

**MINUTES OF THE**  
**Moot Alumni Association**  
**("MAA")**

**Annual General Meeting**

Sunday, 2 April 2023  
09:26 am to 11:55 am (CEST)

The Annual General Meeting ("**AGM**") was held in-person at Hotel Ambassador (Kärntner  
Strasse 22, 1010 Vienna) and via videoconference (Zoom)

**Present during the in-person and online Zoom session:**

40 members

- Aina Hannisa
- Aisha Bamahriz\*
- Alice Wang
- Alicja Zielińska-Eisen
- Arijit Sanyal\*
- Anne Wang
- Bettina Okinyi
- Carolina Kresch\*
- Charaine Ng
- Christian Johannes Wahnschaffe
- Cristen Bauer
- Derya Durlu Gürzumar
- Emily Feigel
- Evanthia Kasiora
- Fernanda Nemr
- Gwenllian Kern-Allely
- Hanna Shalbanava
- İpek İnce
- Isabela Godoy\*
- Luciana Vigano\*
- Maja Sutalo
- Maciej Durbas\*
- Margarita Drobysheskaya
- Matthew Suen
- Misra Yalcin
- Navin Ahuja
- Nan Shu
- Oğuzhan Samancı
- Oleksandr Zablotskyi
- Ramalingam Vallinayagam
- Rokaya Mosaad
- Shashi Dholandas
- Sherlin Tung
- Tess Bens
- Tobias Strecker
- Yashraj Samant\*
- Vera He
- Vsevolod Martseniuk

- Wanyan Pan Jiang
- Wenru Rui

\* These members left the AGM prior to its conclusion and issued proxies to the members as recorded in item 2 for the remainder of the AGM.

## **1. Welcome**

There was a delayed start due to logistical issues at the in-person venue and consequent delays in setting up the videoconference. The attendees were welcomed at 09:26 am CEST and the meeting was opened. A quorum was established for the holding of the 2023 Annual General Meeting ("2023 AGM").

## **2. Recording of Proxies**

A total of 15 proxies were issued to those present at the 2023 AGM. The details of the proxies are as follows:

- Aisha Bamahriz to İpek İnce
- Andrea De Biase to Evanthia Kasiora
- Arijit Sanyal to Sherlin Tung
- Arno Eisen to Alicja Zielinska-Eisen
- Begüm Yılmaz to Evanthia Kasiora
- Benedetta Meloni to Ramalingam Vallinayagam
- Carolina Kresch to İpek İnce
- Gwenllian Kern-Allely to Sherlin Tung
- Isabela Godoy to Oğuzhan Samancı
- Luciana Vigano to Sherlin Tung
- Maciej Durbas to Alicja Zielinska-Eisen
- Victoria Ivasechko to Oleksandr Zablotskyi
- Ulrich Schroeter to Sherlin Tung
- Yashraj Samant to Sherlin Tung
- Zach Chenzhang Li to İpek İnce

## **3. Appointment of AGM Chair and AGM Secretary**

Pursuant to Article 9(10) of the MAA's Articles of Association ("AoA"), the President of the MAA, Sherlin Tung, chaired the 2023 AGM.

Sherlin Tung nominated Evanthia Kasiora to act as secretary of the 2023 AGM to take the minutes of the meeting pursuant to Article 9(11) of the AoA.

**Resolution:** To elect Evanthia Kasiora to act as secretary of the 2023 AGM.

**Vote:** The resolution was passed unanimously, with one absention by Evanthia Kasiora.

## **4. Assessment of final agenda**

It was noted that the 2023 AGM notice and agenda had been validly circulated beforehand. Sherlin Tung indicated that an amended agenda had been circulated by email seven days prior to the 2023 AGM. Sherlin Tung invited participants to make any comments on the agenda, if any.

No comments were received.

**Resolution:** Confirm that the 2023 AGM Notice and agenda (and revised agenda) were validly circulated and that the 2023 AGM was to take place in accordance with the circulated revised agenda.

