Minutes

Present: Chen-Chung Chen, Munekazu Ejiri, Alison Gallaway, George Hatfield (President-Elect), Clare Hermans (Secretary), Johan Hermans, Dennis Kao, David Ridgeway, William Riley (President), John Varigos (Treasurer), Yin-Tung Wang

Guests: Ahby Tseng, Niggy Lee, Susanna Liu, & Peggy Su from TOGA. Henk Venter, & Alex Chang

Absent: Kiat Tan

Meeting: Called to order at 8.02 AM dEST (US)

Standing Reports:
1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of March 2, 2023, were unanimously approved.
   b. Will confirmed his report was covered under other items.
   c. Will had circulated his year-end report to the Sponsors and Associates to the Board for comment. It would, however, need some modification because of this meeting.
2. Treasurer’s Report
   a. John stated there had been no change in the account balance and his report was accepted.

Current Active Discussion:
1. WOC Committee Report - Taiwan 23rd WOC update
   a. TOGA requested the Board to approve a change in dates for the WOC so the opening will coincide with the opening of the Lantern Festival. Ahby talked to the Vice President of Taiwan who was the former Mayor of Tainan after the TIOS, and he was keen to hold the two events together. The current Vice Mayor of Tainan was also keen. The advantages for the WOC were that there would be more resources available to the organizers with more publicity, more visitors, better traffic control, more shuttle services etc. The advantage for the WOC Trust was that as a result of the increased visitor numbers there could possibly be more income for the Trust.
   b. Concerns were raised about the impact of the late change of date on overseas delegate numbers and the associated increase in uncertainty around the WOC. In addition, there was concern about the impact of the Lantern Festival on crowding at the WOC, but TOGA reassured the Board that they would work closely with the city government to lessen any adverse effects.
   c. TOGA confirmed that TIOS, emphasizing commercial trade, would be held simultaneously at the Orchid Plantation (TOP) as the WOC at the ICC. Combined tickets for the two shows
were planned and the aim was to make both shows a success. However, there would only be judging at the WOC.

d. The Trustees then voted on the motion to agree to the date change: five in favour, one against.

e. The Board advised TOGA to get publicity going as soon as possible. An advert was required for AOS Orchids magazine by 14 March. Peggy agreed to circulate the advert to the Board.

f. The paper proposing ways for the WOC Trust to support the organisation of judging would be circulated to TOGA for comment before the next meeting. Appendix A. George thanked Clare and Munekazu for their work producing it.

g. George reported that he had the AOS Speakers List and would send it to TOGA.

h. Johan reported that speakers who submitted abstracts were still not getting any acknowledgement of their submission and asked TOGA to investigate and set up a system to reply to them. John reported that speakers had difficulty deciding a category for their submissions and requested more information about what the categories covered and a contact address for enquiries.

i. Peggy presented a progress report at the end of the meeting. See Appendix B. Information on transport links and a Q&A page have been added to the WOC website.

j. It was suggested that the WOC mascot Orchidaur should have a slight name change to Orchidosaur which is a more dinosaur-like name.

2. Social Media

a. Henk (Hendrik) Venter was welcomed as the new lead administrator for the WOC Trust social media account. Henk described his background as an orchid grower, author of articles and books, and orchid magazine editor. Following his move to Australia from South Africa 14 years ago, he qualified as an Australian Orchid Council judge and is now the AOC Registrar of Awards for Victoria. It was agreed that Henk will be copied in on any relevant information.

b. Johan and Clare had written text for the various orchid journals which would now be revised in light of the date change.

3. WOCT Budget

a. Work was progressing on the budget.

b. It was agreed to have a January – December year.

4. Application from Malaysia

a. It was agreed that Will would recirculate the application form and any comments should be sent to Will to feedback to the submitters.

Current Activity Pending Approval:

1. WOC Trust Medal Policy.

a. George reported it was nearly ready and asked for any suggestions to finalize it.

b. It was suggested the full title could be ‘The WOC Trust Medal for Meritorious Achievement’ shortened to ‘The WOC Trust Medal’ or be simply called the latter.

2. Current Activity Pending Completion

1. Donor Policy.

a. Will circulate the Donor Policy to the Board. It was acknowledged that it was written from an American perspective. The possible tax implications of donations from other countries were raised by John and it was agreed that it may be very expensive to accept donations from some countries. Alison agreed to review the document to see if it was appropriate to include a caveat.
2. List of speakers from the virtual WOC.
   a. Yin-Tung confirmed that Peggy and Susanna had the speakers list from the virtual WOC and would use it to send out invitations.

   a. Clare confirmed it was a work in progress. Yin-Tung stated he would send her some lists of criteria he had downloaded.

