

## FEZANA UN-NGO Committee Report

3 May to 5 May 2013

Annual General Body Meeting

Dallas, Texas

### **PAST**

FEZANA was placed on the Roster of non-governmental organizations (NGO's) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations (UN) in 1997, and is now registered with the Department of Public Information (DPI).

The FEZANA Team participated for the first time on September 9-11, 2002 at the 55th Annual DPI/NGO Conference held in New York. Since then, we have been present at annual meetings of Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held at the UN headquarters in the late February/early March weeks, and at the three day UN-DPI NGO conferences in September worldwide e.g., in New York, Paris, Melbourne, often holding workshops at these venues. The funding for travel, visas and housing is raised by participants who represent the Federation at the UN.

In 2013, FEZANA was represented at the CSW meeting at the United Nations in New York by Mantreh Atashband and Afreed Mistry. At the UN side event sponsored by the Foreign Ministers of Italy and Jordan on 27th September, 2012 (Panel discussions on "*The Civil Society and the Education on Human Rights as a tool for promoting Religious tolerance*"), FEZANA was represented by Katayun Kapadia, Homi Gandhi, and Pearl Kermani from Sydney, Australia.

### **PRESENT**

Lifting up the idea of peoples to practice their religious beliefs in freedom, we are promoting the tour of the Cylinder of Cyrus from the British Museum, in the United States in 2013.

The high profile media launch of the exhibit at a Gala dinner on 5 March 2013 at the Freer and Sackler Galleries of the Smithsonian Museums in Washington D.C., where FEZANA was invited, led to articles in the New York Times, Washington Post, the Economist, Wall Street Journal among others. Media details are archived on [www.fezana.org](http://www.fezana.org) .

Erv Soli Dastur, from the NAMC, collaborated by broadcasting a tele-religious class on the Cyrus Cylinder on 10 March 2013 from Sarasota, Florida. The seven part U-tube presentation is archived on [www.zoroastrians.net](http://www.zoroastrians.net)

On 16 March 2013, as the Sackler Gallery celebrated Jamshedi NowRuz, on a single day, the footfall was close to 10,000. Julian Raby, the Director of the Freer and Sackler Galleries informs us that over seven weeks, more than 140, 000 visitors were at the exhibit in Washington D.C.

A special issue of FEZANA Bulletin (19 April 2013) is themed on the tour of the Cylinder of Cyrus.

Tina Dukandar and Gordiya Khademian are the current youth representatives from FEZANA to the UN

## **FUTURE**

As the Cylinder of Cyrus from the British Museum travels to Houston, New York, San Francisco and the Greater Los Angeles area, member associations of FEZANA will be partnering with museum officials in these cities. We encourage all member associations and small groups of FEZANA to create educational events so we can learn about ancient Iran, its culture, its values and how the vast multicultural and pluralistic Achemenian Empire that Cyrus II put together in just eleven years, ushered in an era of prosperity through good governance. The message of peace resonating from antiquity has relevance in our multi-ethnic pluralistic cities of today.

A special issue of the FEZANA Journal (summer 2013) will tell us what makes Cyrus II an iconic figure in world history.

We intend to make available to each member association and small group of FEZANA, a replica of the Cylinder of Cyrus so that it can be used as a symbol to showcase our history and culture from ancient Iran.

We are delighted to learn that the Zoroastrian Society of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada has been exploring possibilities of erecting a replica of the Cylinder of Cyrus in an open space in a park setting.

Neil Mac Gregor, the Director of the British Museum informs us that the cylinder will be taken to Mumbai, India, to be showcased on the sidelines of the 10th World Zoroastrian Congress in December 2013.

Collaboration with the Iran Heritage Foundation of America has been fruitful in 2013 and we hope to continue with this partnership in the years ahead, on items of mutual interest.

## **BUDGET :**

Request for 2013- 2014 - \$ 4000/--

Respectfully submitted:

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Dated: 1 May 2013

## FEZANA United Nations – Non Governmental Organization committee

**EXPENSES:** 5 August 2012 to 30 April 2013

CSW registration at UN- Afreed Mistry & Manteh Atashband	(02/25/2013)	\$245
Joint Panel-FEZANA, George Mason University & NIAC	(04/05/2013)	\$281
Reimbursement for Cylinder of Cyrus Replicas	(04/29/2013)	\$2,355
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		\$ 2,881
Contribution by Afreed Mistry, Behram Pastakia, Homi D Gandhi	(07/08/2012)	-\$1,736
<b>Total</b>		\$1,145
Approved Budget for 2012-13		\$3000
<b>Under Budget</b>		<b>(\$1,855)</b>