

International Iyengar Yoga Association Meeting
Santa Clara, California
July 9-12, 2007

Meetings were held at the Santa Clara Convention Center to discuss the possible creation of an international Iyengar yoga association. Invitations were issued to all National Iyengar Yoga Associations and to the most senior teachers in countries with no formal yoga association. All certified Iyengar Yoga teachers were welcome to attend.

The following delegates were present on behalf of their associations, and/or on behalf of teachers and students in countries with no formal Iyengar yoga associations:

Australia: Carole Hart on behalf of the **B. K. S. Iyengar Yoga Association of Australia**

Belgium: Eva Rodenburg on behalf of **Iyengar Yoga Belgium**

Denmark: Maja Hoeks and Ulla Pedersen on behalf of **Iyengar Yoga Foreningen i Danmark**

France: Philippe Welter on behalf of **Association Française de Yoga Iyengar**

French West Indies: Sylvie Terrée on behalf of the French West Indies

Germany: Laurence O'Toole on behalf of **B. K. S Iyengar Yoga Vereinigung Deutschland e.V.**

Italy: Daniela Manente on behalf **Light on Yoga Italia**

Mexico: Paul King on behalf of Mexico

The Netherlands: Peter Foyer on behalf of **B. K. S. Iyengar Yoga Vereniging Nederland**

New Zealand: Monica Haar, Matthew Smart, Delwyn Unkovich on behalf of **B. K. S. Iyengar Yoga Association of New Zealand**

South Africa: Pat Deacon, Joyce Zouves Van Rensburg on behalf of the **B. K. S. Iyengar Yoga Institute of Southern Africa**

Sweden: Leela Grethe Hansen on behalf of Sweden

Thailand: Justin Herold on behalf of Thailand

United Arab Emirates: Djoeke M van der Werf on behalf of the United Arab Emirates

United Kingdom: Rosamund Bell, Louise Cartledge, Judith Richards, Andrew Roughton on behalf of the **Iyengar Yoga Association of the UK**

United States of America: Marla Apt, Pat Musburger on behalf of the **Iyengar Yoga National Association of the United States**

Apologies for absence were received from: **Polskie Stowarzyszenie Jogi Iyengara** and the **Moscow B. K. S. Iyengar Yoga Center**. The **Associação Brasileira de Iyengar Yoga**, **Iyengar Yoga Association of Canada**, the **Iyengar Yoga Association of Israel**, the **B. K. S. Iyengar Yoga Association of Japan** and the **Asociación Española de Yoga Iyengar** all declined to attend. The **Iyengar-Yoga Vereinigung Schweiz** did not respond.

The following certified Iyengar teachers were also in attendance:

Australia: Alan Goode, John Leebold; Belgium: Viviane Gutlerner; France: Christian Pisano; Israel: Anat Zahor; The Netherlands: Agnes Mineur, Annemieke Post; United Kingdom: Margaret Rawlinson, Cathy Rogers Evans, Judi Soffa, Maxine Tobias, June Whittaker-Pisano; United States of America: Kofi Busia, Jyoti Hansa, Ramanand Patel, Carmen Viola, Lisa Walford.

I OPENING OF MEETING

Invocation 1; Invocation 2

II CALL TO ORDER BY INTERIM DIRECTOR-GENERAL

Kofi Busia, Convenor of the Meeting, was established as Interim Director-General and the functions of this role were explained.

III INTRODUCTIONS

A INTERIM CHAIR

Delwyn Unkovich, Chair of New Zealand Association gave a brief address.

B INTERIM SECRETARY

Ulla Pedersen, Chair of the Danish Association, acted as Interim Secretary, with Maja Hoeks assisting.

C DELEGATES

IV DISTRIBUTION OF DOCUMENTS

During the course of the meetings several documents were distributed:

Agenda of the Meeting

List of Delegates

Draft Constitution for an International Association for Iyengar Yoga, Version 1.2, April 2007

Objects as revised by the Santa Clara Meeting, July 2007

International Iyengar Yoga Association Mission Statement and Goals documents

V PRESENTATION OF RULES OF MEETING

VI PARTICIPATION OF TEACHERS

The official Delegates were asked if it would be permissible for the Senior Teachers present to participate and vote; and what role they thought Senior Teachers should play in the proposed International Association. It was eventually decided that all Intermediate Senior Certificate holders and above could participate and vote. All other persons present were free to address the Meeting but would not be entitled to a vote.

