

FOS 9th AGM Minutes, 2010 University of Exeter, UK

Present: Dr Salem Yousr, John, Julian Janson Van Rensburg, Hanah Habrova, Salwa, Martin Coree, Sue Christie, Peter De Geest, Dirk, John Farrar, Phillips, Shryll, Francesco, Kj, Vikam, Dana Pietsch, Myrtle Pont, Richard Pont, Hugh Morris, Miranda Morris, Kay Van Damme.



Apologies: Roderick Dutton, Sabina Kees, Richard Porter, Leila Ingrams, Lothar Stein, Isam-Eldin Mohamed Ali, Eike Neubert, John Dickson, Lisa Banfield, Diccon Alexander, Nick Jeffries, Gerry Brisch, Tim Martindale.

Issues pending from AGM 2009

The Minutes of the 2009 AGM were approved by all present with the following modifications

Page 2: It was recommended that Lisa Banfield *should* replace Miranda as a signatory for the FoS account. This did not happen as Ms. Banfield is no longer resident in the UK. Julian Jansen Van Rensburg will replace Miranda as Signatory instead.

MOM: All members should receive the AGM MOM once they are approved. Those who have email addresses can receive them by email. Those without can receive them together with their issue of Tayf. The Action Points from the AGM should be sent to the committee members only.

Maps: Miranda Morris laminated 1 map and sent it to Lothar Stein. (*Follow up with Diccon Alexander for remaining maps*)

Annual Report

Kay – Quick report. Organised along the points of the Institution. (see handout).

If anyone wants to add anything to the chairman's report, send it to the secretary to add to the report. The title will be changed to the "Annual Report" and needs to be submitted to Companies' House. The secretary will send an email prior to the AGM next year to ask if anyone wants to add anything to the annual report.

The library of the American Center for Yemeni Studies has requested all the back copies of Tayf.

Tayf

- 1- FoS is a joint FoS/SCF publication. Mr. Abdul-Kareem al-Iryani is the chairman of SCF and supports and promotes the publication. The SCF logo will be kept but the contacts will be removed as they are no longer valid. SGBP is also interested in being involved in producing the publication and may be prepared to provide financial support. Sue Christie, the editor of Tayf needs a decision on that by March.
- 2- It would be good to get more entries from Yemen and the Island. In doing so, there is a need to pay attention to *voice*. This means that editing, where required, should be minimal so as not to alter the meaning.
- 3- The size of Tayf has been growing. This adds a burden in translation and cost of postage.
 - a. References should not normally be translated
 - b. 1 major article of 1000 words and 2 pictures. Maximum for all other articles is 500 words.
 - c. Only 1 large article per issue: 2 pages including pictures.
 - d. If major academic articles are sent in, they should be published on the website. Only summaries should be included in Tayf.
 - e. For now, Tayf should be limited to 20 pages (financial, logistical and editorial decision).
- 4- The target audience of Tayf is primarily Socotris. The articles in the newsletter should reflect this.
- 5- Add " PLEASE PHOTOCOPY" to the "NOT FOR SALE" sign on the back of Tayf.
- 6- The committee will make a list of places and institutions/organisations who should receive Tayf. This can include schools, clinics, hospital, local associations, internet cafe etc. This list should be shared with Mohammed Amer, FOS' local rep. The committee will also request a list of recipients who received issues of the 2009 issue of Tayf.
- 7- Suggestion of cheaper printing in Mukala will be investigated by Salwa and Dr. Salem.
- 8- Dr Salem will help encourage Socotris to write relevant articles for Tayf.
- 9- Arabic version should also be on the website.
- 10- Deadlines for articles: end of December. Deadline for printing: July.
- 11- Content for next Tayf:
 - a. Resend article on house crow.
 - b. Ewe requested to write a new article about his institute.
 - c. Short article request from all who presented at the 2010 AGM.
 - d. Dr. Salem will write an article about health on the island, as the major article for the upcoming issue.

Website

John had inherited the old website from John Oakman. Main aims:

- 1- Did not want to make the whole page too wide as not everyone has high resolution monitors.
- 2- Did not want too many flashing items on it as many people on Socotra will not have fast connections. They will have dial-ups
- 3- To try to make it as navigable as possible.

