

IASS General Assembly Meeting via Zoom, 4 October 2022. Minutes
15.00–16.15 Central European Time.

Summary agenda

1. The SG opens the meeting.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Board and other meetings held in Vancouver 9–13th July 2018 (previously circulated).
3. Secretary General’s Brief Report.
4. Treasurer’s Brief Report, auditor’s report and appointment of new auditors.
5. Commemoration of scholars who passed away between 2018–2022.
6. WSC Matters.
7. IASS Awards.
8. Publication of WSC Proceedings.
9. IASS Membership.
10. Amendments to the Statute of the IASS approved 6 June 2022 and available in our website.
11. IASS office-bearers until January 2022.
12. Election, re-election of the IASS office bearers: In January 2022 a proposal was presented to the IASS Board and Consultative Committee who approved the proposals for our new office bearers.
13. Miscellaneous.
14. Vote of thanks for the Canberra WSC.

Abbreviations:

CC: Consultative Committee

RD(s): Regional Director(s)

SG: Secretary General

VP(s): Honorary Vice President(s)

WSC(s): World Sanskrit Conference(s)

1. The SG opened the meeting saying that in the unusual situation caused by Covid-19 and the postponements of the Canberra WSC, which will now take place online, only a GA Meeting is being held. This should ease a bit the tight schedule of the WSC in Canberra. Usually three meetings were held at a

- WSC: 1. Meeting of the IASS Board, 2. Meeting of the Board with the CC and 3. A GA Meeting at the end of a WSC.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Board and other meetings held in Vancouver 9–13th July 2018. The Minutes of the Vancouver meetings prepared by J. Soni has been circulated and passed on for publication, as usual through the kind assistance of Professor Irma Piovano, in the *Indologica Taurinensia*, Volume 45, 2019, pp. 199-216. These Minutes were formally accepted at the GA Meeting. It is a great pity that this volume is sadly the very last issue of this most valuable resource for Indology. We thank Professor Irma Piovano again here on behalf of the IASS for trying hard to save the IT (albeit in vain) and we express our deep gratitude for her commitment to the journal which has been the official organ of the IASS throughout the many decades. The IT website will soon be completed with the last volume 45 freely accessible to all of us.
 3. SG's brief Report, see p. 8 below.
 4. Treasurer's brief report (see p. 9 below), auditor's report and appointment of new auditors. The Treasurer's Cumulative Report 2018-2022, including the summary of accounts of the IASS, and the Financial Report 2018-2022, has been audited and approved on October 2, 2022, by Prof. Nalini Balbir (Paris), Prof. Bruno Dagens (Strasbourg) and Prof. Oskar von Hinüber (Freiburg i.Br.). The Treasurer proposed to renew the appointment of these three auditors, and to add Dr. Nicolas Dejenne (Paris) as auditor for the future.
 5. Commemoration of scholars who passed away between 2018–2022.

Ram Karan Sharma

Willem Boudewijn Bollée

Parameswara Aithal

Ashok Kumar Chatterjee

Nicholas J. (Nick) Allen

George Chemparathy

E.R.Rama Bai

François Chenet

Hari Narayana Bhat

M.G. Dhadphale

Gouriswar Bhattacharya

T.N. Dharmadhikari

Carmen Dragonetti	Shantikumar Pandya
Reva Prasad Dwivedi	Karl H. Potter
Anne-Marie Gaston (née Groves)	Dietmar Rothermund
Bannanje Govindacharya	Luis Gonzàlez-Reimann
Gerard Fussman	David Seyfort Ruegg
Minoru Hara	Venkataraja Sarma
Thomas M. Hunter	Brahmasri Goda Sastrigal/Goda
C.W. (Sandy) Huntington	Venkateswara Sastri
Stanley Insler	Satyavrat Shastri
Padmanabh S. Jaini	Hans Wolfgang Schumann
Shankarji Jha	Debabrata Sen Sharma
Ujjwala Panse Jha	Kanaiyalal V. Sheth
William J. Johnson (Will Johnson)	Walter M. Spink
Rosalind J. Lefebvre	S. A. Srinivasan
Iravatham Mahadevan	M. A. Lakshmi Thathachar
Madhukar Anant Mehendale (M.A. Mehendale)	Kapila Vatsyayan
Johanna Narten	B.V.Venkataramana
K.R. Norman	Agnes Weiske
Claus Oetke	Chlodwig H. Werba
	Stefano Zacchetti

(50)

6. WSC Matters: At the Vancouver WSC in 2018 the proposal by Professor Kashinath Nyaupane of the Nepal Sanskrit University in Kathmandu to host the 19th WSC in 2024, Kathmandu, was accepted. It will be held 17– 21 December 2024.

