

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL BODY MEETING OF THE PAKISTAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, FAISALABAD ON 22nd APRIL 2008

The General Body meeting of the Pakistan Botanical Society commenced with the recitation from the Holy Qur'an at the Iqbal Auditorium, University of Agriculture, Faisalabad on 22nd April, 2008. The meeting was presided over by Professor Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, President of the Pakistan Botanical Society.

Dr. M. Yasin Ashraf, Secretary/Treasurer of the PBS presented a detailed report of the activities of the PBS for the period from 2006 to 2008. The report is attached herewith as **Annexure-I** for the kind perusal of the worthy members.

A heated discussion went on at the Agenda item of the Pakistan Journal of Botany. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar, Chief Editor of PJB was requested to respond to different queries raised by a number of honorable members regarding multiple anomalies frequently being observed by most of the members in the management of PJB such as a long delay in publication of a number of papers accepted long ago as well as some papers not reviewed properly or rejected by the subject editors had been published by him. In addition, Dr. Ghaffar is not acquainted with the electronic system vital now-a-days for processing manuscripts for publication. In view of all these problems multiple solutions were put forth by the worthy members. For example, some honorable members were of the view that Dr. Ghaffar be replaced with Dr. M. Ajmal Khan as a chief editor. Some others were of the opinion that the removal of Dr. Ghaffar should be a gradual and step-wise process. They reiterated that he be made patron of the journal and Dr. Ajmal Khan be asked to act as a Managing Editor. Third opinion was put forth by a large number of members i.e., in view considerable dedication and devotion of Dr. Ghaffar for getting the journal recognized by ISI he may not be removed at all. Since the opinions from different members were contrasting, so it was resolved by a majority of members that a

committee should be constituted to get this serious enigma resolved. Thus, the following committee was constituted:

Dr. Rafiq Ahmed (University of Karachi)	Convener
Dr. Qaiser Khan (VC, Federal Urdu University, Karachi)	Member
Dr. Tahir Rajput (University of Sindh, Jamshoro)	Member
Dr. Manzoor Somroo (Pakistan Science Foundation)	Member
Dr. Saqlain Naqvi (Arid Agriculture University, Rawalpindi)	Member

The recommendations of the committee will be considered as the final decision on the matter in question. The committee will submit its report within two months period starting from the date (22-4-2008) General Body meeting was held.

Some members were also keen to examine the audited statement of account for the last two years. He said that he had not yet prepared the summary of income and expenditures incurred on publication of PJB for the last two years. However, he promised to submit the detailed statement of account within a week.

The President of the PBS also presented the minutes of the Executive council meeting held on 21st April 2008 regarding the modifications/amendments made in the bye-laws of the Society (Please see **Annexure II**).

The minutes of the Executive Council meeting were ratified in the General body meeting with one consensus except the name of Dr. Rehana Asghar was replaced with Dr. Irfan-ul Haq from Arid University, Rawalpindi (Ref. Article 5 : Council).

Election of the new Office Bearers

Dr. A. Ghaffar, Chief Editor, PJB was requested to proceed ahead for the election of new office bearers. For this the following committee was proposed:

Dr. Abdul Ghaffar (Chief Editor PJB)

Dr. Rafiq Ahmed (Univ. of Karachi)

Dr. Tahir Rajput (Univ. of Sindh, Jamshoro)

11th National Meeting of Plant Scientists

For the next meeting of Plant Scientists three universities i.e., B.Z. University Multan, Peshawar University and GC University Lahore submitted their proposals to the President. Majority of the members were in favor of holding the next meeting at GC University, Lahore. It was also decided in the meeting that from now onwards the national meeting of plant scientists be held annually rather than biannually. **Thus, GC University, Lahore will hold the 11th National meeting in the early next year i.e. 2009.**

Lastly, the meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks by the President.

DR. MUHAMMAD YASIN ASHRAF
Secretary/Treasure
Pakistan Botanical Society

C O N F I R M E D

PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD ASHRAF
President,
Pakistan Botanical Society

Annexure-I

General Body Meeting of the Pakistan Botanical Society held on April 22, 2008 at University of Agriculture Faisalabad

Activity Report

Worthy president, Pakistan Botanical Society (PBS), Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, office bearers, members of PBS and dear participants of the Conference. It is my moral duty to provide you the first hand information about the activities of the PBS for the period from 2006 to 2008.

When the Society was handed over to us we did not have any funds to run it. However, by increasing the membership of the PBS we tried to arrange a meeting of the executive council on March 31, 2007 which was postponed on the request of most of the members of the council, because they were tied up in examination schedule. Later on it was managed in July 2007, in which most of the members of the executive council participated.