VII PROS AND CONS OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

The Chair opened the floor to a debate. Issues raised were:

A LACK OF TEACHERS

An International Association could assist in communities where there were few teachers, little experience, and no background in teaching, training and assessing.

B MUTUAL COOPERATION

Several examples of mutual assistance and practical benefit between already existing Associations were offered. Examples were also given where an International Association would greatly have eased development and training. National Associations were seen as being great resources for each other that could help each other more fully. An International Association could act as such a resource, as well as being a conduit to and from Pune. It could offer good guidelines and support. The sharing, dialoguing and networking could help member associations grow together and become more democratic. It could thus grow in stages from simple dialoguing to the more concrete, and foster a sense of community, which was regarded as important. Although these benefits were accepted, concerns were expressed

about the likely impact—political, organizational and financial.

C PUNE 2004 CONSTITUTION

It was pointed out that the 2004 Constitution Guide sent out from Pune was already being used to unify the individual National Associations by being incorporated into their constitutions. It was accepted that, for legal and other reasons, the Guide could not be used in all countries, or that some local adaptation might be appropriate.

D INTROVERSION AND LIMITATIONS OF NATIONALS

The introversion of many National Associations was recognized, as well as the fact that most could do more to promote Iyengar yoga within their jurisdictions. It was recognized that this was often because National Associations lack the time or resources; things likely to be more fully available to an International Association.

E ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY

There was universal agreement that transparency and accountability were extremely important and should be instilled from the outset. An International Association could also help these principles to be more properly incorporated into National ones.

F ASSESSMENT & CERTIFICATION

Consistency in teaching, training, certification and assessment guidelines were seen as vitally important, although regional variations in procedure might be necessary.

G THREAT TO CURRENT NATIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

There was considerable concern about the possible fracturing of National Associations were an International Association to be perceived as a threat. It was stated that an International Association should leave National Associations' working systems in place and not seek to 'take things over'. There is great value in yogic sharing of experiences and resources, but little value in 'control'. If an International Association offers guidance then it could be helpful; but if it seeks to control then it would be sure to fail. An International Association should not be 'used' to solve home grown grievances. There could be provision for broad oversight functions. However, differences between National Associations and countries must be respected. It was recognized that patience, openness and good communication will be important to support harmonious and positive relations within and between Associations (National and International).

H CEDING OF AUTHORITY

One or two Delegates reiterated that their communities would probably be willing to receive useful resources, but would be much less willing to cede 'what works'. Others pointed out that some form of international oversight was essential as some countries do not recognize the training given or certificates issued by others. There was also a discussion on the differences between the guru-sisya and administrative systems. Changes and sacrifices would be required in order to service both. It was recognized that a relinquishing of power, actual or perceived, was certain to induce some nervousness. Delegates and National Associations were directly asked if they would be willing to consider this. The question was answered in the affirmative: that they would be prepared to consider it. It was pointed out that if there had been strong opposition, then in all likelihood the Associations that had gathered would not have authorized their delegates to attend.

I GURUJI

The relationship to Guruji was often mentioned. It was generally agreed that an International Association would make his life considerably easier as much of his time is taken up by different Associations asking for his advice, frequently on the same issues. An International Association would also make National Associations and their members become more accountable to each other, thereby

again benefiting him. It could resolve many issues. While recognizing the potential value of giving some responsibility and administrative power to an International Association, the delegates concurred that ultimately all authority is vested in Guruji and the Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute in Pune (RIMYI). Any International Association could only exercise power with his consent.

J DISCIPLINE

An International Association could help reduce the dangers of excessive power, based on personality or status, that may arise within National Associations. Although any rules and regulations created would need policing, it was considered possible to create structures that would be freeing rather than restrictive.

K NON-PARTICIPATING ASSOCIATIONS

A final issue raised was regarding those National Associations that had declined to participate in the Meeting, and how to overcome the potential problems posed by their non-participation. The general feeling was that the best thing would be to leave the door open so they could join at a later stage.

VIII OBJECTS

After the pros and cons had been discussed, a proposal was accepted that the list of objects in the Draft Constitution (Chapter 1.5) be used as a basis for discussion.

Object vii

Much debate immediately ensued regarding Object (vii) which dealt with assessment and certification (*“to oversee the training and assessing of applicants for teaching certificates and to issue those certificates as determined by the Honorary President or his successor, and by the RIMYI. The certificates are those of the RIMYI and shall remain the property of the Association”*). The feeling was still that these should remain national. Anything working well within existing National Associations should be left intact.