It has been an unwritten policy to hold every 5th WSC in India: the 5th was in Varanasi in 1981, the 10th in Bangalore in 1997, and the 15th in New Delhi in 2012. For the 20th WSC in 2027 two proposals from institutions in India were received during the Vancouver WSC in July 2018 for hosting it in India again:

1. Email dated 13 July 2018 from Professor P.N. Shastry, Vice Chancellor of the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, Delhi (this proposal was initiated by Professor Kutumba Sastry) and

2. Email dated 14 July 2018 from Professor Malhar Kulkarni, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, IIT Bombay.

Repeated attempts to contact Professor P.N. Shastry were in vain and in the absence of any response at all by mid February 2020, negotiations were carried on with Professor Malhar Kulkarni about hosting the 20th WSC in 2027. He pleaded his own case in an online meeting on 5 August 2021 with the CC to help us decide finally. His proposal was accepted and on 10 September 2021 Professor Kulkarni was formally informed by letter to hold the 20th WSC at the IIT Bombay.

Proposals are now open to host the 21st WSC in 2030.

7. IASS Awards: After the Vancouver WSC two new Awards were inaugurated so that the IASS now has three awards related to Sanskrit and allied studies:

7a. Honorary Research Fellowship. At the Vancouver WSC in 2018 a one-year IASS membership was coupled with the registration, with the added option for a three-year membership. This has enabled the IASS to offer this fellowship to its members anywhere in the world. Professor McComas Taylor kindly drew up the details of the fellowship, to be announced annually by October, if the IASS budget can sustain the expense of 1.000.00 Euros per award. The end of December the previous year is the deadline for the applications, with the winner announced in February the following year.

The HRF award was announced for the first time on 18 September 2018 (in various discussion lists, with a reminder in December). The first fellowship began on 1st March 2019 and we have been fortunate to be able to offer the HRF in 2020, 2021 and 2023. Candidates have to present a written proposal with the successful candidate required to submit a report within a year of receiving the honorarium.

The following HRF Awards have been given:

2021: Dr Ram Das, University of Bar-Ilan, Israel, for research on “The theology of sacred food found in Vaiṣṇava Sanskrit texts”.

2020: Dr Iris Iran Farkhondeh for her project on “The diachronic study of Sanskrit manuscripts in the Śāradā script.”

2019: Dr Lauren Bausch: ‘Vedic philosophy of language according to the Brāhmaṇa texts’.

On 5 September the HRF for 2023 was announced with the deadline at the end of 2022.

7b. Professor Ram Karan Sharma Award. Students and well-wishers approached the IASS during the Vancouver WSC in 2018 to set up this award under the auspices of the IASS. It was welcomed by all the members of the Board and CC. Details were announced online in August 2018 for the

award, to be coupled with each WSC. The award valued at 1000 USD was announced on 6 June 2022 with the deadline at the end of September 2022, three months before the next WSC, i.e., the online Canberra WSC 9-13 January 2023. The winner will be announced at some time during or after the Canberra WSC. A reminder was sent on 14 September 2022.

7c. 2021 DK Award. The DK Award is always coupled with a WSC. However, it was decided to retain the 3-year interval and to announce the award despite the postponed Canberra WSC. This gave us the opportunity to announce the winner by June 2021 and now also at this GA Meeting for the Canberra WSC. This is the certificate will be sent online.

Eight theses were received by the deadline of 31 January 2021:

1. Sivan Goren-Arzon, Hebrew University of Jerusalem: Eighteen Poets and a Half. A Literary Renaissance In Medieval Kerala.
2. Avni Chag, SOAS, London: The Śikṣāpatrī: A Comparative Edition and Annotated Translation of its Two Recensions, with Contextual Analysis of its Role in the Early Years of the Svāminārāyaṇa Sampradāya.
3. Gregory M. Clines, Harvard University, Graduate school of Arts and Sciences: The Lotus' New Bloom: Literary Innovation in Early Modern North India.
4. Andrea Lorene Gutiérrez, Faculty of the Graduate School of The University of Texas at Austin: A Genre of its Own: A History of *Pākaśāstra* and Other Culinary Writing of Early India.
5. Sander Hens, Ghent University: Shaking Hammīra. Playfulness and Tragedy in a Sanskrit Historical Epic.
6. Heleen De Jonckheere, University of Ghent: The Never-ending Test. A Jain Tradition of Narrative Adaptations.
7. Shiv Subramaniam, Columbia University: Poetry's Afterthought: Kalidasa and the Experience of Reading
8. Péter Száler, Doctoral School of Linguistics, Eötvös Loránd University of Budapest: On the Road with Kālidāsa. Countries, Cities and Sacred Places.

