

**Minutes of the meeting of the Executive Committee (ExCom) of the
International Association of Theatre Critics,
held in Pilsen, 10th and 12th of September**

First part: 10th of September

1. Attendance

Those present: Yun-Cheol Kim (President), Michel Vaïs (General Secretary), Margareta Sörenson (Vice-president, Sweden), Jean-Pierre Han (Vice-president, France), Irène Sadowska-Guillon (Treasurer, France), Don Rubin (Canada), Katayoun/Kathy Hosseinzadeh Salmasi (Iran), Tomasz Milkowski (Poland).

There is a quorum of five voting members.

Mark Brown (United Kingdom), deputy for David Adams, is coming this evening and will join us for the second part of the meeting.

Absences and excuses: Ivan Medenica (Adjunct General Secretary, Serbia), Akiko Tachiki (Japan), Kalina Stefanova (Director of colloquia, Bulgaria), Paulo Eduardo Carvalho (Director of seminars for new critics, Portugal) and Larry DeVine (USA).

ExCom is addressing its best wishes for a quick recovery to Kalina Stefanova, Paulo Eduardo Carvalho, David Adams and Larry DeVine.

2. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda is adopted unanimously.

3. Approval of Minutes of the ExCom meeting in Wroclaw, 2nd of April 2009

The minutes are adopted with no changes.

4. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

5. Reports:

5.1. President

Yun-Cheol has sent a written report to all ExCom members (see at the end of the minutes, with all other reports).

5.2. General Secretary

Michel has also sent his written report in English. Don asks for a correction: “who feel excluded from the IATC”: to add “in Belgium”. It is proposed to suggest to the Belgian critic Michel Voiturier to contact Jean-Pierre Han in order to join, if he wishes, the French section.

5.3. Treasurer

Irene has also sent her report in advance. Ireland and Ukraine are paying irregularly; 11 sections don't respect the payment obligations. Michel is asked to send a reminder to everybody, because it was a fruitful procedure last year: IATC now has approximately

1000 euros more than at the same period last year. Abhi Subedi, the individual member from Nepal, hasn't been paying his fee in the last three years. It is decided to erase his name from the Web site and to suggest him to join the Indian section. **GENERAL REMARK: the fee has to be paid for every year, but we receive the press cards for two years: the fees should be sent to the treasurer with all bank charges and commissions already paid.**

5.4. Other ExCom members

Many written reports have already been sent. Tomasz met a Lithuanian critic who seemed interested to set up a national section: Ms Ramune Marcinkeviciute. She is already an individual member in good standing. Don participated in the Amsterdam festival, which went well. Jean-Pierre went to the congress of ADE in Gijon, Spain, which brought together one hundred participants. Unfortunately, contacts between this association and IATC became weaker, but there is a Mediterranean network of critics and festivals. For example, Jean-Pierre has a contact with the festival of Naples, which started two years ago and which is held in June for three weeks. For the third edition, in 2010, this festival will be ready to organize an IATC seminar. This festival has a partnership with the Almada festival (Portugal) and Théâtre de la Ville (Paris). Jean-Pierre thinks that an ExCom meeting could be organized in Naples as well. This festival is going so well that its director, Renato Quaglia (who communicates in English), was re-elected for an unlimited period.

Margareta made a contact with the International PEN Club (see her report) through its representative in Sweden, a Chinese woman. According to her, there are two PEN clubs in China: PEN China, and the PEN that groups the independent writers. She wonders if, in addition to the Chinese national section of IATC, we should also contact Chinese people through the Japanese PEN or Korean PEN, for organizing seminars for new critics in China. This could be done in 2012 in the framework of the UNIMA congress. It was proposed to also contact the Shanghai Theatre Academy, directed by Rong Guangrong.

Kathy made an addition to her written report: she would like to have the book *Theatre and Humanism in a World of Violence* translated in Farsi. Who has the copyright? IACT agrees to give its rights, but Kalina, Ian and the publisher should be asked whether it's possible to do this, because we didn't ask the contributors for an authorization to make translations. In the future, we should ask an authorization for all publications in any language. Kathy then speaks of the international jury mentioned in her report (Ian, Yun-Cheol, Kalina) to which two Iranian colleagues will be added. She asks that a prize, a medal or a certificate of IATC be given by the jury. Yun-Cheol thinks that if the prize is supposed to have the IATC label, then the jury members should be chosen by the IATC. Kathy agrees. Jean-Pierre finds it a bit dangerous to multiply "IATC prizes". Everybody agrees: it is better to speak of a prize "with the participation of IATC". According to Irene, the "associated bodies" could be mentioned at the award ceremony, as is a case for the Europe Prize. The ExCom will choose three members of the jury for Teheran on Saturday (see below).