**Vote:** The resolution was passed unanimously.

## **5. Endorsement of 2022 AGM Meeting Minutes**

Sherlin Tung referred to the Minutes of the 2022 AGM, which were published by email with the 2023 AGM Notice and agenda, and invited comments from the members. No comments were received.

**Vote:** The 2022 AGM Meeting Minutes were unanimously endorsed.

## **6. Report by the 2022/2023 Executive Board**

The Executive Board indicated that it would provide a general overview on the MAA activities. More specific reports on the work of each Core Team would follow with the next agenda item.

Alicja Zielinska-Eisen started by saying that it was very exciting to be able to meet in-person in Vienna again and noted that this was the most well-attended in-person AGM she had seen. She referred to the new and exciting challenges arising as the Vis Moot is getting bigger.

Navin Ahuja mentioned that he was the Executive Board Report, together with Sherlin Tung, for the China Project, the Vindobona Journal and the Conferences and Events Team. He was grateful to have been able to work closely with Sherlin, to witness her true expertise at work, and to be able to learn from her.

İpek İnce started by thanking the members for attending the 2023 AGM. Although she was not able to make it, she had heard that in the Vis East in Hong Kong and the MAA Core Team was amazing at ensuring that everything ran smoothly. Though it was only the beginning of the Vis Moot week in Vienna, she believed that the effort put in by the Core Team was already visible and inspiring. İpek İnce noted that it was her first year in the Executive Board, but she hoped to remain active at the Executive Board for a few years and was excited to work with the MAA in the coming year.

Cristen Bauer regretted not being able to attend from the in-person venue in Vienna; out of an abundance of caution due to an illness, she was attending via videoconference from her hotel room in Vienna. She noted that it had been a very exciting time to be part of the MAA and that she is excited to see the growth of the group moving forward. It was great to be back to in-person events, it was thrilling to have been able to attend the Vis East in Hong Kong and she hoped to be able to attend events in Vienna soon.

Sherlin Tung noted that Isabela Deveza was not able to attend the 2023 AGM, but passed on her regards and thanks.

Sherlin Tung indicated that the 2022/2023 Core Team was the biggest Core Team in the history of the MAA. This was a blessing but, in some cases, it created difficulties as certain obligations and responsibilities ended up getting skewed and some people had to put in more work than others. On behalf of the Executive Board, she noted her appreciation for all those who had dedicated their time and efforts on a volunteer basis. The MAA Core Team was incorporated into being a formal part of the MAA 5 years prior and Sherlin commented that it will be interesting to see how it will develop and be shaped going forward. Lastly, Sherlin stated that the Vis East in Hong Kong was a huge success and that, thus far, Vienna had also been a success, with four more days remaining.

## **7. Report by the 2022/2023 Core Team**

### **Regional Representatives (EMEA)**

Maciej Durbas, Chair of the Regional Representatives for EMEA, gave a report on the EMEA team. The team participated in approximately 10 events, mainly pre-moots, promoting and delivering presentations on the MAA. Most of the events were successful and people were interested in the MAA. The return to in-person events was challenging. In prior years, it was easy to get an online slot and deliver the presentation from home. That is no longer possible and the team had to abandon a slot in a pre-moot because no one was able to travel there. Maciej considered that more hands on deck are needed to cover all the pre-moots. The team had circulated a spreadsheet and report, identifying all events at which the MAA can do a presentation. The team also had some other plans but concentrated on delivering presentations on the MAA this year and will postpone those plans for next year.

Anne Wang asked how the team covered pre-moots before Covid. Alicja Zielinska-Eisen (Executive Board report for the team) indicated that the Regional Representatives' team had been a new idea during the pandemic. It is true that, with the return to in-person events, it was not possible to physically be everywhere, but the team had done a wonderful job of covering a lot of ground. Alicja noted that, on the positive side, it had been easy to secure for the MAA a slot on an official programme or informally, so this activity is worth pursuing further. Maciej added that the number of pre-moots has increased, with around 20-30 in EMEA, so covering all of those events will be challenging even with a big team.

