



**Minutes of the General Assembly Meeting of 20 December 2023**

On Wednesday, December 20, 2023, the members of the Alliance française de Pondichéry met in a General Assembly Meeting at the Alliance française de Pondichéry on the written notice of the President dated November 30, 2023. The meeting was chaired by Dr NALLAM Satish, President, assisted by Mr R. Venguattaramane, Vice-President, Mr S. Pannirselvame, Secretary General, Mr R. M. Swethakumar, Treasurer and Mr Laurent JALICOUS, Director.

Guest: Mrs Lise TALBOT BARRE, Consul General of France in Pondicherry and Chennai.

As the quorum was not reached at 6pm, the President, after his welcome, declared open, the Extraordinary General Assembly Meeting at 6.15pm, in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The attendance register showed that 33 members (including 4 proxies) out of 185 were present.

The General Assembly Meeting deliberated on the agenda:

- Welcome address by the Chairman;
- Amendment to the Articles of Association: composition of the Board (FCRA eligibility) and extension of the term of office;
- Proposal for an exceptional one-year extension of the Board's term of office for administrative mediation (FCRA).
- Presentation of the financial statement for the financial year corresponding to the Indian calendar year: April 2022 - March 2023, by the Treasurer;
- Approval of the financial statement: April 2022 - March 2023;
- Presentation of strategies and outlook for 2024, by the Director;
- Approval of the 2024 strategies and outlook;
- Any other queries

**Welcome by the President:**

*"Respected Consul General, honoured members of the Board, dear Director and Dear Members. I would like to welcome you all to the 2023 General Assembly Meeting, which will cover our association's financial year from April 2022 to March 2023. I look forward to meeting members over the festive period and sharing information about the activities of our organisation.*

*In November, the Alliance Française de Pondichéry had the honour and privilege of welcoming His Excellency Mr Thierry MATHOU to our premises and the Alliance residence, where he was explained in detail the various projects and the opening of our new branch in 2024. While the AFP already runs courses on this medical campus, in January we will be opening a fully-fledged branch with offices, a permanent on-site agent and a media library, with financial support from SBV, to whom we extend our warmest thanks. We are convinced that this new step is only the first towards deeper collaboration and the development of our footprint.*

*We are delighted to introduce Marion Sicard, our new communications manager from Réunion, as part of our cooperation programme with France Volontaire and Réunion. We will also be welcoming a Master FLE trainee in April to strengthen our teaching department.*

*We have recently begun discussions with the President of Gopio France Métropole to strengthen our collaboration with Réunion and Guadeloupe.*

*We are also studying a request from Karaikal to open a branch and will examine the feasibility of doing so after a visit in 2024.*

*I am pleased to see that classes and DELF have increased significantly this year despite the challenges and competition from other centres. I am asking members and the Francophone community to support our classes and the alliance teaching system in the Francophone context, with the aim of increasing the number of students going to France for higher education. The alliance would like to encourage students to prepare their courses with the help of agencies with which we work closely, such as France Volontaires and Campus France.*

*Following feedback from the Indian authorities explaining the refusal of FCRA accreditation for AF, a committee decision was taken to welcome only Indian members to the office.*

*The new committee will have only 8 members and a 4-year mandate. A new support committee made up of 3 members of the French-speaking community will be appointed by the Board. The decision was taken unanimously at the recent Board meeting, including the French members concerned by this choice. This decision was taken after in-depth deliberations, taking into account the way our alliance operates within the network and its development, and is in line with Indian law. The funding provided by the FCRA is very important for the stability of our organisation and the larger projects it will not be able to carry out without it. In the past, the French government has strongly supported the restoration of the Maison Colombani, the construction of the auditorium and the maintenance of activities during the pandemic. We are extremely grateful to the French Embassy and Consulate in Pondicherry for their ongoing support.*

*In view of the checks on all Board members already carried out with a view to obtaining the FCRA, the Board in its new form of 8 members will be maintained after approval by the General Assembly Meeting until 2025.*

*The financial statements will be presented in accordance with the association's protocols. The most active category of the alliance will be reviewed and included in the statement each year, this omission in the past is now in place following changes in Indian rules.*

*An internal audit proposal is underway and will be presented to the next Board.*

*Once again, I thank the Board, the Embassy, Director and members for their continued support and wish you all a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year."*

**- Amendment to the Articles of Association: composition of the Board (FCRA eligibility):**

The President announced that following the refusal of FCRA approval for AF and repeated requests from the association and the French Embassy, the reason given by the central authorities was the presence in the committee of 3 foreign voting members. Several documents were submitted to the General Assembly Meeting, including the official reply from the Indian authorities and the official texts of the FCRA.

Following the transmission of this information, a decision was taken by the Board of Directors to include only Indian members in the association's decision-making body.

He therefore proposes, as decided by the Association's Board of Directors, that the new committee be composed of only 8 members and that the term of office be extended from 3 to 4 years. A new non-voting advisory committee made up of 3 members of the French-speaking community will be appointed by the Board.

As a result, from 2024 onwards, the Board of Directors will be governed by:

- 8 Indian members, including a President, a Vice-President, a General Secretary and a Treasurer sitting on the Association's Bureau;
- Honorary President: the French Consul General in Pondicherry, who is invited to attend meetings of the Board of Directors in an advisory capacity;
- the management of the AF, members of the Board in as advisory capacity;
- a student representative, if any, invited in as advisory capacity;
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- 3 members of the Advisory Committee, invited in as advisory capacity.

After a question-and-answer session, the composition of the new Board and the extension of the Board's term of office to 4 years were unanimously approved.

**- Proposal for an exceptional one-year extension of the mandate of the Administrative Mediation Bureau (FCRA)**

With a view to obtaining the FCRA for the Alliance, the proposal for an exceptional one-year extension of the current bureau's mandate for administrative mediation was unanimously accepted.

**- Presentation of the balance sheet for the financial year corresponding to the Indian calendar year: April 2022 - March 2023, by the Treasurer;**

The financial statement for the Indian fiscal year April 2022 - March 2023 was presented by the Treasurer.

The President proposed that the financial statement presented and approved at the General Assembly Meeting be made available on the Alliance website. This will be accessible only to Alliance members, with a password, in order to maintain confidentiality.

The financial statement for the Indian fiscal year April 2022 to March 2023 was unanimously approved.

58, Rue Suffren, Pondichéry - 605 001.



**- Presentation of strategies and outlook for 2024, by the Director:**

The strategic plan is presented by the Director.

The strategic plan was unanimously approved.

**Miscellaneous**

Mr KICHENASSAMY Madhavane, member, requested that members receive the financial statement before the General Meeting.

The President accepted this proposal, but announced that the balance sheet would only be approved at the General Assembly Meeting.

**Closing of the General Assembly Meeting**

There being no further points of discussion, the President declared the Extraordinary General Meeting closed at 7.25pm.

  
The President  
Dr. NALLAM Satish