6. Programme

6.1. Congresses in 2010 and 2012

Yun-Cheol informs us that it will be impossible for the 2010 congress to take place in Istanbul, as was originally planned. The Europe Prize will not be in Istanbul either, but

somewhere else in Europe (confidential information for Excom: a new place is 99% sure, and funds are available), in March or April 2010. Yun-Cheol proposed May or June, especially because the Europe Prize will not make a final decision before Christmas. To be continued.

Therefore, we need an alternative for autumn 2010, if we do not find a solution with the Europe Prize. There will be Theatre Olympics in Seoul in October-November 2010. Yun-Cheol discussed with the president of the organizing board, who accepted a seminar for new critics and a colloquium for established critics. He could ask for a congress instead. Nevertheless, he thinks that a very short period has passed since the 50th anniversary IATC congress in 2006. That is why Seoul could attract less people than some other city. The decision has to be made before October 15. The ExCom decides to wait for the final answer from The Europe Prize.

Congress of 2012: Tomasz informs us that the organizers in Warsaw had chosen a company specialized in organizing congresses. They will find 30% of the budget and after that, the State will add its part. He is optimistic. The situation is under control. He will send us more precise information next month.

Second part: 12th of September

At the beginning of the meeting, Mirka Potuckova, secretary of the Czech section of IATC, invited us to take part in the next edition of the Prague Quadrennial (PQ) in June 2011 in the form of, e.g., an ExCom meeting, a seminar for new critics or a symposium for established critics. In this occasion, an interesting theatre program will be set up. Mirka needs a positive response at this moment. Jean-Pierre, who was at the PQ in 2003, says that it had been very well organized and afterwards he published an issue of his magazine dedicated to set design. The ExCom gives its positive response in principle for some activity within the PQ.

6.2. Executive Committee Meetings

According to Ravi Chaturvedi's latest message (30th of August), the next meeting of the ExCom will take place between 5th and 10th of January 2010 in Ahmadabad (Gujarat, India). All the preparations are running well. There will be a colloquium on criticism, all ExCom members are invited to take part in it. The arrival is on the 5th, the ExCom meeting on the 6th, departure on the 10th (five nights). Everybody is asked to take care of reservations for his/her flights.

6.3. New Critics' Seminars

According to Yun-Cheol's report, a seminar could be organized in Seoul at the end of October 2010 for seven days, in the framework of the Theatre Olympics, as well as a Cultural bridge, with 30 participants altogether. Tomasz announces a possibility of hosting a seminar in Warsaw at the end of May 2010 (five days) for 12 new critics. Jean-Pierre announces a possibility of organizing a seminar in Naples in June 2010, for 10-12 critics. But if the 25th Congress of IATC falls in May or June, there would be some "competition" between these proposals.

For 2011, Margareta announces a possibility of having a seminar in Gävle, Sweden. There is also the PQ in June 2011, for which the ExCom has already given an approval

(for the ExCom meeting as well). Therefore, the IATC will have an event in Prague with approximately 25 persons. Jean-Pierre announces a possibility for a seminar in Charleville-Mézières (France) in September 2011.

6. 4. Cultural Bridges/Established Critics' Meetings

Yun-Cheol reminds us of Kalina's request to IATC members to write articles on the Proceedings of the Sofia Congress. She needs to get copies of these articles to make a promotion of the book, which can now be ordered on Internet www.str.org.uk.

6.5. Other proposals

None.