Aina Hannisa, team member, indicated that some pre-moots had continued to allow virtual presentations this year, but considered that this would become less and less prevalent and we will return to relying on in-person presence. For these purposes, it would be important for other Core Team members to help out and ensure the MAA's presence at more events. Maciej added the idea of 'outsourcing' the presentation to a friend of the MAA, such as a former Core Team member or a co-coach of a Core Team member.

### **Conferences and Events Team**

Luciana Vigano, Vice-Chair of Vienna Events, reported on the Vis Vienna events. The Welcome Party was very well attended, with 618 online payments and about EUR 3,000 in cash payments. At one point in the evening, the venue notified us that attendance was at 1,171 people, which apparently included some non-moot participants. A walking tour and traditional Viennese dinner were also organised. The visits to the UN were very popular and reached 75 people per visit, with two visits in total. All these events were completely sold out. The Farewell Party ticket sales were ongoing, with 333 pre-paid tickets sold at that time. The Moot Bar was again Aux Gazelles. Sherlin Tung stated that it was the first year in a while that the MAA had managed to secure venues for the Welcome and Farewell Parties in the vicinity of the city centre. The Welcome Party was in Sofiensaele, an event hall, and the Farewell in Babenberger Passage, a popular club in the first district. For the first time, the MAA did not utilise external services to plan the in-person events and parties because (1) there was no one on the ground in Vienna to liaise with those organisers, and (2) there was a large Core Team and the Executive Board reasoned that it would be possible to organise these events internally. Though there had been some hiccups and the team had to learn things as it went, the plan worked well overall and it is something to consider maintaining. There had been very good support on the ground from the Core Team as well.

Charaine Ng, team member working on Hong Kong Events, gave a report on Hong Kong. It was very fortunate that the Hong Kong government loosened Covid measures just before the Vis East. The Welcome Party was at Tazmania Ballroom and the Farewell Party was at Dragon-i, both well received and attended. The tram party sold out well in advance. One of

the challenges was that this was the first time since Covid that there were in-person events, so the team had to rebuild a relationship with venues. Sherlin Tung explained that the Moot Bar changed after the second evening. The first evening, some prominent arbitrators attended with a big group of students but informed the MAA that they were not allowed to go inside when it rained and were treated rudely. The same issue was faced on the second day, so the Moot Bar returned to the China Bar and everyone loved it.

The team organised 20<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary parties at the Moot Bar, in Hong Kong (2000s theme) and Vienna (1990s theme). The prize for winning teams was a 'date' with a Vis Moot legend. Teams were very excited. The team took measures to address any conflicts in the event a winning team won a 'date' with an arbitrator that was to judge in the elimination rounds.

Emily Feigel, Vice-Chair of Conferences, reported on the conferences. The team organised four webinars with 20 speakers in total, including the Speaker Series with Lukas Mistelis and Pascal Hachem. These were online events attended by approximately 100 people each. The team noted that many people became less interested in accessing live webinars and more interested in accessing recordings. The numbers of attendees dropped throughout the year. The conference in Hong Kong had 22 speakers, 62 attendees and revenue of approximately HKD 1,700. The Vienna conference had 16 speakers, 70 attendees and revenue of approximately EUR 2,000. Both conference venues reached capacity. It was quite a challenge to go back to in-person conferences. It would not have been possible without the help of the Executive Board, Margarita Drobyshevskaya (who designed the flyers) and Zach Li and Charaine Ng, who handled the Hong Kong conference on the ground. In the grand scheme of things, the webinars and conferences were a success, secured prominent speakers and were of good quality. But, in Emily's view, the team structure needs to be improved.

Misra Yalcin indicated that there had been a decreasing number of attendees from one webinar to the next and she attributed this to the fact that webinars require payment. She suggested that the MAA make webinars free. İpek İnce recalled that the reason why webinars are paid was because, during the virtual moots, the MAA lost its income sources. Having free webinars is an idea to consider next year, though paid webinars are a great incentive for someone to join as a premium member, as it is overall cheaper.

İpek İnce indicated that she had prepared a Google document to collect the Core Team's feedback on each of the events that were organised and encouraged everyone to fill it out to assist in improving next year's events.

