

Minutes of MEPA's 3rd Meeting on 25th of September 2005

A meeting of MEPA was held on 25th of September 2005 at the DMC Management Board Room (Building No. 2) of Dubai Media City. Thirty Two (32) representatives from various publishing organizations such as Al-Wataniya Group, Dialogue Publishing, Emirates Media Inc., Collection Pan Arab Luxury Magazine, Souk Araba, Add Media, Gulf News, Pulse Holding, Barson Media, Insure Magazine, Arab Press House, Media International Services, Khaleej Times, Dubai Consultancy, Al Bayan, Arab Media Group, Sayidity (London), College of Communication and Media Sciences, Saudi Research and Publishing Co., etc. were present

The meeting was inaugurated with a welcome speech by Mr. Christopher Q. Lim expressing his immense pleasure in welcoming firstly the Chairman of the Association; Dr. Azzam Al Dakhil and the Director of International Media Production Zone; Mr. Mohammed Bin Ghalib as well as the Director of Operation; Mr. Hamad Al Huraiz (IMPZ) and to all the delegates for this auspicious occasion. An introductory speech of the brief history of Middle East Publishers' Association (MEPA) was also conveyed. Lastly, Mr. Lim called upon Dr. Jacob Cherian, Manager of MEPA to proceed with the presentation.

The contents of the presentation were as follows:

- 1) Announcement of Registration of MEPA as FZ. LLC
- 2) Minutes of the Last Meeting
- 3) Membership Campaign
 - a) Founding Membership
 - b) Standard Membership
 - c) Associate Membership
- 4) Benefits to Members
- 5) Activities to be undertaken
- 6) Articles of Association / By-Laws of the Association
- 7) Geographical Coverage of MEPA
- 8) Ads in the Website of MEPA
- 9) Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting
- 10) Any other matters which are relevant

Before the meeting proceeds to the in depth details of the agenda, Dr. Jacob Cherian announced the registration of MEPA as FZ. LLC and presented to the delegates the Certificate of Incorporation with License No. 31558 duly issued under the seal of the Dubai Technology and Media Free Zone Authority dated 19th of September 2005.

The 3rd Meeting of Middle Publishers' Association (MEPA) firstly ensues with the discussion of the Decision of the Last Meeting.

Decisions of the Last Meeting (27th April 2005)

The deliberations of the last meeting were as follows:

1. To officially announce the Title of the Association
2. To present the Purpose of the Association
3. To impart the Criteria for the Selection of Founding Members
4. To formally convey the Resolution such as follows
 - a) To approve the By-Laws of the Association on September 2005.
 - b) To concentrate on Print Media Publishers' in Middle-East and later Electronic Media Publishers will be included in the Association.
 - c) To set a brain storming session and everybody has to contribute their ideas
 - d) To formulate rules to cope up with the situation hence the market of the UAE is very complex and multiethnic.
 - e) To classify the publishers in Three (3) Levels i.e. Higher / Middle / Lower and charge the membership fee according to their status.

Discussion on Membership Campaign

Dr. Cherian had emphasized that membership shall be open to anyone who publish in the specified territories of "The Middle East Publishers' Association".

There are three categories of MEPA Membership:

FOUNDING MEMBERSHIP – Those who offer AED 50,000/- on or before 31st December 2005 can become founding members and they will be directly nominated as Board of Directors. Each Founding Member firm has one vote, which is cast by an official representative or alternate designated by the member company.

STANDARD MEMBERSHIP – The membership fee will be AED 2,500 per year. Standard Members can become Board of Directors through election in the annual general body meeting Each Standard Member firm has one vote, which is cast by an official representative or alternate designated by the member company

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP – The membership fee will be AED 500 per year and they have no voting rights.