Following further discussions it was decided to read the objects through for a second time with the number of people wanting to comment upon each one this time being noted. Although objects were discussed in order from those with the least areas of concern to those with the most, they are listed numerically:

A OBJECT I

ORIGINAL TEXT

to spread the teaching of Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar and to maintain the teaching standard set by him.

POINTS DISCUSSED

No objections raised; approved verbatim.

FINAL TEXT

- i) to spread the teaching of Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar and to maintain the teaching standard set by him.

B OBJECT II

ORIGINAL TEXT

to provide facilities for the instruction and training of its members and the public in the principles of yoga established by Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar.

POINTS DISCUSSED

The underlying consensus is to make things possible and not necessarily to act. An International Association could provide a unifying arena and it is therefore better to be as wide and open as possible from the outset. The text was edited and approved.

FINAL TEXT

- ii) to facilitate the instruction and training of its members and the public in the principles of yoga established by Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar.

C OBJECT III

ORIGINAL TEXT

to advance public education in the classical teachings of the science of yoga based upon the principles of the highest standards of personal conduct and service to others.

POINTS DISCUSSED

An objection was raised to the use of the word 'science'. The text was edited and approved.

FINAL TEXT

- iii) to advance public education in the classical teachings of yoga based upon the principles of the highest standards of personal conduct and service to others.

D OBJECT IV

ORIGINAL TEXT

to arrange and provide for the holding of yoga demonstrations, meetings, conventions, lectures and classes.

POINTS DISCUSSED

This gives the International Association a mandate, but does not obligate it. It can do these independently, or else in cooperation with National Associations, who are likely to be members.

FINAL TEXT

- iv) to arrange and provide for the holding of yoga demonstrations, meetings, conventions, lectures and classes.

E OBJECT V

ORIGINAL TEXT

to support the aims and objects of the RIMYI and as set out in Appendix A.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Question to Appendix A was raised as it had been accidentally omitted from the documents distributed at the meeting. Once distributed, the text was approved verbatim.

FINAL TEXT

- v) to support the aims and objects of the RIMYI and as set out in Appendix A.

F OBJECT VI

ORIGINAL TEXT

to encourage communication, harmony and unity among Iyengar yoga practitioners throughout the world.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Gurujī would surely want as many of his pupils as possible to gather together, as with this Santa Clara Meeting. It was suggested that since this was an important issue it eventually be re-ordered higher on this list.

FINAL TEXT

- vi) to encourage communication, harmony and unity among Iyengar yoga practitioners throughout the world.

G OBJECT VII

ORIGINAL TEXT

to oversee the training and assessing of applicants for teaching certificates and to issue those certificates as determined by the Honorary President or his successor, and by the RIMYI. The certificates are those of the RIMYI and shall remain the

property of the Association.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Training and assessing of prospective teachers should generally be overseen by National Associations as procedures adapt to suit the local context. While current successful practice within National Associations should be preserved as much as possible, the meeting recognized the value of internationally shared guidelines for training and assessment, and the potential usefulness of an assessment mechanism for countries without, or still forming, a national Iyengar yoga association.

FINAL TEXT

Due to the lack of time and the broad implications of this object, a consensus on rewording the text was not reached and it was therefore tabled.

H OBJECT VIII

ORIGINAL TEXT

to oversee the maintenance of high ethical and teaching standards by its members and assist them in the furtherance of these.

POINTS DISCUSSED

It was questioned what the words ‘oversee’ and ‘members’ meant. The object as stated appeared to emphasize a policing aspect, thereby most likely becoming an intolerable burden for both National and International Associations. Since every National Association has its committees, the International one should simply concentrate on being another level of support—a consultative or arbitrating body and therefore an aid to Guruji. Matters should first be dealt with nationally, and only then internationally. It was also suggested that the ethical issue of the ‘mixing of methods’ should be separated from other kinds of moral misconduct. The occasional need for dealing with issues of ethics and seniority was recognized, as also the desirability for international oversight—but with cautions. After some discussion it was decided to replace ‘oversee’ with ‘promote’.

FINAL TEXT

viii) to promote and support the maintenance of high ethical and teaching standards by its members and assist them in the furtherance of these.

