



Draft Minutes 41st Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 21st of May 2019 | 15:30 – 19:00 hrs | Schielandshuis | Korte Hoogstraat 31, 3011 GK Rotterdam

Attendees

Mr	George	Ammerlaan	C
Mr.	M.	Arends - PWC	C
Ms	Stefanie	Bertram	P
Mr.	Jochum	Haakma - NCBC	AM
Mr	Willem-J.	Hoogland – HKWJ Tax Law & Partners	C
Mr	Simon	Italiaander	HM
Mr.	Eduard	Joannes – Rotterdam Business School	C
Mr	Robert	Kalkoene	P
Mrs	Paula	Kant - Invest HK	C
Mr.	Ronald	Van Kempen – Amroux Logistics	C
Mr.	Roland	Van Kempen – Amroux Logistics	C
Mr	Joop	Litmaath	P
Mr.	Hans	Liem – JLT Netherlands BV	C
Mrs.	Mary	Van der Made	P
Mr	Victor	Martinez – Merzario	C
Mr	Marco	Van Naarden – Cathay Pacific Airways	C
Mr	Hans	Poulis – IGC International	C
Mr.	Michael	Pronk – 1421 Consulting Group	C
Mr	Victor	Rauwerda	P
Mr	Edo	De Ronde – Rotterdam Partners	C
Mr.	M.J.C.	Vedder - PWC	C
Mr	Rob	Westerhof	G

Absent with notification

Ms	Jacqueline	Baud
Mr	Rob	Crins
Mr	Wilfred	Mohr
Mr	Maarten	Van der Dussen
Mr	Jan	Van der Putten
Mr	Etienne	Hendrickx

15:00 hrs: registration, coffee/tea

15:30 hrs: AGM

1. Opening by the Chairman, Mr. Hans Poulis
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Sea Palace Restaurant on Wednesday the 30th of May 2018.

The Minutes were approved without changes.



3. New members & Cancellations in 2018

The board reports the following developments in the membership:

Membership development 2018

The NHKBA received 14 cancellations from corporate members in 2018. The companies involved informed the Association that they cancelled for the following reasons:

1. No longer focussed on HK
2. Retirement of main contact (new contact has no interest)
3. No benefit from membership (no new business)

On the positive side: seven new corporate, seven personal members and two partners signed up in 2018.

Ultimo 2018 the NHKBA had:

18 Partners/supporting organisations

109 corporate members (including Corporate Associate members and barter members)

37 personal members

2 Honorary members

1 honorary consultant, (the CG in HK)

5 life members (past chairmen)

1 student member

In total the membership comprised of 172 companies, persons and organisations.

One more than on the same day in 2017.

	31 December 2018	1 Januari 2019	Growth / decline
Corporate Associate members	27	35	+8
Corporate members	80	80	0
Partner / supporting	19	7	-12
Honorary Members	3	2	-1
HONC (Consul General)	1	1	0
Lifetime members	5	5	0
Personal members	36	37	+1
Student members	1	1	0
TOTAL	172	168	-4



4. Report by Board over 2018.

Board member Marco van Naarden reports:

The NHKBA organised or co-organised 10 events in 2018. In total more than **715** members and guests attended the various functions.

- 06/02/2018 Chinese New Year Reception at The Hague co-organized by the HKETO and the NHKBA at the Nieuwe of Litteraire Sociëteit De Witte, supported by the HKCoC and the HKTDC. **207 members and guests attended**
- 16/02/2018 Chinese New Year dinner at restaurant Sea Palace Amsterdam. **131 members and guests attended.**
- 03-05-2018 Members Only Meeting organized at the Gallery of Vanderven Oriental Art in 's Hertogenbosch, with presentation by Floris van der Ven and a free appraisal of oriental art brought by members. **21 Members and guests attended.**
- 30/05/2018 Annual General meeting at restaurant Sea Palace Amsterdam. **21 Members attended the AGM.**
- 31/05/2018 The NHKBA hosted the Europe Forum of the Federation of HK Business Associations Worldwide in Rotterdam. Rotterdam Partners supported the event. **16 representatives of associations** and supporting organisations attended the meeting on 31 May and 1 June.
- 29/06/2018 Hong Kong Establishment Day Seminar & Dinner Marriott Hotel in The Hague. Co-organized by the NHKBA in collaboration with HKETO, HKTDC, InvestHK and sponsored by Huawei and Loyens & Loeff. **126 members and special guests attended the seminar, 186 members and guests and 120 members and guests attended the dinner. Guests included the sailors of Volvo Ocean Race team Sung Hung Kai.**
- 26/09/2018 Personal Members Only event with guest speaker Wilfred Mohr at Kasteel De Wittenburg in Wassenaar. **24 Members and guests attended.**
- 29/10/2018 NHKBA goes to Euro Caps event. Presentation by CEO Nils Clement and tour of the factory. **24 Members and guests attended.**
- 29/11/2018 End of Year event, focussing on Fintech in Kasteel de Wittenburg in Wassenaar. **Attended by 72 members and guests.**
- 04/12/2018 Chairman Hans Poulis and Vice Chairman Jacqueline Baud attended the World Forum of the Federation of HK Business Associations Worldwide in HK. Board members Paula Kant and Marco van Naarden attended a reception hosted by the NHKBA in HK for the network there.