Discussion on Benefits to Members

1. You gain respect in the publishing industry
2. You receive cutting-edge information
3. You save money
4. Doors of opportunity open for you

Discussion on Services to MEPA Members

- 1) MEPA offers Marketing Services to its members
- 2) Offers information to its members
- 3) MEPA organizes Workshops and Seminars on topics germane to the industry
- 4) Organizes quarterly and /or monthly meetings to help members keep abreast of issues in the industry

- 5) Provides regular information services and advices to MEPA members on publishing-related developments around the world
- 6) MEPA provides Technical and Legal Assistance to members
- 7) Publishes magazines and other publishing-related literatures
- 8) MEPA collects statistics on the publishing industry and conducts comparative studies and surveys on issues of interest to its membership

Discussion on Activities to be Undertaken

The following are the activities to be undertaken in the mere future:

- 1) Conferences, Seminars and Workshop
- 2) Training and Development Programme
- 3) Trade Fairs and Exhibitions

Discussion on “Articles and By-Laws of Middle East Publishers’ 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

Discussion on Geographical Coverage of MEPA

There are 15 geographical coverage of MEPA in the Middle East Country

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|--------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| 1) Turkey | 7) Egypt | 13) United Arab Emirates |
| 2) Syria | 8) Iran | 14) Oman |
| 3) Lebanon | 9) Kuwait | 15) Yemen |
| 4) Jordan | 10) Bahrain | |
| 5) Iraq | 11) Saudi Arabia | |
| 6) Palestine | 12) Qatar | |

Discussion on Ads in the Website of MEPA

Dr. Jacob Cherian also invited all delegates who had attended the said meeting to visit the website of MEPA at www.mepa.cc and they can find all the information related to MEPA's activities, news and events as well as the Registration Form for Membership is available. The Website of MEPA offers a vacant slot for advertisement at a very reasonable price to all publishing organization in the Middle East.

Discussion on the Date, Time and Venue of the Next Meeting

It was decided that the next venue of the MEPA's meeting will be held in Cairo, Egypt this year 2005. The exact date, time and venue will be posted later-on in our website.

New Office of MEPA

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Brief Summary of the Forum

During the session, Dr. Azzam Al Dakhil had mentioned that the Middle East Publishers' Association has been formed to serve, promote and protect the interest of print and electronic publishers, whilst raising the future standards of the publishing industry in the Middle East. In the last meeting, it was decided to hold an additional meeting which is set on September 25, 2005 with the aim of increasing the representation of publishers from the Middle East countries and to constitute a Membership Campaign Committee. Mr. Mohammed Bin Ghalib had also highlighted that through the Funding of Dubai Government, the association has been organized.

The Chairman of MEPA suggested that the next meeting will be held in other part of the Middle East Country in order to reach-out those publishers who resides far distance from U.A.E. to participate and witness the MEPA's important event.

Further, the meeting came-out successfully hence the delegates had actively participated the discussion and Membership Campaign Committee has been formed by the participants.

The following hereunder are the six (6) nominated members of the Membership Campaign Committee:

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|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1) Mr. Ali Sabbagh | - | Add Media |
| 2) Mr. Aref Hamad Al-Awani | - | Emirates Media Inc. |
| 3) Mr. Saghir Ahmed Khan | - | Khaleej Times |
| 4) Mr. Mohamad Bahroon | - | Dubai Consultancy |
| 5) Mr. Claude Mazloun | - | Collection Pan Arab Luxury Magazines |
| 6) Mr. Yasser Al Ghaslan | - | Saudi Research and Publishing Co. |

After the above committee has been organized, the members decided to arrange an exclusive agenda with Dr. Jacob Cherian in order to properly plan the forthcoming activities and events. It was also decided that all the membership campaign committee members have to take the membership at the earliest.

Conclusion:

Dr Azzam, Chairman of MEPA concluded the session by worth mentioning the relevance of modifying the bylaws as per the feedback from the participants and also informed that the date, time and venue of the next meeting will be decided by the membership campaign committee and it will be announced in the website of MEPA.