I OBJECT IX

ORIGINAL TEXT

to provide a forum for mediation and complaints regarding the conduct and competence of its members and to implement a structured complaints procedure.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Since the membership of the International Association has not yet been determined, it was questioned how anyone could be disciplined. It was pointed out, however, that the members of both National and International Associations need to have a recourse, and that individuals should be able to address and approach the International Association. There was a brief discussion on how the International Association could gain rights of access to the individual members of National Associations. It was then further pointed out that this would require a change in the current constitutions of National Associations—which would have to decide whether this was acceptable. Emphasis was again placed on the need to clarify that the International Association would only be available as a last court of appeal. The object was found to be acceptable in principle, but with details that needed to be sorted out later. A suggestion was received to use ‘provide forum’. It was also accepted that mediation is only one form of resolving complaints. A final proposal was made that ‘provide structured complaints procedure’ should come first.

FINAL TEXT

ix) to implement a structured complaints procedure for the resolution of complaints regarding the conduct and competence of its members.

J OBJECT X

ORIGINAL TEXT

to maintain an international register of approved associations and teachers of lyengar yoga.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Strong data protection laws current in Europe was raised, therefore, the details are to be sorted out later. This text was approved verbatim.

FINAL TEXT

x) to maintain an international register of approved associations and teachers of lyengar yoga.

K OBJECT XI

ORIGINAL TEXT

to maintain an international register of approved teacher trainers of lyengar yoga.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Strong data protection laws current in Europe was raised, therefore, the details are to be sorted out later. This text was approved verbatim.

FINAL TEXT

xi) to maintain an international register of approved teacher trainers of lyengar yoga.

L OBJECT XII

ORIGINAL TEXT

to publish a magazine and/or other publications.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Many objects have no timeline and were retained so as not to preclude what the Association could do. In order to recognize the differences between one-off and serial publications, this text was accepted and approved verbatim.

FINAL TEXT

xii) to publish a magazine and/or other publications.

M OBJECT XIII

ORIGINAL TEXT

to promote and advance the study and the practice of, and research into, the therapeutic effects of, lyengar yoga as a means of improving the mental physical and spiritual health of the community, and to publish the useful results of any such research.

POINTS DISCUSSED

In order to be consonant with the highest scientific and academic standards, it was considered advisable to publish the results of less successful, although apparently less useful, results.

FINAL TEXT

xiii) to promote and advance the study and the practice of, and research into, the therapeutic effects of lyengar yoga as a means of improving the mental physical and spiritual health of the community, and to publish the results of any such research.

N OBJECT XIV

ORIGINAL TEXT

to establish and maintain links with Iyengar associations, institutes and groups around the world.

POINTS DISCUSSED

No objections raised; approved verbatim.

FINAL TEXT

xiv) to establish and maintain links with Iyengar associations, institutes and groups around the world.

O OBJECT XV

ORIGINAL TEXT

to employ staff, own property, borrow money, raise funds by subscription, incur expense or do any other thing in pursuance of these aims and objects.

POINTS DISCUSSED

The text was amended to: 'including by subscriptions' and not just 'by subscriptions'.

FINAL TEXT

xv) to employ staff, own property, borrow money, raise funds including by subscription, incur expense or do any other thing in pursuance of these aims and objects.

P OBJECT XVI

ORIGINAL TEXT

xvi) to create and promote books, tapes, videograms and other materials that help and promote the teachings of Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar.

POINTS DISCUSSED

It was questioned whether 'creation' was in the mandate of an International Association. It was decided that an International Association should be able to do things that an ordinary National Association could not always do, due to lack of resources. The text was amended to: 'market and/or promote'.

FINAL TEXT

xvi) to create and/or promote and/or market books, tapes, videograms and other materials that help and promote the teachings of Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar.

Q OBJECT XVII

ORIGINAL TEXT

to further the interests of Iyengar yoga and its teachers by making representations to governments and negotiating with intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations and other interested and representative bodies.

POINTS DISCUSSED

No objections raised; approved verbatim.

FINAL TEXT

xvii) to further the interests of Iyengar yoga and its teachers by making representations to governments and negotiating with international intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations and other interested and representative bodies.

R OBJECT XVIII

ORIGINAL TEXT

to advance generally the present and future welfare of its members.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Although accepted that this was not strictly necessary, the majority felt that it should be retained as an encouragement, being something good for a yoga Association to institutionalize.

FINAL TEXT

xviii) to advance generally the present and future welfare of its members.

