

Approved by the LMBoDs on July 2, 2015.

MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING OF THE LIGHT MILLENNIUM - LM

Meeting Date: On Tuesday, April 21, 2015

Meeting Address: South South News: 885 2nd Avenue and 47th street, 48th floor

Host: H.E. Ambassador Garcia

Meeting Notes taken by Ali Ercan

Reviewed by Bircan Ünver – June 15, 2015

Attendees- Board of Directors:

Ms. Bircan Ünver, *Founder-President, [Head] NGO Rep. at the UN/DPI, LM*
H.E. Ambassador Carlos Garcia Gonzales, *Vice President, Executive Director and Senior Advisor, South & South News*
Mujgan Hedges, *Treasurer, Support Coordinator, NGO UN/DPI Rep., LM*
Julie Mardin, *Content Coordinator, NGO UN/DPI Representative, LM*
Assoc. Prof. Sebahattin Devocioğlu, *Coordinator of the Youth & Support Committee, NGO UN/DPI Representative – LM*
Ali Ercan, *NGO Youth Rep. at the UN/DPI, LM*
Hande Subasilar (through SKYPE), *General Secretary*
Proxy: Isa Alemdag, IT Consultant, England

- 1- President Bircan Ünver welcomed the board members and introduced Ali Ercan, who is the new Youth Representative to the UN, to the present members at the meeting.
- 2- Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM. The majority is obtained.
- 3- The draft agenda prepared by President Bircan Ünver was adopted with no objections.
- 4- The meeting proceeded with the financial status part. In this part, the President Ünver reminded that The Light Millennium IRS and NYS CHAR500 need to be submitted prior May 15. Mac Power Book (11 inch air) and Slim Drive donated by M. Tameem Chair, who is a Human Rights Observer in India. Mrs. Ünver changed it to 13inc PRO and covered the difference. Financial status and expenditures were declared by President Bircan Ünver as of April 24, 2015 as follow:

- a. She informed that attended to the Channakkale-Gallipoli Conference at Maritime College on April 16, 2015, and purchased a book on "Gallipoli" by Edward Erickson during the book-signing section of the conference that at the Maritime College for the organization's book library with the amount of \$28.25 paid for the book via the organization's banking card.
 - b. President Unver deposited from her personnel capacity \$320.00 towards to exchanging the donated laptop from 11 to 13inch and to a faster speed.
 - c. As of April 21, 2015; the organization banking account balance is **\$405.59.**
 - d. In reference to the upcoming April 27th event, which is scheduled at Saint Peter's University, she informed that depending on the total amount of the pages as black-white, a program brochure along with bios of the speakers most likely, may cost us around \$200.00.
- 5- President Unver informed that she has an on-camera video interview with Erden Eruc for his Row for Peace project on the Anzac Day, Saturday, April 25, 2015.
- 6- She also informed the Board members regarding obtaining pro-bono law-firm via Volunteer Lawyers Arts. She said that "a law firm has picked up our case and a volunteer lawyer will contact with us in a week or so. And that's great news for our organization's future; especially in terms of broaden the organization's activities." The president Unver also added that "it is not limited via our By-laws in terms of funding structure and in order to obtain necessary funds towards the organization operations. We just need a professional involvement to bring more funds that we do not have anyone in that capacity at the moment."
- 7- NGO Representatives at the United Nations Department of Public Information of the organization Julie Mardin, Mujgan Hedges and Sebahattin Devecioglu provided brief information about the meetings they have currently attended at the United Nations. Topics of the meetings Ms. Mardin, Ms. Hedges including the president attended were on food safety and security, agriculture. Ms. Mardin said, she already wrote a report that is posted by Bircan to the web and its linked shared through LMBoD email group. Ms. Hedges met with a couple of young people at the UN and one of them was from Siberia, who has already been involved with indigenous people and women's rights. She said that we might get her help regarding only a topic or an issue but the President replied by claiming that our existing capacity may not respond to her expectations. Dr. Sebahattin follows up very



