of law would entertain reviewing these elections at this late stage. Discussion took place regarding elections and it was noted that the international Rules required some review and clarification.

3. Voting for General Council members

For this meeting only, in respect of Voting for Additional Members, it was resolved that General Councillors present at the meeting, who had not yet voted, could vote at the meeting. Proxies not previously submitted were also permitted to be lodged at the meeting. These allowances were made due to a view held by some General Council members that there is ambiguity in the relevant international Rules.

(a) Re-election of Miss Joy Mills and Mr Surendra Narayan as Additional Members

The President had nominated Miss Joy Mills and Mr Surendra Narayan for re-election under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The result of the voting was as follows:

	<i>For:</i>	<i>Against:</i>	<i>Abstained:</i>
Miss Joy Mills	27	5	2
Mr Surendra Narayan	26	5	3

Miss Joy Mills and Mr Surendra Narayan were declared elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

(b) Election of Mr Bhupendra Vora, Mr Dusan Zagar and Mr Keith Fisher as Additional Members

The President had nominated Mr Bhupendra Vora, Mr Dusan Zagar and Mr Keith Fisher for election under Rule 2(b) of the Rules and Regulations as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

The result of the voting was as follows:

	<i>For:</i>	<i>Against:</i>	<i>Abstained:</i>
Mr Bhupendra Vora	25	7	2
Mr Dusan Zagar	20	10	4
Mr Keith Fisher	19	11	4

Mr Bhupendra Vora, Mr Dusan Zagar and Mr Keith Fisher were declared elected as Additional Members of the General Council for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013.

4. Report on the Non-English Publications Fund

The Secretary reported that in spite of income from Bank Interest and dividends from USB Bonds, the value of the Fund decreased by \$ 2765 due to a fall in the exchange rate of the Euro. It now stands at \$ 107,394.

The following were appointed members of the NEPF Committee for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013:

The President
The Vice-President
The Treasurer of the TS
The Secretary of the TS
General Secretary, France

5. Report on the International Funds

The Secretary presented the report and stated that no details of the International Fund held in USA were received despite reminders. It was decided that the English Fund and the New Zealand Fund would be closed.

The following were appointed members of the International Funds Committee for the years 2011, 2012 and 2013:

The President	Chairman
The Vice-President	Vice-Chairman
The Secretary of the TS	
The Treasurer of the TS	

6. Report by the President on Headquarters

The sandalwood trees are still attracting thieves. We are improving the buildings one by one. The progress has been slow due to lack of personnel. The Headquarters Hall has been renovated. Renovation of Leadbeater Chambers has been partly done. Bhojanasala and New Quadrangle are getting repaired. The Shrines and the Library have been repaired.

7. Appointment of Executive Committee for 2011

The following Executive Committee members were appointed for 2011:

Mrs Radha Burnier	President (ex-officio)
Mrs Linda Oliveira	Vice-President (ex-officio)
Mrs Kusum Satapathy	Secretary (ex-officio)
Miss Keshwar Dastur	Treasurer (ex-officio)
Mr D K Govindaraj	General Council Member
Mr Surendra Narayan	General Council Member
Mr H. K. Sharan	General Council Member
Mr Sriram Panchu	General Council Member
Mr S Harihara Raghavan	Member
Prof. C A Shinde	Member

8. Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010

The Treasurer's Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2010, which had been previously circulated, were considered and approved. Several queries were answered.

9. The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2012

The Budget for the year ending 31 March 2012, which had been previously circulated, was considered and approved.

10. Appointment of Auditors for the year ending 31 March 2011

M/s Shrihari & Co, who were the Auditors for 2009 -2010, were again appointed as Auditors of the Theosophical Society for the year ending 31 March 2011 on the same terms.

11. Proposal regarding policies sent by Dr Dara Tatray, General Secretary, TS in Australia

The proposal for having a policy document for the TS was considered. A Committee consisting of the following was constituted to go into the matter in detail and make recommendations for consideration by the General Council:

Vice-President, Mrs Linda Oliveira *Coordinator*
International Secretary, Mrs Kusum Satapathy
Treasurer, Miss Keshwar Dastur
General Secretary of Australia, Dr. Dara Tatray
General Secretary of USA, Mrs Betty Bland
General Secretary of France, Ms Tran-Thi-Kim-Dieu
General Secretary of Brazil, Mr Marcos J. B. Resende
General Secretary of South Africa, Mr Tom Davis
Additional Member, Mr H. K. Sharan

12. Discussion on work around the world

The tenth World Congress took place in Italy this year. It was well attended by delegates from several countries. Videos of Congress sessions are on the Italian Section's website.

13. Any other business

1. The President proposed that the Subba Row Medal be awarded to Miss Joy Mills for her contribution to Theosophical literature and the Council decided to award the Medal to Miss Joy Mills for her contribution.
2. The possibility of changing the date of the General Council Meetings from Christmas Day was considered as the result of a submission by the English Section. The decision for the change could be taken up only after

ascertaining the considered views of all Council members. The Vice-President was asked to ascertain the views of all the members of the General Council.

3. On a question being asked, the following Committee was constituted to examine the decision of the Executive Committee not to renew the lease of buildings in the Damodar Gardens to the Krishnamurti Foundation of India beyond the present lease period ending in 2014: Mr Sriram Panchu, Mr. S. Sundaram and Mr. Pedro Oliveira.
4. It was agreed that problems arising in any particular Section have to be addressed by that Section itself. Sections may take advice, but are not obligated to use it.
5. A Committee to review the international Rules was formed consisting of Mr. Sriram Panchu and the General Secretary, Brazil, which will liaise with the Policies Committee as necessary.
6. An email concerning an alternative method of TOS funding for the coming year had been received from the TOS International Secretary. It involved funds payable from the United States and was not supported by the General Secretary of the American Section. It was agreed that a viable method of funding should be worked out by the TOS.
7. It was noted that the members of the General Council were emailed in March 2009 regarding the launch of the new international TS website.