

**Minutes of the General Assembly of the Nordic Society of Middle Eastern Studies,
Bergen, September 25, 2011.**

- 1) The assembly appointed Mark Sedgwick as the chair of the meeting, Dietrich Jung as responsible for the minutes and Morten Valbjørn as justificator.
- 2) The assembly approved the agenda for the meeting as stipulated.
- 3) Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen gave a report about the activities of the board and the financial status of the Association that shows a surplus of 96.256,00 NOK for June 2010. The main activities comprised the organization of the conference in Bergen, as well as a PhD school that was held in Alexandria in June 2008 with 12 students. The board suggests to continue in the organization of PhD schools for Nordic scholars, best within the period of three years. At the 3rd World Congress (WOCMES) in Barcelona, July 2010, the Nordic Society contributed with a reception, co-sponsored by the universities of Oslo, Copenhagen and Lund. In addition, the board applied to Nordforsk for a grant to organize a network for researchers and teachers in the field of Middle Eastern studies and Arabic language, including training seminars. The application was rejected in June 2010, but the board believes that a new attempt might be met with approval.
- 4) The assembly agrees with the incumbent board that the activities for the period between 2010 and 2013 will be discussed by the incoming board. Furthermore, did the assembly delegate the election of an auditor to the new board.
- 5) The assembly decided to maintain the current membership fee of 450 NKR for a three-year membership period. In June 2010, the Society had 113 paid up members. The economic means of the Society are not enough to cover the administrative tasks which so far have been executed by the secretariat of the Middle East Studies department at the University of Bergen. As the secretariat in Bergen will be closed, the new board has to find a new host institution for the administrative tasks of the Society.
- 6) The assembly accepted the proposal of the board to revise the Statutes of the Society by adding the stipulation that "Board members can sit for a maximum of two consecutive periods". The revision, however, should not be taken as a straight-jacket.

- 7) Election of the new board: The assembly decided by acclamation to endorse the suggestion of the electoral committee to appoint the following new board of the association:

Sweden: Pernille Myrne (Göteborg) and Leif Stenberg (Lund)

Norway: Liv Tønnesen (Bergen) and Jørgen Jensehausen (Oslo)

Denmark: Ehab Galal (Copenhagen) and Dietrich Jung (Odense)

Finland: Anita Kynsilehto (Tampere) and Hannu Juusola (Helsinki)

Leif Stenberg was elected to become the new chair of the board.

The assembly also elected the new election committee which comprises the former board members:

Jacob Høigilt (Norway), Sylvia Akkar (Finland), Jakob Skovgaard-Petersen (Denmark), and Annika Rabo (Sweden).

