Minutes

Present: Chen-Chung Chen, Munekazu Ejiri, George Hatfield (President-Elect), David Ridgeway, William Riley (President), John Varigos (Treasurer), Yin-Tung Wang

Guests: Ahby Tseng, Winnie Huang, Niggy Lee, Susanna Liu, Peggy Su (TOGA)

Absent: Alison Gallaway, Clare Hermans (Secretary), Johan Hermans, Dennis Kao, Kiat Tan

Meeting: Called to order at 8.00 AM dEST (US)

Standing Reports:
1. President’s Report
   a. The Minutes of August 23, 2023, were unanimously voted on and approved.
   b. Will reminded the BOT to review the circulated document, Activities Schedule During a World Orchid Conference, and requested comments before and approval at the October Board meeting.
   c. Will presented a timeline for the week of the WOC for TOGA and the BOT comments.

2. Treasurer’s Report.
   a. No report was provided at the meeting, as the account balance remained unchanged.

Current Active Discussion:
1. WOC Committee Report - Taiwan 23rd WOC update
   a. Susanna presented a progress report. (See separate pdf.). The following was mentioned:
      a. The link for hotel reservations was live.
      b. Ninety-two international judges and 25 judges from Taiwan have applied, of which 71 have been reviewed and approved.
      c. Booth reservations are being taken for both ICC and the TOTP events.
      d. A CITES booth will be available on February 24-29 at ICC Tainan.
      e. A total of 109 speakers have submitted and have abstracts accepted.
      f. Links are active to register for the various tours available during and after the conference.
      g. A TOGA team will visit California in October and Japan in November to promote the WOC.

2. Update from the Judging Advisory Committee.
a. Clare reported that the Committee needed to finalize the wording for two classes for the Schedule. Following agreement among the committee members, these were sent to Niggy.
b. For the minutes, Clare asked to add that the idea of an Associate Judge was not accepted and that the third version of the Handbook with the Schedule of Classes has been edited and returned.
c. Additional information will be forthcoming regarding the status of ribbon judges and how the team chair will identify them.

3. Publicity for WOC. Munekazu reported a link on the JOGA website to the 23WOC was completed. Additionally, a one-page article will appear in the next issue of JOGA Review. Thirty thousand copies of this magazine will be printed with free distribution at orchid shows and fairs all over Japan.

4. CITES and Phyto Update. It was asked that regulations regarding the import and export of plants and cut flowers imported into and out of Taiwan be posted on the 23WOC website soon. The TOGA team stated that officials from the import and export agencies will clear plants at both Taipei Airport and Kaoshun Airports. More information will be forthcoming.

Current Activity Pending Approval:
None

Current Activity Pending Completion
None

Miscellaneous Items
1. For the minutes, Clare asked to add the schedule for awarding the WOC Trust Medal to the next meeting’s Agenda.
2. For the minutes, Clare asked to report that no information had been received from Dresden.
3. Will reported he and George had participated via Zoom with a Thai organizing committee interested in hosting a future WOC. A PowerPoint presentation from the Thai group will be forwarded to the members.
4. Will suggested that everyone firm up their schedules concerning arrival and departure from Tainan. Please visit the website https://www.woc23.com and follow the link for your hotel reservations. Our group will be staying at the Queena Hotel. You should complete your reservation for the total number of nights you plan to stay in Tainan.

Future Activity (Documents Under Study no action required)
1. Reports from Committees
   a. Scientific & Education
   b. Conservation
   c. Horticulture

No reports were tabled.

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 AM dEST (US) as no other business existed.

Next Meeting
Date/Time: Wednesday, October 25, 2023, at 8.00 AM dEST (US).

Will Riley for Clare Hermans