Meeting of the Executive Council

The meeting of the Executive Council of the Pakistan Botanical Society was held at the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad on July 21, 2007 which was presided over by Professor Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, President of the Pakistan Botanical Society. It was unanimously decided that the International Conference of Plant Scientists would be held in the last week of February, 2008 and the tentative schedule was decided as Feb. 27 to March 1st 2008 (Wednesday-Saturday). The Conference execution was announced on the same dates, but unfortunately most of the members of the executive council, senior members of PBS, and most of the national professors asked us to change the dates due to general elections, and unstable political state of affairs in the country. So after getting a formal consent from the council members, it was postponed to April 21 to 24, 2008.

Membership of the Pakistan Botanical Society

Funds available for running the Society's routine affairs were not sufficient. So, all the members agree to launch a fund raising campaign country-wide. A step forward to this effect was that we should increase the Society's membership. For this, some persons were nominated as focal persons for different regions of the country. I highly appreciate the incessant support of Prof. Dr. Saqlain Naqvi, Univ. Arid Agri. Rawalpindi and Dr. Muhammad Athar Khan, NIA, Tandojam. Taking the opportunity of this occasion I

request all the participants who are not presently members of the PBS should become members so as to strengthen the PBS.

Pakistan Botanical Society's Funds

In the council meeting, Prof. Dr. Ashraf, President PBS apprised that some amount is lying in a bank at Islamabad as a fixed deposit, which was initiated by Dr. Iftikhar (NARC), ex-president PBS. So a letter was written to Dr. Samina Khalil (NARC) (06-08-2007) for getting appropriate information on the status of these funds, but her reply is still awaited.

The members of the executive council also stressed upon establishing an endowment fund for which a formal request was submitted to the HEC.

Dr. Khalid Hameed Sheikh Award

As most of the PBS members are already aware that a medal was instituted during the Lahore meeting by Dr. Khalid Hameed Sheikh by donating a lump sum amount to the Society. This amount is lying unspent in the bank account of the Chairperson, Department of Botany, University of the Punjab since the time the amount was deposited therein. Prof. Dr. Shahida Hasnain was requested to let the Secretary know how much amount has accrued up to now in the account. Furthermore, to keep the original spirit of the award intact, the award will be given away to a student for his/her best oral presentation in the PBS conference and the award will carry Rs. 2000 plus a gold plated medallion as a token of appreciation and encouragement for a young botany student. But we have not received any information/response from the Chairperson of the Department of Botany, University of the Punjab.

Newsletter

In the previous council meeting, held at Jamshoro, it was decided that the Society would publish a Newsletter. All the members agreed to initiate circulating a Newsletter from time to time by the Society to keep abreast all the members of various ongoing activities of the Society as well as of the members. A newsletter as **BOTNEWS** was published by the present executive council.

Appointment of Eminent Scientists/Professors of Life Sciences

A letter was written to the Convener of the National Core Group in Life Sciences, Dr. Anwar Nasim for appointing eminent scientists/professors of life sciences in different institutions of the country, which was considered by him sympathetically and the case is currently under process.

Registration of Botany Graduates

Dr. Hadayatullah Abro pointed out that in the last general body meeting held at Jamshoro, it was decided that the botany graduates would be registered by the PBS like the medical doctors are registered by the PMDC, but to date no action has been taken in this regard. I wrote a letter to HEC requesting them to do the needful, but they did not

agree on the pretext that registration of graduates is a common practice for Accreditation bodies and not for professional societies.

Nomination of PBS Executive Members on National Curriculum Committee

A letter was written to HEC requesting them to include the president and secretary of the Society as members of the National Curriculum Committee for Botany. This case is under consideration by the concerned officials of the HEC.

Pakistan Journal of Botany

For uplifting the standard and normal functioning of PJB following decisions were unanimously taken by the council members:

- ❖ All the council members were of the opinion that the journal must be now online. To accomplish this task, an amount of Rs. 100,000/- was allocated out of Rs. 250,000/-, received from PSF as journal grant, for developing the website of PJB wherein Tables of contents and Abstracts of the recent and back issues of the journal would be displayed. Now journal is online with Table of contents and PDF of published papers of all the issues of 2007. The whole task cost Rs. 82000/- .
- ❖ It was decided that from August 2007, the journal funds will be spent through the Secretary/Treasurer of the Society and all amount collected as page charges will be deposited in the bank account of the Society being operated by the Secretary/Treasurer. But unfortunately the Chief Editor PJB did not agree to this decision.
- ❖ In future, at least 5 foreign papers must be included in each PJB issue. This practice is being followed by the chief editor to some extent.
- ❖ It was decided that the Chief Editor will be given an honorarium of Rs. 10,000/- per month and all expenses incurred on the maintenance of his office will be met out of the funds collected as publication charges. But the Chief Editor did not follow this decision.
- ❖ Mr. Shamim, appointed by the Chief Editor as a computer operator/composer for PJB, will be given an honorarium of Rs. 8000/- per month.
- ❖ All members of the Council unanimously agreed to increase the publication charges and decided that with effect from 2008 the publication charges will be as under:

