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THE XIV WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE  
(KYOTO, SEPTEMBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - 5<sup>TH</sup>, 2009)

AND

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF SANSKRIT STUDIES  
(I.A.S.S.)



## REPORT ON THE FOURTEENTH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE

The Fourteenth World Sanskrit Conference took place in Kyoto, Japan, from 1st to 5th September, 2009. It was attended by over 450 participants from 34 different countries: Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, China, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Korea, Netherlands, Norway, Mexico, Poland, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Taiwan, U.K., U.S.A. and Vietnam. The largest single contingent – more than a quarter of the total – came from the host country, Japan, with the next largest numbers coming from India and from the United States. The conference was organised with great dedication and efficiency by Muneo Tokunaga, Akihiko Akamatsu, Masato Fujii and Yuko Yokochi, ably helped by a large band of student volunteers from universities in Kyoto and Osaka, who were unfailingly courteous and helpful to all participants. The conference itself took place in Kyoto University Clock Tower and the main building of the Graduate School of Letters.

The conference was organised into fifteen sections (Veda; Linguistics; Epics and Purāṇas; Āgamas and Tantras; Vyākaraṇa; Poetry, Drama and Aesthetics; Sanskrit and Regional Languages and Literatures; Scientific Literature; Buddhist Studies; Jaina Studies; Philosophy; History of Religion; Ritual Studies; History, Epigraphy and the Arts; Law and Society); two special panels (Manuscripts; Sanskrit Studies in Thailand), a Śāstracarcāsadas (on Thursday afternoon) and a Kavisammelana (on Friday afternoon), with seven sessions being held concurrently throughout Tuesday afternoon to Saturday morning. The main features of the opening plenary session in the Centennial Hall of the Clock Tower on the Tuesday morning were keynote speeches

by Professor Romila Thapar, “Historical traditions from the early Indian past” and Professor Masaaki Hattori. “Kyoto and Sanskrit Studies”. Throughout the conference, the displays by booksellers in various rooms of the Graduate School of Letters were well frequented, especially during the coffee breaks, and proved a useful adjunct to the conference.

Other events commenced with a reception party at the Kyoto Royal Hotel & Spa on Tuesday evening, and continued with a presentation of Sanskrit Theatre by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan on Wednesday afternoon, “Echoes of Utkala: classical and folk dances in Orissa” by students of Otani University on Thursday evening, and Hindi Theatre “A Crane’s Love” by students of Osaka University on Friday evening. On Saturday afternoon there were the various sightseeing excursions in and around Kyoto, which were greatly enjoyed by all who went on them (the majority of participants and accompanying persons). The final event was the excellent Conference Dinner, again at the Kyoto Royal Hotel & Spa.

The General Meeting of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies preceding the closing plenary session on Saturday morning, 5th September, ratified the decision approved by the Board that the next conference would be hosted by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan in New Delhi, 5th-10th January 2012; it also ratified the Board’s acceptance of the offer by the Sanskrit Studies Centre, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, to host the 16th WSC in 2015. Participants were reminded that the Treasurer would be happy to receive subscriptions to the International Association of Sanskrit Studies.

The efforts of the organising committee and the student volunteers, which ensured that the conference ran smoothly from beginning to end, were greatly appreciated by all its participants. The scope and quality of the large number of papers presented in the various sections also contributed to the outstanding success of the conference.

John Brockington  
Secretary General  
International Association of Sanskrit Studies

MEETINGS OF THE I.A.S.S.  
DURING THE 14TH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE  
HELD IN KYOTO

MINUTES OF THE MEETINGS OF THE I.A.S.S. BOARD  
KYOTO, 1ST AND 2ND SEPTEMBER 2009

*Present:* Prof. V. Kutumba Sastry, President, Prof. Bruno Dagens, Treasurer, Prof. John Brockington, Secretary General, Professors Joel Brereton, Oskar von Hinüber, Yasuke Ikari, Irma Piovano, R.K. Sharma and Muneo Tokunaga.

1. The Minutes of the Board meeting held at Edinburgh on 10th July 2006 were approved.

2. The Secretary General reported briefly on the 13th WSC held in Edinburgh (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 32, 2006, pp. 287-9). He also noted that his main activity had been communications (mostly by e-mail) with the Board and the Consultative Committee, both collectively and individually on various matters, including the transfer of the IASS website to be hosted by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, plans for IASS Online News, dates for the 15th WSC, and the venue for the 16th WSC.

