The business meeting was opened at 8.20pm by the president of the IATS, Samten Karmay, who acted as chairperson. The IATS General Secretary, Per Kvaerne, was on hand to advise on procedural matters. The agenda had been circulated to all present at the meeting, and SK announced that the meeting must go through the agenda point by point and then approve it. The agenda was approved. SK then appointed Toni Huber as secretary pro tempore to record the minutes. Tenzin Gelek served as Tibetan translator throughout the meeting. SK then mentioned the names of four colleagues who had passed away since the Eighth IATS meeting at Bloomington in 1998. He mentioned these as: Rolf Stein, one of the greatest 20th century scholars of Tibet; Michael Aris, one of the first hosts of the IATS meetings and editor of the first complete volume of proceedings of the IATS, as well as a member of the advisory board of the Association; Nathan Cutler and Beatrice Miller, both of whom were members of the association. The President requested a one-minute silence from the meeting in commemoration of these deceased colleagues, which was observed.

The next item of business concerned the amendment of the statutes of the association. Per Kvaerne announced that the statutes had been on public display during the course of the conference. Copies of the statutes were then distributed to the meeting. PK announced one minor amendment be proposed, that the following sentence be added to the end of the first paragraph of Statute 5 concerning the President: “The outgoing President will be admitted to the board as ex officio member for the period covering two successive conferences”. PK stated the reasons for the amendment were clear, and asked the members to approve it. Ronald Davidson asked how many elected board members there were. PK answered there were thirteen members from at least three countries, as set out
in the statutes. Following a motion by John Ardussi that the amendment be accepted as proposed it was approved by a show of hands.

SK announced the next item of business as the election of a new President, and PK explained the procedure for this as set out in Statute 5. Tsuguhito Takeuchi, Françoise Robin, Hanna Havnevik and Dondrup Lhagyal were appointed as scrutinisers for the election to collect and count the vote. On behalf of the board members, Ernst Steinkellner then presented Janet Gyatso as the candidate who was proposed by the board. ES introduced her briefly to the meeting by mentioning her dissertation on Thangtong Gyalpo, her broad interest in Tibetan religion and history focused upon ideas and concepts, her investigation of social and cultural perceptions as a direct path into the heart of Tibetan culture, and that she had published various books and articles which always broke new ground and which were never boring. He described Janet Gyatso as a leading figure in Tibetology, a teacher at Amherst College, and an active board member of the IATS for the past fifteen years. She had also chaired the Tibetological committee of the American Academy of Religion, and organised their annual conference. Her advice and council were always clear-minded and prudent and the board was convinced she would be an excellent president, and had unanimously endorsed her candidacy.

SK announced that the second candidate for the presidency was Phuntshok Tshering of the Tibetan Academy of Social Sciences in Lhasa, and he called upon Pasang Wangdu to introduce him to the meeting. Pasang Wangdu stated that he supported the candidacy of Phuntshok Tshering, who had been a scholar of Tibetan Studies for twenty years, and who had published many books, including important works on Tibetan history. SK reminded the meeting that the nomination of Phuntshok Tshering had to be seconded before it could be accepted, and Tsering Thar seconded it immediately.

The voting was carried out, and SK asked the meeting not to leave the room while the vote had been counted. The scrutinisers then left the room in order to count the vote, but a discussion about proper procedure resulted in them being recalled into the room so as to count the vote in front of the meeting as witness. SK announced the result as seventy-five votes for Janet Gyatso, twenty votes for Phuntsho Tsering, and two blank votes. SK asked JG if, as the winner of the vote, she would accept the position of president of the IATS. JG
accepted the position, stating it was a great honour and responsibility and that she would do her very best to serve the IATS.

SK announced that the election of new IATS board members had to be undertaken also. On behalf of the existing board members, Ernst Steinkellner then presented Charles Ramble as the candidate who was proposed by the board itself to replace the late Michael Aris as a member. He described Charles Ramble as an anthropologist and Tibetologist who had undertaken various research projects, most recently based in Austria and Germany, and as having been chosen to succeed the late Michael Aris in holding a post in Tibetan Studies at Oxford University. He stated that due to his scholarly merits and experience, the board members were unanimous about their choice of CR as a replacement member. SK asked for a show of hands in favour of the candidate, and the nomination of CR was accepted by a large majority of the meeting.