Luciana Vigano suggested a split of the team between conferences and events, as the team was overwhelmed with a lot of information. Sherlin Tung responded with a clarification that in prior years, the two teams were always split. As time evolved, it became apparent that the combination was necessary because the MAA stopped receiving applications for "Social Chair", which was the historic role for events planning.

Navin Ahuja (Executive Board Report for the team) thanked the team for its hard work over the past months and praised the idea to take advantage of the team's different time zones, which ensured that the team was working around the clock.

Aina Hannisa suggested a larger team next year, which Luciana Vigano supported. Sherlin Tung noted the suggestion but reiterated that the issues this year did not lay in a small team but rather organisational and communication issues within the team as well as members not taking the initiative to carry out the necessary actions. Sherlin opined that these issues would not be resolved by a bigger team but noted it was up to the next year's team to handle.

Evanthia Kasiora noted that some mooties are not able to purchase online tickets, which means that they are excluded from attending most events that are sold out in advance. Alicja Zielinska-Eisen considered that the MAA needs to first and foremost find solutions that make

the MAA's life easier and that it is not possible to accommodate everyone, though there can always be a solution if these teams contact the MAA.

### **China Project**

Alice Wang, Vice Chair of the team, gave a report. The team held three major events during its term. The first event was co-organised with CIETAC and called "Voice of the Moot". It took place in the context of the CIETAC Cup and was attended by over 27,000 people online. The second was a virtual event co-organised with ICC YAAF, with around 400 participants, on the topic of virtual hearings. Finally, there was an in-person event co-organised with the Shanghai Arbitration Commission on occasion of the Shanghai Pre-Moot, with 40 in-person participants, on how to prepare witness statements in international arbitration. Alice noted that Hong Kong and Mainland China were now fully open after Covid, so there existed a prospect to organise more events going forward. The team had so far mainly cooperated with arbitral institutions for its events. For the next year, the plan is to work more with other institutions, law firms and universities and have more regional penetration.

### **Vindobona Journal**

Derya Durlu Gürzumar, senior editor-in-chief, reported that the Vindobona Journal had finalised and published issue 25.1, which had been delayed since 2020, and was currently being printed. The hard copies would be available in the next 10 days. The team hoped to publish issue 25.2 by the summer and had a good pipeline of articles for that issue. From then on, it would publish volume 26 and hopefully catch up with its normal publication schedule in 2024.

A celebratory panel for the 25 years of the Vindobona Journal was held during the conference in Vienna. It was moderated by Oğuzhan Samancı and gathered CISG and arbitration practitioners who celebrated the Vindobona Journal. The panel was successful and received good feedback. This panel had been delayed since 2021/2022 due to Covid.

Oğuzhan Samancı raised the potential issue of taxes applicable to the Vindobona Journal and proposed to have a Core Team member from Austria to advise on such issues. Sherlin Tung noted that there had been no applicants from Austria in at least the past 5 years nor a member of the active MAA team since she was brought into the MAA in 2013. Alicja Zielinska-Eisen questioned whether a Core Team member, who would potentially be a junior lawyer, would have the expertise to advise on these issues, and instead proposed finding a pro bono counsel in Vienna. Christian Johannes Wahnschaffe pointed out that issues such as tax touch upon many areas of the MAA's activity and so a comprehensive solution is needed.

Oğuzhan Samancı also raised the issue of the delay in the selection of the Core Team, which had affected the Vindobona Journal's work, which was ongoing. He proposed considering a different application process for the Vindobona Journal, with current team members who want to continue being able to stay on. Sherlin Tung indicated that the delays in the selection were due to low capacity of the Executive Board and that many other teams were affected.

Oğuzhan Samancı indicated that the team was making efforts to publish calls for articles more regularly and to reach out to specialist LLM programmes to source articles. It was still a challenge to source articles.