7. Relations with other organisations

Michel speaks of the tourist fairs to which he has been occasionally invited by ICCA, IMEX, EIBTM, etc. as a "hosted buyer": Florence (December 2002), Frankfurt (May 2009) and future plans: Barcelona and London (December 2009). He uses these occasions to stimulate local critics to take part in IATC activities and to develop a useful network of international relationships. In Florence in 2002, he met Giuseppe Liotta, president of the Italian section, which was, although always in good standing, not active at all. After that, Carmelita Celi was appointed in charge of international relations and Italian critics have been participating regularly in our activities since then. Michel has also met in Frankfurt Gerhard R. Koch from the *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, who was not aware of the existence of IATC (the German national section regularly pays its fees but doesn't have an e-mail address). Michel hopes he could stimulate activities in England and in Spain if he goes to London and Barcelona in December. He is invited by EIBTM, Tourism Montreal, and partners from the City of London.

Don announces that he has made a contact with the Society of Nigerian Theatre Artists (SONTA), which has 500 members: actors, directors and 25 authors who write theatre criticism in newspapers. Femi Osofisan, president of the Nigerian PEN club and a member of SONTA, thinks that this organization could represent the critics of his country in IATC. The president of SONTA will support the idea of creating a national section of IATC and three delegates are ready to participate in our next Congress. Don will propose the Nigerians to send an official demand to the General Secretary.

8. Membership and Recruitment

8.1. New members

Three new members have joined the IATC since the spring of 2009: Jorge Prada Prada in Colombia, Temple Hauptfleisch and Gabriël Botma in South Africa. The ExCom has officially accepted them as individual members of IATC.

8.2. Recruitment

The ExCom is informed of the constitution of a new national section in Morocco, but the treasurer says that she hasn't yet received any fee from them. Kathy accepts to contact again Mr Hakob Ghazanchyan, director of the Shakespeare Festival in Yerevan, so that he helps us contact Armenian critics. Michel announces that IATC now has members in more than 50 countries (see the list in the treasurer's report, at the end of these minutes).

9. Thalia Prize

The final document edited by Don and translated by Michel is adopted unanimously with some very small changes. Michel will immediately send the information to the members. After a discussion, the ExCom added that IATC brings together theatre critics from around the world and reminds national sections that the Thalia is an international prize. This text will be an annex to the Statutes of IATC.

10. Code of practice

Don edited the final version of the Code of practice of IATC, which Michel translated into French. It is adopted unanimously with minimal changes. All sections are invited to translate this Code of practice into their national languages. Michel will send the text to all the members. It will be proposed to the next general Assembly as an annex to the Statutes and if it is accepted, a press conference will be held to announce it is officially adopted.

11. Critical stages

Maria Helena's report is adopted unanimously. Michel says that the «Proust Questionnaire» addressed to Eric Bentley will be published only in English for the moment, because the French version sent by Randy Gener was an automatic one made by Internet and is incomprehensible. The ExCom agrees with a proposition to express its gratitude and extend congratulations to Maria Helena for her work on *Critical Stages*. Mark Brown will write her a letter on behalf of the ExCom. The second issue will appear in April 2010. Yun-Cheol and Randy Gener are working on an application for funding, as a follow-up to the present funding of the journal, which comes from Korea.

12. Book projects

Don informs us that he contacted in Amsterdam one publishing house which was interested in publishing books on criticism.

13. Other points

Coming back to the issue of an IATC jury, Kathy would like to invite three persons to the Fadjr Festival in order to give an IATC prize. A proposal is made that one woman should be a member of this jury. Therefore, the international jury will be: Maria Helena (substitute – Margareta, if Maria Helena couldn't go), Yun-Cheol (substitute – Jean-Pierre), Ian (who has already been invited by the Festival but is not sure he can go: substitute – Michel).

Cards with best wishes for recovery will be sent from Pilsen to David Adams, Paulo Eduardo and Kalina. The Excom will also give presents to Mirka and Veronika, our Czech hosts, who have been very efficient. It is agreed that Mark Brown becomes the official delegate at the ExCom for Great Britain for now.

Kathy would like foreign critics to come to Iran a few times a year to teach criticism to young Iranians. It was noted that, among ExCom members, Margareta, Jean-Pierre, Don and Mark have experience in teaching criticism.

14. Date and place of next meeting

Ahmadabad (Gujarat, India), 6th of January 2010.

