



**The Iyengar Yoga Association of Hong Kong
Annual General Meeting 2021**

MINUTES

DATE **Friday, 12 March 2021**
TIME **18:30 – 20:00**
HOST **A1, 9/F, 33 South Bay Close, Hong Kong**
 (meeting was held via video conferencing)

Present

Executive Committee

Ms Karen Lam (Chair)
Ms Aishah Binte Jantan (Vice Chair) *
Ms Rhonda Yung (Secretary)
Mr Marshall Ng (Treasurer) *
Mr Arnold Ip (Hong Kong Island Representative) *
Ms Cary Au-Yeung (Hong Kong Island Representative)
Ms Kitty Wong (Kowloon / New Territories Representative)
Ms Winnie Yu (Kowloon / New Territories Representative)

Standing Committee Chair / Coordinator:

Ms Icy Lee (Chair - Ethics and Certification Committee)
Mr George Dovas (Chair - Assessment and Teacher Training)
Mr Chun Pang Yu (Membership Coordinator)
Ms Tiffany Hambley (Public Relations / Press and Communication Coordinator) *

In attendance

_____ The attendance record is attached at Annex A.

Absent with Apologies

Ms Theresa Leung (Chair - Events Committee) *

**To be re-elected according to the tenure defined by the Constitution*

Invocation to Patanjali

The Chair led the Invocation to Patanjali.

Approve the Minutes of Last Meetings

1. The Chair asked for amendments on the minutes of the last AGM (19 April 2020), which were uploaded to the Association's website for members' review before the meeting. The minutes were approved without amendment.
2. The Chair asked for amendments on the minutes of the last EGM (26 July 2020), which were uploaded to the Association's website for members' review before the meeting. The minutes were approved without amendment.

Committee Reports

3. The Chair welcomed all participants to attend the meeting, and reported that the Executive Committee and Standing Committee members met once a month last year to discuss the Association's affairs. She invited members to volunteer for the Association in order to help spread Mr BKS Iyengar's teachings.
4. The Chair invited each committee chair and coordinator to present respective committee reports after introducing the members.

Financial Report

5. The Treasurer presented a summary of key financial data as of 30 June 2020 (attached at Annex B), and reported that the financial situation of the Association has been healthy, with a cumulated surplus of HKD483,441.
6. He highlighted that the major source of revenue last financial year was membership renewal. There was no event income because the Association did not organise any events due to the COVID-19 outbreak.
7. He reported on the profit tax liability status whereby the Association was not required to pay tax in the last financial year because of the tax rebate. The future outlook will subject to the government's ongoing policy.
8. The Treasurer proposed to reappoint Nicholas Fung & Company as the accounting firm for the Association in the new-year term from 2020 to 2021, and the proposal was passed.

Ethics and Certification Committee

9. The Chair of the Committee reported on the drafting of the *Ethical Guidelines for Iyengar Yoga Teachers of Hong Kong*, which is near completion. The bilingual document will be emailed to all Teacher Members in due course. She thanked Ms Deborah Cheng, a current Associate Member and a legal professional, for her advice especially on the use of the Certification Mark in Hong Kong according to the local legislation.

10. All Certified Iyengar Yoga Teachers (“CIYTs”) of Hong Kong must sign and agree with the Guidelines upon their mandatory annual renewal of the Teacher Membership, which also allows them to continue to use the Iyengar Yoga Certification Mark.

11. She highlighted a few major points of the Guidelines, which is attached at Annex C.

12. She also reminded all CIYTs that they must complete at least 25 hours of continuous learning with Iyengar yoga teachers certified at a higher level. Attending online sessions hosted by senior Iyengar yoga teachers after the COVID-19 outbreak is acceptable.

13. The Association noticed some unauthorised use of Mr BKS Iyengar’s name by non-CIYTs in commercial marketing materials. The Association issued cease and desist letters to the relevant parties, and effectively stopped the activities.

Assessment Committee

14. The Chair of the Committee urged all practitioners to read the *Certification and Assessment Guidelines* issued by RIMYI in July 2020 carefully together with their fellow mentors and teachers so as to understand the new system better. It is a re-organisation rather than a drastic change of the syllabus passed down by Mr. BKS Iyengar.

15. He reported that the Association is aware that there have not been any assessments held in Hong Kong due to the COVID-19 situation, and that some trainees have finished training for a year without any assessment opportunities. Meanwhile the assessors from the Southeast Asia region necessary for the assessment have not been able to travel to Hong Kong.

