

**MINUTES OF THE SEGH BOARD MEETING HELD ON 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2022 AT 13:00  
(WAT) ON ZOOM**

Agenda:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting
3. Matters arising from the last Minutes
4. Eldoret 2022 Conference
5. Greece 2023 Conference
6. SEGH and ISEG Matters
7. SEGH and IUGS @ 60
8. Updates on Membership and Finance
9. Website update
10. Fellows' Matters
11. Update on ECR Group
12. Other Business
  - a. Catch-up with the Americas
  - b. ISCMGEH 2022 Conference
  - c. Retention of ECRs in September
  - d. EGAAH Special Issue: Environmental Impact and Health Risk Assessment Due to Coal Mining and Utilization.
  - e. New System for Journal Editing
13. Next Meeting

Attendance

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. A Olatunji      | 11. M Hashmi         |
| 2. M Watts         | 12. C Prater         |
| 3. O Odipo         | 13. M Zia            |
| 4. O Morton-Bermea | 14. S Potgieter      |
| 5. A Brown         | 15. W Ahmad          |
| 6. G Gibson        | 16. T An             |
| 7. X Huo           | 17. J Olajide-Kayode |
| 8. A Argyraki      |                      |
| 9. C Zhang         |                      |
| 10. K Torrance     |                      |

1. Apologies were received from

1. Olivier Humphrey
2. Paulina Pizzorno
3. Maurizio Barbieri

2. The minutes of the last meeting was read, and since there were no amendments made, it was adopted as the correct record of proceedings at the last meeting with motions moved by KT and SP.

3. The matters arising from the Minutes of the last meeting had been included as substantive Agenda for the meeting.

4. OO said that as at the time of the meeting, 35 Abstracts (32 Oral and 3 Posters) had been received and responses had been sent to the authors. He projected that more Abstracts for poster presentation were still being expected

160 prospective participants had shown interest in the Conference. AO added that it would be nice to see Board Members at Eldoret, being the first Conference meeting after the COVID-19 lockdown.

5. AA reported that Greece will be happy to host the 2023 Conference, stating that it can be held in her department to save the Association some costs. For this to be possible however, the Conference will have to be held at a time when the school will not be in session. She suggested the first week in July 2023 and proposed a conference participation fee of €350-400 per person. The proposal was unanimously received and supported by Board members in attendance.

SP advised that in making budget and planning estimates, it should be assumed that 50% of registrants will pay fully while the other 50% would pay reduced fees. On the worries by AA on how the Greece 2023 Bid would be presented at Eldoret since she would not be physically present and may not be able to join virtually either, AO suggested that the video of the bid can be made and screened at the Eldoret Conference.

6. CZ gave a brief history of ISEG activities and conferences, stating that the International Board was set up in 2016. He reiterated that ISEG Conferences are usually supported/co-organised by AAG, IAGC, IMGA and SEGH. In a bid to firm up the support/co-organisation of the conferences by the societies, a draft MoU has been prepared, which has been sent to the Presidents of the Societies.

**Action:** AO asked the Secretary to send the draft MoU to Board Members for their comments.

7. AO reported that he received a mail from the IUGS President asking for SEGH participation in the IUGS @ 60 activities. It was requested that each organisation prepare a presentation on its activities/events. As it was a time-bound request, AO agreed to the proposition on behalf of SEGH. He then asked for ratification by members, to which an affirmative response was received.

8. AB stated that the society currently had GBP 4,739 in her account. She reported that this is the balance after some money had been sent to OO for the Eldoret 2022 Conference. She however added that the Society had online banking payments, web hosting and Springer bills to settle in the current financial year.

On membership, she reported that the Society has 80 fully paid-up members, 50 members with lapsed memberships and some workshop attendees whose membership will lapse on 1/9/2022. She said reminders had been sent to the last two categories of members on renewing their memberships. She enjoined everyone to encourage their colleagues and students to join the Society. She also hoped that the Society will have new members from the Eldoret Conference.

AO added that a key objective is growing the membership of the Society and making efforts to retain ECRs from the Nigerian and Kenyan workshops. He reiterated the need to strengthen the Society's financial stand through successful conferences and grant winning. While agreeing that it was a lot of work for the Board, he advised that a status check on the Society's finances be done at the next meeting.