Michel Vaïs, General Secretary
Ivan Medenica, Adjunct General Secretary

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President's Report

Yun-Cheol Kim

In late April, I was invited to Novi Sad for a symposium co-organized by IATC and Sterijino Pozorje on "Theatre Festivals and the Development of Audience." At the symposium, I introduced two International theatre festivals in Korea: Seoul Performing Arts Festival as a successful model for developing local audience and attracting warm response from the media and the BeSeTo Festival as a failure case in both. At the conclusion of the symposium I gave the closing comment, in which I emphasized several important common missions of international theatre festivals and theatre criticism: both should be able to relate theatre to society; both should be able to generate general public's interest in theatre; both should be able to communicate with the audience, etc. The symposium was beautifully moderated by Ivan Medenica and Dragan Klaić, and our colleagues such as Brent Meersman (South Africa), Savvas Patsalidis (Greece), Alja Predan (Slovenia), Michel Vais (Canada) contributed a lot to the success of the symposium. During the symposium Michel, Ivan and I met German participants and persuaded them to persuade their leadership to get involved more actively in the IATC causes, and they promised they would.

In July, I was invited to the third edition of Teatro a Corte in Turin, where I met joyfully Michel and his mate. There we met critics from Cyprus and Lithuania, and tried again to motivate them to create or resuscitate their own section of IATC. Michel and I are both hopeful that things will work out well for us.

At the end of August, I was invited by Suzuki Tadashi to his Toga Summer Festival, where I met four international board members of the Theatre Olympics such as Theodoros Terzopoulos of Greece, Giorgio Barberio Corsetti of Italy, and of course Suzuki Tadashi of Japan. They will have their fifth edition of Theatre Olympics in Seoul in October, 2010. After discussions with me of several times they have eagerly agreed to host our new critics' seminar or/and cultural bridge in the frame of the 2010 Theatre Olympics in Seoul.

To further and better our relations to the other international theatre organizations I also asked Ms CHOI Young-Ai, ASSITEJ's one of the three vice-presidents, to put the old agreement between the two organizations in the agenda of their excom meeting in Vienna in late June. She did, and succeeded in getting the agreement from her excom members to host our new critics' seminar in the frame of their festival during their regular congresses. I will continue to work to exchange MOU with the president of the ASSITEJ.

Other than these diplomatic efforts, I have focused my whole attention on preparing for the launching of our internet journal, Critical Stages. Thanks to the enormous and sacrificial efforts of the editorial board members, especially our chief editor Maria Helena Serodio, I am sure we will be able to launch it in October in a good shape.
Thank you for your attention.

September 1, 2009-09

All the best,
Yun-Cheol Kim

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Secretary General's Report – Pilsen, Sept. 2009
Michel Vaïs

I will try not to repeat what Yun-Cheol has in his report.
Since our last meeting in Wrocław, I have participated in the following events:

- Novi Sad symposium, with a presentation on Theatre festivals in Montreal and audience development: the successful and the unsuccessful approaches.
- IMEX Frankfurt business travel incentive fair, as a hosted buyer representing IATC. There, I met people from various countries (Germany, Australia, South Africa, France, Italy, Ireland, Turkey, Mexico, Malaysia, etc.), who will try to help me with my international contacts. I exchanged e-mails with a dozen of them in the following days. I stopped in Frankfurt on my way to Novi Sad, and my expenses were fully paid by IMEX, including flight and hotel.
- Teatro a Corte Festival in Turin. I then wrote to a Cyprus theatre critic I met there with Yun-Cheol (Ms Nona Moleski), to give her information about joining the IATC.
- I corresponded with Freddy Decreus from Belgium (a former excom member) about stimulating participation from Belgian critics, especially regarding French-speaking ones, who feel excluded from the IATC **in Belgium**. He promised to investigate and find solutions.
- I updated the web site, especially completing the history, with Ian Herbert, the list of seminars, congresses, etc.
- In Slovenia, Alja Predan, who was president of this new national section, has now been appointed director of the Borstnikovo srečanje theatre festival in Maribor, Slovenia. She wishes that we keep her name on our web site for now, because she intends to invite the excom or some established critics meeting to her festival, for a symposium.
- A new Moroccan section has joined the IATC, with 18 members, presided by Said En Naji, a former individual member of IATC. According to article II.4 of our statutes, the excom should officially accept this section if they have paid their dues.
- We now have 3 individual members in South Africa. (See web site for details.) In addition to Brent Meersman, the new ones are Gabriël J. Botma and Temple Hauptfleisch. We also have a new member in Columbia: Jorge Prada Prada. These new members must be accepted by the excom too, if they are in goodstanding.
- I have worked with Ravi Chaturvedi in organizing our next excom meeting in Gujarat.
- Finally, I wrote as usual to a number of people requesting information about our activities, or wanting to join the IATC (the last one being a professor from India. Mr Ratneswar Prasad, from Bihar). I also exchanged with colleagues from other organisations like the ITI and ASSITEJ. I hope I have not forgotten any important news, but I have recently temporarily lost access to all my incoming IATC mail. Apparently, these e-mails are still somewhere in my computer, but I don't know where...! Happily, I have a back-up copy at home.