16. The Association, therefore, will present a mock examination using Hong Kong senior teachers as assessors to allow both teachers and trainees to learn how the new system operates while keeping practitioners' skills sharp. The details will be announced in due course.

17. He shared results from a brainstorming session on *Who is a Mentor?* published on the Iyengar Yoga Association of Canada website. He selected five points from the results to share (listed below), but members were encouraged to view and reflect on the full list of qualities:

<https://iyengaryogacanada.com/victoria-intensive-considers-what-is-a-mentor/>

A mentor is (1) someone who guides you, not so much about right / wrong, but who shows the way; (2) someone who pushes you along; (3) with whom one can enjoy lifelong learning, reciprocal learning, exploration and growth; (4) who has courage and vision; who is a master of her / his craft, is genuine, walks the talk, sees the humour in life; who is kind, calm, patient and compassionate; (5) who invites you into practice community, share curiosity, wants you to flourish."

Events Committee

18. The Vice Chair reported on behalf of The Chair of the Committee about the events organised since the last AGM.

- a) Free online community classes hosted by local teachers (30 April to 6 May) – impressive turnout rate with participants from all over the world;
- b) Free community classes held simultaneously in studio, online and outdoor at the Hong Kong Park, Admiralty, to celebrate the International Day of Yoga 2021 (21 June);
- c) *An Hour Online with Fr Joe* (15 August), substituting the planned workshop in Hong Kong in April 2020;
- d) Flagship 5-day event - *Practice, the Iyengar Way with Abhijata Iyengar* (14 – 18 September) – overwhelming participation from around the world;
- e) Assisting members to participate in a special 4-day online yoga class series with Abhijata Iyengar, honouring Gururji's 102nd birthday in terms of payment collection and collective wire transfer (December);

f) The sale of sutra T-shirts, of which the lines were recommended by Fr Joe for the planned convention in Hong Kong. Members were invited to purchase while stock lasts.

19. The Vice Chair announced the events planned for 2021:

a) Free online community classes hosted by local teachers from 5 to 6 March, and there will be another series in April. Details to be announced.

b) 2021 flagship event will be a 4-day yoga workshop hosted Raya Uma Datta over two weekends (7-8 August & 14-15 August). Each session will be a 2.5-hour class from 9:30am to 12:00pm. Details to be announced.

Membership Committee

20. The Membership Coordinator reported that the Association has continued to subscribe to 'Wild Apricot' to manage the website, mass email communications, membership renewal, event-hosting and online payments. Members have become more familiar with the use of the system.

21. The annual membership renewal customarily starts on the 1st of January of each year. For 2021, the total number of members thus far is 83, of which 32 are Teacher Members, 37 are Associate Members and 14 are Student Members.

22. As for *Yoga Rahasya* magazine 2020 subscription, there was only one out of four issues received because of the pandemic lockdown in India. The Association was advised that the remaining 2020 subscription fee can be automatically carried forward to 2021, whereby the remaining three issues will be distributed to all 2020 subscribers when available. The 2021 subscription will be on hold until further notice from RIMYI.

23. The Association planned to revamp its website every two to three years as mentioned in the last AGM. Members having website and / or graphic design experience were again encouraged to come forward, and remuneration will be offered.

Public Relations / Press and Communication Committee

24. Public Relations / Press and Communication Coordinator reported that the Association has transitioned from traditional emails to more regular and diligent posts on

social media platforms, namely Facebook and Instagram (IG) for communications. This facilitates Iyengar yoga learning with eye-catching graphic design and easily digestible messages. She thanked Aleydis Chan who has been instrumental in creating these contents.

25. Last year the Association was much more bilingual than the past, hoping to bring the community closer to the Association with more Chinese communications. She suggested her successor to be fully bilingual, which will help the Association's future communications further.

26. She also invited members to contribute art works to the Association's social media platforms, including drawings, graphics, photos, etc.

27. The Chair proposed using instant messages from group chats to communicate with members who do not have access to emails nor social media. The motion was not passed.

Appointment of New Members for the Executive Council and Standing Committees

28. The Chair informed that the following members have reached the end of their 3-year tenure in 2021 according to the Constitution of the Association approved by Pune –

- a) Vice Chair – Ms Aishah Binte Jantan,
- b) Treasurer – Mr Marshall Ng ,
- c) Hong Kong Island Representative 1 of 2 – Mr Arnold Ip,
- d) Chair - Events Committee – Ms Theresa Leung and
- e) PR / Press & Communications Coordinator – Ms Tiffany Hambley.

