International Academy of Pathology

Executive Meeting, March 21st, Washington DC

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY, DAVID F. HARDWICK

1. Minutes from Boston have been processed and distributed electronically & are posted on the IAP Administrative web site.

2. Agenda & reports/minutes have been assembled and distributed for the Washington DC Meeting.

3. Work continues on developing a procedure to keep e-mail distribution lists up to date as e-mail has become the most satisfactory method for contact. Continuous effort is required to maintain a list of IAP Councillors and Division Officers.

4. An electronic ballot was conducted for requests to the Education Committee for support of Scientific Meetings and Educational Activities from the Argentine, Arab, Swiss and Taiwan Divisions. The ballot was for Education Committee Members who could not attend the Interim Education Committee Meeting Sep 6th in Florence Italy.

5. The IAP Homepage News is being integrated with IAP Central under the URL www.iaphomepage.org creating one site where Information is maintained and updated, providing groups access to accurate information on IAP News and Events, History, Organization and Governance, Current Officers, Meeting Agendas and Minutes, VP Reports, Divisions, Educational links etc.

6. The Knowledge Hub concept continues to expand far beyond the USCAP with a number of Divisions contributing to the free online availability of case material.

   British, http://www.bdiap.org/ ,
   Finnish, http://www.webmicroscope.net/ ,
   French, http://www.iapfrance.com/mscope-education/public/space/home.action
   German, http://www.iap-bonn.de/open/action/digital_series%3Blist/menu/25/M/GVtrTQ
   Hellenic, http://www.mednet.gr/hsap/supp.htm,
   Italian, http://www.siapec.it/index.php?Mod=Pagina&Pagina=718&ENG=1,
   Spanish, http://eusalud.uninet.edu/?q=forum/1
   Swiss, http://pathorama.ch/vcollections
   Taiwan, http://www.twiap.org.tw/twiap.htm

7. Attended the AIPNA (Association of Indian Pathologists of North America) International CME in Agra, India February 4-6, 2009, made a presentation on IAP/ USCAP, Knowledge Hub activities.

8. Attended the IAP Bonn Symposium February 26-28 as a guest of the German Division of the IAP.

9. Attended the 6th Asia Pacific IAP Congress (APIAP) August 20th-23rd in Kochi, Kerala, India. Gave a presentation on Pathology and the Knowledge Revolution.

10. Site visit to Bangkok, Thailand, preferred venue for the 2014, XXX International Congress was conducted May 27-29, 2009 (See attached report). The report was circulated to the Executive Committee and an electronic ballot was conducted confirming the suitability of Bangkok as a venue.

11. Correspondence update re proposed Divisions:

-**West Indian Ocean** WIOP – Sent a message to Dr. Frank Kiel asking for an update on status. Dr. Kiel responded that following the successful meeting in Madagascar in 2007 (http://www.wiop.info/) there was considerable enthusiasm but support from the University level disappeared so the proposal is dead. Instead, the pathologists from the various island groups in WIOP are participating through the various Divisions in the region.

-**Sri Lanka** – Update required from Dr. Beneragama Dulani on incorporation status. Dr. Dulami responded that he is no longer the Secretary of the Sri Lankan College but has passed on all of the documents to his successor.

-**Panama** – Sent a message to D. Nedelka Pinzón asking for an update. No response to date.
Mar 3, 2009; Nedelka Pinzón President of the Panamanian Association of Pathology sent a formal request for membership into the IAP for the Panamanian Association of Pathology. They have been sent a copy of the guidelines on creating a Division along with a sample constitution.

-**Turkey** – Sent a follow up message to Dr. Sitki Tuzali, President of the Turkish Federation of Pathology Societies detailing the information still required to complete the process of formal ratification of the Turkish Division of the IAP. No response to date.

REPORT ON THE SITE VISIT TO BANGKOK, THAILAND
May 27 - May 29, 2009
For the 2014 International Congress of the International Academy of Pathology

Planned dates for the Congress: September 22 - 28, 2014

Site Visit Team:
Dr. David Hardwick, Secretary, IAP
Mr. James Crimmins, International Congress Advisor
Mr. Charles Ramey, Assistant to Dr. Hardwick

All arrangements for the team were very efficiently organized by Dr. Pongsak and Dr. Thiti with the assistance of others from the Thai Division and the venues that will be involved in the Congress. A copy of the site inspection itinerary is attached to this report which will show the very thoughtful and inclusive planning.

WEDNESDAY, 27 MAY 2009
The visit began with an overview presentation by the key players that will be involved in the Congress. Dr. Juvady, the Thai Division President, welcomed the group. On Tuesday evening, we were honored to be dinner guests at her home. We had a chance there to meet other Thai Pathologists and experience the hospitality of the people on the organizing committee. It was very much appreciated to be guests in a private home.

