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UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL,
SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION

Consultation meeting on the establishment of an
International Federation of Scientific Editors'
Associations, held at Unesco House, 1 rue Miollis,
Paris, 5-6 June 1978

FINAL REPORT

1. Opening

The meeting was opened by Mr. Wysocki, Director of the General Information Programme (PGI) of Unesco, who welcomed the participants and reminded them of the part played by Unesco in the creation of associations of editors of scientific journals in Europe, Latin America and Southeast Asia, in the organization of courses in scientific editing, and in the production of a set of Guidelines for editors of scientific and technical journals. The Medium-Term Plan (1977-1982) of Unesco foresees several activities for the improvement of scientific editing.

Mr. Wysocki said that although Unesco could not impose any international structure on editors' associations, it would like to encourage any proposals in this direction provided that there was "ample proof of the firm will and active participation of editors".

2. Election of officers of the meeting

Chairman : Miriam Balaban, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the First International Conference of Scientific Editors, held in Jerusalem, April 1977.

Rapporteur : Maeve O'Connor, Senior Editor, Ciba Foundation, London.

3. Purpose and aims of IFSEA

After thanking Unesco for hosting the meeting Mrs Balaban welcomed the participants and briefly outlined the purposes and aims of the proposed Federation, first discussed at the Jerusalem Conference in April 1977. Mrs Balaban said that the Federation, as an umbrella organization, should strive to coordinate the efforts of primary and secondary editors, and serve as a counterpart to other sectors in the scientific information system. The intention was not to supplant, substitute or threaten existing associations but rather to coordinate activities such as the increasing number of meetings, manuals, standards and practices.

4. Attitudes of individual associations and others to IFSEA

The following opinions were expressed by participants on behalf of their associations :

ELSE (G Page) : marginally in favour of a modest and useful body.

Editerra (N. Morris,
A. Martinsson) : a central organization is necessary, provided that it is controlled by the editors', associations and does not interfere with the meetings or membership of the associations.

- AESE (S.E. Jennese) : enthusiastic about the potentialities of such a federation, though hesitant about what happens when associations step over national borders.
- Editeast (S. Singh) : looks forward to help from a international forum.
- CBE (M. Borysewicz, representing H.E.Kennedy): interested in supporting such an organization.
- IUB-CEBJ (C. Liébecq) : opinions of the other members of the Committee of Editors of Biochemical Journals not known; personal experience is that it is easier to run a small group, that obtaining standardization in minor matters is difficult, and that journals react against what looks like dictatorship. However, IUB-CEBJ was itself formed because the cooperation of editors was needed before a system of enzyme nomenclature could be accepted.
- Physics (L. Cohen) : physicists don't see the need for an organization for physics editors, though the European Physics Society has a publications committee and grants recognition to 32 journals.
- International Union of Crystallography (A. Guinier) : some standardization achieved in journals but there is no project for cooperation.
- CIPA (I. Chiva) : anthropologists propose to set up an international association of editors in December 1978 and are strongly in favour of the work done in Jerusalem; they stress the importance in dealing with copyright and making publications available to developing countries.
- Ad hoc Council of Social Science Editors (J. McCartney) : an association of social science editors will be formed in September 1978. The efforts and international focus of the Jerusalem meeting were inspiring.
- Nigeria (O. Akande) : the National Scientific and Technology Development Agency is now producing journals.
- NOP (S. Irgens-Jensen) : the Nordic Publishing Board in Science is an example of international cooperation and welcomes it from others. IFSEA will be discussed at its next meeting at the end of June.

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- GID (U. Schützsack) : Gesellschaft für Information und Dokumentation is interested in settling mutual problems of primary and secondary journals.
- BNIST (L. Degail) : the Bureau National de l'Information Scientifique et Technique coordinates scientific information and is interested in the possibilities of discussing general and technical problems through IFSEA.
- Ciba Foundation (M. O'Connor) : IFSEA would find something useful to do in reducing the non-conformity that gets in the way of international communication in science.
- W.R. Burke (European Space Agency) : (personal view) : a wider association of editors would be interesting.
- Inst. of Electrical Engineers (J. St. Aubyn) : has 70.000 members (UK and international) and publishes journals and proceedings.