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Rapport de la trésorière générale Septembre 2009

I – État des comptes

1 – **Dépenses** au total: 1 730,30 €
 Rubrique divers: 874,95 €
 Internet banque: 45 €
 Envoi livres sur le congrès Sofia à Amsterdam: 263,59 €
 Déplacements au Comex Wroclaw: 529,70 €

2 – Crédits

Cotisations: 3 917,16 €
 Autres crédits: 94,48 €

Total sur le compte : 17 744,07 €

Les dépenses restent stables par rapport à la même période de l'année précédente.

II – Cotisations

Dans l'ensemble la plupart des sections sont en règle pour l'année 2009.
 Les 32 sections suivantes sont en règle :

Allemagne, Bulgarie/Guilde, Bulgarie/Société, Canada anglophone, Canada francophone, Caraïbes, Chine, Corée, Cuba, Espagne, Finlande, France, Grande-Bretagne, Hongrie, Inde, Iran, Japon, Lettonie, Macédoine, Moldavie, Norvège, Pays-Bas, Pologne, Portugal, République Tchèque, Roumanie, Serbie, Slovénie, Slovaquie, Suède, Turquie, Etats-Unis.

11 sections n'ont pas encore réglé pour 2009:

Albanie (75 euros)
Belgique (75 euros)
Croatie (120 euros)
Estonie (75 euros)
Grèce (120 euros)
Hong Kong (120 euros)
Irlande (75 euros pour 2009 et 75 euros pour 2008)
Italie (120 euros)
Russie (120 euros)
Taiwan (75 euros)
Ukraine (75 euros pour 2009 et 75 euros pour 2008)

Membres individuels en règle :

Irina Gogoberidzé, Halima Tahan, Noemi Gradwohl, Brent Meersman, Rasa Vasinauskaite, Ramune Marcinkeviciute, Temple Hauptfleisch, Jorge Prada Prada, Gabriël Botma.

Membres individuels qui n'ont pas réglé leur cotisation pour 2009:

Carola Oyarzun
Abhi Subedi (2007, 2008, 2009)
T. Boubakeur Sekini
Louise Ghirlando

Membre associé en règle pour 2009 : Lissa Tyler Renaud.

Membre associé en défaut de paiement pour 2009 : Maria Shevtsova.

Je propose de radier de la liste des membres individuels Abhi Subedi (Népal) qui malgré plusieurs rappels n'a pas réglé sa cotisation pour 2007, 2008 et 2009.

Irène Sadowska Guillon
Trésorière

NOTE DU SECRÉTAIRE GÉNÉRAL : L'AICT est maintenant présente dans plus de 50 pays. Aucune cotisation n'a encore été reçue de la nouvelle section marocaine.

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Report on the IATC New Theatre Critics' Seminars

Paulo Eduardo Carvalho
25 August 2009

1) I'll start with the situation for next year. **For 2010, up to now, there are only the two proposals already mentioned in the last ex-com in Wrocław: i) a proposal from our Turkish colleague, Üstün Akmen, considering the possibility of organising an International New Theatre Critics' Seminar in Istanbul, in April, within the initiatives of Istanbul European Cultural Capital 2010; and ii) another one from Tomasz Miłkowski, for a seminar in Warsaw, in May, during the Warsaw Theatre Meetings in cooperation with the Polish Theatre Institute.**

It's a pity the dates are so close, but it would be important to confirm as soon as possible if these two proposals will become something more concrete and to develop the necessary contacts for the organisation of these seminars. (Personally, I haven't yet been contacted for any of these possibilities.) And naturally, I would still welcome any other proposal, especially for the second half of 2010.

