

ImagoAfrica News - December 2001

We have a name. It has been finalized as ImagoAfrica - one word with the A in Africa capitalized. This was the majority decision of the steering committee and branches around the country. Although we liked Imago iAfrika as well it is not as smooth on the tongue and will be difficult for people outside the country to pronounce. It was also apparently grammatically incorrect. Now we need a logo - any artists out there?

We met at Tia's lovely and spacious rooms in Houghton and between us had supplied enough food for a gathering of 50 people - we then proceeded to work in such a focussed manner that the food received very little attention.

Margy Wakefield flew in to represent Cape Town for the day. Trix O'Callaghan was so determined to attend that she brought her two lovely children with her. Kobus took the long/wrong route and arrived a little late but full of enthusiasm and Michael Moys was delayed by other commitments and had asked Kobus to chair the meeting - Michael joined in as soon as he could. Also present were Ronelle and Kola de Klerk, Mendelle and Zemach Mendelow, Evelyn Niehaus, Denise Moys, Tia Hetz, Louise Kriedemann and myself (Margaret).

Unfortunately Sandy McDonogh was unable to attend at the last minute and we missed her practical and historical nurturing of Imago in our country. Apologies were also received from Desiree Andre, Charmaine Roets, Etta Goldman, Muneera Mohamed, Elmarie Venter, Mylennie van Straaten and Annatjie Brummer.

The day kicked off with Denise leading us through an Appreciative Inquiry exercise about a time or times when Imago lit a fire in our bellies - when we felt particularly inspired about/by Imago. We worked in pairs and the feedback was given by the partner in the large group. We collected many words and phrases representing the Imago experience and were able to reconnect to these special feelings before moving on.

As Sandy was not present and most of us knew the developmental background of ImagoAfrica we confirmed the name we wanted for Imago in Africa and then moved on to the constitution.

Zemach Mendelow (a true Imagen and, luckily for us, an experienced lawyer) presented us with a draft constitution - we apparently need a constitution to open a bank account as well as to provide guidelines for the running of ImagoAfrica. The constitution covers the Aims and Objectives of ImagoAfrica, The Capacities of the association, Dispute Resolution mechanisms, Memberships (levels, what to call different types of member and fees), Rights of Members, Meetings, the Executive Committee, Finances etc.

The draft constitution will be circulated to all members for comment as soon as Zemach sends it to me via computer. Much time was spent on this document and the difficulties in confirming the constitution without consultation. If ImagoAfrica were to be constituted on the day then apparently all people present had to be paid up members according to the fees decided. To overcome this everybody present was declared a member of the constitutional committee and the draft constitution as discussed was accepted until further amendment. The committee would meet again on Friday 25th January from 9 - 12am to complete the constitution and elect an executive committee after appropriate consultation with other Imagens.

The website was discussed and its potential for connecting all members and as a marketing tool. Kobus said that the site was registered as www.imagoafrica.org and would be running within a week or two. All Imagens are currently on the database which will eventually only contain members of ImagoAfrica ie one of the membership perks.

A concern was mentioned about registered therapists who do the Couples Weekend and then indicate that they are Imagotherapists. We wondered if it was possible to get them to sign that they could not use the word Imago in connection with their work unless they had done the Clinical training.

Michael gave a brief update on the work of the steering committee to date and Margaret read out greetings with much love from Hedy and Yumi as well as a number of Imagens who could not be present.

Hedy and Yumi sent "blessings for good energy, good flow, good thinking, good connections, good results and a phenomenal Imago Africa organization". They mentioned the need in the world for the cleaning up of the interrelational space between people and said that "these are the best of times for the work of the sacred space and the magical bridge".

Carol Dixon from Natal had sent a letter saying that she, Cathy Haselau and Judy Wynne-Potts are enthusiastic Imagens who meet regularly and would like to constitute ImagoAfrica in KwaZulu Natal. They want to be actively involved and kept informed and expressed a wish for Imago to become more representative of all the population groups in SA. They would like us to meet at one of the branches (Cape Town, Durban, Windhoek) once a year.

Muneera Mohamed from the Western Cape said that she would love to be on the committee as she "holds Imago in her heart and as a way of life". She offered the services of her company "Equilibrium" which organizes workshops in and around the Western Cape area for the promotion of ImagoAfrica. She "demanded" that we get Hedy and Yumi back for training as soon as possible.

Etta Goldman expressed a wish for a reasonably priced membership with perks for members as well as structures for peer supervision. She wants Hedy and Yumi to come and run the workshop on the Art of Coaching as soon as possible.

In view of the relatively small numbers present we decided to work as a large group to discuss the other issues on the agenda.