S DELETION OF OBJECT

ORIGINAL TEXT

to provide a forum for any complaints related to the processes of assessment or certification instituted by any members and to implement a structured complaints procedure.

POINTS DISCUSSED

Revisions to Object ix) rendered this redundant, therefore, it was deleted.

IX THE FUNCTIONS AND PURPOSES OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

Discussion revolved around the functions and purposes of an International Association. The key issues agreed as important by the delegates at the meetings were outlined. It was decided to develop a concise, cohesive document that would make the reason for the existence of an International Association readily apparent. It was universally agreed that Guruji be informed and that his intentions be determined. This would be important for the Iyengars, and also for the dissemination of information to all Iyengar yoga associations. It was agreed that this document be distributed to all National Associations and other interested parties.

A MISSION STATEMENT

It was determined that the benefits of an International Association should first be streamlined in a **Mission Statement**. It was suggested that some of the text in Object (vii) be used for a Mission Statement. It was subsequently suggested that combining Objects (i) and (vi) would be more effective. Ultimately, Objects (i), (iii) and (vi) were combined, formally proposed, and approved as the Mission Statement for the International Association:

To facilitate communication, harmony and unity among Iyengar yoga practitioners throughout the world in order to promote the teachings of Sri B. K. S. Iyengar and maintain the teaching standard set by him.

B OUTLINE OF GOALS

It was proposed and accepted that the key issues outlined be compared to the objects to produce a simplified, specific set of goals for the International Association. Text for the goals was drafted, discussed, clarified, rephrased, and ultimately approved.

C GOAL STATEMENT

Based on Object (v). Concern was expressed regarding the meaning of 'assigns'. An explanation was offered that it is a legal term whose precise meaning would depend upon the host country of the International Association. It was agreed that Guruji's wishes in this regard should be respected. 'Whoever he chooses', 'designates', 'his heirs and his assigns', 'parent Institute' were all considered and rejected; as also the removal of 'assigns'.

Under the guidance of B. K. S. Iyengar, his heirs or assigns, the International Iyengar Yoga Association shall support the aims and objectives of the Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute in the following manner:

GOAL 1

Based on Objects (xiv), (xv) and (xviii). Although raising money as stated in Object (xv), is not a primary goal, it was accepted that it would be done solely to facilitate objectives of the organization.

Provide support for emerging and existing Iyengar yoga associations, institutes, and groups worldwide.

GOAL 2

Based on Objects (x) and (xi).

Maintain an international database of member associations' policies and procedures, certified teachers, and teacher trainers.

GOAL 3

Based on Object (xii).

Maintain an international database of archival materials relating to B.K.S. Iyengar, his family, and teachings.

GOAL 4

Based on Objects (ii), (vii) and (viii). It was proposed to substitute 'consistent' rather than 'uniform'.

Provide guidelines and standards for teacher training and certification to foster a consistent process.

GOAL 5

Based on Object (ix). Discussion occurred seeking to clarify the nature of 'grievances'. A suggestion was accepted to remove the words 'association member' as individuals who are not members of an Iyengar yoga association may require an avenue to address unresolved grievances.

Provide a forum for unresolved grievances.

GOAL 6

Based on Object (xvii).

Protect the use of the Iyengar name.

A proposal was passed to accept the above Mission Statement and Goals as representative of the International Association and its purposes and functions. [See Page 13].

X NAME FOR THE ASSOCIATION

The names 'Iyengar International' and 'Iyengar Yoga International' were discussed. 'IYI' was felt to be extremely common. Additionally, there are many 'Iyengars'. A proposal was made to append 'Yoga Association'. 'B. K. S. Iyengar International', 'B. K. S. Iyengar Yoga International', and 'Iyengar Yoga International Organization' were also considered. The issue of internet search engine optimization was deemed important. It was agreed that 'Iyengar' and 'yoga' should be used together within the name, which was partly due to the protection that the Certification or Service Mark and other aspects of international intellectual property law offer for the name 'Iyengar' when it is linked to yoga. 'International Iyengar Yoga Association' was ultimately proposed and accepted

XI APPROACHING GURUJI

The question was raised regarding whether Guruji approved of the venture. It was stated by several that he had been often approached, and that he had been either indifferent or positive. It was agreed that an official approach to Guruji would be made on behalf of the Meeting. It was affirmed that this delegation

would deliver a message and seek his advice. A proposal was made that the British be sent, due to their country being the first in which Guruji had taught outside India, and to theirs being the first National Association in existence. A counter-proposal in favour of the USA was made. The British stated their willingness. The British Delegation was duly authorized to consult with the IYA(UK) Executive, and then to inform Guruji of the desire of the Meeting to form the International Iyengar Yoga Association.