Miscellaneous Items
1. George requested that only George@aos.org be used to contact him.
2. The Hermans report on the Dresden Show had been circulated previously. See Appendix C
3. Conflict of Interest Forms.
   a. Clare reported that the ones from Taiwan and Yin-Tung were missing.
   b. There was discussion about what should be included as a conflict of interest to prevent the appearance of impropriety rather than just financial gain. It was agreed to review what should be included in the form.
4. It was agreed that all the WOC trust documents would be reviewed after the start of each new Presidential term.

Future Activity (Documents Under Study no action required)
1. Future of Proceedings Hardcopy vs. Online Open Source, Copyright issues, etc. YW
   a. Yin-Tung reported there would be hard copy proceedings for the 23rd WOC. It was hoped that papers could eventually be posted on the WOC Trust website with the author’s consent. Therefore, it was agreed that the TOGA speaker’s release form would be circulated to the Board.
2. Reports from Committees
   a. Scientific & Education YW
   b. Conservation JV
   c. Horticulture DK
   No reports were tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 9.38 AM dEST (US) as no other business existed.

Next Meeting
Date/Time: NOTE CHANGE of DATE Wednesday, May. 17, 2023, at 8.00 AM dEST (US).
Clare Hermans
Appendix A

Proposal for ways the WOC Trust can support the organisation of Judging at the 23rd WOC.

The WOC Trust Board at their meeting in Taiwan suggested the creation of a Judging Advisory Committee comprising three members from TOGA, including Chen-Chung Chen and three from the Board, Clare Hermans, George Hatfield and Munekazu Ejiri.

The intention of the WOC Trust Board is to support TOGA’s Judging system for the WOC. The WOC Trust Board could support TOGA in the following ways, but it will be up to both organisations to agree on the extent of any collaboration.

Before the WOC:
- Check the Judge’s Registration form before it is posted.
- Check the accreditation status of the international Judges.
- Advise on international judges and composition of Teams and suitable international Team Captains.
- Advise on the Judging Handbook.
- Advise on creation of an Adjustment Committee if the WOC Judging Organizing Committee decides to have one.

On the Day:
- Provide support to the Judging Organizing Committee

An additional suggestion
Is that one of the three WOC Trust Board members of the Judging Advisory Committee is a Co-Chair for Judging at the 23rd WOC.
Appendix B

WOC TAINAN 2024

Progress Report

2023.04.12

Date Change

Judging ➔ Feb. 23rd, 2024
Opening Ceremony ➔ Feb. 24th, 2024
Conference ➔ Feb. 25th – 28th, 2024
Exhibition ➔ Feb. 25th – Mar. 10th, 2024
Welcome Party ➔ Feb. 25th, 2024
Tainan Night ➔ Feb. 27th, 2024
Conference Closing Ceremony ➔ Feb. 28th, 2024
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Venue: Tainan

Website Update
Transportation

The Site of Exhibition & Conference: ICC Tainan

1. Get to ICC Tainan
   - From Taichung Station: Take highway No.185 to Nantou Road (East-South) → Taichung
   - From Taichung Tainan Raiderway: Take highway No.185 to Nantou Road (East-South) → Taichung
   - From Taichung HSR Station: Take highway No.185 to Nantou Road (East-South) → Taichung

2. Transportation Guide
   - A 5-minute walking distance from Shalu Station to ICC Tainan. Shalu Station—Shalu Station - 3 hours and 6 minutes

3. General Information
   - General information: Contact the ICC Tainan office for more details.

4. Schedule
   - Schedule information: Available upon request from the ICC Tainan office.

5. Contact Information
   - Contact Information: Please visit the ICC Tainan website for contact details.

WOC TAINAN 2024

- Transportation information
- Link to HSR ticket booking

WOC TAINAN 2024

- Transportation information
- Taoyuan Airport MRT to HSR
• Added Q&A page
• Link to Covid information and visa requirement
• Information about nearest ATMs to ICC

Thank you!
Appendix C
Report on the 2023 Dresden Show for the WOC Trust Board
30th March – 2nd April
Clare & Johan Hermans

The Organisers
The German Orchid Society, Deutsche Orchideen-Gesellschaft e.V. (D.O.G.), comprises 22 regional groups with around 2000 members. They hold regular meetings and stage exhibits at shows, including Dresden. They are very active in judging and publish a journal ‘Die Orchidee’ bimonthly. Their website is https://orchidee.de/en/
The D.O.G. annual general meeting was held at the Dresden show, with well over 100 members attending. Following extensive discussion, the meeting unanimously supported to bid to host the World Orchid Conference in 2026.
In addition, the European Orchid Council held a board meeting and AGM, both meetings agreed unanimously to support the D.O.G. in their bid for the 2026 WOC. D.O.G. welcomed this offer. A summary document of the proposal is attached.
Before 2026 D.O.G. will host the European Orchid Council Conference and Exhibition (EOCCE 2024) as part of the Dresdner Ostern fair from March 21 – 24, 2024. They have an organising committee set up and tasks have been assigned, and it is likely to be the same format they propose for the WOC. The outline programme for the EOCCE is judging & opening on Wednesday 20th, show opens to the public on Thursday 21st with lectures 2-6pm, Friday 22nd lectures 9-5pm & ‘Night of Orchids’ 7-11pm, Saturday 23rd lecture 9-12pm & Gala Dinner in the evening. Delegates will be able to access the show from 8-10 am before the public.