Chairman Hans Poulis adds that the Awards received at the Forum in HK were a recognition for that our events were well received and an example to other associations.

To organize these events take a lot of work but it is our obligation to organize them for our members and stakeholders.

5. Report of the Audit Committee (Mr Victor Rauwerda, Mr Joop Litmaath & Mr Rob Kalkoene), introduced by Ms. Paula Kant

On behalf of the Audit Committee members, Mr Rauwerda confirms that: “The Audit Committee, according to the Articles of association of the Netherlands Hong Kong Society require, have verified the Society’s annual accounts for the year 2018.

As far as the Audit Committee has been able to establish on the basis of the information provided, I can confirm that the financial report for the year 2018 reflects the financial position of the NHKBA per 31 December 2018 accurately.”

6. Discharge of the Board

The Chairman asks the AGM to discharge the board of the Association of their responsibilities for 2018. The AGM votes in favor.

7. Appointment of the Audit Committee 2019. Introduced by Ms. Paula Kant.

Ms Kant asks Mr Litmaath, Mr Kalkoene and Mr Rauwerda if they would like to continue as Audit Committee for another year. All accept.

8. Re-election of (New) Board members (see rotation schedule).

<u>Board member</u>	<u>Since</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>
Hans Poulis	2015			*	X
Jacqueline Baud	2018				*
Paula Kant	2017			*	X
Marco van Naarden	2018				*

The Chairman explains that only Ms Kant and he have reached the end of their two year term.

The other board members were appointed in 2018 and their two year term ends in 2020.

Both Mr Poulis and Ms Kant inform the AGM that they are standing for re-election.

The AGM re-elects both Ms Kant and Mr Poulis.

The Chairman informs the AGM that the board of the NHKBA changed since the AGM of 2019. Mr Van Naarden was appointed by the Board after the AGM as new board member, not representing Cathay Pacific as his predecessor Mr Justin Chang did, but as a private person. Mr Poulis mentioned that Mr Van Naarden brings quality to the board as a senior manager of Cathay Pacific Airways in the Benelux. He frequently visits Hong Kong.

Mr Poulis also announced the appointment as board member of Ms Weng Shen Cheung, Foreign Direct Investments Advisor of the City of Amsterdam. She is on maternity leave at the time of the AGM and would return to work on 1 July 2019.

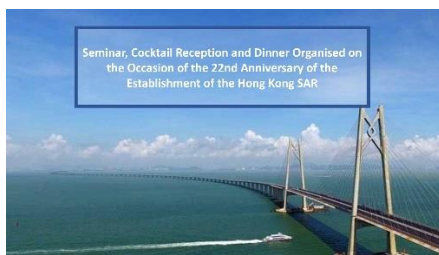
Mr Poulis also mentioned that a sixth board member, Mr David Marsden, Director UK, the Benelux and Ireland, representing the HKTDC, was appointed at the request of the HKTDC.

Post meeting note: Regrettably, Ms Weng Shen Cheung informed the NHKBA that she had reconsidered becoming a board member. Her appointment was annulled by the Board.

Also, Mr Marsden informed Mr Poulis that he would not be able to join the board, for legal reasons.

- Future plans: Marco van Naarden mentions that the year started with the **CNY events** in The Hague Reception and the dinner in Sea Palace. Well attended events both.

Events in the planning: **HK Establishment Day** on 2 July in Rotterdam. Theme: Greater Bay Area. Marco shows slides with invited speakers and the topic.



