

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I am presently terminating my first three-year mandate as President of Waser, following the initial two terms of excellent presidency by Professor Desmond Walling who was able to bring up our new-born Association to its full maturity and to a deserved reputation among the numerous international organizations dealing with sediment research.

Among the objectives of my mandate, I considered it a priority to implement the Statutes of WASER, as conveniently reviewed during the previous term, with the following purposes : (i) to foster the necessary transparency in the decision-making process, by regularly involving the General Council (and possibly the entire membership) ; and (ii) to promote the mission of WASER in the international context by making its structure and activities better known to both the membership and the outside world.

The first objective was achieved by the Council through discussions and relevant decisions made by (electronic) postal communication, and also resorting to the assistance of temporary ad-hoc committees, as detailed below.

The second objective will probably require a larger and/or different use of resources which implies closer collaboration between the Council and the Secretariat; to this purpose the Secretary General has proposed the formation of a new temporary ad-hoc committee to be submitted for approval to the new General Council.

AWARDING PRIZES AND HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

An ad-hoc committee formed by Prof. Des Walling (chair), Prof. Zhaoyin Wang, Prof. Gerrit Basson and Prof. Ted Yang was tasked to produce recommendations on this matter. A report dated 22.09.12 was approved by e-mail by the Council and the recommended procedures were adopted for future actions. With regard to WASER Honorary Members, it was decided that the full Council should be responsible for making nominations (at least 9 months ahead of the Assembly) and for deciding on the recipients (with a 3/4 majority). For the "best papers" published in the IJRS, the mechanism of selection presently applied by the editorial board appears to be fair and efficient, and the only recommendation was to establish a reasonable deadline for the Editor to inform the Council about the outcome prior to informing the prize winners. Finally, the Qian Ning Prize for Erosion and Sedimentation Technology is awarded by an International Foundation Committee of 6 members, having its own statutes and

procedures. As three of these six members are nominated by the WASER Council, the Qian Ning Prize does not require any further action by WASER.

Details of the selected WASER's Honorary Members, the Authors of the IJRS best papers and of the Awardees of the Qian Ning Prize will be announced during the present Council meeting.

NOMINATION COMMITTEE AND ELECTION OF THE NEW COUNCIL

Following the Statutes, a Nomination Committee was established by the present Council, chaired by the past President Prof. Des Walling and comprising Prof. Hu Chunghong, Secretary General and the following influential members of WASER: Prof. R. Chalov (Russia), Prof. F. Yazdandoost (Iran) and Prof. Sam Wang (U.S.A.). The Nomination Committee collected nominations from the Council members and from the membership at large and produced a slate of Officers and members of the Council for the election. The ballot has been carried on via e-mail by the WASER Secretariat, under the supervision of Prof. Des Walling.

Details of the elected Council member and Officers will be announced during the present meeting.

CONTINUING THE ISRS CYCLE

The proposal of Stuttgart, Germany, as the venue for the 13th ISRS and the WASER Council meeting and General Assembly in 2016 has been provisionally approved via e-mail by the Council, recognizing that no other proposals had been submitted before the deadline of October 31st, 2012. A detailed presentation of the new venue will be made during the Assembly, before the final agreement with the WASER Secretariat and IRTCES is concluded.

We must soon think about the venue for 2019. I remind you that our Council colleague Dr. Grant Douglas has already proposed Australia, with the support of other colleagues. I invite him to formalize this very welcome proposal by contacting the WASER Secretariat and I would encourage the submission of other proposals, before again setting a deadline, as was done in the past term.

THE INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF SEDIMENT RESEARCH (IJSR)

The adoption of the IJSR, founded by IRTCES in 1986, as the official journal of

WASER has played an important role in increasing the exposure of WASER to the international community. In this context, the recent joining with Elsevier, who now distributes the electronic version of the journal to international subscribers, must be seen as a very important development. The impact factor of the Journal is 0.718 in 2013. On December 26, 2012, the International Journal of Sediment Research was identified as one of the 34 "2012 excellent academic journals of international influence" published in China. Thanks must be extended to the Editor Prof. Zhaoyin Wang and to the Editorial Team of IJSR, for their successful efforts in raising the profile of the Journal.

