

[IEA News]
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the newly-elected
Executive Committee
(Hotel Budapest, 18 August 1974)

MINUTES

Present : Officers	Edmond Malinvaud, President (Chairman)
	Shigeto Tsuru, Vice-President
	Herbert Giersch, Treasurer
Other Members	Oleg Bogomolov
	Béla Csikos-Nagy
	Michael Kaser
	Fritz Machlup
	J.J. Paunio
	Victor Urquidi
Adviser to the Executive Committee	Tigran Khachaturov
Editor of Publications	Austin Robinson
Secretariat	Lue Fauvel, Secretary General
	Mary Crook, Administrative Secretary
Unable to attend	Robert Gardiner

Opening the meeting the President stated that the main task before this session was to decide on the future activities of the Association, taking into account the recommendations made by the Council. He thought that it would be advisable to consider first the location and subject of the 1977 Congress as the selection of these would affect decisions with regard to other meetings in 1976 and 1977.

I. Congress in 1977

a) Location

There were six proposals for host countries which could be divided into

two groups: three in West Europe (England, France and Spain) and three in more distant places (Delhi, Tokyo, Acapulco). First a decision should be taken as to whether the preference was for West Europe—it being presumed that adequate support from a host country would materialise or in one of the more distant places. The arguments for and against the latter had already been heard in the meetings of the Council and retiring Executive Committee.

It was agreed after discussion that with a congress every three years there should be a rotation of areas for its location and that the 1977 congress should be held in Asia or Latin America in preference to Europe. It was thought that the question of transportation costs for ordinary participants could to a certain extent be overcome by special arrangements with national airlines for chartered flights and/or group travel.

After considering three proposals outside Europe, the meeting discussed at length the possibilities offered in India and Japan. It appeared that a large majority favoured Japan provided that confirmation is received in the coming months that the Japanese sources are ready to raise the considerable sum of money necessary to finance the project. At the same time the Committee was unanimous in hoping that the enthusiasm shown by India to act as host for an important meeting under the auspices of the IEA would lead to the holding there, possibly in early September 1976, of a conference of particular interest for the economists of that country.

b) Subject

The President presented the list of subjects which he had revised following the discussion in the Council meeting. He had included all those which had been awarded at least a grading "C" (See Annex B). The four topics which the Council had selected as suitable for the 1977 Congress were:

- Unemployment and underemployment (possibly combined with the consequences of population growth)
- Demographic and economic growth combined with the economics of limited resources
- Economics of poverty
- Problems of mixed economies

After a fairly lengthy exchange of views, preference was given to the second subject, re-entitled "Economic Growth and Resources".

c) Programme Committee

The precise composition of the programme Committee was not discussed

but various names were submitted for the consideration of the President, who would be chairman of this future group.

d) Date

The following tentative dates were agreed:

Friday, 2 September 1977 : Meeting of Executive Committee

Saturday, 3 September : Meeting of Council

Sunday, 4 September : Meeting of New Executive Committee

Monday, 5 September to

Saturday, 10 September : Congress

II. Future Conferences.

The meeting studied the revised list, including the three proposed congress topics which had not been selected (see Annex B), in order to choose subjects in 1976 and 1977. It recommended the organisation of the following five conferences, if this proved feasible, and at the same time submitted suggestion of specialists for possible inclusion in the respective programme committees.

1) "The economic choice of technologies for developing countries"

This conference would be held in India, in September 1976, at the same time as the meeting of the Executive Committee, provided a sufficient part of local support proposed for a Congress could be transferred to this project. The ordinary September meeting might be enlarged so that a greater number of participants could attend, and in particular observers from the region.

2) "Economic relationships between different economic systems"

This conference would be held in Eastern Europe, possibly in Poland, the DDR, Bulgaria or the U.S.S.R., depending on proposals received for support. It might be held in Spring 1976 or could be the September conference of 1976 if India did not find support for the project mentioned in 1) above.

3) "Econometric contributions to public policy"

This conference might be considered for 1976.

4) "Problems of Mixed Economies" (including a survey of research on the relative efficiency of public and private enterprises)

It was agreed that this meeting could be held in Mexico, possibly in Spring 1977, if adequate local support were forthcoming. It was noted that this was a subject requiring considerable preliminary research so that its preparation should be put under way in good time.

- 5) "Economics and social sciences" (and in particular collaboration between economics and political sciences).

It was agreed that preliminary enquiries should be made with people working in close association with the social science disciplines in order to have recommendations for suitable candidates for the programme committee and its chairman. It was envisaged that the conference could be planned for some time in 1977.

III. Increase in the rate of subscription

It was agreed that as from 1975 the basic rate of subscription would be increased from \$ 200 to \$ 300 per annum.

IV. Finances 1975

The draft budget attached in Annex A was adopted with the following reservations:

- a) the S.G. will continue his negotiations with possible donors in Spain so that the conference being prepared for the spring of 1975 should benefit from substantial support from the host country.
- b) Further efforts will be made to obtain more support from banks and corporations.
- c) Consideration will be given to the possibility of increasing the interest received from investments or liquidities in various currencies.

V. Membership

Note was taken that a number of national associations intended to apply for membership of the IEA in the near future. It was reaffirmed that applications should be made in writing and that evidence should be produced that the association was open to the economists of the whole country.