

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUDGES
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES MAGISTRATS**

Asia, Oceania and North America Regional Group

**Minutes of Meeting of the ANAO
9.00pm AEST, Melbourne (via video-link)
Tuesday, 19 May 2015**

ATTENDANCE:

Justice Robert Blair, Ontario Court of Appeal, Canada
Justice Julie Dutil, Quebec Court of Appeal, Canada
Judge Tsogt Tsend, Administrative Court of Appeal, Mongolia
Serik Zhumabayev, Chairman of the Association of Judges of the Republic of Kazakhstan
Justice Loulou, Chan-li Hung, Taipei District Court, Republic of China, Taiwan
Justice Tony Pagone, Federal Court of Australia (Chair), Australia
Justice Jennifer Davies, Federal Court of Australia, Australia

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES:

Justice Pagone welcomed those who had logged in to the web-meeting and noted apologies from Judge Wiley Daniel, Judge Peter Hall, Judge Bernice Donald, Judge David O. Carter. Justice Pagone also recorded that Justice Duncan was expected to join the meeting.

2. REPORT OF THE NEW MEMBERS WORKING GROUP:

Judge Tsogt reported on the activities of the working group in recruiting new members within the ANAO region of the IAJ. He reminded the meeting that the members of the group comprised himself, and Justices Loulou, Serik and Pagone. Judge Simpson (USA) also assists in the working of the group. Judge Tsend informed the members that there had been letters sent by himself, Judge Loulou and Justice Pagone but, as yet not much by way of concrete response. Justice Pagone indicated that he received a response from the Chief Justice of New Zealand but it had not progressed to a formal application. The Chief Justice had asked for details of the IAJ, which Justice Pagone supplied. Judge Tsogt said that she had written to judges in India, South Korea and Nepal. The Chief Justice of India had responded indicating that the matter would be left to the incoming Chief Justice to pursue. Judge Tsogt reported that the standard letter of invitation had been translated into Russian to assist the Kazakhstani member of the group to seek additional members, but that to date there had been no success in that avenue. Loulou reported that the position in the Philippines had progressed somewhat but that there was still no likelihood of a membership application.

There was general discussion about the fact that the Japanese delegation had not been as active in recent years as was desirable and it was agreed that Judges Tsogt and Loulou would seek to make contact with our Japanese colleagues to encourage further involvement in the IAJ and the meetings of the ANAO.

Justice Pagone reported on the correspondence he had had with Judge Adrian Saunders, the Chair of the Caribbean Association of Judges. That association would like to join the IAJ, but was ineligible since it was an association from a number of countries and also because one of the countries (Bermuda) was itself independently a member of the IAJ. The question of how the Caribbean Association might participate in the IAJ would, however, be taken up with the Presidency Committee once, as Judge Saunders had indicated, there was a more formal response from the association.

3. AGENDA FOR BARCELONA:

Justice Pagone invited suggestions for a substantive topic for discussion at the ANAO meeting in Barcelona. After general discussion it was thought desirable that there be discussion on the topic of “the impact of the media, including social media” to be chaired by Justice Blair. Speakers would be drawn from the USA, Canada, Taiwan and Mongolia who would share their experiences and problems associated with the media and social media (including such things as Twitter and Facebook). Justice Pagone agreed to write to Justice Hall to ask for an American judge to speak on the project and other experience of the impact of the media on judicial work.

4. APPLICATION BY MEXICO TO HOST THE 2016 IAJ CONFERENCE:

Justice Pagone reported that there was an application by the Mexican Association of Judges to host the IAJ conference in Puerto Vallarta at the end of October 2016. There are currently no other applications to host the conference. There was general discussion about the desirability of that application. None of the other ANAO members were in a position to offer to host the 2016 meeting.

5. MONITORING PROCESS:

Justice Pagone reminded the meeting of the need for the reports to be put in for the monitoring program. He indicated that the Secretary-General had expressed some disappointment by the response in complying with the requirement but that the deadline had been extended to 30 June 2015. There was some discussion about the obligation of the associations to disclose their funding position and that some associations would not do so.

6. BUDGET:

Justice Pagone informed the meeting that the IAJ budget continued to be tight and that there was a possibility that there would be an increase in the subscription fees for associations that would be recommended to the governing council for adoption. There was general discussion about other ways in which the IAJ finances might be improved but no solutions or proposals were made.

7. PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE:

Justice Pagone outlined the topics to be considered at the Presidency Committee meeting in Rome and asked for any general thoughts and comments about any of the issues other than those already discussed.

8. PRESIDENCY COMMITTEE:

Judge Tsogt raised for discussion the holding of another face-to-face ANAO meeting next year. Judge Tsogt offered to hold the 2016 ANAO meeting in Mongolia if that was acceptable. Justice Pagone reminded those present that Taiwan had also volunteered to hold a meeting this year. It was agreed that Justices Tsogt, Loulou and Pagone form a sub-committee to decide where, and when, to hold an ANAO face-to-face meeting in 2016.

The meeting then concluded.

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