Panel of Adjudicators for the 2021 DK AWARD:

1. Nalini Balbir, University of Paris-3 Sorbonne-Nouvelle, France.
2. Shonaleeka Kaul, JNU, India.
3. Diwakar Acharya, All Souls College, Oxford, UK.
4. McComas Taylor, Australian National University, College of Asia and the Pacific.
5. Chairperson: Jay Soni.

In a unanimous decision the panel of adjudicators selected the following outstanding thesis out of eight as the winner:

Dr Andrea Lorene Gutiérrez, Faculty of the Graduate School of The University of Texas at Austin: “A Genre of its Own: A History of *Pākaśāstra* and Other Culinary Writing of Early India.” On 2 May 2021 Dr Gutiérrez was congratulated as the winner of the 2021 DK Award.

8. A list of all publications of WSC proceedings until the 16th WSC in 2015 was announced in our website in July 2017 and updated in July 2018:

<http://www.sanskritassociation.org/images/pdf/publications.pdf>

- 8b. Publication of WSC Proceedings since the Vancouver WSC in 2018, UBC Repository: <https://open.library.ubc.ca/cIRcle/collections/70440>

In Addition, also downloadable from the UBC Repository:

1. *Purāṇic Studies: Proceedings of the Purāṇa Section of the 17th World Sanskrit Conference, July 9-13, 2018, Vancouver, Canada*. DOI: 10.14288/1.0379613. Edited by Raj Balkaran and McComas Taylor, General Editor: Adheesh Sathaye. Published by the Department of Asian Studies, University of British Columbia, for the International Association for Sanskrit Studies.
2. *Computational Sanskrit & Digital Humanities. Selected papers presented at the 17th World Sanskrit Conference, University of British Columbia, Vancouver 9–13 July 2018*. Gérard Huet & Amba Kulkarni (eds) New Delhi: D K Publishers Distributors Pvt. Ltd, 2018.

9. IASS Membership: At the Vancouver WSC in 2018 a one-year IASS

membership was coupled with the registration, with the added option for a three-year membership. This was the first time that this was done and has enabled the IASS to offer an annual fellowship, as already indicated. This was repeated for the Canberra WSC, also with the possibility of opting out. This practice is very convenient for the IASS because of the immediate clarity concerning membership and the number of our members, apart from those who apply for membership without attending a WSC.

10. Amendments to the Statute of the IASS: In November 2018 a 5-member committee was formed to consider amendments to the Statute of the IASS, chaired by Tim Lubin and including Natalia Lidova, Christiane Schaefer, C.S. Radhakrishnan, Adheesh Sathaye, with Georges-Jean Pinault and J. Soni as ex officio members. After the IASS Board and Consultative Committee approved the amendments, a General Assembly meeting was convened on 6 June 2022 for the specific matter of our Statute. The amendments to the IASS Statute, recommended by Tim Lubin and his team were passed by the General Assembly and are now binding. The amended IASS Statute was uploaded onto the website, and the previous Statute is archived there. The minutes of this meeting, which the IASS office-bearers have already received, can be made available to anyone interested. We thank Tim Lubin and his team for this extraordinary effort in amending our Statute.

11. The IASS office-bearers until January 2022:

11a. In August 2018, soon after the Vancouver WSC, Professor Ute Hüsken resigned as the RD of German speaking countries and N. Europe. We were fortunate in being able to win over Professor Christiane Schaefer of Uppsala University, Sweden, and she has kindly accepted to be RD of German speaking countries and N. Europe (to replace Ute Hüsken). We thank her very much and look forward to her continued expertise. The decision is final at this GA meeting when the IASS members are formally informed.

12. Election, re-election of the IASS office bearers, including the President and RD for Romance-speaking Countries of Europe because Irma Piovano who was the RD became a VP.