2) Again, I repeat that some national sections are always very aware and committed to these initiatives, recommending names, while others very rarely do so. It would be important that a larger number and a larger variety of national sections suggest participants for these seminars.

3) Some new documents on the 2009 seminars have been posted in the AICT-IATC webpage, with reports, participants' reviews and photos. Please, check them out!

4) In 2009, the AICT has organized three **New Theatre Critics' Seminars**:

- in **Sfântu Gheorghe**, Romania, within the Reflex Festival (promoted by the Tamási Áron Theatre), between the 23-29 March. Our colleagues Lis Hellström Sveningsson, from the Swedish section, and Alice Georgescu, from the Romanian one, worked as monitors and they coordinated the activities of 10 participants from 6 different countries: Czech Republic (Kateřina Veselovská), Hungary (Noémi Herczog, Reka Hegyi and Robert Markó), Iran (Ashkan Ghafar Adli), Republic of Korea (Yuh Jung Hwang), Romania (Ciprian Marinescu and Imola Márton), and Slovenia (Slovenia). It is important to add that the Reflex Festival offered a seminar for 15 participants (5 Romanian or Hungarian and 10 from other countries), but there were only the 10 accepted applications. They were all English speaking.

- in **Wroclaw**, Poland, within the Europe Theatre Prize, between 31 March and 6 April. Our colleagues João Carneiro, from the Portuguese section, and Mark Brown, from the British one, are working as monitors and they coordinated the activities of 15 participants from 12 different countries: Bulgaria (Elena Peneva and Milena Mihaylova), China (Shifei Qu), Czech Republic (Jakub Škorpil), France (Caroline Châtelet), Iran (Mehdi Nasiri), Poland (Grzegorz Andrzej Konat), Portugal (Constança Carvalho Homem), Republic of Korea (Hwang Yuh Jung), Romania (Daria Dimiu and Iulia Popovici), Slovakia (Daria Feherova, Eva Kyselová and Miriam Kičiňová), Slovenia (Andreja Kopač), and Sweden (Anna Håkansson). It is important to add that Europe Theatre Prize offered a seminar for 20 participants, but there were only the 15 accepted applications. Except for one case, the French participant, all the others were English-speaking.

- in **Amsterdam**, The Netherlands, within the Holland Festival, between 16 and 29 June. The monitors were Hervé Guay, from Quebec, Canada, and Sonja van der Valk, from The Netherlands. Initiated and hosted by the Holland Festival and the Circle of Dutch Theatre Critics (**Kring voor Nederlandse Theatercritici**), and co-organised by the Theatre Institute of the Netherlands (Theater Instituut Nederland) and the Domain for Art Criticism (Domein van de Kunstkritiek), this seminar benefited from the joint efforts of Lucia van Heteren, Annemieke Keurentjes, and Sonja van der Valk and it had the participation of 11 new professional theatre critics from xx different countries: Canada (Byron Laviolette), Czech Republic (Martin Bernátek), Hungary (Réka Hegyi), Iran (Askhan Ghafar Adli), The Netherlands (Robbert van Heuven and Sara van der Kooi), Poland (Dorota Miszek), Portugal (Rui Pina Coelho), Slovakia (Eva Kyselová and Miriam Kičiňová), and Slovenia (Andrea Kopac). In this case, all the 10 places for foreign participants were filled (there was a last minute withdrawal), but only 2 of the 5 places for Dutch participants were filled. All the participants were exclusively English-speaking.

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Vice-president's report/ Margareta Sörenson, Pilsen 09

1.

The Swedish Theatre Biennial had asked for some young critics to invite, and Randy Gener came and made a seminar on international criticism, Amalia Kraigher, Slovenia, and Andrew Haydon, participated; the Swedish section of IATC made this seminar as one of three during the biennial on today's conditions for criticism.

The Swedish Theatre Biennial invites us for an **ex com in May 2011** in Gävle (170 km north of Stockholm). If it comes too close in time to an EU-prize-event – would we turn it into a young critic's seminar or a conference for all critics? Some 10 to 12 persons to be invited. The Biennial is aware of the congress at approx. the same time of the ASSITEJ's congress in Copenhagen.

2.

