



REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR 1 JUNE 2019-31 MAY 2020

The Board of Trustees held a total of five meetings during the term:

2019 : 14th June, 23rd August

2020 : 6th December, 11th June (via zoom), 4th September (via zoom)

COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (BOT)

The Board consists of eight voting members:

Ar. John Koh, Dato Ghazali Dato Yusoff, Mr Lim Lee Hock, Datuk Christopher Boyd, Mr Dennis Koh, Mr Ngian Siew Siong, Datin Seri Panglima Dr Ann Anton and Dato Robert Teo Keng Tuan

During the 6th December 2019 meeting Datin Seri Panglima Dr Ann Anton was elected as BOT chair, and Datuk Chris Boyd as Vice Chair.

REVIEW OF THE FINANCES OF MNS

The Society's operating revenue for the year of RM4.1 million recorded a reduction from RM4.5 million in the preceding year.

The total expenditure for the year amounted to RM4.57 million compared to RM4.60 million for the previous year.

The Society suffered an operating deficit of RM443 thousand for the current year as compared to an operating deficit of RM128 thousand for the previous year, interest income from Fixed Deposits of RM51 thousand for the year and RM80 thousand for previous year mitigated the said operating deficits, resulting in a net deficit for the year of RM393 thousand whilst preceding year recorded a net deficit of RM48 thousand.

Donations and Sustainability Funds recorded an increase of RM252 thousand for the current year as compared to RM270 thousand for previous year.

The total cash balance as at 31st May 2020 is RM3.09 million as compared to RM3.08 million of the last financial period.

FINANCIAL RESERVES

As at the end of the financial year on 31.5.2020, reserves stand at RM1.43 million as compared to RM1.35 million as at 31.5.2019. The increase was attributable to interest income of monies placed in fixed deposits.

Details of these reserves, the utilization of which requires the approval of the Board are detailed below.

	RM
1. 70 th Anniversary Celebration	351,041
2. Merdeka Award Fund	301,822

3. Heritage Fund	74,971
4. Building Fund	697,110

The Building Fund remains depleted from the original balance of RM946,441 arising from the deficit suffered in the 2014/2015 financial year. The Council will endeavour to achieve surpluses in the forthcoming years to reinstate if not to increase the original sum of the building funds.

SPECIFIC ACTIONS TAKEN BY BOT

Members of the Board contributed through the Governance of the Society by making recommendations in the following areas:

1. Raise awareness and increase of youth membership.

BOT realizes that there is a need to augment MNS' government recognized environmental programme, School Nature Club (Kelab Pencinta Alam), to encourage interest and widen outreach programmes in environmental activities. We have recommended that the International Schools in Malaysia become the new network of MNS Environmental Education Centers (EECs) in order to increase youth membership as well as to promote environmental education and global conservation

2. Launch an MNS app

In order to allow the general public to access general information about the society and its events, BOT has recommended that an app similar to that of the Nature Society Singapore be developed and launched. Currently, the app has been developed and is expected to be launched soon. BOT members Mr Dennis Koh and Dato Robert Teo are both instrumental in the development and subsequently in the hosting of the app

3. MNS' premises

BOT is concerned about the long term solution to the society's current premises, Rumah Tapir at Jln Kelantan, Bukit Persekutuan and is involved in the appeal to Kuala Lumpur City Hall against the threat to Federal Hill by removal of the Green/Open Space Zoning and introduction of intensive development (Regeneration) zoning in KL 2040 Draft Structure Plans. BOT is hoping for the Tapir House and land to be bequeathed to MNS as its permanent premise. In this respective, it is urgent that MNS Council give this matter its utmost attention.

4. Closure of Parks

BOT has recommended that non performing Parks and EECs be closed in order to reduce the financial drain on MNS' resources.

5. MNS 80th anniversary celebrations

As one of the events of the above, a commemorative book will be published with senior advisor, Tan Sri Dr Salleh Mohd Nor, and BOT member, Ar. John Koh, as editor and co editor. The book is a collection of articles which showcases members written contributions profiling their involvement with MNS over the years or their relationship with nature. A number of BOT members are among the authors of this book. This is a project by BOT and it is hoped that the

publication will be one of the fund raising opportunities for MNS.

6. Intellectual Property as an asset

BOT recommends that intellectual property be considered as capital assets of MNS. There is therefore a need to protect these assets by converting all of MNS' publications of the Malayan Nature Journal, The Naturalist and all books published to the digital format. Subsequently is the need to engage Digital Rights Management (DRM) technologies to prevent illegal uses in accessing the contents, without jeopardizing the accessibility of the information to members and the public.

7. MNS Constitution Review

BOT requests to be consulted in the review of MNS constitution to ensure that the clarity and breadth of BOTs roles and responsibilities are spelt out in full. It is hoped that at least 1 member of BOT will in the Review Committee.

8. Fiduciary Fund/ Tan Teck Guan (TTG) award

BOT has recommended to the Council to revive and launch the Tan Teck Guan (TTG) Gold Medal Award in order to expand the funds held in fiduciary capacity. An awardee is to be identified and the award is to be given during MNS' 80th Anniversary Celebration in 2020. We have also recommended that the selection process for the award be reviewed as the previous criteria for selection needed to be enhanced to reflect the current maturity of the research community. The last recipient of the TTG award was in 2006.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I wish to thank my fellow members of the BOT for their time, expertise and contributions towards the Society.

My thanks also goes to Ms Shim Yen Lin for providing secretarial support to the Board, the Hon. Treasurer for her required Quarterly Financial Reporting, to the Executive Director, Mr I.S Shanmugaraj for providing updates of the society and reporting to the BOT and to Ms Stephanie Bacon for her continued presence at BOT meetings representing the President and Council.

BOT will continue to support MNS in exercising its role and responsibilities as stipulated in the constitution.

Datin Seri Panglima Dr Ann Anton

Chair