3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances. These looked sound at a total of more than 15,000 euros in the accounts at the end of July but this was due to lack of expenditure rather than any increase in individual membership. He emphasised the desirability of paying through SWIFT transfer, not by other more costly methods. It was agreed to recommend that some of the funds available might be used to accelerate publication of the proceedings of past WSCs. In order to comply with the provisions of the Association's Statute, the Board then agreed to approach Dr. Victor Agostini and Professor James Fitzgerald to act as auditors for the present accounts before the General Meeting at the end of this conference and to appoint Professor von Hinüber and another person resident in or near Paris to act as auditors for the next set of accounts.

4. Election/re-election of members of the Board and Consultative Committee.

a) Professors Yasuke Ikari and Carlos Alberto da Fonseca wished to retire from the Board. The Board agreed to Professor Juan Miguel de Mora to replace Professor da Fonseca as regional director for Latin America and awaited a nomination from the Japanese association to replace Professor Ikari.

b) Professors Asko Parpola and Muneo Tokunaga wished to retire from the Consultative Committee. All other members had indicated their willingness to stand for re-election and the Board agreed to recommend their re-election and to approach Professors Joanna Jurewitz, Saverio Sani and Radhavallabh Tripathi and Dr. Petteri Koskikallio about election to the Consultative Committee.

5. The Board confirmed its previous acceptance of the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to host the 15th WSC in New Delhi. After considerable negotiation, the dates had now been settled as 5th-10th January 2012.

6. The Board confirmed its acceptance of the offer by the Sanskrit Studies Centre, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, to host the 16th WSC, subject to ratification by the General Meeting later in the week. [A brief presentation of the offer by colleagues from Silpakorn University had been made immediately before the start of the Board meeting, when a letter of invitation from the President of Silpakorn University was handed over.]

7. The Board decided after discussion to recommend to the General Meeting the name of Dr. Annette Schmiedchen for appointment as a Research Fellow (honorary) of the IASS.

8. The membership of the adjudication panel for the DK Award for the first round had consisted of Professors Brockington, Dagens and Rukmani. It was agreed to recommend the same membership for the next round, again with power to co-opt further members if needed.

9. Professor Piovano outlined the plans (already circulated by e-mail to members) to establish IASS Online News and announced a revised deadline for material for the first issue of 15th January 2010; Professor Kutumba Sastry indicated that the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan would be willing to mount it on the website. Professor Piovano also announced that *Indologica*

*Taurinensia* 35 (2009) had now been published and was also available online.

10. After discussion of ideas concerning the national associations put forward by Professors Kutumba Sastry and Piovano, it was agreed to send a letter to all national associations encouraging greater-co-operation with the IASS.

11. The suggestion put forward by Professor Kutumba Sastry about the possible launching of e-courses in Sanskrit Studies was discussed. It was agreed to mention it to the General Meeting and in the Online News, inviting offers to mount such courses. It was hoped that some technical support could be provided by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan (with help from the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India).

12. The Secretary General introduced some minor revisions of the Statute; the most significant of these was to remove the power of Board members to delegate their responsibility to a paid employee (present § 23 – to be deleted) and the other two were to clarify the wording of § 13 (“some 15 members” to be replaced by “normally about 15 members”) and § 15 (“country” to be replaced by “National Association”, in line with §§ 14 and 16). It was agreed to recommend these to the General Meeting.

13. Under other business, it was agreed to submit a resolution to the General Meeting deploring the decline in Sanskrit studies globally.

14. The President closed the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE I.A.S.S.  
CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE  
KYOTO, 4TH SEPTEMBER 2009

*Present:* Professors V. Kutumba Sastry, Bruno Dagens, John Brockington, Ashok Aklujkar, Greg Bailey, Irma Piovano, T.S. Rukmani, R.K. Sharma and Muneo Tokunaga.

1. The minutes of the Consultative Committee meeting held at Edinburgh, 13th July 2006, were approved, subject to the addition of the name of T.S. Rukmani to those present.

2. The Secretary General reported briefly on the 13th WSC held in Edinburgh (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 32, 2006, pp. 287-9). He also noted that his main activity had been communications (mostly by e-mail) with the Board and the Consultative Committee, both collectively and individually on various matters, including the transfer of the IASS website to be hosted by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, plans for IASS Online News, dates for the 15th WSC, and the venue for the 16th WSC.