We are extremely sorry that a few office-bearers of the IASS have decided to step down, due largely to health reasons:

Professor Hideyo Ogawa, the RD for Southeast and East Asia.

Further, 4 CC members also resigned: Professors Radhavallabh Tripathi, Ashok Aklujkar, Petteri Koskikallio and C. S. Radhakrishnan.

We thank them all for their years-long association with us and for their expertise and we appreciate very much their help in IASS matters. We wish them all good health and success in their academic projects.

Professor Hideyo Ogawa kindly nominated with consent Professor Kei Kataoka of the Kyushu University, whom the Board and CC have accepted to replace Professor Ogawa.

Further, we needed a RD for the Romance-speaking countries of Europe (to replace Professor Piovano who became a VP in 2012). Professor Gianni Pellegrini of the University of Turin was proposed, whom the Board and CC also accepted.

The effect of all this was that the IASS had to reorganise itself and in January 2022 a proposal was presented to the IASS Board and Consultative Committee who approved the following proposals for our new office bearers:

Three new CC members were nominated: Professors Amba Kulkarni of the University of Hyderabad, Malhar Kulkarni, IIT Bombay and Hong LUO of Sichuan University.

Moreover, the Board and CC accepted the nomination of Professor McComas Taylor to replace me as the succeeding SG of the IASS.

Taking all this into consideration, the office bearers of the IASS passed by the Board and Consultative Committee are:

1. President to be elected
2. Treasurer Georges-Jean Pinault
3. Secretary General: McComas Taylor
4. Six RDs: in addition to the four: Timothy Lubin, Wendy J. Phillips-Rodriguez, Christiane Schaefer and Natalia Lidova, we have 2 new RDs: Kei Kataoka and Gianni Pellegrini.

These 9 office bearers now constitute the IASS Board that executes the major tasks.

We now have three honorary VPS: John Brockington, Bruno Dans and Irma Piovano (Professor Ram Karan Sharma sadly passed away on 18 December 2018).

We had 17 CC members and with the 4 who resigned and with McComas Taylor as the now proposed SG, we were left with 12 CC members.

To these 12 we have 3 new CC members, as mentioned above: Amba Kulkarni (University of Hyderabad), Malhar Kulkarni and Hong Luo, with a total of 15 CC members of the IASS.

Apart from the President all the other proposals for the new RDs and CC members were single nominations which, as said, the Board and CC members accepted. In the absence of alternate candidates, no voting was necessary.

In keeping with previous practice, making these known to the members of the IASS is the final step for the new office-bearers to become official. We thank them for their willingness to be a part of the IASS and for their expertise in the field of Sanskrit and allied studies.

13. Miscellaneous

a. We would like to thank our website hosts, Credence Technologies in Delhi. Mr Vikram Bhalla and Mr Prem Bhalla have been prompt with all the changes we have made, e.g. uploading our amended Statute and archiving the old one for easy reference.

14. Vote of thanks to Professor McComas Taylor and his team for organising the Canberra WSC under unusual and most difficult conditions.

15. The meeting moved a vote of thanks to Dr Jayandra Soni for his many years of service to the IASS through tumultuous times during which he oversaw many complex and challenging processes. The meeting agreed that with Dr Soni's firm hand on the tiller, the Association had weathered many difficult storms. The IASS further expressed its gratitude to him with a sustained and energetic round of applause.

Thank you for your kind attention and patience.

Secretary General's Brief Report 2022

Soon after the Vancouver WSC in July 2018 our then President Professor Vempaty Kutumba Sastry resigned as the president of the IASS on 28th October 2018 . Since then the IASS Board made up of the VPs, RDs, Treasurer and SG, conducted the affairs of the IASS together, with relevant information passed on to the CC.

It was unfortunate but necessary that the Canberra WSC had to be postponed twice and is now taking place only online from 9-13 January 2023.

The *major* tasks of the IASS included: 1. the increased activity as the Canberra WSC approached closer. 2. The constructive discussions and deliberations about the amendments of IASS Statute conducted by Tim Lubin and his team. The amendments were approved not only by the IASS Board and Consultative Committee but also at a specially convened online General Assembly meeting on 6 June 2022. Further details about this will be given in the relevant point (10) of the Agenda.

Moreover, an election committee chaired by Adheesh Sathaye was ready in March 2020 to conduct the actual votes of our new president. A vote is necessary because we had several proposals for this significant position.

