

Minutes of 1st MEPA Meeting (Middle East Publishers' Association) on 28th March 2005

A meeting of MEPA was held on 28th march 2005 at the conference hall of Dubai Media City. Twenty Five (25) representatives from various publishing organizations were present.

The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Azzam; Chairman of the association gave a key note address by expressing his sincere greetings to all the participants and also expresses the sincere thanks to Mr. Mohammed Bin Ghalib, Director, International Media Production for his valuable help to arrange this meeting. Chairman called upon Dominic Mc Gill – Secretary General of MEPA to proceed with the presentation and the agenda.

Dominic Mc Gall introduced “Dr. Jacob Cherian” who has been working closely with the association and overseeing the administrative work, and then gave the presentation. The contents of the presentation were as follows.

Purpose:

- Serve and promote by all lawful means for the interest of publishers' in the specified region and to protect their interests.
- Bring publishers' together to discuss the main issues facing the industry and to define the practical policies that will take the industry forward.
- Ensure a secure future for the publishing industry in the Middle East

Name of the association:

Middle East Publishers' Association (MEPA)

Announcement of geographical coverage of the Association

1. Saudi Arabia
2. UAE
3. Kuwait
4. Qatar
5. Bahrain
6. Oman
7. Yemen
8. Syria
9. Lebanon
10. Jordan
11. Iraq
12. Palestine
13. Egypt
14. Iran
15. Turkey

Criteria for the selection of Life Members

- Those who publish in the specified region
- Those who offer AED 50,000/-

Criteria for the selection of Steering Committee Members

- Those who are the life member of the Association
- Those who can actively participate in the committee
- There are 7 members including the Chairman and the Secretary
- The chairman of the Association will be the Chairman of the Steering committee.
- If there are more candidates to become member for Steering Committees, then they will be selected by lot.

Future Plans of Steering Committee

Committee will finalize the following matters.

- Membership subscription
- Budget for the year
- Bylaws of the Association
- Organizational Structure
- Appointment of Secretary General, Lawyer, Auditor etc.

Each committee member will get an assignment.

Summary of bylaws of the association

ARTICLE FIRST	Name & Nature of the Association
ARTICLE SECOND	Purposes of the Association
ARTICLE THIRD	Members of the Association
ARTICLE FOURTH	Members of the Steering Committee
ARTICLE FIFTH	Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Secretary & Others
ARTICLE SIXTH	Inspection of Records

ARTICLE SEVENTH	Cheques, Notes, Drafts and Other Instruments
ARTICLE EIGHTH	Seal
ARTICLE NINTH	Fiscal Year
ARTICLE TENTH	Amendments
ARTICLE ELEVENTH	Transactions with Related Parties
ARTICLE TWELFTH	Indemnification of Officers and Directors
ARTICLE THIRTEENTH	Personal Liability
ARTICLE FOURTEENTH	Assets of the Association
ARTICLE FIFTEENTH	Affiliation
ARTICLE SIXTEENTH	Miscellaneous

Decision regarding the next Assembly Meeting

Next Assembly Meeting will be convened on 27th April 2005.

Suggestions of the Participants

It was suggested that MEPA should be accredited and maintained as per the international standards.

It was also suggested by the participants to set another meeting in a month and give the chance for all participants to think constructively, especially that some points are subject to discussion, i.e. having Turkey and Egypt in the same association. This way the next meeting will be more fruitful.

Many participants expressed that Dubai is a prime location for such association to represent the Middle East and the association has to be beneficial for all.

It was decided to distribute the bylaws to all participants so that it enables the participants to go through and enlist feedback and remarks prior to the next session.

It was also decided to appoint Dr. Jacob Cherian to work as full time staff for the association by way of answering all feedback and receiving all suggestions, and look into bylaws.

Conclusion:

Dr Azzam concluded the session by worth mentioning the relevance of the investment in this project and setting the date of the next meeting on the 27th of April.