Georgia. The Swedish Institute addressed me and asked for contacts in Georgia, where Sweden has an exchange program on many levels in cultural/political/social affairs. My contact is Irina Gogoberidze and we are in contact, as with the theatre festival in Tbilisi. The wish is to create a workshop for cultural journalists (not critics only), so this is not an IATC-event. I have informed Paolo. Dates are not yet settled, Lis Hellström Svenningson will work with this with me and/or a third person used to internet media and radio etc.

3.

At the Kuopio Dance festival in Finland I have met with Akiko; she is involved in a book on Scandinavian performing arts and I try to assist.

4.

PEN. I have contacted the Swedish section of PEN International and had some useful information. Report on the meeting.

5.

UNIMA. In 2012 the UNIMA congress will be held in China. UNIMA has already expressed a firm wish to collaborate on a seminar for young critics. I proceed with this.

6.

Ravi Chaturvedi is lecturing at the Stockholm University in September. I met with him and discussed the meeting and Gujarat and the excellent occasion to organise a 'local' seminar for young critics.

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Katayoun Hosseinzadeh Salmasi's Report:

Dear colleagues

I, herewith present the last few months' activities of IATC, Iran Branch.

- 1- After a series of negotiations with some members of the Executive Committee of IATC, in Poland, it was concluded, to have a Jury present on behalf of IATC, at International Theatre Festivals of various countries. I promised in that meeting to do my utmost, to prepare the preliminary stages of the field in question, in the Fajr International Theatre Festival of Iran.

Following negotiations attributed to Board of Management, Iran Branch with the Chairman of Fajr Festival, he consented on accepting the participation of five Critics from IATC, three of whom to be non-Iranian nationals and the remaining, Iranian nationals.

We have already introduced three of the above-mentioned Critics who are as follows:

- Mr. Yun Cheol Kim
- Ms. Kalina Stefanova

- Mr. Ian Herbert

The Fadjr Festival has agreed to sponsor all the respective expenses, pertaining accommodation, return air tickets, Theatre admissions as well as a financial prize which will be duly presented by the above Jury.

Our suggestion for the Jury, is as follows:

An appreciation trophy presented to the nominees, on behalf of IATC.

I would feel more than glad if you very kindly considered bringing up this matter at the meeting, in Pilsen.

- 2- We have further had a sitting with the Head of Iran Theatre Performance Center, pertaining the clearance of publication and the translation into Persian of "***Theatre And Humanism In a World Of Violence***", edited by: ***Ian Herbert and Kalina Stefanova***, if agreed by the above editors.

Needles to say, that this will take affect on grounds of covering the whole budget.

- 3- The Iran Branch, has always held Criticism meetings in Tehran and the neighboring provinces as well as having Criticism Classes and publications.
- 4- Iran Branch has currently held annual celebrations in which it has depicted its bests, in the fields of ***Directing, Acting, Playwriting, Casting, Music and the best Critic*** during the last year.

The whole voting is done by all members of Iran Branch, by way of **General Censes**. However, we have notified the Press that this year, we are **not able** to *hold* this Celebration due to **financial reasons**, as already mentioned.

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Pilsen, September, 2009

Dear friends,

I'm very sorry I won't be with you in Plsen but, as you already know, I'm organising an international theater conference which will be held in Belgrade in ten days, during Bitef festival. It's such a pity that nobody from the ExCom is coming to this conference... But, this is already a part of my report.

Report:

At the end of May, there was the traditional International Symposium of Theatre Critics and Scholars (13th edition) in Novi Sad, organised by Sterijino pozorje festival and IATC, on which I had been working as a co-chairman (the chairman was prof. Klaić from Amsterdam) during the six previous months. The topic was a very concrete one - International theater festivals and audience development - so it gathered participants who were really interested and competent for this theme: the result were a really very vibrant and dynamic discussions, without any "heavy theoretical" discourse. An important contribution to these discussions was made by IATC's members: Yun-Cheol Kim, Michel Vais, Brent Meersman (South Africa), Savas Patsalidis (Greece), Alja Predan (Slovenia). I would like to stress one technical aspect of the Symposium