- closely the UN meetings, reports, in particular, in relation to the sports and youth and share them through the organization's existing social media pages.
- 8- H.E Ambassador Garcia suggested a rock and roll song which in Spanish to use during one of our events. Ambassador Garcia also suggested that during the upcoming meeting at Saint Peters University, which is scheduled for April 27, it would be a great idea to put a logo of the LM on our jacket and have a motto in the back of our T-shirts. Ambassador

Garcia continued his conversation by stressing that "there are plenty of Turkish/El Salvadorian people living in the United States who are interested in sports. We can get their support."

- 9- UN DPI finally recognized of our upcoming event of on the occasion of the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace at Saint Peters University on Monday, April 27, 2015 in the form of including it its weekly announcements that goes directly to all UN/DPI associated NGOs. Dr. Sebahattin Devecioglu will be the coordinator of this event. The president Unver wanted from each person to provide their best idea on presenting "The Light Millennium" for her upcoming power point presentation during the introductory section of the program that will lead to engaging the audience with the organization in a best way. These could be some quotations, different concept, sports, etc.
- a. Regarding website:** The president Bircan Unver told that some progress has been made about website and she will post them onto the website very soon.
- b. Initial Jan.8, 2015 UN DPI/NGO Briefing Proposal:** The president Unver asked for help from the Ambassador Garcia in terms of getting this proposal on the UN Ground. Unver also added that "we already have some speakers from India and they are going to cover the travel costs, but I did not hear from the Netherlands" in reference to her attempt to the Permanent Mission of Netherlands to the U.N. on the same concept. In respond to this, Ambassador Garcia said that "the big countries will naturally say "no" to us and avoid us because of the role of politics among the countries in international arena. We better find some small countries such as Bolivia or Ecuador instead of Netherlands. Politically, they would never do that". In regard to this, Julia will prepare a two page long draft proposal and send it to the Ambassador Garcia.
- c. The Light Millennium TV - LMTV:** Two programs have been submitted for the Home Town video festival by the president Bircan Unver. Since the last Board meeting Feb. 18th, Bircan also updated on the video interview with H.E. Ambassador Palitha Kohona of Sri Lanka to the UN that she



edited/handed and scheduled the two part of interview on QPTV in April also she posted the two videos to the organization's website along with a media release, and shared its cable-casting schedule through social media. Further, she informed that she also edited/completed the "Issue 30 Celebration Special Event"'s video-recording on the "Freedom of Expression in the Genetically Modified Age", which took place at Julie Mardin Photography studio on October 25, 2014. This one also is scheduled/shown on QPTV's channels in April 2015 as well.

- d. UNNGOGA.ORG:** It's been pretty busy and so overwhelming at the moment because everyone is applying for and proposing business in reference to the draft-

proposed/posted concept on the www.unngoga.org website. However, we couldn't pull our capacity to update the initially delivered and posted draft that in terms of the UN/GA session, it is outdated now. Thus, it would be great to focus on the posted draft in June in order to be able to present it to the incoming President of the UN/GA, which she proposed. However, there was no solid commitment and time-line in terms of working towards updating it.

- e. My Action Project:** The latest version of fliers is ready and has been shared through email group. Yet, there has not been much progress on this project either.
- f. Canakkale-Gallipoli- 100th Anniversary Commemoration-:** An exhibition project proposed to the Turkish Consulate General and Turkish Mission as of April 20, 2015 targeting May 14 or 18.
- g.** The President Unver informed the group that although she is one of the co-visionary founders of the Turkish-Library Museum project, its domain initially was registered by Isa Alemdag and the website designed/run by him. However, in particular, after initial visionary founder late Yuksel Oktay's sudden departure (April 14, 1937 – April 14, 2012), no one wished to take the responsibility and continue holding and covering the domain-name etc. To that extend, she informed that based on the suggestion by Isa Alemdag, who expressed that he doesn't like to keep domain under his or company's name, then she has decided to transfer its domain onto her name during the third week of March 2015 in order to not to lose its. With that, she proposed the following: "I would like to incorporate the Turkish Library Museum's aim-concept and website "www.turkishlibrary.us" as a new initiative under The Light Millennium organization." This proposal was warmly welcomed, and accepted anonymously.



