

Minutes of the AvHA General Body Meeting on 22nd August, 2008

A General Body Meeting of AvHA was held in the Mathematics Department of IISc at 6 p.m. on 22nd August 2008, soon after the Annual Lecture Programme followed by a high tea.

1. The meeting began with Prof. Phoolan Prasad, President, welcoming members to this 4th General Body Meeting of AvHA.

2. Prof. Debnath Pal read the letter from Prof. Dipshikha Chakravarty, Secretary, regretting her inability to attend the meeting.

3. Prof. Arnab Rai Choudhuri, Treasurer, presented the financial report which was approved by the General Body.

4. Prof. Phoolan Prasad proposed that an appropriate way of electing new office bearers may be that the outgoing office bearers suggest some names which are considered by the General Body. Accordingly, he suggested the following names for the new office bearers:

Prof. Siraj Hasan – President

Prof. S. Chandrasekharan – Vice-President

Prof. Debnath Pal – Secretary

Prof. G. Mugesh – Treasurer

Prof. Arnab Rai Choudhuri seconded the names and the General Body approved, leading to the election of these new office bearers.

5. Amongst possible activities for the year 2008-09 Prof. Debnath Pal pointed out that a group of German journalists are likely to visit Bangalore and interact with academics – especially members of the AvHA. Prof. Geetha Bali stressed the need for setting up a website for AvHA Bangalore. Prof. Siraj Hasan offered to set up such a website and link it to the IIA website, if he is provided the necessary materials.

6. Prof. Siraj Hasan, President elect, suggested that it may be a good idea to have an executive committee with a couple of members in addition to the office bearers – especially the past President for the sake of continuity. This suggestion was appreciated by the General Body, who requested Prof. Phoolan Prasad, the past President, to continue as member of this executive committee.

7. Prof. Geetha Bali, Vice-President, pointed out that, while most of the members of AvHA were from research institutes, she was happy to represent the university sector in AvHA.

8. Prof. Phoolan Prasad, in his presidential remarks, recounted the contributions of several past office bearers of AvHA.

9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Prof. Debnath Pal, who thanked the Humboldt Foundation for making the trip of Prof. Matthias Wilmanns possible, the IMI for sponsoring the dinner and Prof. M.K. Ghosh, Mathematics Chairman, for making the facilities of the Mathematics Dept available for the meeting.