which I find pretty important. We didn't make copies of the papers; all of them had already been put on the web site of Sterijino pozorje before the conference, and you can still find them there. Immediately after the end of this conference, I started working on the other one as its chairman; that was one of the reasons I couldn't come to Amsterdam. In the framework of Bitef festival in Belgrade, on the 16th and 17th of September an important theater conference is going to happen. The title is "Dramatic and Postdramatic theater: ten years after" and it's dedicated to the 10th anniversary of the famous book *Postdramatic theater* written by Hans-Thies Lehmann, the impact this book has already left on the international theater studies and artistic work as well and the actual relationship between dramatic and postdramatic. The choice of the topic and the raised questions were obviously provocative enough, because some of the most important theater scholars and artists are participating: besides Lehmann himself, there are Patrice Pavis, Marco De Marinis, Elinor Fuchs (Yale), Valentina Valentini (La Sapienza, Rome), Falk Richter, Roland Schimmelpfennig, Tomi Janežič... At least three of them are very serious candidates for Thalia Prize.

In the meanwhile, I have been working, considering the IATC activities, on some regular things. I wrote the English version of the minutes from Wroclaw and I've been helping Michel in the maintenance of our web site. During my two months stay in Germany (July and August) I started decoding the mystery of our (*existing*) German national section. But, on this topic I'll have more info for our next meeting in India. To be continued...

All the best, I wish you a successful meeting in Plsen
Sincerely yours
Ivan

PS I completely agree with the final version (4th, 5th...?) of the Code of Practice proposed by Don.

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Dear All,

I'm really sorry I won't be with the nine of you in Pilsen and I'm also sorry that, due to different reasons, so many of us are not making it there.

As most of you know, I'm not advised to undertake work trips now due to the recurrence of my thyroiditis problem.

However, I'll be spiritually with you, as I've been working on the Pilsen Symposium together with Mirka and Petr throughout the course of its preparation, as most of you know from my pestering you till the vrey end :))

Since this financial crisis has struck culture extremely hard--as if it was culture that caused it in the first place!!!-- there are no invitations about new symposiums, at least that I know of. I was very happy to find out about Alja Predran's news from Michel's report and will write her to enquire about concrete possibilities for an experienced critics symposium. In Wroclaw she was telling us about this change of her position--then it was forthcoming--so great that it's now already a fact.

Meanhile, with Ian, we have been working on the promotion of the Congress book as well. It's now on the amazon.uk site. And reviews of the book will certainly help it. So far only Soila Lehtonen has sent me a review she wrote in Finland, after receiving a copy of the book in Wroclaw. Nearly 800 copies were given away at several forums, so it's logical that we could expect reviews. So here comes a request to all of you: if you have written about the book, please, send Ian and me the review and some quotes in English; if you haven't, please review it or ask colleagues to do so. The international library search engine World Cat doesn't show the book to

have entered the registered libraries and they are hundreds of them around the world. I do hope it's only a matter of time, since so many copies were given exactly with a request to be endowed to the local university or other public libraries.

I wish you now a great time in Pilsen: at the symposium, in the theatres and at the brewery!
Hugs to all,
Kalina

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Dear Mr. Kim Yun Cheol, Mr. Michel Vais and dear colleagues,

It is a great pity that I am not able to attend the Executive Committee in Pilsen. In spite of my efforts I failed to abstain the travel grant to Europe. It is still expensive to travel to Europe without the grant.

In my report, I just mention two things from the Japanese Section.

1) As I reported in Wraclaw in Poland, we are working to hold the Asian Symposium and the Executive Committee in Tokyo in the autumn, most probably sometime in November, in collaboration with the Festival/Tokyo. The Executive Members and selected delegates from Asian countries will be invited.

But, I now have one concern about the financial side. Because the Festival/Tokyo is sponsored by the Metropolitan Government of Tokyo as the cultural programme in connection with the Olympic Games. The evaluation on Tokyo as the site for the Olympic Games is not good. If Tokyo fails, there may be a drastic cut of the festival budget. We will visit the festival office after October 2. We will let you know immediately if any change happens. In addition, the Democratic Party is now in the government. We will let you know if any change happens.

2) Regarding the Thalia Prize, at the General Meeting of IATC Japan, we have decided to nominate two Japanese scholars as possible candidates. They are Professor Mitsuya Mori and Professor Tatsuji Iwabuchi. If you accept only one candidate from one national section, we will recommend Mitsuya Mori. The proper recommendations in English will be sent to everyone soon.

Wishing you all the best and a very successful meeting in Pilsen.

With best regards,

Akiko Tachiki