

DRAFT RECORD
35TH MEETING OF CENTER DIRECTORS
IFPRI. WASHINGTON. D.C.
27-28 October 1988

OPENING

The Chairman, A. R. Gray, welcomed the group and asked for introductions of the participants and observers.

ITEM 1. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The draft agenda was adopted with two items added under Other Business.

ITEM 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 34TH MEETING OF CENTER DIRECTORS, HYDERABAD, 13-15 JUNE 1988

Approval of the minutes was moved by Dr. Fadda and seconded by Dr. Winkelmann. Passed.

ITEM 3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES

ITEM 4. REPORTS OF BENEFITS SUB-COMMITTEE

Mr. A. von der Osten reported on significant points from the latest meeting of the subcommittee (25 October, 1988).

1. The possible impact of the US Tax Reform Act on the restructured retirement plan of the centers is **not clear**.
2. Implementation of the redesigned retirement plan has been delayed because of the lack of information on final interpretation of US tax laws. It is likely the final decision to implement the new plan will be made in October, 1989.

The improvements in the LTD plan will be implemented 1 January 1989. The multicurrency investment option will be implemented 1 July 1989.

3. The disagreement over the amount of funds to be transferred from AIRCO to Generali has continued and a motion for a summary judgement has been filed in New York. Mr. Richard Dye reported on the details of the situation.
4. Mr. von der Osten outlined the new IIE fee proposal for payroll services in 1989. Mr. Larry Siler gave more details about the service and fee schedule.

Dr. Williams and Dr. Sawyer thought that the fee schedule was in line with what had been presented at the last meeting. The consensus was to ask IIE to go ahead with new schedule for 1989.

5. Winrock International had made a presentation to the Benefits Sub-Committee on how they might be able to provide services for payroll and purchasing. Mr. von der Osten asked for guidance from the Center Directors. There was general support to explore the matter in detail with Winrock International and also consider other alternatives which could include other organizations, or developing a new cooperative effort.

6. Mr. von der Osten raised the possibility of an Inter-Center meeting of administrative and financial officers. The Center Directors sub-committee to plan a meeting. Dr. Nickel suggested that Mr. von try to arrange for a meeting of Financial/Administrative officers due to make plans for the formal meeting.

7. Dr. Fadda was elected as the new chairman of the Benefits Comm

ITEM 5 REPORT OF AFRICA SUB-COMMITTEE

Dr. Stifel reported that the sub-committee had not met since June. The activities of the sub-committee would be reported to the CGIAR regular presentation by the Chairman of the Center Directors.

Dr. Stifel reviewed the paper prepared by Dr. Peter Oram of IFPRI. He pointed out some difficulties with the paper "International Agricultural Research Needs in Sub Saharan Africa: Current Problems and Future Imperative: - Issues and Options for the CGIAR", but he believed the paper was ready for release.

The Directors supported the release of the paper during ICW88. Dr. Stifel expressed appreciation to Peter Oram and John Mellor for their efforts to prepare the publication.

The next meeting of the sub-committee had not been scheduled. Future

RAISI

-committee had met once. Discussion of the bilization fun from IFAR was distributed.

ported the suggestion that the Fund Raising Committee -committees, one for public funds, one for private funds. could be changed to something like "Finance Committee". They'd give background support to the committee.

Several views were expressed on a new name for the sub-committee and e given more thought.

TRAINING OFFICERS MEETING

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Dr. Sawyer would consult with other Center Directors and then suggest names for a follow-up study group. He would continue to coordinate the overall effort in this area.

ITEM 8. INTERCENTER MEETING ON DOCUMENTATION/INFORMATION SERVICES

Dr. Swindale reported that all Centers had given support to the meeting now scheduled for 16-20 January 1989 at ICRISAT. Invitations have been sent to associated IARC's, donors, and organizations with large data base holdings.

ITEM 9. SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE STUDY

Dr. Swindale reported that six centers and IMMI had nominated individuals to serve on the committee. Dr. DeWit will be the TAC representative. E.T. York will also participate. Dr. Plucknet will represent the CG Secretariat. A meeting of the committee will be arranged.

