



## **ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH SCHOLARS, CHENNAI**

Registered Office: 737 Anna Salai, Chennai 600002

### **Minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (AGM)**

**Friday, September 21, 2012**

**British Council, 737 Anna Salai**

**Chennai 600 002**

#### **1. Welcome**

The house was formally called to order by EC member Ms Selvi Palani the MC for the occasion. She welcomed the British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Mike Nithavrianakis, ABS Chennai Chapter President Mr A V Ilango, Secretary Ms B Jayashree and Treasurer Ms V R Aparajitha to the dais, besides the chapter members who were present for the occasion. The President Mr A V Ilango was invited to offer opening remarks at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **2. President's Remarks**

The President Mr A V Ilango in his opening remarks welcomed the British Deputy High Commissioner and recognized his constant support as well as that of Mr Paul Sellers, Director, British Council – South India, who due to unforeseen circumstances could not be present on the occasion. Mr Ilango recalled the various initiatives undertaken by the ABS through the year as well as efforts to involve more members in the numerous activities. He looked forward to more active participation by members in order to enhance the extent of reach of the activities of the chapter.

### **3. Secretary's Annual Report**

Presenting the Annual report, Ms B Jayashree, Secretary – took the house through the varied events that had been organized as well as some efforts to engage members more actively online, through committees and through updating the ABS database. The report was considered adopted by the house.

### **4. Statement of Audited Accounts**

Presenting the statement of audited accounts, the Treasurer, Ms Aparajitha V R detailed the various investments, the account balance and the expenditure incurred through the previous year. The statement was considered adopted by the house.

### **5. Remarks by Patron**

British Deputy High Commissioner, Mr Mike Nithavrianakis, who expressed his pleasure at being present on the occasion, lauded the work done by the ABS Chennai chapter and the variety of events organized and said that it was one of the most active ABS Chapters in the country. He offered the continued support as patron to the chapter and his best wishes to continue the good work.

### **6. Open House**

Mr Dhanasekaran, representing the British Council, updated the members about the various initiatives undertaken by the BC in order to link up with alumni as well as to engage the various alumni associations. Similar to the event in Hyderabad held in 2011, another event to link alumni together was being planned. He also suggested that the ABS website be linked up to the BC website for greater visibility and online partnership.

### **7. Lucky Dip**

As there were no other observations or remarks from the members, a lucky dip was conducted for the members present and some ABS memorabilia was given away to the lucky ones.

## **8. Vote of Thanks**

Proposing the vote of thanks, Vice President, Dr Paul Chellakumar expressed his gratitude to the patrons, members as well as the British Council for the support provided towards the functioning of the ABS Chennai chapter.

9. Members then adjourned for the cocktails and dinner on the occasion.



A. V. Ilango  
(President)

## **APPENDIX I**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: 2012 - 2014**

1. Mr A V Ilango - President
2. Dr Paul Chellakumar - Vice-President
3. Ms B Jayashree - Secretary
4. Mr Manohar Samuel - Joint Secretary
5. Ms Aparajitha V R - Treasurer
6. Mr Bernard Sami - Member
7. Mr Vikas Chawla - Member
8. Ms Premalatha Seshadri - Member
9. Mr D Arivuoli - Member
10. Dr Sankar - Member
11. Ms Selvi Palani- Member
12. Mr A J Solomon - British Council Representative

**APPENDIX II:**  
**Secretary's Report**



**ASSOCIATION OF BRITISH SCHOLARS, CHENNAI**

Registered Office: 737 Anna Salai, Chennai 600002

**ANNUAL REPORT 2011 - 2012**

**27th Annual General Body Meeting - Friday, September 21, 2012**

**British Council, Anna Salai, Chennai 600 002**

Good Evening! On behalf of the Executive Committee, I extend a warm welcome to all of you at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual General Body Meeting of the Association of British Scholars, Chennai. It gives me pleasure to present the Secretary's Report for 2011-12.

Over the past year, the Executive Committee conducted on a sustained basis, a variety of events of interest to our members and the community. These helped reinforce our Chapter's presence in the public space of Chennai.

**EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES: 2011 - 2012**

**October 2011:**

We started the year cautiously and with a pinch of salt - quite literally - with an event titled "Pinch of Salt" - an audio-visual presentation in partnership with the Aseema Trust. It was a topical, visual and cultural treat on Gandhiji, and the Historic Dandi March. The event assumed greater significance with the presence of Mr V Kalyanam, former personal secretary of Gandhiji, who gave the perspective and filled in minute details of this historic event.

**February 2012:**

Our Chapter offered support and partnership through the expertise of its members to the “Beyond the Frames Exhibition” – a BC initiative that toured Chennai in February 2012. This support reinforced the role that the ABS plays in support of cultural activities in the context of Indo-UK relations.

ABS members were part of the Cultural Round Table at the British Council as part of the bilateral initiative: “Reimagine: India UK Cultural Relations in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” – an evidence-based initiative. The discussions were useful to shape and understand the way the cultural relations need to be moved forward and the role of associations like ABS in this evolving frame.

As suggested and approved at the AGM of 2011, sub-committees on specific areas were formed in order to give members an opportunity to participate more actively in areas of their interest. The proposed groups were around the areas of Education, Trade and Finance, Art and Culture, Human Rights and Health. Two of these sub-committees initiated activity. The Education Committee held a meeting and conveyed some ideas to the EC.