<u>Charges</u>	<u>Local Contributors</u>	<u>Foreign Contributors</u>
Paper up to 5 pages	Rs.5000 per paper	100\$ per paper
Exceeding 5 pages	Rs. 500 per extra page	20\$ per extra page

- ❖ Non-members interested to publish their papers in PJB will have to pay membership fee along with printing charges. Membership card, Newsletter and directory of botanists will be issued only to life members of the PBS.
- ❖ The list of life members will be displayed on the website of the Society.
- ❖ It was decided that Rs. 300/ per paper would be paid to each reviewer with effect from the August 2007 issue as honorarium, however, this amount will be increased to Rs. 500/- w.e.f. 2008.
- ❖ It was observed that some of the council members are no longer active and they don't participate in any of the activities of the Society. So such members should be replaced with the active ones.
- ❖ The account of the PJB will be maintained by the Secretary/Treasurer of the Society w.e.f. the August 2007 issue.

Annexure-II

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF PAKISTAN BOTANICAL SOCIETY HELD AT UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURE, FAISALABAD ON 21st APRIL 2008

PRESENT

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Dr. Muhammad Ashraf | President PBS |
| 2. Dr. Muhammad Yasin Ashraf | Secretary /Treasurer, PBS, NIAB,Faisalabad |
| 3. Dr. Saqlain Naqvi | Vice President PBS, Punjab |
| 4. Dr. Farrukh Hussain | Vice President PBS, NWFP |
| 5. Dr. Tahir Rajput | Vice President PBS, Sindh, Jamshoro |
| 6. Dr. Mufakhira Durrani | Vice President PBS, Balouchistan |
| 7. Mr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman | Vice President PBS, (AJK) |
| 8. Dr. Hadayat Ullah Abro | Ex-President PBS, Jamshoro |
| 9. Dr. Basir Arian | Ex-Secretary/Treasurer PNS Jamshoro |
| 10. Dr. Shahida Husnain | Member Council PBS, Punjab |
| 11. Dr. Shafiq-ur-Rehman | Member Council PBS, (Kohat) |
| 12. Dr. Abdul Ghaffar | Chief Editor PJB, Karachi |

The proceedings of the Executive Council of the Pakistan Botanical Society were formally commenced with the recitation of some verses from the Holy Qur'an. The meeting was presided over by Professor Dr. Muhammad Ashraf, President of the Pakistan Botanical Society. After thread-bare discussion and detailed deliberations on modifications / amendments in the bye-laws of the Pakistan Botanical Society, following decisions were made unanimously by the council members:

Article 3: Membership

(i) Member

Previously any person holding M.Sc. degree in plant science or in related field and working in a research organization is eligible for the membership of the Society. As BS or B.Sc. (Hons) (four year program) has been launched by most of the institutions so all the council members were of the opinion that bye laws in this regard be modified/amended. The amendment made in the relevant bye-law is:

“Any person holding BS, B.Sc (Hons, Four year) or M.Sc. in Plant Science or related fields is eligible for membership of the PBS”.

(ii) Student Member

Similarly, an M.Sc., BS or B.Sc. (Hons) student in Plant Science or related fields may become a student member. However, he/she will not have the right to vote but shall enjoy the other privileges.

(iii) Emeritus Member

Presently, the Society has not any Emeritus Member. The Council members unanimously decided to honour the senior and meticulous members of the Society with the title of “Emeritus Members”. They will be selected by the Council keeping in view the following criteria:

- i) Contribution in research and teaching
- ii) Participation in the PBS activities
- iii) Number of students supervised

The Council can nominate 5 to 10 EM per year. However, in the first go the Council proposed the names of the following scientists/teachers as Emeritus Members.

- i) Dr. S.I. Ali (Univ. Karachi)
- ii) Dr. Rafiq Ahmed (Univ. Karachi)
- iii) Dr. Khalid Hameed Sheikh (Punjab Univ.)
- iv) Dr. Razi Abass Shamshi (Punjab Univ.)
- v) Dr. S.H. Iqbal (Punjab Univ.)