ITEM 10. REPORT OF DOCUMENTATION GROUP (PRESERVATION PROJECT)

Dr. Walsh gave a brief introduction and Eleanor Frieson distributed a status report (dated 27 October 1988) and summarized the important points. The first of 55 CD-ROM workstations will be available in 1989. The first prototype disc is being tested and will be distributed in early 1989. Centers will be asked to review titles.

The goal was to raise US\$1.5 million for the project. "Firm pledges have been received for \$850,000. More funding would be sought during ICW. It was suggested that the Centers might contribute funds also.

ITEM 11. FUTURE NEEDS FOR HUMAN RESOURCES TRAINING

Dr. Walsh gave additional information on the question of the need for specialist training of center staff.

"The Center Directors indicated their interest in certain special topics of training. Dr. Walsh was asked to look into more details of a course which might cover all the items of most interest, primarily in finance.

After a discussion, the Directors re-affirmed their decision to go ahead with the usual 3-week course for senior managers in 1989. Then the need for the course would be assessed again. 'Dr. Gray' would write to CG Secretariat to give them the views of the Center Directors on the senior management course and any possible refresher course.

There was also a sentiment for the consideration of other organizations to give management training in the future.

ITEM 12. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. Associate Experts. The issue was raised on how it might be possible to standardize appointments of "associate experts" and other seconded staff, including selection and remuneration issues.

John Nickel would serve as the Chairman of a "Junior Scientist" sub-committee to review this matter and report results by ICW October, 1989. Members would include Eugene Terry and others to be selected by Dr. Nickel.

- b. Center translators met in ICA in October 1988. A report on their meeting was tabled for information by John Walsh.

Closed at 3:30 p.m.

28 October 1988

At 8:35 a.m. Dr. A. McCalla called to order a joint meeting of the Center Directors and TAC. A record of the discussion is available in the Minutes of the 47th Meeting of TAC.

Dr. Gustavo Nores introduced the topic of Evolving Trends in World Agriculture. Mr. Guido Gryseels reviewed the paper and its development.

Dr. McCalla explained how TAC is now organized to do its work. There are three standing committees:

1. Resource Allocation
2. Research Priorities-
3. Reviews

The Chairperson of the respective committees gave a brief overview of their current activities.

The joint meeting closed at 11:35 a.m..

At 1:30 p.m. the Center Directors met in closed session with Board chairs.

No actions were recorded. At 4:00 p.m. the Center Directors met in closed session.

Dr. A. R. Gray reported that Dr. Larry Stifel had been elected to follow Mr. Alexander von der Osten as the Chairman of the Committee of Center Directors. Mr. von der Osten would assume office November 5, 1988.

Several people supported the need for a closed-type meeting of Center Directors to discuss issues which are important to the System. Some current concerns and topics were raised as potential items for future agenda.

Dr. A. R. Gray reported in general terms on the items he planned to include in his presentation to the CGIAR. He anticipated a general report on activities of the past year and on the plans for the future.

A clear decision on the time and place of the next meeting was not heard but the consensus, pending any additional information becoming available during ICW, was to meet in Canberra, Australia, 23-25 May 1989. If there is a need to meet with TAC, a committee of Center Directors could be asked to participate in the TAC meeting in June. A final decision is to be taken by Mr. von der Osten after gathering more information.

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or. Gray expressed appreciation for the work of the various sub-committees and especially to Dr. Mellor for the hospitality and support of IFPRI.

On behalf of the Committee of Center Directors, Or. Williams thanked Dr. Gray for his service as Chairman for the past year.

The meeting closed at 5:15 p.m.

2 November, 1988

Due to discussions and events which had taken place during ICW, the Center Directors met briefly to deal with two items:-

1. Because Mr. Alexander von der Osten would not be available to serve as the Chairman of the Center Directors Committee, Dr. L. Stifel would become the Chairman as of 5 November, 1988, and Dr. D. Winkelmann was the Chairman-elect who would take office in November, 1989.

2. Because TAC believed a mid-year meeting of Center Directors would be important, the time and place of the next meeting of the Center Directors was set for June 19-21, 1989 in Rome. June 21 would be set aside for a full day discussion with TAC.

Fadda, Nasrat R.
Nickel, J. L.
Kramer, F.

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