SK then informed the meeting that he had been sent several invitations from potential hosts in different countries offering to stage the Tenth Seminar of the IATS. SK announced these in the order in which he had received them. The first was from the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, Venice, Italy, who offered to host the Tenth Seminar in 2003. SK stated that this offer had been discussed by the board members, who had accepted it due to the fact that the Fondazione Giorgio Cini was a very well known organisation and international conference host. The second invitation was from 'Dri-gung Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche, of Drigung Changchubling in Rajpur, India, and was delivered by Tashi Tsering of Dharamsala. It too had been given full consideration by the board members. The board observed that the proposed conference venue for Chetsang Rinpoche's invitation was still under construction although it would probably be completed by 2003 and also that he was not connected with any academic institutions. SK stated that the board had not accepted this invitation, but it would however be ready to accept any future invitation from Chetsang Rinpoche after 2003 when his conference venue was completed. The third invitation came from Professor Dieter Schuh, of Bonn, Germany, who proposed the Tenth Seminar be held at the Town Hall of the city of Halle in Germany. SK reported that the board had wondered whether this invitation had any academic connections or if it was purely a personal invitation from Professor Schuh, and thus had decided not to accept it. Karl-
Heinz Everding then offered a correction to the president by stating that this invitation was to the ‘University Town of Halle’. SK finally mentioned that Anne Chayet and Fernand Meyer of Paris had worked for over a year to try and finalise an invitation for the Tenth Seminar to be staged in France. Unfortunately this invitation could not be finalised in time for the meeting, and SK thanked Anne Chayet and Fernand Meyer for their hard work and noted that it may be possible to stage an IATS Seminar in France in the future.

SK then returned to the invitation offered by the Fondazione Giorgio Cini, stating that it had been confirmed already in every respect, and that it the Tenth Seminar would probably be staged in Venice during June 2003. SK announced that Ramon Prats was to be the convenor of the Tenth Seminar, and called upon him to present his proposal. RP stated that he had co-operated with the Fondazione Giorgio Cini for the past ten years, and that they had fully accepted to stage the Tenth Seminar. The Fondazione Giorgio Cini had great experience as a conference organiser, hosting up to one thousand persons at times, and had often worked in association with the University of Venice. RP told the meeting that he would work with the board and the general secretary of the IATS to stage the conference in 2003, and SK thanked him for taking the role of convenor of the Tenth Seminar.

The convenor of the Eighth IATS Seminar in Bloomington, Elliot Sperling, was asked by SK to give a report to the meeting on the publication of the Proceedings of the Eighth Seminar of the IATS, 1998. ES reported that the editing stage was well in progress, with Indiana University Press as the publisher of the two volumes of Proceedings. Contributors could expect to get galley proofs by the end of 2000, and to receive the published volumes during 2001. SK then called upon Henk Blezer, as convenor of the Ninth Seminar in Leiden, to discuss the publication plans for the Proceedings of this meeting. HB proposed that separate volumes be published for the papers presented in general sessions and for those papers presented in panels. Smaller, cognate panels would be encouraged to merge to produce individual volumes of sufficient size, and panel organisers could recruit papers from the general sessions in order to produce coherent thematic volumes. HB then gave general information about proposed specifications and deadlines for publication, and proposed that all papers be accepted only after a review process. He stated that
since there were not the resources available to check and extensively correct the language of individual papers, all authors must ensure their own articles conformed to the standard language used for presentation, and that if substandard, papers would be rejected by editors on this basis.

SK indicated that a written motion had been put forward to be heard. This motion by Robert Barnett and Deborah Klimburg-Salter concerned the UNESCO Convention on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Properties (1970) and how this applied to Tibet. SK read out the motion in full, and RB then addressed the meeting concerning the intentions behind the motion. He told the meeting that since 1985, the Lhasa Customs authorities had recovered thousands of items due to be smuggled out of Tibet, which means that many more not recovered had already been removed from the region. In 1999, the famous Yumbu Lhagang in Yarlung and the Penpo Monastery were subject to theft, and that it was clear collectors and thieves targeted these sites. RB then verbally moved that all those involved in transactions of works of art from Tibet and the Himalayan regions must observe the Convention on Illicit Traffic in Cultural Properties (1970). The Chinese State was a signatory to this convention, which meant that any objects leaving the country must have an export license. RB stated it was an opportunity for the member of the IATS to encourage ethical practices in the market place, and by museums as well, when they dealt with Tibetan cultural objects. Deborah Klimburg-Salter seconded the motion. SK asked the meeting to vote on the motion by a show of hands, and a very large majority passed it.

SK then called upon all those present to make any announcements they wished to communicate to the meeting. Heather Stoddard rose and announced that she would go to Lhasa in August 2000 to discuss the restoration of wall paintings in Drathang with the Lhasa authorities. She stated that the project required historical, artistic and scientific expertise, and asked anyone who wished to take part in this project to contact her.