3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances. These looked sound at a total of more than 15,000 euros in the accounts at the end of July but this was due to lack of expenditure rather than any increase in individual membership, although around ten more individuals had paid their membership subscription during this conference. He emphasised the desirability of paying through SWIFT transfer, not by other more costly methods. The auditors had examined and approved the accounts. The Consultative Committee endorsed the Board's recommendation that some of the funds available might be used to accelerate publication of the proceedings of past WSCs.

4. Election/re-election of members of the Board and Consultative Committee. The Consultative Committee endorsed the proposals of the Board (cf. above). The Japanese association wished to nominate Professor Akihiko Akamatsu as the other Board member and this was warmly welcomed.

5. The Consultative Committee endorsed the Board's acceptance of the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to host the 15th WSC in New Delhi.

6. The Consultative Committee endorsed the Board's acceptance of the offer by the Sanskrit Studies Centre, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, to host the 16th WSC, subject to ratification by the General Meeting later in the week.

7. The Consultative Committee endorsed the Board's recommendation of Dr Annette Schmiedchen for appointment as a Research Fellow (honorary) of the IASS.

8. The Consultative Committee endorsed the Board's recommendation of the same membership for the next round of the DK Award, again with power to co-opt up to two further members if needed.

9. Professor Piovano outlined the plans (already circulated by e-mail to members) to establish IASS Online News and announced a revised deadline for material for the first issue of 15th January 2010. Professor Piovano also announced that *Indologica Taurinensia* 35 had now been published and was also available online.

10. The Secretary General introduced some minor revisions of the Statute (cf. above). The Consultative Committee agreed to recommend these to the General Meeting, along with a renumbering of the present § 14-16 as 14a-c (and the consequent renumbering of all subsequent paragraphs), provided it was minuted that in § 13 “normally about 15 members” should be understood as meaning between 12 and 18.

11. Under other business, the suggestion put forward by Professor Kutumba Sastry about the possible launching of e-courses in Sanskrit Studies was again discussed. Use of the IASS website to improve communication was urged in any case.

It was suggested that the *Paṇḍitapariṣad* and *Kavisammelana*, though part of the main programme, should not be held during the times of the sessions for presenting papers. It was agreed that local advisers should be advised of this and also of the need for contiguous venues for all sessions.

It was agreed that the resolution for the General Meeting deploring the decline in Sanskrit studies globally should be divided into two, one deploring the decline in India (to be addressed to the Ministry of HRD) and one deploring the decline elsewhere.

12. The President closed the meeting.

#### MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE I.A.S.S. KYOTO, 5TH SEPTEMBER 2009

*Present:* Prof. V. Kutumba Sastry, President, Prof. Bruno Dagens, Treasurer, Prof. John Brockington, Secretary General, and around thirty members.

1. The President opened the meeting. The Secretary General read out the names of scholars who had died since the Helsinki conference (as recorded in I.A.S.S. Newsletter 9), several further

names were mentioned by those present, and the meeting stood in tribute to their memory. The minutes of the General Meeting held at Edinburgh, 14th July 2006 (printed in Newsletter 9) were accepted.

2. The Secretary General reported on the 13th WSC held in Edinburgh (cf. *Indologica Taurinensia* 32, 2006, pp. 287-9) and mentioned briefly his activities in the interval.

3. The Treasurer presented his report on the Association's finances and membership numbers (as detailed above in the minutes of the Board). The Auditors' report on the accounts was accepted. The General Meeting endorsed the Board's recommendation that some of the funds available might be used to accelerate publication of the proceedings of past World Sanskrit Conferences.

4. The General Meeting approved the replacement on the Board of Professor da Fonseca as regional director for Latin America by Professor Juan Miguel de Mora and of Professor Ikari as regional director for Southeast and East Asia by Professor Akihiko Akamatsu. The General Meeting approved the re-election of all those members of the Consultative Committee who had indicated their willingness to stand again and the Board's proposal to elect Professors Joanna Jurewitz, Saverio Sani and Radhavallabh Tripathi and Dr. Petteri Koskikallio to the Consultative Committee.

5. The General Meeting ratified the Board's acceptance of the offer by the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan to host the 15th WSC in New Delhi.

6. The General Meeting ratified the Board's acceptance of the offer by the Sanskrit Studies Centre, Silpakorn University, Bangkok, to host the 16th WSC.

7. The General Meeting ratified the appointment of Dr Annette Schmiedchen as a Research Fellow (honorary) of the IASS.

8. The General Meeting ratified the Board's recommendation of the same membership for the next round of the DK Award, with power to co-opt up to two further members.