- 4- Socotra news updates need to be sent regularly to the website.
- 5- New website committee: Julian, Rowan (news updates), Peter, Kay, Dana, John. John and Peter to head website committee
- 6- Email any feedback about the website directly to John.
- 7- Include a links page.

Projects

See Annual Report for Completed Projects.

Ongoing Projects

- 1- The Soil project is ongoing. Dana Pietsch's last visit was in spring 2009 when she looked at erosion in the gully with Liza Banfield. They saw that there is a huge succession of plants in the area. Now the area can perhaps handle planting of species from the nursery in ceramic pots. Earth monitoring needs some enthusiasm and hopes people will continue with that. Do not need any more money. £50 from last year is pending for the watering in the nursery.
- 2- The reading glasses have been purchased but have not been distributed yet. They cannot be distributed as we were going to distribute them via the library, but the library has shut down. Another suggestion is to distribute them via the mosques. Miranda Morris will do this during her next visit in November 2010. John Dixon has kindly offered to give a donation to this project. The committee will ask him to put this donation on hold until we get more clarity on the mode of distribution.
- 3- The library is still shut. Suggestion of removing this books and DVDs and housing them with Tanouf who has offered to use his space. The current library committee has not shown any initiative to reopen the library for the past year. Some support was suggested from a visitor from the Gulf. Miranda will report on the success of the proposition following her visit in November.
- 4- The French Beekeepers have asked for FoS' support to pick out random pots of honey to be sent for analysis of quality. Several members of the committee offered to support this. Please send 1 pot per visit to:

Camille et Thierry SERGENT
Miellerie du Gâtinais
7 et 9 chemin de La Jonnerie
91820 Boutigny sur Essonne
France
Mobile : 06 03 21 17 86
Email : mielleridugatinaisATfree.fr

The beekeepers have also asked FoS whether there is interest to map the pollen of Socotra in order to facilitate the identification of the Socotra honey. This proposal was sent by Kay Van Damme to the RGE.

- 5- FoS received an offer of a financial donation from an Egyptian doctor (Dr. Khaled) to support the clearance of waste on Socotra. The committee has proposed the design of a poster about littering. FoS currently does not have any executive authority. Dr. Khaled has also offered to support the scholarship of Dr. Salem. FoS will put Dr. Khaled directly in touch with Dr. Salem.

Dr. Salem will be going to Socotra in April, Miranda in November, Dana in December, Salwa in October.

Volunteering

The committee received a number of requests from individuals looking for volunteer placements on Socotra. All such future requests will be sent to the committee who can respond according to needs or forward where relevant.

Perceptions about FoS: FoS Chairman, Kay Van Damme visited Yemen and Socotra 3 times in the past year. His impression was that FoS is seen as an “organisation which doesn’t throw away money” and which enjoys credibility at “all levels of Yemeni Society”. On Socotra we’re little known with little importance except when Tayf comes out however we provide an important niche service of information provision.

Membership:

FoS has had a stable number of members. The number of paid up members increased last year.

Following a request from Mandel University, FoS is starting an institutional membership. Membership cost: £50 per institution, includes 1 Tayf, 4 members.

Suggestion of including FoS leaflets in relevant conference packs and including the leaflets at hotels for tourists.

Committee and Constitution

Hugh Morris has requested to review the constitution. As it stands, the constitution doesn’t represent the way we’re operating. E.g. last year we changed what made us quorate, but we haven’t changed that in the constitution. According to the constitution, half the committee has to retire each year. However, we do not have sufficient members to warrant this. We also need to revisit who are the trustees.

We need a mechanism to review the constitution based on the mechanism in which we operate. Hugh has volunteered to do so. He will bring recommendations back to the committee next year to vote on.

Next AGM

Suggestion - Bern/Switzerland - Hosted by Eike Neubert

Elections

Kay Van Damme suggested the new position of Communications Officer. This post would be in charge of media and public relations.

New Posts voted during AGM:

Secretary: Julian Jansen Van Rensburg

Communications Officer: Lisa Banfield

New Committee Member: Salwa

All other positions have been kept.

The committee hopes that Dr. Salem will join the committee next year