XII FINANCES / COST

The issue of cost had been often raised. Although accepted that cost and the indication of some proposed budget were important, there was insufficient time to discuss these in detail. The issue of the *Certification Mark and the monies derived from it was raised. It was pointed out that only Guruji had the authority to ask and answer this question. It was also suggested that fees and subscriptions should be made proportional to the size of the member country's economy. Further discussions on costs and finances were ultimately deferred and tabled. (*The name 'Service' Mark was used but the issue raised was regarding the 'Certification' Mark. This oversight was not corrected in the discussion, but is corrected here.)

XIII MEMBERSHIP

The issue of membership, the various categories of membership and their criteria was often raised. These were regarded as important. A proposal was made and accepted to use Chapter 2 of the Draft Constitution (Membership Criteria) as a non-obligatory talking-points basis for discussion. It was suggested that an International Association should be composed only of countries and not of individuals. It was also questioned why an International Association should recognize groups that were not legally recognized within their own countries; that they should be observers rather than full members. It was pointed out that yoga is not legally recognized in some countries, which might then prejudice an International Association against such groups. Some Delegates then addressed the Meeting saying that although they were not yet legal entities, they had been happy to be invited and would continue to be desirous of information and support. They were also willing to continue making a contribution. It was agreed that it was important not to place obstacles in front of smaller countries, but instead to ease their path. Openness and liberality were regarded as critical, along with suitable sets of directives where necessary. It was regarded as important to distinguish membership rights from membership criteria, with different membership categories then determining the rights and obligations of members. The importance of clarity regarding the distinctions between 'legal & non-legal', and 'large, medium, small' was stressed. Chapter 7 was referred to as a way of giving structure to the debate. It was accepted that not all current National Associations need accept the International one. There was also a long debate on the eligibility, qualification, rights and responsibilities of Senior Teachers as individual members. It was agreed that the International Association could have individual members, but with roles and duties that needed to be clarified.

XIV STRUCTURE OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

It was questioned why the International Association had been headquartered in Zurich. It was explained that it was the legal model most likely to be acceptable in the greatest number of jurisdictions. The reason given for the proposed structure was financial: to reduce the need for meetings. It was nevertheless regarded as cumbersome by some. Some caution was expressed against being bound to the rigidity of a constitution. It was pointed out that the Constitution can easily indicate what is permissible, and not necessarily what is obligatory. A suggestion was made that there should be only one delegate from each country with no Certification Board. It was objected that since an International Association would be large from the outset, its duties would most likely preclude this. Special conditions would most likely necessitate a more complex structure, along with the necessary funding base. It was accepted that

there should be proportional representation. A suggestion was made that there could be one delegate per country to minimise travel costs. This was rejected on the grounds that it would not provide proportional representation. It was further suggested that one delegate per country, with a weighting system applied to their votes, could minimise costs and allow the larger associations proportionally greater voting rights. No decision was made. The position of Guruji was raised. It was suggested that he be placed 'at the top'. Clarification was sought on the nature of the General Meeting. It was affirmed that the General Meeting would be the final decision-making body of the Association. Questions were raised about pay, elections, appointees, etc. of the IYIA. It was pointed out that such issues could be allocated to the subsidiary Main Board. It was ultimately proposed and accepted that further discussion on the structure of the International Iyengar Yoga Association be deferred and tabled due to its complexity.

XV WORKING PARTY

Since the Meeting was now drawing to a close it was proposed that a committee be created to continue with the work that still needed to be done. It was agreed that this Working Party should be broad and representative. **Peter Foyer, Carmen Viola and Andrew Roughton** were proposed as members of the Working Party. **Philippe Welter** volunteered; **Rosamund Bell and Paul King** were also proposed. Questions were asked about the Working Party's terms of reference. It was agreed that one of its duties should be reporting to Guruji. Further questions were asked about how the National Associations could liaise with the Working Party, and what could and could not be shown to them (regarding completed business, work-in-progress, etc). It was suggested that the Working Party could use blogs and an Internet forum to facilitate its work. It was regarded as advisable to give the Working Party the power of co-option in case any member had to withdraw, etc. It was agreed that Peter, Carmen, Andrew, Philippe, Rosamund and Paul would comprise the Working Party. **John Leebold** later volunteered and was accepted into the group. It was also proposed, and accepted, that the whole of the Draft Constitution be given to the Working Party and that it liaise with Kofi Busia, Interim Director-General, National Associations, and Guruji for this purpose. However, the objects as they had been amended at the Meeting were not to be altered further. Some suitable conditions were proposed and accepted by the Working Party, and it was ultimately authorized to continue with the work of the International Iyengar Yoga Association.