### **International Liaisons**

Ramalingam Vallinayagam, Vice-Chair of the team, gave a report. This year, two team members were added, which was helpful in terms of workload. The team published seven

reports from UNCITRAL sessions on the MAA website and was going to chase more participants to submit their reports. Interest to participate in the sessions this year was rather thin. The team hoped that two more reports could be published on the website soon.

Sherlin Tung suggested publishing these reports in the Vindobona Journal. Oğuzhan Samancı thanked her for the idea and expressed openness to consider this.

Navin Ahuja suggested publicising the calls more widely, including on LinkedIn, to boost visibility. The team should work with the Media Team on ideas.

### **Media Team**

Carolina Kresch, Chair of the team, gave a report. The team worked throughout the year to help all teams promote their activities, maintain the website, etc. Internally, the team kept a log of their activities that is useful for reference purposes.

### **Diversity & Inclusion Team**

Shashi Dholandas and Tess Bens, Co-Chairs of the team, gave a report. The team had a relatively active year. The team organised three webinars: Being a South Asian Woman in Arbitration, Being Latin in Arbitration, and Being LGBTQ in Arbitration. The last webinar was headed by Tess Bens and Isabela Godoy and was probably the most prevalent event. It is always delicate to find speakers, because the team asks people to divulge sensitive issues publicly. Despite these difficulties, the panel was very hard-hitting and impactful.

On 5 April, the team is organising an in-person event in Vienna sponsored by Pitkowitz & Partners. They have received 300 registrations for a 50-person capacity, which is exciting. The event could become an annual event.

Isabela Godoy will have her organisation, on a pro bono basis, analyse the MAA from the scope of legal design and consider where the MAA can do better. This will take place over the summer.

An idea the team had was to organise an LGBTQ party but was not able to do it this year due to limited capacity. This would be an idea to discuss for next year.

### **Mentor-Mentee Team**

Evanthia Kasiora and Anne Wang, Co-Chairs of the team, gave a report. The Mentor-Mentee Programme launched applications in August, the official start was in October and the programme runs until the end of April. There were 62 mentees and 60 mentors, a drop from the previous year, in which there were 70 mentees. This was due to several mentors deciding to take a break, after having been part of the programme for many years. The team does not have a specific target as to the number of mentors but focuses on the quality. The mentees have mixed backgrounds; representation in Africa was increased, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa from where the programme had both mentors and mentees this year.

The team organised three fireside chats online on studying and academia, job-searching, and professional development, respectively, with mentors as panelists. Two informal meet-ups took place in Hong Kong and Vienna during the moot, with moderate attendance.

This year, more mentor-mentee pairs were able to meet in-person, which was encouraging, and the team does take location into account when allocating mentors. There was a

conscious effort to proactively gather feedback from mentees on an ongoing basis, which alerted the team to some success stories as well as issues in the programme. As a result of this, the engagement of the team with the mentees increased overall, but further steps can be taken to engage with mentors proactively as well.

The decrease in number of mentors was a challenge, but it did not happen due to any issues with the programme; rather, mentors decided to take a break or, in some cases, decided to continue mentoring their previously-assigned mentee for another year, which was positive. Every year there are a couple of pairs that do not manage to establish contact and, unfortunately, the team is not always alerted on time. Other than trying to be more proactive in engaging with mentors, there are limits to what the team can do in those situations.

Navin Ahuja queried how the team handles inactive mentors. Anne Wang indicated that the team did not face non-responsive mentors this year but the escalation plan was to first have the mentee follow up again and then the team would step in. In the past, the team has intervened in that way and the issue has either been resolved or the mentor has not been invited again.

İpek İnce reminded Core Team members that they are eligible to act as both mentors and mentees and encouraged them to participate.

### **Regional Representatives (Asia)**

Matthew Suen and Akshit Vohra, Chairs for North Asia and South Asia, respectively, gave a report.

The North Asia team partnered with a prominent Wechat channel, Legal Competitions, which increased visibility. It was not possible to travel to mainland China from Hong Kong for a significant part of the year due to restrictions. It would therefore be advisable to have team members in Mainland China.