5. Statutes of IFSEA

K. Faegri (ELSE) opened the discussion of the statutes by pointing out that the draft statutes could not be finalized until the first General Assembly of the proposed Fédération was held and that it would be a mistake to go into the details too closely. C. Liébesq said that a federation should consist of associations only and there should be no individual members. Article 3 (Membership) and other Articles of the draft statutes were then discussed at length and several amendments and minor changes were proposed for later consideration (see item 9).

6. Representation of other groups in IFSEA and coordination with such groups

The work of STM (International Group of Scientific, Technical and Medical Publishers), was described by P. Nijhoff Asser. M. Leaman explained that ISO is itself a coordinating body. J. Marton-Lefevre said that ICSU-AB was in favour of anything that contributes to clarity and was especially interested in discouraging editors from changing the names of their journals. M. Gibb said that the Commission of the European Communities was interested in improving the dissemination of research information.

7. Future plans

a) Conferences

M. Balaban reported that IFSEA, with support from Elsevier, hopes to hold the Second International Conference of Scientific Editors in Amsterdam in 1980, probably in October. Elsevier can provide a hall for up to 200 people and the registration fee would be \$200. Even with this fee there would be a deficit, which Elsevier has offered to meet. Suggestions for topics were requested.

E. Mann (ELSE) called attention to the ELSE meeting in Budapest, 17-20 April 1979, which will be on International Cooperation in Scientific Editing and Publishing. The registration fee will be \$70 or \$80.

b) Interim activities

S. Singh referred to the importance of university courses in scientific writing and later in editing. W. Löhner (Unesco) said that Unesco was not interested in supporting courses in writing at present. E. Mann suggested that courses should be held for editors in food and agricultural sciences. W. Löhner said that although Unesco would like to see further education and action in this direction, it would need guarantees about the chances of survival of such courses.

M. Balaban referred to the ELSE-Ciba Foundation workshop on references held in November 1977 as an example of the kind of activity of IFSEA could encourage. Another meeting has been proposed by the Institute for Scientific Information (ISI) on scientist-editors and the primary/secondary journal interface.

J. McCartney suggested that circulating a calendar of events of interest to editors would be a useful activity for IFSEA. K. Faegri said that IUBS produces a calendar of meetings in biology and could perhaps pick out editing as well.

A. Martinsson said that a work pattern for meetings should be developed at the international level, culminating in the International Conference.

8. Budget

Several participants pointed out that if IFSEA wanted to attract members, it would have to offer them something in return. G. Page suggested that the registration fee for the International Conference could be made lower for members of member associations than for others.

Categories of membership fees were discussed and it was pointed out that the fees could be agreed at the first Assembly of the Federation. M. Balaban said that the present concept of IFSEA was a very modest one, in which it would act as a link for individual associations. Work for IFSEA would be voluntary but there would nevertheless have to be some expenditure on postage, stationery, etc. W. Schytt (NOP) said that to give IFSEA a chance to show what it could do, NOP would be prepared to contribute a few dollars for each of its publications. B. van Tongeren (Elsevier/STM) said that STM would be glad to consider contributing on a similar basis and that IFSEA as STM should have a modest secretariat. M. Gibb said that the European Commission would also like to support the initiative of IFSEA, especially if the organization remained simple.

9. Formation of IFSEA

The following suggestion was put forward : that an organizing committee, only, should be formed at this meeting. The meeting then agreed that the interim statutes should be accepted and that IFSEA should be formed. The following were named as members of the Board :

/...

Miriam Balaban (Treasurer, ELSE), as Secretary-General

Mary Borysewicz/H E Kennedy (CBE)

*Knut Faegri (ELSE)

Claude Liébecq (IUB-CEBJ)

Ernest Mann (Meetings Secretary, ELSE)

Udo Schützsack (Member of ELSE Council)

* subject to his agreement.

