



## Draft Minutes 44th Annual General Meeting

Thursday 20th of April 2021 | 15:00 – 16:00 hrs | Online Zoom Meeting |

### Attendees

Mr	George	Ammerlaan – Holland Matchmaking	C
Mr.	Tom	Bakker, Dutch Chamber in Hong Kong	C
Ms	Jacqueline	Baud	P (Board member)
Mr.	Rob	Beekwilder	P
Mr.	Lesley	Cheung	NM
Mr	Rene	De Groot (KvK)	AM
Mr	Tony	Fung	P
Mr.	Jochum	Haakma, NCBC	AM
Mr.	Alleandre	Hoek	P
Ms.	Daisy	Ip, HKTDC	C
Ms.	Maureen	Joseph, B-Spoken	C
Mr	Quinten	Kah, Intertrust	C
Mr	Robert	Kalkoene	P
Ms.	Kim	Kamphuis-Janssens, NHKBA	C
Mrs	Paula	Kant - Invest HK	C
Ms.	Meryem	Lasance, Het Portaal	NM
Mr.	Victor	Martinez, Merzario	C
Mr	Jan-Willem	Möller, Dutch Chamber in Hong Kong	C
Mr.	Bert	Peels	NM
Mr.	Hans	Poulis, IGC, NHKBA	M (Chairman)
Mr	Michael	Pronk, Acclime Group	C
Mr.	Victor	Rauwerda	P
Mr.	Gert-Jan	Sentel, IGC	C
Ms.	Felicitas	Speth Von Schulzburg	P
Mr.	Ewout	Stumphius, Loyens & Loeff	C
Mr.	Henry	Tsoi, HKETO	C
Mr.	Wiebo	Vaartjes, i5 Business Transformation	C
Mr.	Maarten	Van der Dussen, ProductIP	C
Mr	Marco	Van Naarden – Cathay Pacific Airways	C
Mr	Hans	Versnel, Select Courier	C
Mr	Theo	Wit, b-spoken	C
Mr.	Hemmy	Wong,	HM

31 participants (26 with voting rights, marked yellow)

1. Opening by the Chairman, Mr. Hans Poulis



2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held online on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020 from 14:30 – 15:30. New member Tom Bakker asks about the plans to organise two events in 2020, one about the Greater Bay Area and one for New Members as these events were not organised, because of the Covid-19 pandemic. He mentions the topics were still very interesting and that he hopes the events would be organised when this was possible.  
The Chairman thanks Mr Bakker for his remarks and suggestion and says that indeed these topics will be addressed in events in 2021.  
The minutes were approved by all participants with voting rights.

3. New members & Cancellations in 2020

On behalf of the Board, George Ammerlaan reports the following developments in the membership:

**Membership development 2020**

The NHKBA received 18 cancellations from corporate members in 2020. The companies involved informed the Association that they cancelled for the following reasons:

- a. No longer focussed on HK
- b. Retirement of main contact (new contact has no interest)
- c. No benefit from membership (no new business)

In addition, 5 personal members cancelled.

4 new corporate and 5 personal members signed up in 2020.

Ultimo 2020 the NHKBA had:

- 5 Partners/supporting organisations
- 73 corporate members (including Corporate Associate members and barter members)
- 28 corporate extra members (second contact)
- 33 personal members
- 3 Honorary members
- 1 honorary consultant, (the CG in HK)
- 5 life members (past chairmen)

**In total the membership comprised of 143 companies, persons and organisations.**

14 less than on 31 December 2020.

Mr Wiebo Vaartjes raises the question: Can the loss of 14 members in 2020 be compared with earlier years? Is this exceptionally high or more or is this a trend? George A. answers that the membership has been dropping for the past years and that there is a trend. The loss is not exceptionally high. He notes that entrepreneurs are willing to attend and pay for events but that they are less willing to commit to a paid membership.



The Chairman adds that the NHKBA always tries to ask members who leave the association what the reasons for leaving are.

These reasons include:

- a. The person who joined the NHKBA on behalf of a company, leaves this company and there is no successor.
- b. Companies are less eager to spend money on being a member of an association. Money is saved by ending the membership.
- c. The mindset of people is changing. They are positive about our events but the membership fee is not seen as very positive.

As a board we are thinking about how we can deal with this change of mindset and how we can find new members. After the Summer we will start with live events again and we will focus on younger people and start-ups/scale-ups. It certainly is on the agenda of the board.

#### 4. Report by the Board over 2020.

Board member Marco van Naarden reports:

##### **NHKBA events in 2020**

The first event of 2020 was the **Chinese New Year Dinner** on 7 February, hosted by the NHKBA at Golden River Restaurant in Laren. The restaurant, owned by our former Chairman and board member Hemmy Wong, was due to close down later in 2020.

Host Hemmy Wong made sure the 70 members of the NHKBA and their guests had a splendid time.

During the cocktails, the folklore dance group “Klepperman van Elleven” gave a very Dutch performance and led the guests to the dining room. Hemmy Wong had arranged a tasty dinner and good wines. The NHKBA also booked musical entertainment: singer Laying Wang and band.

The lucky draw, the profit on corporate tables and a special donation by Mr Hemmy Wong of € 999 together raised €3333 for the Foodlink Foundation in Hong Kong. This amount was presented to the Hong Kong based foundation by Dutch Consul General Arjen van den Berg.

