

# Minutes of FMS Annual General Meeting held on Zoom

29 May 2024

## Overview

At the meeting, John presented the agenda. He gave a brief summary of the year 2023-2024 at Madurai Seed, and referred participants to the annual letter and the News section of the FMS web site for fuller details. He also mentioned that the FMS brochure has been updated in both German and English.

Martin presented the FMS accounts for 2023, clarifying the various items as necessary. He said that about 95% of every donation went directly to Madurai Seed, with about 5% covering FMS administrative overheads such as the web site, printing costs etc. He said that the committee worked pro bono with no expenses paid except for John's flights to and from India once a year.

John next summarised the GoFundMe crowdfunding campaign that was launched by Maggi, Nick and Keith in mid-2023. He said that Maggi and Nick were very dedicated in their efforts to find donors, and that this was ultimately rewarded, as the target of CHF 27,000 was met and then surpassed, with over CHF 30,000 raised. He reported that the building work was in progress, and had reached the stage of installing the interior fixtures and fittings. He said that Madurai Seed hoped to open the building in June.

John then led a discussion on the new statutes, which received unanimous approval from attendees. The group also discussed plans to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of KFR school, the intention to raise additional funds for Madurai Seed's new centre, and shared personal travel plans. He also communicated updates on recent developments and thanked donors for their contributions, while announcing plans to hold another annual general meeting via Zoom next year.

## New statutes discussion and vote: more detail

John led a discussion on the new statutes and sought feedback from the attendees before proceeding to a vote.

All attendees were asked to vote for or against the new statutes by stating their name and vote in the chat box.

The vote was **unanimous in favour of the new statutes**, with all attendees (Sara, Eliane, Laura, Patricia, Katrin, Urs, Nick, Maggi, Verena, Barbara, John and Martin) participating.

John will now sign off the accounts, annual letter, and the revised statutes.

After the vote, John thanked everyone for their participation and opened the floor for any further questions or comments.

## Further comments from the floor:

### 1 Fundraising for the new school centre

Laura outlined the plan to celebrate the 100-year anniversary of Laura, Patricia and Martin's school (KFR) in September by raising any additional funds needed for the internal fittings and equipment of the new centre at the Madurai site.

### 2 GoFundMe funds

John informed Maggi that the funds raised through GoFundMe should cover all necessary costs, including the internal fittings, and any remaining funds would be used for a digital

projector. John assured Maggi that he would keep her informed about the progress of the building work, and confirmed that the funds would be used only for the building's infrastructure, not for any other purpose.

### **3 Future travel plans and project updates**

Barbara asked when the next visit to Madurai Seed was planned. John said early next year, and the participants discussed their future travel plans, with Laura revealing her plan to travel in January 2025 after a prolonged break due to the pandemic. Katrin, Nick, and Barbara also mentioned their possible intention to travel. Moreover, John and Maggi deliberated on the best time to visit the project site, deciding to spread out visits and avoid the hottest and most humid months. Sara said that she had visited in April/May 2012 and that it was extremely hot and humid then, and not recommended.

### **Summary and close**

To conclude the meeting, John expressed gratitude on behalf of the committee to all the donors, summarised the progress made over the past year, and announced the committee's intention to hold another annual general meeting on Zoom next year at about the same point in the calendar.

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Last edited John Potts (Host) May 30, 2024 08:30 AM