After a greeting from Dr. Pongsak, we heard a welcome from the Thailand Convention and Exhibition Bureau. They were there to assure us that they would be very involved with the preparations for the Congress. This was followed by a presentation about the Convention Center.

At this time it seemed appropriate to ask about the political situation and the general safety and security of the visitors. Dr. Hardwick posed detailed inquiries because of earlier events which were in the news. This news included the story about the demonstrations that closed the Bangkok airport for a number of days.

First, it is clear and manifest that the government of Thailand is responding to the requirements of citizens in outlying areas beyond Bangkok. This has lead to a substantial sense of security. Also the Convention Center and hotels are suitably provided with security guards and card entry systems that preclude problems. The responses by the Congress Organizers and the Hotel personnel to questions regarding security were comprehensive and fully satisfied the numerous queries posed by our team.

We followed these presentations with the most important factor in the visit, a tour of the Center. We found the Center to be an excellent venue for the Congress. It is small by Convention Center standards but is an excellent size for the Congress. The Congress would use all of the space in the center so there would not be a problem of competing for space or being disrupted by another meeting. It has a very compact layout and will be easy to negotiate for the registrants. We were presented floor plans that showed the assignment of the session rooms, the exhibits, and the poster sessions. It is a very good fit.

The location and layout will be very attractive for the registrants. The Center is connected to the Centara Grand Hotel (500 rooms) which is a first class hotel with excellent restaurants. It is also connected to the Central World Shopping Complex which is a first class shopping center with 500 stores and 80 restaurants. It will be very easy for the registrants to find a selection of lunch options with a few minutes walk. Finally, the Center is just a short walk to a Sky Train station that will take you to many places in the city and expands the hotel choices because of the ease of travel from many other locations to the Center. The Congress Committee noted that all delegates will receive a complementary Sky Train passfare card for the duration of the Congress to facilitate access from hotels, sites, etc. by attendees.

We asked about the availability of low cost accommodations and were assured that there is a wide range of hotels and guest houses available both in the Patumnam district near to the convention center and in adjacent districts in close proximity to the Sky Train. There are two Sky Train stations less than a 10 minute walk from the convention center. The rates for hotels and guest houses start at US$ 12 but the Congress Committee suggests that those with rates of US$ 20 and up are more reliable. The Congress Planning group works very closely with the Thai Tourist Bureau and by request, the listing of accommodations they will post on the 2014 Congress web site will include a selection of these low cost alternatives with ready access to transit. Likewise, for meals, there is an amazing variety of restaurants, cafes, and sidewalk vendors with a wide range of cost and taste to meet all needs.

After lunch in an elegant restaurant at the Centara Grand Hotel, we heard presentations from two potential professional congress organizers. We were not there to help in the selection process but the presentations did assure us that the necessary professional help is in Bangkok to insure that the Division will have the resources and administrative support to promote the Congress and see that all of the logistics of registration and meeting management are in place.

Following these presentations, we visited the Intercontinental Hotel, the Holiday Inn, and the Arnoma Hotel which are walking distance from the Center and can be safely reached by the skywalk which connects a number of buildings in the vicinity. All were very acceptable.

We ended the day with a very nice social event, a dinner cruise on the river to see Bangkok at night.

THURSDAY, 28 MAY 2009

We began the day with a tour of the Grand Palace and this would certainly be a must for the tour program. It was a beautiful and amazing place.

We continued on to the Pullman Bangkok King Power hotel for an excellent lunch. This is an upscale hotel with 386 rooms away from the Convention Center but with easy access to a Sky Train station. It is also situated adjacent to the Aksara Theater which is another possibility for a social function.

Following this we observed other hotel options on our return to our hotel. There are many other hotels in other price ranges that are convenient to the Center.

In the evening, we were entertained at the Siam Niramitr Theater which is being proposed for the opening ceremony. The theater sits on four hectares of grounds and comprises model villages from all four regions of Thailand. Delegates will be treated to an 80 minute stage show which gives audiences an inspiring, modern portrayal of Thailand's artistic and cultural heritage. This will be an opening ceremony to remember.

FRIDAY, 29 MAY 2009
The last day began with a trip to Ayuthya, Thailand's second capital which is 30 miles north of Bangkok. It was a beautiful destination with interesting historical ruins. It would certainly be an excellent choice for one of the Congresses optional tours.

To finish the official site visit, we had dinner with our hosts at the top of the Centara Grand hotel. It was a beautiful restaurant with excellent food and was a perfect ending to the official visit.

CONCLUSION:
The site visit team having conducted a full assessment of the Congress Facility, an extensive range of hotel facilities, security and personal safety issues, transportation systems and access capacity, as well as cultural features, entertainment/tour features and international transport access, confirm that all the above meet fully the requirements to convene the 2014 IAP Congress in Bangkok. Bangkok is a very large city but still manages to maintain a very clean public environment and conveys a sense of personal safety.

Respectively submitted by:

Dr. David Hardwick

Mr. James Crimmins

Mr. Charles Ramey