



REPORT OF THE:  
**ARCASIA FELLOWSHIP MEETING**

**FORUM ~ 16 DA NANG - VIETNAM ~ 15TH AUGUST 2011**

Chairperson ~ Arcasia Fellowship Committee  
**Nela De Zoysa ( SLIA )**

5<sup>th</sup> October 2012

The Fellowship Committee Meeting was attended by of 64 participants.

The numbers have been on the incline, showing greater interest in the Arcasia Fellowship Committee ( AFC ), which in fact is a befitting tribute to its Founder ~ Ronald Poon ( HKIA ) and my eminent predecessor ~ Rabuil Hussein ( IAB ) & Jimmy Lim ( PAM ).

The Chair ~ Nela De Zoysa ( SLIA ), delivered the welcome address in which the history, aims and objectives of the Fellowship Committee was briefly touched upon for the benefit of the new participants. The objectives was stressed upon that was to offer Advice to Arcasia, with the wealth of knowledge and connections of the erudite Past Country Representatives.

The Agenda for the Meeting dealt with the Criteria for Membership ~ a burning topic that had been discussed year after year, with no deliberation.

An interactive round table discussion and an amusing, yet memorable diversion to keep the participants alive, kicking and guessing on the theme ~ “ History becomes a base to fashion its future.”

Thereafter, Arcasia President ~ George Kunihiro stressed the importance of the Fellowship Meeting, where the Members exchanged ideas with their experience and wisdom.

### **THE CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP**

The discussion on Criteria for Membership was rather volatile, where several participants exchanged varied views.

However, it was encouraging to note the growing interest in wanting to join the Fellowship Committee, which was indeed a glowing tribute to its initiator ~ Ronald Poon.

But, it was noted that these Participants insisted on receiving equal status, defying the regulations that governed the criteria for Membership.

A majority of Participants were of the opinion that, while the Official Country Representatives attended the Arcasia Council Meetings, ACA & Forums as Official Delegates, being funded by their own Institutes, others interested in Arcasia attended Council Meetings, ACA's & Forums, through sheer love, paying their hard earned money. Some declared that they had attended, as many as 17 times.

Therefore, the views of the Participants were as follows :

1. Abolish Fellowship Committee Membership Criteria and permit all interested persons to attend the Fellowship Committee Meeting.

This carried the majority consensus.

2. Abolish Fellowship Committee Membership Criteria, but form a " Think Tank " / Co Group / Advisors with Members who fit the original requisites.
3. Have 2 categories of Membership
  - a. Members who fit the original requisite
  - b. Associates who don't fall into that category

I would kindly request the Council to deliberate on same and give me a clear direction.

### **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY**

If the Membership Criteria was to be abolished, the Participants were of the opinion that this was not necessary, though some felt strongly that the existing Membership Directory needed to get upgraded and placed on the Web. Council's deliberation is sought for this as well.

The Participants requested for the minutes and names of the Participants be placed on the Web if the Fellowship Directory does not go on the Web.

### **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

Of the topic of the Round Table Discussion, Participants felt that one was relevant, but requested the question to be modified.

#### **a) Disasters**

***" We hear of Natural Disasters, throughout the World. Specially when one of our Member countries are affected, how does Arcasia react ?"***

The Participants felt that Arcasia through the Country Heads form a Standing Committee of experts, who have experience in disaster mitigation and post disaster rehabilitation.

Could the Council deliberate on this ?

## **ARCASIA FELLOWSHIP TRIVIA**

The second half of the Meeting that was an Arcasia Fellowship Trivia was an interactive “ Brain Teaser ” based on the Arcasia History Book.

This was filled with excitement and informative knowledge that was extremely well received that created a bonding between the Older & the Younger Members, thus fulfilling its objectives.

Gita Balakrishnan professionally skilled in swiftly conducting this Brain Teaser amongst the 3 Zones, kept the Participants spirits high. Zone A emerged the winners, followed by Zone B.

Judging from the comments received from the Participants, they have had loads of fun. However, it was noted that the History Book too needed to be updated soon, due to some inaccuracies in the text.

**At the same time should this document have not been there, the History of Arcasia would have been that of the past ~ forgotten for which we ought to be grateful to UAP.**

## **REPORT ON :**

### **THE RESPONSE RECEIVED FROM OB MEETING IN BORACAY , AS PER THE MINUTES :**

1. Arcasia Fellowship Committee ( AFC ) Membership Criteria that was ratified by Council **cannot be changed.**

#### **The Criteria for AFC Membership is :**

***“ Any Arcasia Institute Member or Official Delegates who have attended two ( 2 ) meetings of Arcasia, and all Officials ( OB Members ) and Chairs of the Committees are eligible for Membership.”***

#### **Objectives of the AFC is :**

*“To establish a Fellowship of Arcasia to enable Member Institute Representatives who have attended Arcasia Meetings in the past to maintain close contact with Arcasia, and participate in, Arcasia activities.”*

2. OB's acknowledged and encouraged the “ Integration Program” organized by the Chair AFC, conducted by Ar. Gita Balakrishnan, to network friendship and bring together Participants from 18 different Countries. They acknowledged the success of the event.

**3. Therefore the AFC Meeting to take place as :**

***j) “ Closed Door Meeting “ for AFC Members***

***ii) “ Open Door Meeting - Integration Program” for all Participants : “ Integration Program ”***