

May 5, 2004
Approval: 5/12/04

INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND

Minutes of Executive Board Meeting 04/31-1

10:00 a.m., March 29, 2004

1. Announcement by Acting Managing Director

Length: 5 minutes

Executive Board Attendance

A. Krueger, Acting Chair

Executive Directors	Alternate Executive Directors
	A. Al Nassar (SA), Temporary
	R. Campbell (CO), Temporary
	B. Reichenstein (GR), Temporary
	H. Jang (AU), Temporary
	O. Basdevant (FF), Temporary
	C. Sia (ST), Temporary
	T. Ross (NO), Temporary
	A. Baukol (UA), Temporary
	I. Ábel (BE), Temporary
	D. Ayala (AG), Temporary
	M. Daïri (MD)
A. Mozhin (RU)	M. Sidi Bouna (AF), Temporary
	M. Martinez (CE), Temporary
	L. Rizzotti (IT), Temporary
	C. De Silva (BR), Temporary
	D. Prasad (IN), Temporary
	P. Williams (UK), Temporary
	K. Nauphal (MI), Temporary
	R. Gesami (AE), Temporary
	H. Ge (CC)
J. Kremers (NE)	Y. Yakusha (NE)
	T. Sekine (JA), Temporary
F. Zurbrügg (SZ)	

S.J. Anjaria, Secretary

O. Vongthieres, Assistant

M. Pedroni, Assistant

Also Present

European Department: A. Leipold, Deputy Director; M. Rossi, A. Schaechter, A. Tiffin, E. van der Mensbrugghe. External Relations Department: O. Stankova. Fiscal Affairs Department: M. Flanagan. Finance Department: D. Gershenson. Independent Evaluation Office: J. Chelsky. Legal Department: I. Mouysset. Monetary and Financial Systems Department: I. Otter-Robe. Policy Development and Review Department: M. Hadjimichael, I. Halikias, C. Mumssen. Secretary's Department: J. Stotsky. Senior Advisors to Executive Directors: A. Monajemi (MD), G. Shbikat (MI), P. Sun (CC). Advisors to Executive Director: N. Gigineishvili (NE), F. Mammadov (SZ), J. Salleh (ST), S. Vtyurina (RU).

1. ANNOUNCEMENT BY ACTING MANAGING DIRECTOR

The Acting Chair (Ms. Krueger) made the following statement:

We begin this morning with an announcement that I am very pleased to make. You will recall that on September 12, 2003, the Managing Director informed the Board of the search for a Director of the Statistics Department to replace Mrs. Carson. The Board agreed that it was important that a strong successor be found.

Directors asked that, in considering candidates, management should seek someone who had, first, an international reputation in the field of statistics and understanding the role of statistics; second, a forward-looking approach to strengthening the statistics system in the Fund and member countries; third, the ability to manage large projects; and, fourth, strong communication skills—in no particular order of importance. Directors also asked that consideration be given to extending Mrs. Carson's term, which was due to end in May when she reaches the mandatory retirement age, in order to allow sufficient time to select the right candidate and ensure a smooth transition. Fifty-one applicants responded when the vacancy was advertised internally and externally. Six were short listed, including one woman, one developing country national, and three internal candidates.

Management has concluded that one candidate, Mr. Rob Edwards, clearly stands out from the rest, and meets all the requirements specified by the Board. Mr. Edwards is 54 years old. He is an Australian national who has served at the Australian Bureau of Statistics for over 35 years. He currently heads the Economic Statistics Program at the Bureau, holding the title of Deputy Australian Statistician. Mr. Edwards brings considerable breadth of experience to this important position. He has worked across the full range of macroeconomic statistics and corporate statistics, including planning, parliamentary liaison, methodology and standards, and publication dissemination during his long career in the Australian Bureau of Statistics. He also has extensive managerial experience. He has spent the last ten years as part of an eight-member executive management team, and now heads the Economic Statistics Program with a staff of 1,000.

Mr. Edwards is well known and respected in the international statistical community. This is an important attribute. He was part of the Australian delegation to the UN Statistical Commission, headed the UN Expert Group on Critical Problems in Economic Statistics, and he has been an active contributor to the national accounts work of the OECD. He has also headed the Canberra Group on Capital Statistics. Mr. Edwards is also familiar with low-income country work, having played a leading role in the Asia-Pacific component of the International Comparison Project.

Mr. Edwards has a strong background in national accounts. This is of course very important, given the nature of his duties at the Fund. In view of his outstanding abilities, I propose appointing Mr. Edwards as Associate Director for the period July 1, 2004, through August 31, 2004, and Director from September 1, 2004. I also propose extending Mrs. Carson's term beyond her mandatory retirement to provide for the overlap that several Executive Directors called for at the September 12 meeting. Mrs. Carson will stay on as Director through the end of August 2004, and will remain in the Statistics Department at the B-5 level through October, 2004. During the last two months, she will help the new Director prepare for the Annual Meetings, introduce him to member countries at the Annual Meetings, and work on ad hoc projects. An N-12 will be issued shortly reflecting these appointments.

APPROVAL: May 12, 2004

SHAILENDRA J. ANJARIA
Secretary