10. Closure of meeting

In conclusion, Mrs Balaban asked participants to submit proposals for topics for the Second International Conference and other meetings, together with information for the calendar of events. She thanked the Unesco representatives (Mr. A. Wysocki, Mr. W. Löhner, Mrs. F. Gallo) for the work they had done for the meeting and thanked the participants for their support.

INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC EDITORS' ASSOCIATIONS (IFSEA)

The idea of IFSEA was presented at the First International Conference of Scientific Editors held in Jerusalem, April 24-29, 1977, and the organization was constituted at a meeting in the Unesco house in Paris, June 5-6, 1978. These statutes, adopted ad interim at the Paris meeting, are to be ratified or revised at the First General Assembly of IFSEA.

IFSEA INTERIM STATUTES

Adopted at the constituent meeting of IFSEA, Paris, June 5-6, 1978.

ARTICLE 1 - TITLE

The name of the association is : International Federation of Scientific Editors' Associations designated by the acronym IFSEA, hereinafter referred to as "The Federation".

ARTICLE 2 - AIMS

The Federation is an independant international non-governmental association, without a profit motive, whose purposes are :

(a) to coordinate and complement but not duplicate the activities of its members in the different disciplines and regions, and to assist as necessary in the formation of further scientific editors' associations;

(b) to represent scientific editing in relation to other organizations particularly those concerned with the transfer of scientific information;

(c) to contribute to the formulation of standards and good practices in editing and to promote their international implementation;

(d) to encourage editors to take an interest in the planning, production and distribution of publications and in the development of information systems;

(e) to ease author-editor-publisher relationships and to optimize the scientific information process;

(f) to provide a forum for exchange of information and ideas on matters of interest or concern to editors by (i) promoting the participation of its members in meetings organized by individual associations, and (ii) organizing regular international interdisciplinary meetings on broad or specific topics, not covered by other meetings;

(g) to initiate and encourage international research on the most effective methods of achieving the aforementioned purposes.

ARTICLE 3 - MEMBERSHIP

(a) Full membership can be accorded to editors' associations in all scholarly and technical fields;

(b) Associate membership can be accorded to :

- (i) other institutional organizations concerned with scientific editing;
- (ii) editorial representatives of scholarly and technical publications in geographical areas not covered by editors' associations.

Members may be admitted by the Board and are subject to ratification by the Assembly.

ARTICLE 4 - RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS

4.1 Membership of the Federation shall constitute an agreement :

- to pay such dues as may be fixed and approved by the Assembly;
- to actively contribute to the objectives of the Federation.

ARTICLE 5 - ASSEMBLY

5.1 The Assembly shall consist of all members of the Federation.

5.2 The Assembly shall meet every third year and on such other occasions as the circumstances warrant.

5.3 Meetings of the Assembly may be called either by the Board, or by the President at the written request of one third of the members. At least 90 days' notice shall be given.

5.4 The duties of the Assembly shall include :

- a) Election of Members of the Board (see article 7);
- b) Approval of fees, budgets and accounts;
- c) Approval of the triannual reports and proposals on future programmes;
- d) Constitution of commissions of the Federation;
- e) Ratification of membership of the Federation;
- f) Approval of the rules of procedures and changes.

ARTICLE 6 - VOTING RIGHTS

Each full member shall have one vote.

ARTICLE 7 - THE BOARD

7.1 The Board shall consist of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary-General, a Treasurer, and two or more ordinary members. The Board shall be elected for a period of three years. The President and Vice-President may be re-elected once to the same office. The Board should consist of no less than six members.

7.2 The duties of the Board shall include :

- a) Supervision of activities of the Federation between the meetings of the Assembly;

- b) Admission of members to the Federation;
- c) Preparation of budgets and accounts;
- d) Preparation of proposals for programmes and their supervision.

7.3 The President shall preside over the meetings of the Assembly and the Board and shall represent the Federation in its relations with other organizations. The President may appoint those Committees of the Federation that he deems necessary.

7.4 The Secretary General shall be the executive officer of the Federation, keep its minutes and correspondence and prepare annual reports that shall be submitted to the Board and presented to the Assembly at its triannual meetings.

