

ISTS Board Retreat

August 17-21, 2015

National Conservation and Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV, USA

This meeting was chaired by Joanna Alfaro.

Finances

All financial aspects related to the Symposium and Society's operating costs and the Symposium were discussed to ensure that the ISTS is on a sound and solid financial footing and that the Symposium is affordable.

ISTS Investments & Business Plan

The Board created a Committee to identify investments and a strategic Business Plan for the ISTS. This will define goals for the short, medium and long term. The Committee will have an initial proposal to review at the Board meeting of the 36th Symposium in Lima, Peru.

Compensations

Symposium compensations were discussed so that each President follows a clear and transparent process. This allows volunteers to be compensated by the Society subject to Presidential discretion and budget approval. A public accounting will be made by the President in the final President's report.

Symposium gift

The Board reviewed members' concern in Turkey about money being spent on a Symposium gift or "thing" for all participants when it could be spent on a better cause. The money that was spent on the gift was a directed and restricted donation and was at no additional cost to the Society.

Website

A new ISTS and Symposium website has been launched and the Board discussed the various aspects and the future of this website.

Regional meetings

A proposal highlighting how Regional meetings, workshops, and side meetings related to the Symposium should be supported logistically and financially was approved by the Board. These new procedures will take effect during the 2017 Symposium.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee's report was reviewed by the Board. The Board passed two motions: "Motion that Nominating Committee gives priority to identifying nominees for President-Elect to host the Symposium in the SE Asia/E. Asia region in 2018 preferably with several years of attendance at previous Symposia" and "Motion that Nominating Committee identifies Board of Director nominees from Africa, Caribbean, Asia and Middle East."

Membership

The Board continued its discussions to clearly define who qualifies as a member of the ISTS, a structure for membership fees, and what the ISTS offers members.

Travel Committee

The Board approved the Committee's recommendation that a new region "Middle East/N. Africa" be created.

Resolutions

Resolutions were reinstated for the 2016 Symposium.

*Members in attendance: Yakup Kaska, Manjula Tiwari, Roldan Valverde, Ray Carthy, Terry Meyer, Paolo Casale, Aliko Panagopoulou, Alejandro Fallabrino, George Balazs, Joanna Alfaro, Mariana Fuentes, Laura Prosdocimi, Pam Plotkin, * and Frank Paladino.*

Observer: Ingrid Yanez

**Participated briefly via Skype*