The South Asia team had a slow start this year as it was composed late. The team worked with the PCA pre-moot and with Indian pre-moots. The team struggled with securing in-person slots because pre-moots organised their own events and had little interest in giving slots to the MAA. It would be advisable to develop closer relationships with people behind the scenes who organise these pre-moots.

### **Core Team Coordinator**

Margarita Drobyshevskaya worked on promotional material for the MAA. It was a busy year and she thanked everyone for their cooperation and patience. Margarita noted an overlap between her work and that of the Media Team and that better coordination was needed. Margarita struggled with maintaining the events calendar, as not all teams communicated with her in advance about their events.

The AGM congratulated Margarita for her invaluable contribution to the success of all events.

### **Compliance Team**

Maja Sutalo was the sole Compliance Officer for the second year in a row. This year there had been an increase in compliance enquiries, on a monthly basis, mostly related to GDPR issues. Maja is able to advise on any field regulated by EU law. In light of the AGM discussions, she understood that some compliance issues relate strictly to national law; unfortunately, Maja



cannot advise on Austrian law helpfully. She would support the idea of an Austrian-qualified lawyer providing advice.

### **Regional Representatives (Americas)**

Fernanda Nemr, team member, provided her feedback on the team's work, specifically for South America and Brazil. There were a lot of Brazilian members in the team and, given the high number of Brazilian teams, they were able to take advantage of the momentum. The team secured a great spot during the CAM-CCBC pre-moot that increased its visibility. There are opportunities to reach out to teams in other South American countries, given the strong Brazilian base. Fernanda also reported that Gwenllian Kern-Allely, based in the US, was able to travel to many pre-moots in the US and secure slots without issues.

### **8. Discussion on the MAA's finances**

Bank Austria closed the MAA's bank account. It did so after sending a notification requesting the updated Verein records of the MAA to the wrong address, i.e., an address that the MAA had already updated on the bank's records. This was the first time in Sherlin Tung's knowledge that the bank had taken the initiative to ask for such information, as confirmed by previous MAA advisors and Executive Board Members when asked. The understanding is that this happened because the banks have increased their compliance checks in light of the war and need to ensure compliance with Anti-Money Laundering ("AML") regulations.

Alicja Zielinska-Eisen has spent considerable amounts of time communicating with Bank Austria as well as exploring the possibility of opening an account with a different bank. There is a task group of German-speaking Core Team members working on the issue and they have expended considerable time contacting German, Austrian and online banks to try to find alternatives. None of these efforts had worked thus far.

As an interim solution, the available money would be transferred to a bank account under the name of Sherlin Tung, given that she is the only MAA Core Team member with a bank account in Austria. Oğuzhan Samancı queried whether holding money in Sherlin Tung's account would have any tax declaration implications. Sherlin indicated that she had confirmed with her personal banker at Erste Bank that this would not be an issue in the eyes of the bank. Sherlin had also conferred with her own tax advisor and from a personal standpoint, this would not be an issue. She would welcome the input of an Austrian tax advisor, however, given that she is not Austrian qualified nor does she read German.

The Executive Board had approached Patrizia Netal who offered to put the MAA in touch with Erste Bank after the Vis Moot. Sherlin Tung also spoke informally with Dr. Nikolaus Pitkowitz on the issue and Dr. Pitkowitz confirmed that he had a number of clients with similar issues due to increased compliance checks as a result of the war.

For these reasons, the Executive Board is considering other possibilities including re-incorporating in Hong Kong.

There have always been issues with Bank Austria, which came to a head during the pandemic. The banks in Austria are generally inflexible, require an Austrian connection that the MAA does not have, and do not work with non-German speakers and with people not based in Austria.

Alicja Zielinska-Eisen wished to note that what happened with the bank account had been truly unexpected and that she considers that there was little to nothing the MAA could have done to prevent the closure.

The Executive Board indicated that the MAA has good standing in terms of income, but the

issue is that the MAA bank account that would hold the money is not open.

### **9. Report by the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 financial year Cash Auditors**

Due to the closure of the bank account, it has not been possible to complete the cash auditing. There is thus no report by the 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Cash Auditors.