9. The plans (already circulated by e-mail) to establish IASS Online News and a revised deadline for material for the first issue of 15th January 2010 were announced.

10. The General Meeting ratified the proposed revisions of the Statute, removing the power of Board members to delegate their responsibility to a paid employee and clarifying the wording of § 13 (“some 15 members” to be replaced by “normally about 15 members”) and § 15 (“country” to be replaced by “National Association”, in line with §§ 14 and 16), along with a renumbering of the present §§ 14-16 as 14a, b and c (and the consequent renumbering of all subsequent paragraphs).

11. The resolutions noted below were passed by the General Meeting and the Secretary General was instructed to send them to the appropriate bodies.

In the closing plenary session which followed:

The certificate for the DK Award for the outstanding doctoral thesis on Sanskrit outside South Asia was presented to Dr. Wendy J. Phillips-Rodríguez for her thesis completed at the University of Cambridge.

Various book releases and announcements of new publications were made.

Votes of thanks were given to the local organisers by Professor Greg Bailey, to the various sponsors of the conference by Professor T.S. Rukmani, and to the conference assistants by Professor Arlo Griffiths.

A memorial address for Pandit N.R. Bhatt was given by Professor Pierre-Sylvain Filliozat and it was announced that a commemoration volume was planned.

The Secretary General made some concluding announcements and remarks.

**RESOLUTIONS PASSED  
DURING THE GENERAL MEETING OF THE I.A.S.S.  
14TH WORLD SANSKRIT CONFERENCE,  
KYOTO, 5TH SEPTEMBER 2009**

1. The participants in the 14th World Sanskrit Conference (comprising more than 400 from 37 countries) express their profound alarm at the increasing disappearance of Sanskrit as

a subject of study from mainstream educational institutions in India. They urge the Government of India to take urgent steps to correct this situation. Sanskrit is the most crucial language and literature for the understanding of the distinctive aspects of Indian culture. The implications of its not being taught regularly in schools at various levels are extremely serious for India's self-identity, as well as for the preservation of world heritage.

2. The General Meeting of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies held during the 14th World Sanskrit Conference urges the institutions of higher learning outside India to do all that they can to preserve positions for the teaching of Sanskrit language and research into the voluminous literature written in Sanskrit in the areas of the natural sciences as well as the arts and humanities.

2. The General Meeting of the International Association of Sanskrit Studies held during the 14th World Sanskrit Conference urges the Government of India to use its good offices with universities and similar institutions to ensure that Sanskrit is widely taught in other parts of the world. It is of crucial importance that this should be done in order to preserve one of humanity's greatest heritages.

STATUTE OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
OF SANSKRIT STUDIES

adopted in Paris by the General Assembly  
of IASS on the 26th July 1977\*

1. Between the undersigned and all the other persons who adhere to the present statute an international association is being formed in accordance with the decree of 12 April 1939 and the laws subsequently promulgated. The Association is called the International Association of Sanskrit Studies (IASS), in French Association Internationale pour les Études Sanskrites. IASS is a member of the International Union of Oriental and Asiatic Studies and, through it, it is affiliated with the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH).
2. The seat of the association is Paris: c/o Collège de France, 52 rue du Cardinal Lemoine, F-75231 Paris Cedex 05. The Association can be transferred to another place by declaration of the Board.
3. The duration of the Association is unlimited.
4. The Association, so created, has for its purpose to promote, diversify, intensify and coordinate Sanskrit Studies in all the countries of the world; to maintain contacts with the organising committee of the International Congresses of Asian and North African Studies; to organise international conferences of Sanskrit studies; to promote scholarly publication of Sanskrit-based studies; to establish and foster relations with national associations of Sanskrit studies.
5. The Association, so created, comprises national associations for Sanskrit studies established in different countries of the world, active members, honorary members and patrons.

6. In order to become an active member it is necessary:
  - 1) to perform teaching duties or to do research in the field of Sanskrit studies;
  - 2) to be presented by two members of the Association and be accepted by the Board; the Board decides independently without need to divulge the motives of its decision. Physical persons and institutions can become active members of the Association. Should a national association of Sanskrit studies or an institution express the wish to become members of the IASS, it must be represented by a physical person designated by these organisations.
7. In order to become an honorary member or a patron, the Consultative Committee of the Association must express its agreement. A limited number of scholars particularly meritorious for their services to the Association may be elected as Honorary President or Honorary Member, as appropriate. A limited number of scholars of international standing but without institutional affiliation may be elected as Research Fellows (honorary) of the Association.
8. National associations of Sanskrit studies and active members must pay an annual fee to the International Association of Sanskrit Studies.
9. The amount of the annual fee for members of the IASS is fixed each year by the decision of the Board.
10. Every member has the right to resign from the Association.
11. The Board will decide on its own to strike off the roll or suspend a member in case of a serious offence to the honour or legitimate interests of the Association. The non-payment of dues during two consecutive years causes the loss of membership.