GATEWAY TO CHINA > Greater Bay Area Initiative



Van Naarden announced that **'Members in the Spotlight Events'** are planned for September and December. Details will be announced later. Members were invited to nominate themselves as host for such an event.

The HK China Business Award event is planned for the 21st of November. This event will be jointly organised with the NCBC. Details will be announced later.



Question from Mr Litmaath: Can the Chairman elaborate on the HK China Business Award event and the cooperation with the NCBC?

The Chairman answers that talks with the NCBC were initiated also at the request of NHKBA members and that this event was the first result. The format of the event would be different, he mentioned, because Cathay Pacific would no longer be the driving force and also HK would from now on be involved. The model of the new style Award would be different than in previous years. More details would be forthcoming in July.

NCBC Chairman Mr Jochum Haakma next gave information about the experts who have been approached for the jury of the HK China Business Award and the setup of award.

Ms Paula Kant mentioned that the HK Shooting Star, organised by DutchCham and the NHKBA, would become part of the HK China Business Award Event as additional prize.

Mr Litmaath asked if the radio and television would be invited for the event. The Chairman confirmed this. Ms. Kant suggests that the NHKBA could do more on social media. "We have something to gain there. We should try to get maximum exposure for our events in the media."

Mr Litmaath asks if, instead of Cathay, KLM can be invited as sponsor for the HK China Business Award. The Chairman replies that no decision on new sponsors have been approached yet.

Post meeting note: In the Fall of 2019 the boards of the NHBKA and NCBC decided to cancel the HK China Business Award due to developments. Instead, the NHKBA decided to organise the Dongzhi Event on 21 November at Kasteel de Wittenburg in Wassenaar, including the Award ceremony for HK Shooting Star.

10. Any Other Business

The Treasurer, Paula Kant, informs the AGM that the Board, would like to raise the corporate membership fee from € 400 to € 450 per year. This rate has not been adjusted since 2010 and costs incurred by the association have gone up between 2010-2019/20 (e.g. Subscription Eventbank).

A discussion ensues.

Q: Mr Michael Pronk asks what the money would be used for and how it ties in with the budget. Ms Kant answers more money would be allocated for marketing communication via Social Media and the Eventbank NHKBA site by the NHKBA team. Additional funding would also be required for special events. Hon Member Simon Italiaander remarks that the proposed increase of the corporate membership fee should have been included in the agenda. He disagrees with the proposal and is afraid the increase will lead to a drop in corporate membership.



The Chairman mentions that the board is not required to announce the raise of the membership fee beforehand. This is not a requirement stated in the articles of association.

The decision to raise the fees is, in the opinion of the Chairman, well founded and explained by the treasurer (see above).

Mr Vedder (C PWC) suggests to increase the membership every year in smaller steps.

Mr Pronk of 1421 Consulting suggests to add the height of the annual membership fee as a recurring point on the agenda but agrees to a higher annual fee.

Mr Hoogland (C HKWJ) asks about the difference between the corporate and personal membership of the NHKBA. The Treasurer replies that the personal members pay € 50 per year but have limited voting rights and that they cannot represent a company. She also mentions that even though the personal membership still exists, it is not actively being promoted.

Mr. Martinez (C Merzario), remarks that a raise of € 50 should be no problem for corporate members, especially in view of the fact that they have not been raised so long.

Asked why the amount of the personal membership is not increased, Ms Kant replies that the current personal members are mostly former residents of Hong Kong and retired and that the decision was taken not to increase the personal membership fee.

Mr Hoogland also asks what Associate Members are. Ms Kant replies that Associate Memberships are usually based on an exchange of membership with another organisation. No money is exchanged. Examples are the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in Hongkong, Modint and NDL (Netherlands International Distribution Council).

After a lengthy discussion the Chairman remarks that proposed changes in the membership fee will, in future, be announced beforehand.

The **proposal** of the board to raise the memberships fee to € 450 per year is **approved** by majority vote (9:2)

11. Closure of the meeting.

The Chairman closes the meeting at 16:30 hrs and announces a short break before the presentations of Mr Edo de Ronde, Business Manager Asia & Logistics at Rotterdam Partners and Mr Hans Poulis himself in his capacities of Chairman NHKBA and Vice Chairman Federation of Hong Kong Business Associations Worldwide.

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Minutes drafted by George Ammerlaan