### **10. Exoneration of the 2021/2022 and the 2022/2023 financial year Cash Auditors**

It is decided that the auditing of 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 will be moved to the next year, since it has not been completed. Therefore, the Executive Board cannot exonerate the Cash Auditors.

### **11. Election of 2023/2024 Cash Auditors**

Fernanda Nemr and Misra Yalcin volunteered to be Cash Auditors.

**Resolution:** To elect Fernanda Nemr and Misra Yalcin to act as Cash Auditors for 2023/2024.

**Vote:** The resolution was passed unanimously, with Fernanda Nemr and Misra Yalcin abstaining.

### **12. Exoneration of 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Executive Boards**

This part was skipped due to the cash auditor reports not yet being completed. Exoneration of the Executive Boards is postponed to next year.

### **13. Amendments to the AoA**

In 2021/2022, amendments to the AoA were approved to allow for greater flexibility in the composition of the Executive Board, including the election of multiple presidents. The Austrian authorities considered that the amendments made were not sufficient because they only changed one provision and the remaining provisions continued to envisage a single President.

The Executive Board has put forward a proposal to clarify that there can be either one President or multiple Co-Presidents. A clean and mark-up version of the proposed amendments has been circulated in advance with the agenda.

Tobias Strecker wished to confirm whether the amendments had been proposed within the appropriate time period, otherwise the Austrian authorities may refuse to register them. The Executive Board demonstrated that the amendments were published on the website, mailing list, and social media within the appropriate window.

**Resolution:** To approve the proposed amendments to the AoA.

**Vote:** The resolution was passed unanimously.

### **14. Proposal by the existing Executive Board of additional members to the 2023/2024 Executive Board**

In the previous AGM, it had been decided that Isabela Deveza would be the incoming

President, taking over from Sherlin Tung. Unfortunately, due to circumstances outside of her control, Isabela is unable to maintain her position in the Executive Board.

Going forward, the Executive Board proposes the following composition: two Co-Presidents, two Vice-Presidents, and two Secretaries, to ensure that both Vis Vienna and Vis East activities (and the membership worldwide) was well covered.

### **15. Election of the 2023/2024 Executive Board**

The proposal is for Sherlin Tung to remain nominally on the Executive Board as Secretary. Her role would be limited to handover and to ensuring a resolution of the bank account issues, given that she is the only member with an address and bank account in Austria.

The proposed composition of the Board is meant to mirror the dual Vis structure: three members for Vienna and three members for Hong Kong.

**Resolution:** To elect Navin Ahuja and İpek İnce as Co-Presidents, Vera He and Evanthia Kasiora as Vice-Presidents, and Sherlin Tung and Anne Wang as Secretaries.

**Vote:** The resolution was passed unanimously, with all six members standing for election abstaining.

### **16. Election of Honorary Members and Advisory Board Members**

Sherlin Tung invited comments and/or proposals from the members for the election of honorary members and/or advisory board members. No comments and/or proposals were made.

### **17. Any other business**

Bettina Okinyi took the floor. Bettina comes from Nairobi, Kenya and was a mentee in the previous cycle of the MAA Mentor-Mentee Programme. She reviewed the previous AGM minutes and noted an item regarding an Africa initiative that did not take off, for the reasons stated therein. Bettina wished to discuss the possibility of such an initiative. Sherlin Tung suggested that Bettina Okinyi submit a proposal to the newly-elected Executive Board as of 1 May so that the initiative be taken forward.

Tobias Strecker raised the issue that, after the end of June, the relevant Austrian statute allowing for virtual meetings to take place in light of the COVID Pandemic would expire. Therefore, to continue to be able to hold virtual meetings, the AoA would need to be amended. An extraordinary meeting for these purposes could be a solution.

The members thanked Sherlin Tung for her invaluable contributions to the MAA and her tireless work throughout the years.

Sherlin Tung thanked all the participants for their time and taking part in the 2023 AGM.

The Chair closed the 2023 AGM at 11:55 am CEST.



Sherlin Tung, AGM Chair



Evanthia Kasiora, AGM Secretary