7.5 The Treasurer shall keep the accounts, collect the fees and disburse the monies of the Federation.

ARTICLE 8 - FINANCE

The Federation shall derive its finances from :

8.1 Members dues. Membership dues are to be fixed and revised periodically by the Assembly.

Special consideration may be given to non-governmental organizations who during an initial period or owing to unforeseen circumstances are unable to pay the fees set for their category.

8.2 Gifts, grants, legacies and other resources, subject to a decision of the Board.

8.3 Income from services, such as the sale of publications, studies and others.

ARTICLE 9 - COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

Commissions shall be permanent working bodies of the Federation and may be instituted by the Assembly.

Committees are working bodies of the Federation which may be instituted by the President to solve specific problems within a limited period of time.

Commissions shall submit annual reports on their activities to the Board.

ARTICLE 10 - INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

International conferences shall take place every three years, normally in connection with the meetings of the Assembly. Attendance will not be restricted to members of the Federation. The organization of the conferences may be entrusted to a local organizing committee or a Committee of the Federation. Each conference shall have its own independent budget.

ARTICLE 11 - RULES OF PROCEDURES

Details concerning the internal operation of the Federation shall be dealt with in Rules of procedures established by the Assembly on the recommendation of the Board.

ARTICLE 12 - GENERAL PROVISION

- 12.1 Amendments to these statutes may be made at a meeting of the Assembly by a majority of two-thirds of the Members in good standing.
- 12.2 The Federation may be dissolved by a majority of two-thirds of the members in good standing.
- 12.3 In the case of conflict arising between the Federation and one of its regular members, an arbitration committee should be established if one of the parties requires this. Each party appoints one member, and they appoint a third member. The decisions of the arbitration committee are advisory.

Consultation meeting on the establishment of an
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF SCIENTIFIC EDITORS' ASSOCIATIONS (IFSEA)
Paris, 5-6 June 1978

A G E N D A

1. Opening of the session
2. Election of officers
3. Presentation of purposes and aims of IFSEA
4. Discussion on needs of individual associations and individuals in relation to IFSEA
5. Statutes and by-laws of IFSEA
6. Representation in and co-ordination with other groups such as ICSU, ICSU-AB, ISSC, ISO, FID, IFLA, ICA, ISI, etc.
7. Extending the system of editors' associations - creation of new associations
8. Future plans
 - International conference
 - Interim activities
 - Structure of organizations
9. Budget
10. Closure of the meeting

OPENING ADDRESS DELIVERED BY MR. A. WYSOCKI, REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF UNESCO

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Director-General, it is my pleasant duty to welcome you to the opening of this Consultation Meeting, which, as you know, is organized and convened by Unesco in the framework of its General Information Programme, to consider the establishment of the International Federation of Scientific Editors.

I am pleased to see so many participants testifying their interest in this proposed international federation, which is aimed to serve the best interest of science editors and to facilitate the flow of scientific information.

Let me briefly recall the efforts of Unesco in the creation of editors associations of scientific journals which led finally to the proposition of the creation of this federation.

The history of the development of scientific journals is marked by the independent origin of the majority. Each periodical has developed its own editorial style and practice. The realization that these publications have many problems in common, that they carry a responsibility in facilitating the flow of material and that they maintain the most direct contact and are in the best position to serve the scientist from whom the material is ultimately derived and to whom it is ultimately directed. This common practice has led to the idea of the creation of associations of editors of scientific periodicals on regional and continent-wide levels, grouped by subject matter.

The call on scientific editors and publishers to take an increasing part in promoting the effectiveness of information transfer has been an over-repeated recommendation.