h. UPDATES on the UN-DPI/NGO Section- For the first time, this year, Ambassador Kohona's two-parts video interview programs, and also April 27/Saint Peter's University event, have been included into the UN DPI/NGO weekly announcements.

- 10- **ACTIVITIES: Carleton University – Ottawa, Canada - March 13-14, 2015:** She updated on the "WWI - Historical Wrongs and Rights Conference at Carleton University, Ottawa, Canada, March 13-14, 2015, which President Unver was one of the speakers of the two-day international conference as well as one of the participants of a round-table of the conference. She represented of The Light Millennium at the conference and the organizers reimbursed/covered all of her travel expenses including hotel and air-fare follow by the conference. The outcome of the conference that she produced and delivered a presentation, which titled "[RADICALIZATION OF THE MIDDLE EAST: A Secular Perspective through Women and the UN Post-2015 Development Agenda](#)" and posted it to the

organization's website along with three photo album posted under lightmillennium.org/gallery. Further, Prof. Edward Foster, Advisory Board member of the organization, also shared his paper titled, "[TURKEY AND THE UNITED STATES: A DEEP HISTORY OF GOOD RELATIONS](#)" with the organization's website

A collaborative event by the Turkish- American organizations on Channakkale-Gallipoli took place at the John Jay College in NYC on March 21, 2015. A summary jointly written and posted by Dr. Devecioglu and the President, which posted on the www.turkishlibrary.us website.

On April 5, LMTV Media Release announcements with cable casting schedule posted and its links shared through social media.

On April 16, she and Dr. Devecioglu attended to the Anzac Day conference, which took place at the Maritime College.

- 11- **UPCOMING EVENTS:** The president Unver will be attending 2 upcoming events. The first one in about Anzac Day on April 25 and the second one is will be organized by New School Alumni on May 9.

- 12- A new event is already scheduled for May 18 as of today, which will be in collaboration with Turkish Women's League of America. She has distinguished this new event's format and overall goal from the April 27th/Saint Peter's University event in the following lines: "Presentations will

be more diverse with an international reflection in reference to the Turkish Youth and Sport holiday May 19 that “youth and celebration” aspects will be part of this program as well rather than an academic discussion. She informed that we have not start reaching out in terms of the speakers/contents of the program. However, indicated that she aims to invite Erden Eruc, for his Row for Peace project, as the honorary guest speaker of the program.. Generally, there will be two different perspectives of both events. Re May 18 will present an international perspective, and April 27, will be focusing on sports’ social and economic perspectives and as an academic discussion. An outline will be shared through email and she requested each of the board and advisory member’s ideas in order to incorporate them.

13- Regarding Funds: She informed that the cost of the venue and I.T./Technical costs will be shared with the Turkish Women’s League of America. Other than that there is no one obtained or pending. The president Unver indicated that she will work on a sponsorship package in order to apply and obtain funds towards to May 18th program.

14- The other suggestions for the May 18 event- In respond to the President Unver’s suggestion on bringing celebrities to the event, Ambassador Garcia said it would be so expensive to bring celebrities to the event from Al Salvador or Turkey. It would be easier and less expensive to bring some singers and/or bands from here for me/us. Ambassador Garcia again stressed the importance of focusing on small countries for our event instead of big countries because people from big missions have been reluctant to join such events. The small countries do not care about what big countries and organizations would say.

14- Next board meeting is decided to be on **Tuesday June 9th at 16:30 PM.**

15- All items on the agenda were covered and the meeting was concluded at 7.00 pm.