AO further asked for suggestions from the members on how to shore up membership of the Society. KT suggested that a list of members by region could be obtained, and a push for more membership be driven from that angle. AB responded that getting a list of the Society's members by region would be hard as members were not required to provide affiliation/location information, especially in the online payment process. She suggested that a field for location should be added to the form.

**Action:** OH to add location to the form/website.

9. OH was not in attendance to give any updates on the website.

10. GG reported on the efforts of Andrew Hursthouse who is coordinating the webinar series being set up by the Fellows. Some Fellows had indicated interest, proposed topics, and indicated the time they would be willing to give talks.

GG also spoke on the issue of Fellows who had become inactive in SEGH activities due to retirement. She reiterated the need for them to still participate in SEGH activities. CZ opined that there is a need to handle the issue with care. AO added that since the Society's Fellowship is renewable, only those who show interest in continuing to engage with SEGH should be considered for Fellowship renewal.

11. KT and AA reported that a meeting was held with one of the Fellows (at University of Greenwich) the previous week, about making ECR training modules available. CP added that a seminar series was being planned which is aimed at bringing in new students into the ECR

network, and re-establishing linkages with existing ones from Canada and South America. OM and CP are to headline the seminars. An SEGHLive event is being planned for spring.

**Action:** OM and CP to coordinate ECR seminar series for Canada and South America.

## 12. Other Business

a. OM reported that there is a plan to hold student seminar presentations. She is working with CP on this. MW suggested that they prepare a communication on this and send to AB for dissemination. AO reiterated the positive results yielded by the *catch-up* meeting for the Americas, stating that the region seemed to be moving ahead with the idea. He said that strengthening membership of the Americas in the Society remains a priority.

**Action:** OM to prepare communication on Americas student seminars and send to AB for dissemination.

b. Planning is in top gear for the ISCMGEH 2022 Conference, which is co-sponsored by SEGHI and IMGA. SEGHI is playing a leading role by offering its website for use in promoting the Conference and for Abstract submission. AO sees this as an avenue to increase membership for the Society.

It was however advised that the timing of the ISCMGEH Conference (same month with SEGHI 2022 Conference) is not ideal, and that the ISCMGEH Conference should be postponed. AO stated that the suggestion to postpone will be passed to the ISCMGEH LOC.

c. AO gave an update on the continuous engagement with the ECRs from Nigeria, and their attendance of the British Academy Writing Workshop. He reiterated the need to recruit new ECRs, to shore up the Society's membership. An update on the status of ECR membership was requested, and it was decided that OH will provide data from the website. MW added that OH needs help with running the website, and in preparation for a future succession plan for the webmaster post. AO advised that OH can source for volunteers to assist him from the ECR network.

**Action:** (i) OH to provide data on status of ECR membership. (ii) AB to send mail to the ECRs to volunteer to assist in running the SEGHI website.

d. MW gave an overview of the intention of Prof. Subramani of Anna University, Chennai, India to publish an EGAH Special Issue. He reported that he asked of the intention of would-be members of the Special Issue Editorial Board to join SEGHI, to which they responded in the affirmative, and that Prof. Subramani assured him of the intention to use membership of SEGHI as a criterion for the authors to have their work published in the Special Issue. MW reiterated that Prof. Subramani had been a Guest Editor for EGAH in the past and in his own opinion, if handled properly, he saw it as an opportunity to re-establish interest in SEGHI in India.

**Action:** The proposal was approved by the Board.

e. GG updated the attendees of the teething problems identified with the new SNAPP system, especially the challenge of getting reviewers. MW opined that the system would get better with time, especially as the initial challenges are overcome.

**\*Other AOB Matters**

On the postponed China Conference, TA said that it still can't hold due to new virus scares in China. MW suggested that a virtual event can be held, for the interest in SEGH to be rebuilt, as SEGH had been "absent" in China for a while.

WA informed the attendees that another virtual event is being planned, for which an update would be given by end of September 2022. It is planned that Speakers/Scientists from Asia and the Pacific will be invited.

**Action:** (i) AO was to communicate with TA on how to set up an online meeting for later in the year. (ii) WA to give update on the virtual event by end of September 2022.

13. The next meeting of the Board is to be held on Tuesday 22 November 2022 at 13:00 (WAT).