It should be mentioned that in October 2018 the IASS received through the Indology Discussion Forum “A letter from the scholarly community concerning the IASS” signed by Professor Andrew Ollett and signatories regarding the IASS Statute and the election of its office bearers. Among other things our reply included the point that “We value your interest in the IASS and your concern about it. You have raised some crucial issues that the IASS Board, etc. have been acutely aware of”, concluding with the request saying: “Please do join the IASS and bring in your expertise.” The point of mentioning this is to stress that the IASS itself was aware of the need for amendments to its Statute and the elections of its office bearers. This was communicated to Professor Ollett and signatories. Professor Ollett’s reply to us in an email dated 16 November 2018 showed clearly that he “was reassured by the response, and [as he said] I took it as an invitation to scholars of Sanskrit to get involved and shape the future of the organization.”

You will see in a while that I have decided to step down from the honour of having served the IASS as its SG since 2012. It is now time to hand over the responsibilities to the *younger* next generation. All the office bearers of the IASS have always been most helpful, supportive and encouraging during my term as the SG since 2012. It was Professor TS Rukmani who had kindly convinced me to be a candidate and Professor John Brockington has always been ready for the much-needed and prompt help with the tasks I took over from him. I thank him sincerely for his continued expert advice based on his years-long dedicated service to the IASS. I have tried my best to emulate his polite and efficient execution of the duties of a SG. I also thank all of you for your continued support. I shall do my best to be as helpful to my successor as my predecessor has been to me. Thank you.

Allow me now, to proceed with the agenda by summarising the activities of the IASS. We can follow the agenda by beginning with what our Treasurer Professor Georges-Jean Pinault is to report to us.
The IASS Secretary General Jayandra Soni.

IASS Treasurer's Brief Report 2022/1

Cumulative report 2018-2022

on the finances of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS)

The preceding cumulative report of the Treasurer of the IASS has been read and approved at the General Assembly of the 17th World Sanskrit Conference (Vancouver, July 9-13, 2018). This report gave a synthesis of the reports for the years 2015, 2016, 2017, and beginning of the year 2018, up to June 22, 2018. For the present report, the finances of the whole year 2018 have been surveyed, followed by the survey of the years 2019, 2020, 2021, and 2022, up to September 30, 2022. Needless to say, the relationships with the respective bank offices has been somewhat disturbed during this period, due to the consequences of the pandemic. The following salient points shall be mentioned.

1) According to a previous agreement made with Petteri Koskikallio (Helsinki), the remainder of the payment due to Ms. Lumi Sammallahti (Helsinki) for the

typesetting and indexing of one volume of the proceedings of the 13th World Sanskrit Conference (Edinburgh, July 2006), has been implemented. The book (published by the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters) has been made available in May 2018: *Creating the Veda, Living the Veda. Selected papers from the 13th World Sanskrit Conference*, edited by Joel P. Brereton and Theodore N. Proferes.

2) The IASS has paid the invoices presented by Credence Technologies for the maintenance of the website of the IASS. This returning expenditure should now be considered as necessary.

3) Dr. Lauren Bausch (USA) has received 1.000 euros as recipient of the IASS Honorary Research Fellowship in 2019. Dr. Iris Iran Farkhondeh (France) has been awarded with this fellowship in 2020, but due to the pandemic she has postponed her mission to India for 2023.

4) In 2020, the IASS has received with gratitude the grant of 3.000 USD by Mr. Les Morgan as prefund of the Professor Ram Karan Sharma Award for the next two World Sanskrit Conferences.

The regular income of the IASS relies mostly on membership fees. The system which includes the membership to the IASS in the registration fees has proved to be quite effective at the occasion of the 17th World Sanskrit Conference, held in Vancouver. Thanks to the organizers, and especially to the engagement of Dr. Adheesh Sathaye (University of British Columbia), the IASS has received afterwards the transfer of 25.180 CAD, which has much contributed to the income of the IASS for the whole period.

As for the expenditures of the IASS, if we put aside the special activities which have been mentioned above, they are limited to the usual running costs (bank and account keeping charges), which have been much increased after the pandemic. Nonetheless, the total balance of the finances of the IASS is positive, as **44.197,64** euros, showing a significant raising, compared to the balance stated in June 2018 (28.262,81 euros) by the previous report. This is due to the regular support of returning and new members of the IASS, essentially those who join the society at the occasion of the registration for the

World Sanskrit Conference.

Paris, October 4, 2022

The IASS Treasurer, Prof. Georges-Jean Pinault.