

Minutes – Asha General Body Meeting

The Asha Zurich General body meeting was conducted on 31st Jan at GZ Oerlikon, Gubelstrasse 10, 8050 Zürich. It was attended by 23 persons.

List of Attendees:

Pratyush Das Kanungo, Rajesh Varadarajan, Indranil Bhattacharya, Doris Hofer, Rajdeep Deb Namita Agarwal, Sam Muralidharan Sharma, Varsha Gandhi, Deepika Sharma, Fitz Hans Jürg Jennifer, Neera mallick, Ankit Kulkarni, Kirtimalini Gadre, Karthick Balakrishnan, Leena Bhandari Katka Letzing, Rajat Sharma, Justhy Deva Prasad, Damodharan T, Vineet Mohan, Sujit Acharya, Arti

Agenda

1. Presentation by the president
2. Presentation by the secretary
3. Presentations by the project coordinators
4. Presentation by the treasurer and financial report
5. Dissolution of the old committee
6. Election of the new committee
7. Open discussions

1. Presentation by the president – Dr. Pratyush Das Kanungo

Provided a brief summary about the structure of Asha with emphasis on the Zurich chapter
Mentioned the various projects that are supported and the fund raising activities.
Thanked the committee, the sponsors and the various volunteers.

2. Presentation by the former secretary – Ms. Deepika Sharma

Gave an overview of the various fundraisers organised over the course of 2015.
Briefly, these were, Dhoom machale II (a Bollywood Disco), the Zurich marathon, Indiafest Basel, WYOP workshop, two occasions where the Chat with Chaat was organised to raise funds for Asha Zurich and a painting workshop.
The various people involved in organising these events were thanked.

3. Presentations by the project coordinators

a) Lok Biradri Prakalp – Mr. Rajdeep Deb

Introduced the project and Asha's role.
Emphasised on the site visit conducted and the comments/critiques received.
Hands on approach to education.
Encouraged to participate in sports

b) Vishwa Mandal Sevashram (PALAS) – Dr. Samyuktha Muralidharan

Children from tribal backgrounds are enrolled into informal schools to help them get trained to a level where they can then be integrated into the formal schools in nearby villages.

Distribution of uniforms and the impact on attendance and general morale of students.

c) SACSAS – Mrs. Namita Agrawal

In the last year the main highlight was taking over the administration of the schools (which were previously run by US chapters) by Asha Zurich.

The schools are situated in remote areas but work due to the enthusiasm of the teachers and students attending them.

- d) **Boys town society – presented by Mr. Rajesh Varadarajan** who had previously conducted a site visit for the school as Steffania the project coordinator was travelling.

One of two new projects which we started supporting in 2015.

The organisation of the classes and the positive feedback from the site visits were discussed.

The construction of the new building for the school which Asha Zurich has contributed towards was also briefly discussed.

- e) **Ved Vigyaan – Mrs. Varsha Gandhi**

Second new project supported by Asha Zurich.

4. **Presentation by the treasurer and financial report: Ms. Doris Hofer**

A very detailed overview of the year's finances was provided by Doris.

The most profitable event of the year was the Zurich marathon. CAYH donations have decreased but perhaps this was due to the people making one time contributions which have increased.

The annual report was approved **Yes 22, No 0, Abstain 1**

5. **Dissolution of the executive committee**

The old committee was dissolved.

6. **Election of the new committee**

Indranil Bhattacharya was nominated as the election officer.

The following people were elected and approved by all present; i.e.

23 Yes, 0 No and 0 Abstain

- i) **President: Mr. Rajesh Varadarajan** to take over in a few months. Pratyush Das Kanungo to be interim till then.
- ii) **Treasurer: Doris Hofer** to continue
- iii) **Project coordinators: Mr. Rajdeep Deb (LBP)** to continue, **Dr. Samyuktha Muralidharan (VMS-PALAS)** to continue, **Mrs. Namita Agrawal (SACSAS)** to continue, **Ms. Stefania Lanfranchi (Boys town)** to continue, **Ms. Katka Letzig (Ved Vignan)** to replace **Ms. Varsha Gandhi**
- iv) **Webmaster: Mr. Rajesh Varadarajan** to continue
- v) **Editor: Neera Mallick** to continue

7. **Open discussions**

- Update about Chennai flood relief, one of the causes supported by Asha Zurich last year:
Support to orphanages and cashew cracking machines as well as looking to build some new accommodation in areas where the mud huts were washed out in the rains/flood.
- Information to the new folks about what the role of the 'tea fairy' is and how it helps with the charity events- Doris

- The continuation of Asha Zurich's participation in the marathon-Rajesh
- Seeueberquerung for 2016-Hans
- Update about the Chaat with Chat stalls. Also mentioned that she will conduct two stalls this year for Asha- Kirti
- There was a discussion about having Skype/google hangout meetings so that people who are not in Zurich could also participate.
- There was also a proposal (Jenny) to change the day of the monthly meetings from Friday to another day. This was taken up rather enthusiastically and Wednesday was the most popular day. Indranil will look into the availability of the room.
- On behalf of Stefania Rajesh discussed about the "Support a Child" program at Boys Town. 3 donors are ready to support children already. Leena will provide some feedback based on her experience.
- Justhy will keep on working on improving the KPIs. For some projects data collection is relatively easier than for others, owing to the remote location and lack of expertise and knowledge in the field. Asha in general will push for being more structures in project assessments.
- There were a number of new volunteers interested to join Asha. A mentorship program will be set up for them, where they will be connected with a project coordinator and learn how the projects are managed.