- vi) Dr. Ihsan Ilahi (Kohat University)
- vii) Dr. Ejaz Rasul (Univ. Agric. Faisalabad)
- viii) Dr. Rehan Siddiqui (FCC, Lahore)
- ix) Dr. Khurshid Mustafa (Univ. Sindh, Jamshoro)
- x) Mr. Imtiaz-ul Haq (Univ., Peshawar)

Dr. Safiq-ur Rehman (Kohat Univ.) proposed that a membership proforma should be circulated in the general body meeting to increase the membership of the PBS. The suggestion was unanimously accepted by all the members.

Article 5:

Council

Last Ex-President and Secretary will be the ex-officio members of the PBS council. It was observed that some of the council members are no longer active and they don't participate in any of the activities of the Society, so such members should be replaced with the active ones. Following names have been proposed by the council for their inclusion in the Executive council:

- Dr. Shafiq-ur Rehman (Kohat University)
- Dr. Basir Arain (Univ. Sindh, Jamshoro)
- Dr. Rehana Asghar (Arid Univ. Rawalpindi)
- Dr. Habib Ahmed (Hazara Univ.)

Following names have been deleted from the existing council:

- Prof. Nuzhat Parveen
- Dr. S.A. Kiyani
- Dr. A. Qayyum Soomro
- Dr. Tayyab Hussain Bokhari

Article 6:

Power of Secretary / Treasurer

The Secretary has the power to sanction expenditures up to Rs. 500/-. The Council has unanimously increased this limit to Rs. 10,000/-.

Article 7:

Election of the Office Bearers

The Council has constituted the following committee for the election of new office bearers of the Council:

- | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|
| Dr. Abdul Ghaffar | (Chief Editor PJB) |
| Dr. Rafiq Ahmed | (Univ. of Karachi) |
| Dr. Tahir Rajput | (Univ. of Sindh, Jamshoro) |

Article 9:

Publications

All the council members suggested to revise the Editorial Committee and following nominations have been made by different members:

The revised Editorial Committee is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| Dr. S.I. Ali | (Univ. of Karachi) |
| Dr. Mustafa Shameel | (Univ. of Karachi) |
| Dr. Iftikhar Ahmad | (PARC, Islamabad) |
| Dr. Kausar A. Malik | (Planning Commission, Islamabad) |
| Dr. Javed Iqbal | (Punjab Univ.) |
| Dr. Riaz H. Qureshi | (HEC, Islamabad) |
| Mr. I.C. Hedge | (Royal Botanical Garden, Edinburgh, UK) |
| Dr. Klaus Luning | (Stiftung Alfred-Werger-Institute, Germany) |

Dr. S. Kwak	(Korea)
Dr. Munir Ozturk	(Turkey)
Dr. Muhammad Kafi	(Iran)
Dr. Farida Hanum	(Malaysia)
Dr. Peter Ashton	(USA)
Dr. T.R. Kwon	(Korea)
Dr. Y. Jiang	(China)
Dr. Robert Thornburg	(USA)

- All the members of the Council requested Dr. Ghaffar to submit the income and expenditure details. He agreed to submit it within a week.
- Most of the members suggested that membership of the PBS for at least one of the authors who intend to publish a paper in PJB should be compulsory.
- All the members unanimously decided that from now onwards the journal funds will be spent through the Secretary/Treasurer of the Society and the whole amount collected as page charges will be deposited in the bank account of the Society being operated by the Secretary/Treasurer.

Honorarium

The Chief Editor was allowed to draw an honorarium of Rs. 10,000/- per month and all expenses incurred on the maintenance of his office will be met out of the funds collected as publication charges. Mr. Shamim, appointed by Dr. Ghaffar as a computer operator/composer for PJB, will be granted an honorarium of Rs. 8000/- per month.

Publication charges

All the members of the Council unanimously agreed to increase the publication charges and decided that with effect from 2008 the publication charges will be as under:

<u>Charges</u>	<u>PBS Members</u>	<u>Non Members</u>	<u>Foreign Contributors</u>
Paper up to 5 page	Rs. 2000 per paper	Rs 3000/-	100\$ per paper

Exceeding 5 pages Rs. 300 per page Rs. 400/- 20\$ per paper

- All the members agreed to display the list of all members especially life members on the website of the Society.
- The registration fee of all foreign delegates was waived off.

- The Council decided that a reasonable amount as honorarium be granted to the staff helping the Organizers in organizing the ICPS.

- A reasonable amount as an audit fee may be granted to the auditor for auditing the entire account of the PBS.

Lastly the meeting was adjourned with a vote of thanks by the President.

DR. MUHAMMAD YASIN ASHRAF
Secretary/Treasurer,
Pakistan Botanical Society

C O N F I R M E D

PROF. DR. MUHAMMAD ASHRAF
President, Pakistan Botanical Society