29. She thanked these members for their dedication and efforts during their terms, and invited nominees for each position.

30. Mr Arnold Ip was appointed Vice Chair, replacing Ms Aishah Binte Jantan; Ms Doris Choi was appointed Treasurer, replacing Mr Marshall Ng; Ms FOO Choy Peng was appointed one of the two Hong Kong Island Representatives, replacing Mr Arnold Ip; Ms Ada Leung was appointed Chair – Events Committee, replacing Ms Theresa Leung; Ms Dorothy Cheung was appointed PR / Press and Communications Coordinator replacing Ms Tiffany Hambley.

Proposed paid positions for the Association

31. The Chair introduced that the background of this proposal stemmed from the directives given by RIMYI in December 2018, advising that committee members or individuals should be compensated for their professional skills and / or relatively longer work hours.

32. She proposed to pay HKD80 / hours capped at 40 work hours / month in aggregate to the following positions in IYAHK - Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Coordinator and PR / Press & Communications Coordinator. The motion was passed and the operation will be decided in due course.

Any Other Business

33. There being no other business.

Next Meeting

34. The details of next AGM will be announced in due course.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06pm.

Distribution

All members

Signed
Rhonda Yung
Secretary

Annex A
Attendance Record

1. Ada Leung
2. Aleydis Chan
3. Alice Lam
4. Anna Oedman
5. Keely Yau
6. Catriona Lim
7. Choy Peng Foo
8. Clara Lam
9. Devika Virmani
10. Doris Choi
11. Dorothy Cheung
12. Edith Chan
13. Elaine Cheung
14. Eva Chui
15. Judy Zhou
16. Katharine Lock
17. Lyn Diane Savage
18. Renata Iesue
19. Sapna Devarmane Vijayarao
20. Victoria Fouladi
21. Winifred Yuk Ying Leung
22. Yuk Choi Leung

Annex B**Summary of Key Financial Data (as of 30 June 2020)****Summary of key financial data for 2021 AGM (2021年周年大會-財務概要)**

		Draft Audited Accounts 草擬審核財務報告 Year ended 30/06/2020 HK\$	Audited Accounts 已審核財務報告 Year ended 30/06/2019 HK\$
Members Subscriptions	會員會費	88,380	121,220
Events Income	活動收入	0	192,450
		88,380	313,670
Surplus of the year	周年盈餘	20,126	28,103
Taxation	徵收稅款	0	0
Cummulated Surplus	累積盈餘	483,441	463,315
Major Expenses 主要行政費用 :			
Audit fee	審核費用	7,500	7,500
Certification Mark Fee	證書認證	13,589	34,055
Community Classes	社區課堂	0	7,620
Computer (Wild Apricot)	電腦軟件	6,395	6,811
Donation to Pune	總會捐款	7,312	0
Legal fees - Trademark	其他費用	0	15,800
PayPal expenses	網上繳款	4,966	11,715
Subscription - Yoga Rahasya	刊物費用	2,951	5,623
Teachers Assessment	考試評核	13,703	0
	Total :	56,416	89,124

**The Ethical Guidelines of the Iyengar Yoga Teachers in Hong Kong
– Selected Highlights**

1. Introduction - The formulation of these guidelines took into consideration the unique position of Iyengar Yoga Teachers that is required by Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune, India: addressing the Yamas and Niyamas — in particular Ahimsa, Satya, Asteya, Brahmacharya, Aparigraha and Sauca — and blending them into a set of ethical guidelines that are reasonable and yet set high standards for individual, social and professional conduct binding on Iyengar Yoga Teachers.

3.3 Iyengar Yoga Teachers shall seek to remain abreast of and continue their studies of the methods put forth by B.K.S. IYENGAR and family or indirectly by participation in Iyengar Yoga Association of Hong Kong activities and study with Iyengar Yoga Teachers certified at a higher level, i.e. the teacher in training / potential candidate should study with a teacher who is holding a certificate issued by Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune, India, at least one level above (Svadyaya).

3.5 Iyengar Yoga Teachers shall aspire not to mix the teachings of Iyengar Yoga with any other disciplines (Aparigraha). Iyengar Yoga Teachers shall only teach according to the skill level they are approved by the certification system of Iyengar Yoga (Asteya). Please also refer to the new *Certification and Assessment Guidelines*, pages 4 to 5 issued by Ramamani Iyengar Memorial Yoga Institute, Pune, India, July 2020 (which may be updated from time to time).