#### A. ADMINISTRATION

12. The Association is administered by the Board, helped by the Consultative Committee.
13. The General Assembly of IASS shall elect the Board composed of the President, Secretary General, Treasurer and six Regional

Directors. The Consultative Committee normally consists of about 15 members.

14. a) Members of the Consultative Committee are elected by the General Assembly by the majority of members present or represented. Nomination of candidates is made at the proposal of one of the representatives of the National Associations or a member of the General Assembly.  
b) It is noted that in the Consultative Committee each National Association, if it so wishes, may have at least one representative.  
c) All elected members are elected for a period of 6 years, but the representative of National Associations may ask the Consultative Committee to replace their representative during each General Assembly.
15. The Board has to meet once every 3 years or more often, if necessary.
16. All the powers to run and administer the Association are vested in the Board. The Board can delegate its powers to one of its members. The minutes of the meetings of the Board are signed by the President and the Secretary General; they register the decisions taken by the Board.
17. The President convenes the meetings of the General Assembly. He represents the Association in all civil matters and is vested with all powers to this effect. He has, in particular, the right, with the authorisation of the Board, to represent the Association before the Courts as plaintiff and defendant. He presides over the assemblies of the Association.
18. In case of absence or impossibility of acting, he is replaced by a member of the Board.
19. The Secretary General is in charge of the correspondence, archives, convocations of meetings and assemblies, preparation of the minutes and registers provided by the law.
20. The Treasurer is in charge of the administration of the assets of the Association; he makes all the payments and receives all dues of the Association; he cannot alienate the assets belonging to the Association unless he is so authorised by the Board. He keeps account of regular transactions carried out by him and prepares a report of his activities to the General Assembly. He may be aided

- by a professional accountant chosen by the Board.
21. The General Assembly of the Association is composed of the authorised representative (or representatives) of the national associations and of individual members. Each national association shall have five votes and individual members will have one vote each.
  22. Members of the Association listen to the reports presented by the President, the Secretary General and the Treasurer on their respective activities, including finances; approve or straighten out the accounts; and debate all the questions brought before them by the Board.  
The General Assembly appoints two auditors who examine and verify the accounts for the past period for which the Treasurer presents a report to the General Assembly and on which the General Assembly pronounces.
  23. Decisions are taken by the majority of members present or represented. They are recorded in the minutes approved by the President and the Secretary General. Each member has the right to represent two other members, if he produces a written proxy.

## B. FINANCING

24. Yearly receipts of the Association consist of dues of active members and benefactors; public subventions; revenues from the property of the Association; revenues derived from the organization of meetings and publications; contributions.

## C. MODIFICATION OF THE STATUTE AND DISSOLUTION

25. The Statute can be modified only by an extraordinary session of the General Assembly called specially by the Board, at the proposal of at least one quarter of its active members, if the provisional agenda contains this point on its order of the day.
26. A two-thirds majority of members present or represented at the General Assembly and at least half of the whole

membership of the Association is needed for the decision on the modification of the Statute.

27. If the proposal for the modification of the Statute is not carried, a new convocation of the General Assembly with the same agenda can be called in three months at the latest. At that time a majority of two-thirds of members present or represented is sufficient for the adoption of the proposed change to the Statute.
28. The decision on the dissolution of the Association can be reached by the General Assembly by the majority of the registered members. If this number is not reached, a new General Assembly must be called and then the decision can be taken by the General Assembly by a two-thirds majority of members present. The property belonging to the Association can only be allotted to members of the Association in an amount no higher than their own contributions.

#### D. BY-LAWS

29. The Board, if it so wishes, may publish by-laws and interior regulations of the Association which determine detailed conditions for the application of the Statute and the good functioning of the Association.
30. The President is charged with the fulfilment of the necessary formalities for the constitution of the Association or the modification of the Statute.
31. The present Statute will become effective after it is adopted by the next General Assembly.

The Secretaries General:

† L. Sternbach

S. Lienhard

J. L. Brockington

