

PRESIDENT'S letter

International Bureau for Epilepsy 4th December 2007



IBE Executive Committee meets in Glasgow

Dear Friends

I am happy to write to you again to report the latest activities in the IBE. To run an organisation requires, as you all know, the regular chance to meet and to discuss current as well as planned activities - apart from all the formal issues that need to be addressed. Due to the expense involved, the possibility for the IBE Executive Committee to meet is limited to one annual meeting, when we also meet jointly with the ILAE Executive Committee. We also find the opportunity to meet at the time of International Epilepsy Congresses.



Due to generous sponsorship the IBE Executive Committee was able to gather in Glasgow in mid November for some intense days of discussion on a range of important issues. The meeting was called to discuss the immediate future of IBE and to focus on which priorities should be addressed during the remaining period of office. We also took the opportunity to focus on our Long Term Strategy and to review its contents in line with discussion and decisions taken.

One issue that was discussed in great detail was the issue of finance and the urgent need for IBE to formulate a fundraising strategy for the coming years. The continued development of the regions was also in focus as well as the importance of the visibility of IBE to the outside world. We also looked at IBE enlargement with emphasis on the current 'blank spots' where IBE is not presently represented. As a result of this discussion, it was agreed to launch a Membership Drive 2008 in order to strengthen IBE expansion



A nice break to stretch legs.



From the left: Shung-lon Lai, Philip Lee, Thanos Covanis and Ann Little.



Zenebe Gedlie Damtie and Shung-lon Lai.



From the left: Mike Glynn, Carlos Acevedo, Martin Brodie and Zenebe Gedlie Damtie.

Expansion
Fundraising Strategy
Member Support
Visibility

efforts with the valuable assistance of the Regional Committees. Twinning and reviewing contacts that are already in place was seen as a beginning to this process. Of course the assistance of individual Members is also vital; so if you know of any epilepsy organisation that would benefit from IBE membership, do let us know.

Now that the Constitution is almost four years in place, we looked at some elements that required review. One of these was the issue of Membership Dues and the need to revise the payment structure in order to ensure that no epilepsy association is denied IBE membership because of inability to pay. The Secretary General will be writing to you on this issue early next year, before Dues are sought for 2008.

You can read more about the IBE Executive Meeting in the next issue of IE News that will be circulated in the beginning of January.

Best wishes to all!

Susanne Lund
President



Water and fruit helped the Members of the Committee to keep their minds clear and sharp during the hectic days.