The UNISIST Intergovernmental Conference, held in Paris, in 1971, made a specific recommendation on the responsibilities of scientific editors. In fact, Recommendation 11 says :

"The authors of articles and editors of scientific journals should exercise a special responsibility for the maintenance of quality controls inherent in the disciplines of science. Their efforts to maintain referee systems should be encouraged. At the same time, editors should realize that the primary publications for which they are responsible are part of an information processing continuum, and that their cooperation with other groups is essential. Their collaboration is

especially needed in five respects : (a) the observance of standards proposed by international organizations on matters such as the format of bibliographic descriptions, the provision of author abstracts, with editorial responsibility for stylistic revisions and translations, the assignment of subject indicators; (b) a continuing effort to make the best of new methods that may increase the overall effectiveness of primary and secondary publications; (c) a similar readiness to consider complementary or alternative forms of document presentation and distribution; (d) the adoption of techniques intended ultimately to reduce the costs of publications to individual users; (e) finally, a willingness to approach these matters of costs in a cooperative spirit, with regard to the problems created by their considerable variations throughout the world."

The original idea was to form regional or sectorial professional groups which would provide useful mechanisms for the discussion of common technical and economic problems and ensure a qualitative improvement in primary publications. Furthermore, Unesco promotes a closer liaison between scientific editors and the abstracting and indexing services, the information analysis centres and the libraries in order to improve the overall effectiveness of the information transfer chain.

To this end, Unesco has initiated the creation of editors' associations in various disciplines in Europe, for example : Life Sciences, Earth Sciences, Chemistry, Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, and in a combination of disciplines, and other regions : Earth Sciences in Latin America, Earth Sciences and other natural sciences in Southeast Asia.

Furthermore, Unesco has organized courses in scientific editing in Indonesia (1973), the Philippines (1974), Nigeria (1976) and India (1976). The basic objectives of these courses was to familiarize the editors in the countries with the latest international practices pertaining to various aspects of editorial work. Some of these courses could be considered also as a regional activity since participants from neighbouring countries participated as well.

In evaluating these courses, one always finds that it is of great value to the individual editor to be able to exchange ideas and experiences and also the proof that the problems of scientific editing are not unique to each journal.

A course for scientific editors forms the first step towards a solution, but other activities will have to follow. They include :

- a suitable journal policy;
- the regular provision of funds;
- the development of adequate typesetting and printing capacities;
- the development of publishing house-type support for editors;
- permanent training courses on specific problems.

For obvious reasons, it seems desirable to "organize" editors at the national level first, and courses on scientific editing have been appreciated very much as a first step.

With the courses already organized and with the "Guidelines for Editors of Scientific and Technical Journals", we hope to achieve a multiplier effect which would enable Unesco to hand over the training of scientific editors to national authorities without too heavy financial burden.

Finally, the Medium-Term Plan (1977-1982) of Unesco, in its objective 10.1 of the General Information Programme foresees several activities for the improvement of scientific editing, such as : "to develop and promote the use of (a) scientific standards designed to ensure that research results merit publication and to improve refereeing procedures; (b) editorial standards, already partly developed, intended to make the primary literature comprehensible across disciplinary and national boundaries and to aid in transfer of information from primary to secondary or even tertiary services; and (c) production standards designed to state the optimum compromise between costs on the one hand and timeliness and usefulness on the other.

I cannot close this brief retrospect without mentioning the First International Conference of Scientific Editors, held in Jerusalem, April 1977, which discussed the problems of scientific information transfer and the editors' role in tomorrow's world. It specifically recommended to consider the establishment of an International Federation of Scientific Editors Associations.

Unesco, however, would be acting against its mandate and the interests of scientific editors in trying to impose any international structure on them.

We would like to encourage any proposals in this direction provided that there is ample proof of the firm will and active participation of editors which in turn are the only guarantee for the survival of such a mechanism.

To help you in your task, the Secretariat distributed to you, last month, the draft of the proposed statutes together with an outline of initial activities of the Federation.

You are invited now to discuss and review all these proposals and reach by consensus the appropriate recommendations.

Item 2 of the Agenda calls for the election of officers. I should like to propose to you the officers of this meeting :

- as Chairman : Mrs Miriam Balaban, Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the First International Conference of Scientific Editors, held in Jerusalem, April 1977;
- as Rapporteur : Mrs. Maeve O'Connor, Senior Editor, Ciba Foundation, London.

If you have no objections, may I, then, ask Mrs Balaban to the chair and Mrs. O'Connor to take a sit near her.

I wish you a successful meeting.

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