On 19 February, the NHKBA co-hosted, with the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels, the **Chinese New year Reception in The Hague**. Even though people were beginning to get concerned about the Covid-19 epidemic, 155 guests attended the event. Following speeches by Mr Eddie Cheung, representing the Hong Kong SAR Government, Mr William Chui, representing the HKTDC, Mr Hans Poulis, our Chairman and H.E. XU Hong, the late Ambassador of the PRC to the Netherlands, two young opera singers and a concert pianist from Hong Kong gave a short performance. The event was concluded by the always popular reception in the Pleinzaal.

Shortly after the CNY reception was held, it became clear that live events would not be possible for a while.

Because of the Covid-19 epidemic, the 42nd **Annual General Meeting** of the NHKBA, with guest speaker Consul General Annemieke Ruigrok, was held online on the 20<sup>th</sup> of May.

25 members attended the meeting.

On 16 September, the NHKBA was one of the co-organisers of the **webinar “Your Purchase Centre in Hong Kong”**, that focused on Hong Kong’s role as a base for buying offices. 177 companies from all over Europe joined this very interesting webinar. The co-organisers and supporting organisations for this event were InvestHK, the HK Economic and Trade Office Brussels, the HKTDC, KPMG and various Hong Kong Business Associations.



The next NHKBA event was yet another webinar, on 24 November, with the title “**The Business of E-sports in Hong Kong and Mainland China**”. The event was co-organised with InvestHK and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Brussels. A number of specialised speakers from HK and Europe gave presentations during the webinar, that was attended by 77 persons.

The final event of the year took place on the 15<sup>th</sup> of December, **the Hong Kong Shooting Star Event**, attracted 41 guests from the Netherlands and Hong Kong. During the webinar, the new Consul General of the Netherlands in Hong Kong, Mr Arjen van den Berg, was introduced and interviewed by our vice-chairman Jacqueline Baud. The Chairman of the Dutch Chamber in Hong Kong, Mr Jan Willem Möller, announced the winner of the Shooting Star Award, Mr Daniël Dalen, who founded the company Pabel that specialises in packaging solutions.

**In all, 545 members and guests attended our two live and 4 online events in 2020.**

5. Financial Report, presented by Ms Paula Kant, treasurer.

The treasurer explains the details of financial report, which is shown to all via screen share. (the report is available on the NHKBA [website](#)). In 2020, the NHKBA achieved a modest profit of € 425. The treasurer reports that the Audit Committee (Mr Victor Rauwerda & Mr Rob Kalkoene) has vetted the financial report over 2020 and that this has been approved by them.

Q from Tom Bakker: the goal is, I understand, not to make a profit. Is that correct.

A from Treasurer: Yes, we do not strive towards a profit. But at the same time we cannot afford to lose money. Any profit will be used for future events.

Q from Ms Speth von Schulzburg: Why are bills not paid by some members?

A from Treasurer: as the team of the NHKBA secretariat was reduced in 2019, we may not have been able to chase the outstanding fees enough. However, in 2020 the secretariat of the NHKBA has been very active in chasing the members who did not pay their annual fees. But, no matter how much you chase, there are always some who do not pay.

6. Budget 2021

The treasurer explains the budget for 2021. (figures available on NHKBA website)

7. Discharge of the Board

The Chairman asks the AGM to discharge the board of the Association of their responsibilities for 2020. The AGM votes in favor.

8. Appointment of the Audit Committee 2021. Introduced by Ms. Paula Kant.

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

9. (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>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Hans Poulis	2015		*			*	X
Jacqueline Baud	2018			*		*	
Paula Kant	2017		*			*	X
Marco van Naarden	2018			*		*	X
Michael Pronk	2021						*

\*stands for (re-) election X stands for resignation

The Vice- Chairman explains that Ms Kant and Hans Poulis have reached the end of their two year term.

The other board members were appointed in 2020 and their two year term ends in 2022.

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

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

The Vice Chairman informs the AGM that Marco van Naarden will leave the board, to focus on his work for Cathay Pacific. She thanks him on behalf of the board and members. She announced that Michael Pronk, Director Development of the Acclime Group, is willing to join the board. She asks the AGM to approve his appointment.

The AGM elects Mr Pronk.

10. Future plans: Michael Pronk lists the events planned by the NHKBA in the remainder of 2021.

Mr Pronk remarks that there is plenty to look forward to.

- a. On 30<sup>th</sup> June an event (possibly hybrid) co-organised with Loyens & Loeff focusing on the future of Chinese investments in the EU (and the role HK plays)
- b. Op 29 September a full live event (if possible), focusing on developments in the logistics sector. A principal of Van der Lande will be key note speaker at the event.
- c. In November, an exclusive event at and with the Van Gogh museum
- d. In late November a mission to the World Forum of the Federation of HK Business Associations Worldwide
- e. In December, the Dongzhi and Shooting Star event

Q from Tom Bakker: Thank you for the excellent plans. It would be great if the events, if possible, could be hybrid (mixed mode) events so that members in HK can join as well.

A: The Chairman answers that this is a great recommendation and that the NHKBA will follow up if possible,



11. Any other business

No questions from the participants.

12. The Chairman invites the Vice Chairman to introduce Mr Jan-Willem Möller, Chairman of the Dutch Chamber of Commerce in HK.

Following the introduction, Mr Möller delivers his speech on the current business climate in Hong Kong.

13. After the speech, the Chairman thanks the participants and closes the meeting at 17:10 hrs.

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NOTE: documents pertaining to the AGM can be found at <https://nhkba.news/ru5> at the bottom of the page

Minutes prepared by GA, June 2021