

HEBOU 20

The Newsletter of the
Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea
PO Box 418, Ukarumpa via Lae

September 1987

The 1987 Annual Conference of the Linguistic Society of Papua New Guinea was held 8-10 July at PNG University of Technology. The overall theme was 'Issues in Language Development in Papua New Guinea.' Papers related to this theme covered language planning, literacy, use of Tok Pisin, and language courses in the Universities. The plenary address 'Functional Roles of Indonesian: Experiments in Language Planning' was given by Dr. Anton Moeliono of the National Center for Language Development and Cultivation in Jakarta. Student papers and papers on general linguistic topics rounded out the presentations. If you would like a listing of all the papers presented, you may request one from the secretary.

Special thanks are due to Colin Barron who did an excellent job organising the conference on very short notice.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting was held on July 10th, 1987, in conjunction with the annual conference. Highlights of the meeting are summarised below.

President's Report: Micael Olsson reported on the results of the resolution on National Communication Policy which had been passed at the 1986 AGM. He had taken the resolution into the Prime Minister's office as planned and this was passed on to the commission on broadcasting policy. Micael was not able to appear before the commission later, however, because he was by then working in the Prime Minister's office and his presentation would have been construed as a government position. Similarly, John Lynch could not appear on behalf of the society due to his position as Vice-Chancellor of the University.

During the year, and especially the conference, an effort has been made to focus on language issues relevant to Papua New Guinea and its citizens.

Editor's Report: The journal should be back on schedule by the middle of 1988 which was the goal established at the last AGM. Dr John Verhaar's tremendous contribution in making this possible received acknowledgement from the floor. A candidate for the next editor has already been approached and agreed in principle to take over responsibilities in mid-1988. Tom Dutton encouraged both nationals and expatriates to continue submitting articles. He also noted there were a number of titles received still available for review.

The results of elections for officers were as follows:

President - Micael Olsson
Secretary - John Clifton
Treasurer - Colin Barron
Editor - John Verhaar (articles)
 Tom Dutton (reviews)
Member - Dicks Thomas

Special Publication #2: The AGM in 1986 approved a motion to give the editors of special publication #2, Language Policy in Oceania, twelve months to complete the volume. As nothing further has been heard from the editor, and many of the papers would need updating by now, it was moved that "we recall the papers for Special Publication #2." They would then be returned to the authors to update and resubmit to LLM or submit elsewhere at their discretion. Those who have prepaid for SP#2 shall have that money credited towards their next membership/subscription fee.

1988 Conference: It was decided that the 1988 annual conference would be held at the National Sports Institute in Goroka during the second week of the mid-year break for the universities. The Goroka site was chosen since it allows for extensive dialogue outside of scheduled sessions. (All participants usually choose the institute's facilities for both room and board.) The theme for the conference will be determined by the executive.

The following Resolution on PNG Language Development was approved.

RESOLUTION

Moved that we appoint a working committee of W. Jonduo, D. Thomas, and M. Olsson to draft a submission for the new Minister for Culture, Civil Aviation and Tourism to set up a PNG language development body to be attached to the Department of Language and Literature at the University of Papua New Guinea to facilitate the following:

1. promotion of increased standardisation of spelling for PNG languages,
2. promotion of guidelines for the development of new terminology in PNG languages,
3. promotion of guidelines for improved translations, and
4. liaising with other related bodies in the region in general and Melanesia in particular.

Moved further that the initial Board of this agency include appropriate representation (for example, from the University of Papua New Guinea, the Papua New Guinea University of Technology, the Institute of Papua New Guinea Studies, provincial representatives from the Highlands, Momase, the Islands, and Papua, the VSO association, the churches, SIL, the publishing industry, and the media). The final draft of the submission is to be ratified by the LSPNG Executive Committee.

And finally, moved that literacy concerns be incorporated in this first submission through the preamble which should include something like:

"Considering the Constitutional goal that... and the importance of improving the flow of critical development information in a multilingual society..."

Call for announcements

Any items which you wish to announce in Hebou, or any comments about what should be included in it should be directed to the secretary.