Ramon Prats then announced that while the IATS Bibliographic Project had “died a natural death” a few years ago due to problems getting submissions from members, now there was a general feeling that it should be continued. He stated that it would be possible to use the website of the Amnye Machen Institute and keep this continually updated with new publication information. He asked that members
collaborate more closely with himself and Tashi Tsering by submitting information on new publications to them. RP said that they could inform members in the next circular which address they should use for sending submissions.

Diana Cousens rose and announced a petition against the proposal by a Tibetan Buddhist group to erect a 500ft high Buddha statue at Bodhgaya, and stated it would be available to sign outside the meeting.

SK then called upon Heather Stoddard to offer a vote of thanks to the many individuals who had helped to organise and stage the Ninth Seminar of the IATS in Leiden. HS first thanked the Director, Wim Stokhof, and the Vice-Director, Sabine Kuipers, of the International Institute for Asian Studies in Leiden as the hosting institution. HS then thanked the IATS President, Samten Karmay, and its General Secretary, Per Kvaerne for their ongoing involvement. Henk Blezer was commended for his special role as Convenor of the Ninth Seminar, and for attending to all the detailed matters of running the entire conference. Elliot Sperling was thanked for his advisory role in organisation, as were the Board of Advisors of the IATS.

A large number of staff from the International Institute for Asian Studies had been involved in preparing and running the conference, and HS offered her gratitude on behalf of the IATS to (in alphabetical order) Paul Arentshorst, William Arentshorst, Marja Boer, Marieke te Booij, Marieke Brand, Jo-Anne Bruinsma, Tanja Chute, Afelonne Doek, Emanuel Haneveld, Elzeline v.d. Hoek, and Maij Luxembourg. In addition, HS offered thanks to the IIAS organising committee consisting of Froukje Dunk, Liefke Pronk, Marloes Rozing and Josine Stremmelaar, and team of organising assistants made up of Alex McKay, Sara Shneiderman, Antonio Terrone, and Mark Turin. Many volunteers had joined the organisers to ensure success of such a complex event, and they too were warmly thanked by HS, who mentioned Wouter Beijersbergen van Henegouwen, Wiesje Beurskens, Wander Catshoek, Cefas Dam, Sanne Dragstra, Riens Goudoever, Yuko Ijiri, Paul de Jong, Masha Karatas, Diana Kotterman, Maud le Mat, Peter Richardus, Gabriëlle Rozing, Anneke van Santen, Chui-lin Siu, and Silke Vroegop.

HS mentioned the efforts of a group of anonymous reviewers who had performed the important task of reviewing paper abstracts before the invitations to participate in the Ninth Seminar had been finalised.
A number of mainly Tibetan translators had laboured hard throughout the conference to facilitate the delivery of papers and mediate discussions into other languages. HS thanked the following translators for their excellent service: Pema Bhum, Namgyal Nyima Dagkar, Rinzin Dolma, Tenzin Gelek, Kunsang Gyal, Tenzin Gyaltse, Sopa Gyatso, Tharphen Lingtsang, Karma Monlam, Sonam Peldon, Lea van Rompay, Champa Yabtang, and Lobsang Wangyal.

The proceedings of the conference had been significantly enhanced by the work of a number of artists and performers, and HS commended them for their contributions, including Altai Hangai, Lidie Bossen, Wim Isphording, Namgyal Lhamo, Musica de Lima, Tharphen Lingtsang & Lakshmi Fransen, Tenzin Dakpa & Nel de Jong, Sukee, and Gherman Popov.

Finally, special thanks were offered by HS to a wide range of organisations and individuals for their supporting and sponsorship roles: Jan Bouwsma, Curzon Press, Eco-Himal (Austria & Italy), Gonda Fonds (at KNAW), International Institute for Asian Studies, Institute for Comparative Research in Human Cultures (Oslo, Norway), Research School of Asian, African and Amerindian Studies (CNWS), Ms. Van Gulik, Ms. Barbara Hines, Network for University Co-operation Norway-Tibet (Oslo, Norway), Oost-Europa Fonds (at Prins Bernhard Cultuurfonds), Prins Claus Fund, Royal Dutch Academy of Sciences (KNAW), Stichting Eco-operation, Trace Foundation, and The Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research (NWO). All of the thanks offered by HS to all (the) many individuals and organisations that she mentioned were meet with warm and approving applause from the entire meeting.

SK then offered his thanks to the meeting for their patient attendance, and wished everyone a safe journey home after the conference came to a close. He also thanked Toni Huber for acting as secretary pro tempore, and Tenzin Gelek for his translation work throughout the meeting. Elliot Sperling took this final opportunity to thank SK for serving the IATS so well throughout his term as President. This was greeted by a long and enthusiastic applause from all those present. SK then declared the meeting closed at 10.20pm.