XVI NEXT MEETING

The British Delegation had already stated that the IYA(UK) was willing to host the next meeting. This offer was warmly accepted. A counter-proposal was made that the next meeting be in Pune, for Guruji's 90th birthday. This was debated, with the problem of funding being raised. Many Delegates were also unwilling to devote time intended for private study, while in Pune, to International Association business. Additionally, the opportunity and pleasure of studying with and meeting so many senior and international faculty, as well as meeting and interacting with all the other delegates, were factors acclaimed by most. It was also proposed, but tabled, that the meetings should be biannual. It was eventually proposed and accepted that the next meeting be held in the UK in 2009.

XVII CLOSING

The Chair, Delegates and attendees expressed their gratitude to all.

Invocation 1. Invocation 2.

Meeting adjourned.

International Iyengar Yoga Association Mission Statement and Goals

Mission Statement:

To facilitate communication, harmony and unity among Iyengar yoga practitioners throughout the world in order to promote the teachings of Sri B. K. S. Iyengar and maintain the teaching standard set by him.

Goals:

Under the guidance of B. K. S. Iyengar, his heirs or assigns, the International Iyengar Yoga Association shall support the aims and objectives of the Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute in the following manner:

1. Provide support for emerging and existing Iyengar yoga associations, institutes, and groups worldwide.
2. Maintain an international database of member associations' policies and procedures, certified teachers, and teacher trainers.
3. Maintain an international database of archival materials relating to B.K.S. Iyengar, his family, and teachings.
4. Provide guidelines and standards for teacher training and certification to foster a consistent process.
5. Provide a forum for unresolved grievances.
6. Protect the use of the Iyengar name.

Formulated, amended and approved by the International Delegates
at the meetings in Santa Clara, California, July 2007

Objects of the International Iyengar Yoga Association Draft Constitution v2.2, 2.3

- i) to spread the teaching of Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar and to maintain the teaching standard set by him;
- ii) to facilitate the instruction and training of its members and the public in the principles of yoga established by Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar;
- iii) to advance public education in the classical teachings of yoga based upon the principles of the highest standards of personal conduct and service to others;
- iv) to arrange and provide for the holding of yoga demonstrations, meetings, conventions, lectures and classes;
- v) to support the aims and objects of the RIMYI and as set out in Appendix A;
- vi) to encourage communication, harmony and unity among Iyengar yoga practitioners throughout the world;
- vii) to oversee the training and assessing of applicants for teaching certificates and to issue those certificates as determined by the Honorary President or his successor, and by the RIMYI. The certificates are those of the RIMYI and shall remain the property of the Association;
- viii) to promote and support the maintenance of high ethical and teaching standards by its members and assist them in the furtherance of these;
- ix) to implement a structured complaints procedure for the resolution of complaints regarding the conduct and competence of its members;
- x) to maintain an international register of approved associations and teachers of Iyengar yoga;
- xi) to maintain an international register of approved teacher trainers of Iyengar yoga;
- xii) to publish a magazine and/or other publications;
- xiii) to promote and advance the study and the practice of, and research into, the therapeutic effects of Iyengar yoga as a means of improving the mental physical and spiritual health of the community, and to publish the results of any such research;
- xiv) to establish and maintain links with Iyengar associations, institutes and groups around the world;
- xv) to employ staff, own property, borrow money, raise funds including by subscription, incur expense or do any other thing in pursuance of these aims and objects;
- xvi) to create and/or promote and/or market books, tapes, videograms and other materials that help and promote the teachings of Yogacharya Sri B. K. S. Iyengar;
- xvii) to further the interests of Iyengar yoga and its teachers by making representations to governments and negotiating with international intergovernmental organizations or non-governmental organizations and other interested and representative bodies;
- xviii) to advance generally the present and future welfare of its members.

Amended and approved by the International Delegates at the meetings in Santa Clara, California, USA, July 2007