**March 2012:**

The Human Rights & Gender committee held a very interesting seminar in which renowned experts participated. A range of Contemporary Concerns including the Right to Health, Stateless Persons, Child Survival, Protection and Development as well as Narcotics and Youth were discussed. The event was topical in theme and intense in participation in content, resulting in requests for other similar events to be organized by ABS. In fact each of the above themes deserves to be discussed at full day sessions.

**April 2012:**

The Chapter's flagship Project, namely the publication "*Madras*"- *A 400-year record of the first city of Modern India*" came alive with the release of Volume II by our Patron Mr Mike Nithavrianakis. The book was introduced by Mr S Muthiah – Editor of the Trilogy.

Ms.Lakshmi Thyagarajan – recipient of the Chapter's Travel Grant hosted an event on "Craft in Contemporary Culture" She presented knowledge gathered during her visit to UK, especially with regard to educational programs for children and adults.

**June 2012:**

Mr Jacob Jebaraj recipient of the Artist's Travel Grant held a demonstration cum lecture on Advanced Printmaking at which he explained the new techniques and knowledge acquired through his visit to UK.

**July 2012:**

2012 is the year that was talked about globally as the year of the London Olympics. In a bit of a coup and a curtain raiser Mr Pradipta Mohapatra very kindly exhibited his personal collection of memorabilia of Olympic artefacts. The event was presided over by the British Deputy High Commissioner Mr Mike Nithavrianakis and had wide coverage by the media.

Following this, renowned Educationist Dr Anandalakshmy gave an illuminating talk on a subject of universal interest, "Innovation in School Education". The event was well attended and also received wide media coverage.

**August 2012:**

Madras Toons – An exhibition of cartoons depicting Madras through a cartoonist's eye was held as part of the Madras Week celebrations. This interesting event was

curated by Indran, an ABS member and recipient of the Sahitya Akademi award and received wide media coverage.

### **September 2012:**

Representatives from ABS Chennai participated in the Student Farewell hosted jointly by the Mr Mike Nithavrianakis, British Deputy High Commissioner for Southern India and Mr Paul Sellers, Director British Council for South India. Prospective scholars, who attended this event, used this opportunity to clarify their doubts and anxieties through informal discussions with ABS members and also got acquainted with the activities of ABS Chennai.

On this occasion, the British Deputy High Commissioner also formally handed over the 2012 Pemanda Monappa Scholarship Award in Cambridge University to the recipient, Ms Susmitha Gunda from Hyderabad. This scholarship has been established by Mr P M Belliappa former President ABS Chennai, in the name of his late father, a distinguished officer of the Indian Police Service.

### **Online presence:**

The ABS Chennai website has been updated and the Facebook page of the ABS Chennai chapter is also active. We have received the following website statistics for [www.abschennai.org](http://www.abschennai.org) from EC Member Vikas Chawla who manages the chapter's online presence:

- From Apr 2011 to Mar 2012, 340 visitors visited the website cumulatively 412 times and spent an average 5 minutes on it
- From Apr 2012 till date, 228 visitors visited the website cumulatively 257 times and spent an average 9 minutes on it, indicating an increase in number of visits and time spent
- On Facebook, since launch in Jan 2011, there were 50 "fans" and by end of Mar 2012 we have 63 "fans".
- All event invitations, pictures and press coverage have been put on the website and on Facebook for easy access to all members

Since the last AGM, five Executive Committee Meetings were held. Several members have offered support through their participation in various events and over email. However, the problem over bounced and changed email ID's of members was addressed this year. 'Wherever you go, ABS will follow'! Through this process, the new communication information of around 20 members was tracked. When members got over their surprise, they also expressed their appreciation for our efforts. It is perhaps due to this, that we have such a large number of attendees for the AGM this year and thank members for their response. Few new members were inducted during the period under review.

### **THANK YOU!**

As we complete this year, I thank, on behalf of the Executive Committee, Mr Mike Nithavrianakis, Patron and British Deputy High Commissioner for his support and involvement in many of our programmes. We also thank Mr Paul Sellers, Director - British Council, South India, who with his lively presence and constant support for our activities, which have been facilitated by his ever friendly and willing Team.

I would also like to place on record the excellent support of BC, for hosting our events, including this AGM. The team led by Mr Kartar Singh who is now in retirement, Mr. A.J. Solomon, who represents the British Council on the Executive Committee, Mr Kumaran who finds time for us (even though he is newly married) has always been a rock-solid support.

We also take this opportunity to thank all the organizations that partnered us for various events, particularly the media.

Thank you to all the EC members who have always been there to help, to Chapter President Mr A V Ilango for his able leadership, positive support and encouragement and to our mentor Mr Belliappa for always been there whenever we needed advice and guidance.



We look forward to the continued support of members and constant feedback to ensure that the Chapter is vibrant and remains relevant in changing times.



*B Jayashree*

*Secretary, ABS Chennai*

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9. Mr D Arivuoli - Member
10. Dr Sankar - Member
11. Ms Selvi Palani- Member
12. Mr P M Belliappa - co-opted member
13. Mr N Pichaimuthu - co-opted member
14. Mr A J Solomon - British Council Representative