

# **Report of the Europe Chapter at the 2017 AFE–ADB Annual General Meeting**

Presented by Someth Suos, representing Chapter Coordinator Gunther Hecker.

## **Report of the Chapter Coordinator**

Welcome Note from Europe Chapter

Greetings to all the participants of the Coordinators' Meeting at the occasion of the 30th AFE-Annual Meeting.

I envy you all for being able to participate in Yokohama. I wished I could have made it also, but several impediments, private and organizational, made this impossible. I thank Mr. Suos for representing our Chapter there in Yokohama.

On behalf of our Chapter members I would like to thank our Executive Team for their continued excellent work and measured but insistent interventions, which we believe were instrumental in safeguarding important benefits for us.

Last September, we again had a very successful Reunion in Überlingen at the Lake of Constance that was attended by more than 50 members and spouses. This Reunion took place after a very success Annual Meeting in Frankfurt, which culminated in many of the participants' view in an excellent keynote speech by the former German President Prof. Köhler appealing for a reorientation of the strategy for economic and social cooperation and the role ADB should play there.

In the Business Meeting of the Reunion, a motion was made to send a congratulatory and appreciation letter to the organizers of the Annual Meeting in the German Ministry of Cooperation. This letter was co-signed by former VP Schulz and the Chapter Coordinator and was sent to Berlin with the dual objective, first naturally to deliver the congratulations but secondly also to make the Ministry more aware of AFE and the role pensioners with their experience and institutional knowledge can contribute and are willing to contribute in the formulation of the Bank's new strategy. We have however to admit, that the committee, set-up for that purpose during the business meeting, due to the urgency and the tight schedule set by the Bank, could in fact not substantially contribute.

We did receive a response to the letter from the Ministry, expressing respect for our continued involvement in our development work and the offer for a continued cooperation with the Ministry. I would say: purpose served; we now have also an entry point to the Ministry when needed.

The Chapter Reunion this year will be our 20th and will take place in Stresa, Italy the home town of our hosts Sandro and Sharon Pio. Already at this stage we have firm bookings of more than 100 participants of which about 25 are from other chapters (like Canada, US, NZ, and AUS) and we are now anxious about how we will organize this large number, but we can be committed to "we can do it".

I wish you all a nice stay in Yokohama and successful and meaningful meetings.

Gunter Heidelberg 20 April 2017

**Additional Comments by Someth Suos.**

I raised the issue on the stop loss for which I suggested that CIGNA could prepare for each staff's stop loss ceiling. CIGNA could also give signal when claims are about to reach the stop loss level. The meeting responded that each staff should also monitor his /her stop loss situation.

On the membership dues, the meeting has not decided on the amount as the committee likes to have some time to analyse the situation/ condition and later request the opinion/ comments of coordinators.

I also presented a personal experience regarding hospitalization administrative and huge financial requirements of a hospital (who does not recognize CIGNA card) for which it was suggested that a telephone call to CIGNA should be made in order for CIGNA to issue a letter of guarantee for payment.