The Dresden Show
This year was the twenty-second time the orchid show was held in conjunction with "Dresdner Ostern" (Easter in Dresden) but covid restrictions meant that it was the first since 2019.
Sales were 25% up on the first day and the 2019 visitor number total of 56,000, was exceeded by the end of the third day. There were 51 exhibits in Hall 1, the vast majority were by orchid nurseries and societies, with a few of succulents and insectivorous plants.
TOGA had a prime position at the entrance to the show to publicise the 23rd WOC. Exhibits were predominantly from Germany, but the Hungarian Orchid Society contributed and there was a wide range of styles. It is hoped there will be more from the rest of Europe next year.
There were 55 international traders, and D.O.G. operate a waiting list for the show. The orchid sales booths were in the same hall, but it is planned that they will be in Hall 2 for EOCCE 2024 to create more space for exhibits. Exhibitors have free electricity, but vendors must pay for their sales tables. The rest of the halls have market stalls, handicrafts, plant sales and numerous food and drink outlets.
Judging on the Thursday was run by D.O.G. with all the judges participating in the stand judging and scoring them individually. Then following supper, the judges were assigned teams for ribbon judging. For the EOCCE judging will be all day on Wednesday 20th before the show opens.
A special opening 7-11 pm ‘Night of Orchids’ was held on the Friday night, the 1,500 13€ tickets were sold out by mid-day Thursday and a further 500 were allowed in at the door. The ticket price included a free drink and was 3€ more than the standard show entry.
The show and associated events were organised very efficiently and ran smoothly.

The Venue
Messe Dresden is located just 2 miles from the city and has easy access by car with spacious parking and trams run at 10-minute intervals on weekdays (15 at weekends) from the city centre to the Messe. It was originally a slaughterhouse and the buildings have been adapted with some purpose-built
additions. A few of the original buildings are still being restored. The centre provides the show hall and conference rooms free of charge to D.O.G., (see Börse Dresden on the plan), handles all the publicity, security, logistics, safety, and ticket sales for the show. There is free Wi-fi throughout and there is a separate entrance to the conference centre which is adjacent to the exhibition area. The Messe website https://www.messe-dresden.de/en/ already has the dates for the 2024 show.

The Location
Dresden is the capital of Saxony located on the river Elbe and was significantly re-built after the 2nd WW. It is in the eastern part of Germany and has an international airport 5 ½ miles from the city centre. Although there are few direct flights, there are regular flights from Amsterdam, Frankfurt, and Munich. There also are regular trains and buses from other parts of Europe.
The old part of the city is compact with an efficient and cheap transport system, a day pass for trams and buses costs 6.90€. There are plenty of hotels to choose from in a broad range of categories and many restaurants to sample.

Conflict of interest and benefits received: We are both board members of the European Orchid Council and attended the meetings. We also attended the D.O.G. AGM as observers. We paid all our own expenses but received free entry to the show, the same benefit kindly offered to all EOC delegates.
Proposal for the European Orchid Council to support the D.O.G. to host the World Orchid Conference in Dresden, Germany in 2026

D.O.G. agreed to apply to hold the 24th World Orchid Conference in Dresden, together with the annual Easter Fayre at the Messe in March-April 2026. They are already very experienced in holding international orchid shows at this venue and will be holding the European Orchid Conference there next year.

The last World Orchid Conference held in Europe was over 20 years ago in Dijon, France; it is proposed that the EOC supports this application and offers to help the German Orchid Society if their bid is successful. It would be a good opportunity for all European orchid organisations to work together and help to make this a successful event.

The application has to be submitted by January 2024 and a decision on the successful applicant will be made at the 23rd WOC in Tainan, Taiwan in March of the same year.

EOC could support D.O.G. in the following ways, but it will be up to both organisations to agree on the extent of any collaboration.

During the application process:
- Letters of support from the EOC Board and individual organisations.
- A heading in the application form saying: ‘Supported by the European Orchid Council’ and a paragraph explaining the extent of support.
- Advice on the application process.

Before and during a WOC:
- Advertising the event on the EOC Website, member journals, social media and websites.
- Advice on WOC procedures.
- Encourage exhibitors from member organisations.
- Provide ideas and suggested speakers for the lecture programme.
- Sponsor speakers, trophies or Proceedings.
- Encourage members to participate as judges and vet their qualifications.
- Help organise trips to see orchids in the wild, especially with Societies in Southern Europe.