

To the Council Members of WASER,

Dear Colleagues,

As you will know, the Tenth International Symposium on River Sedimentation (10th ISRS) will be held in Moscow, Russia from August 1-4, 2007 and we look forward to meeting with you there. Although it is a long way ahead, there is a need to begin thinking about the arrangements for the 11th ISRS, which is scheduled to be held in 2010 and we would like to seek your views on these.

Although most of you will be very familiar with the very successful International Symposium on River Sedimentation (ISRS) conference series, it is perhaps useful to review briefly its origins and development. The series of triennial conferences was initiated in 1980 by the Chinese Hydraulic Engineering Society with the support of UNESCO. Since its foundation, the International Research and Training Center on Erosion and Sedimentation (IRTCES) in Beijing has served as the permanent secretariat of ISRS. In the years prior to the 9th ISRS held in 2004 at the Three Gorges Dam Site in China, the Symposium was generally held alternately in China and elsewhere, although this rotation was not followed rigidly. The 1st ISRS was held in Beijing, the second in Nanjing and the third in the USA. These venues were followed by conferences in China, Germany, India, China (Hong Kong) and Egypt. The venue returned to China in 2004 and WASER was inaugurated at the 9th ISRS. The International Symposium on River Sedimentation has now become the official Symposium of WASER and will clearly play a key role in promoting the activities of our Association.

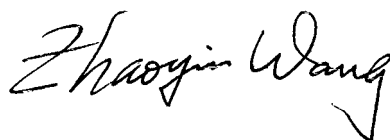
In conjunction with IRTCES, the secretariat of WASER is currently beginning the process of establishing the venue for the 11th ISRS, since this must be announced in Moscow in 2007. They wish to seek our guidance. We need to consider whether the Conference venue should continue to alternate between China and elsewhere or whether it would be more appropriate to increase the frequency of non-China venues to say a 9 year cycle with one conference held in China and two held elsewhere. In view of the importance of sedimentation and erosion problems in China, the success of past ISRS meetings in China, and the existing tradition, there would seem to be a good case for establishing such a cycle. However, we would welcome your views on this. Perhaps more importantly, we would also welcome your views on potential venues and organizers for the 11th ISRS in 2010. Assuming that we do not return to China in 2010, it would arguably be good if we could ensure that the venue moves around the globe, to enable us to strengthen our links with different regions of the world. In this context, it might be good if Europe could be followed by, say, Africa, South America, Australia or North America. However, we need a willing organizer and a venue and any offers or suggestions would again be very welcome.

We look forward to hearing from you. (Please copy your responses to both of us).

With very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "D.E. Walling". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke that underlines the name.

Des Walling, President of WASER (d.e.walling@exeter.ac.uk)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zhao-Yin Wang". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent vertical stroke.

Zhao-Yin Wang, Secretary General of WASER (zywang@tsinghua.edu.cn)