It is important that WASER should reciprocate and exploit the potential synergy by encouraging members to publish in IJSR and to cite papers published in the journal. The prizes awarded by WASER to the best papers published in IJSR represent an important link between the journal and the association.

WAVING WASER'S FLAG

The Officers and Council members of WASER also belong to, or have close contact with, other important organizations and institutions in the domain of water and sediment research. The following provides some examples of scientific missions and of joint activities where the existence of WASER has been actively promoted and recognized.

Prof. Hu Chunhong, Secretary General of WASER and deputy Director of the IRTCES, visited the United Nations Environment Programme Global Environment Monitoring System / Water Programme (UN GEMS/Water) Office located in Burlington, Ontario, Canada on December 7, 2012, together with Prof. Chen Jianguo and Prof. Liu Cheng, IRTCES Division Chief and Deputy Division Chief. Ms Yvonne Stokker and Ms. Kelly Hodgson, Quality Assurance Specialist and Data Specialist of the GEMS/Water Office welcomed the WASER/IRTCES' visit. Both sides shared programme activities and experiences of database construction and maintenance, and looked forward to future collaboration in areas of mutual interest.

On June 8, 2012, Prof. Hu Chunhong, WASER Secretary-General and others of the IRTCES visited the University of Stuttgart, Germany, to inspect its qualifications for bidding to host the 13th International Symposium on River Sedimentation (13th ISRS) to be held in 2016. Prof. Silke Wieprecht and Prof. Walter Marx, Director and Deputy Director, and Dr. Karolin Weber of the Department of Hydraulic Engineering and Water Resources Management hosted the visit.

A delegation led by Prof. Hu Chunhong, WASER Secretary-General, visited the Universiti Teknologi MARA, Malaysia (UiTM) and its International Research Centre on Disaster Prevention (IRCDIP) on September 22, 2011. The UiTM is Malaysia's premier institution of higher learning that was established in 1956. IRTCES and UiTM have established a collaborative partnership since the signing of a MoU between the two parties in 2008.

The International Conference of the Status and Future of the World's Large Rivers was held in Vienna, Austria from April 11-15, 2011. The conference was organized by BOKU - University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna, and sponsored by UNESCO, IAHR, IAHS, WASER, IAG, DG and via donau. Prof. G. Di Silvio, President of WASER attended the conference and gave a keynote presentation on "What strategic response to long-term morphological changes of large rivers?". Other Council members of WASER were present and contributed to compiling the Vienna Declaration on the Status and Future of the World's Large Rivers that has been submitted to UNESCO and other international bodies.

The Einstein Award Committee of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), selected Prof. Zhao-Yin Wang, Vice-President of WASER, to receive the 2011 Hans Albert Einstein Award. The award citation refers to: "His unique contributions to understanding of hyperconcentrated flows, debris flows, watershed vegetation-erosion dynamics, stream ecology and restorations, and integrated river basin management".

Actions like those mentioned above have proved valuable in strengthening links with the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), the World Association for Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC) and the UNESCO International Sediment Initiative (ISI). Good links exist with IAHR and ICOLD. The admission of WASER as a member of the International Water Associations Liaison Committee (IWALC) in April, 2009, must be seen as an important milestone along this route. These links should be further developed and strengthened in order to raise WASER's profile in the international arena.

WORKSHOP ON INTERNATIONAL SEDIMENT ADVANCES (WISA)

WISA, an important inter-organizational event, in which WASER is involved,

will be held for the first time next Tuesday, September 3, 2013, as a Special plenary session of this ISRS. Six invited speakers representing key organizations involved in sediment research (UNESCO-ISI, IAHR, IAHS, ICOLD and WASER) will discuss the most significant advances in their fields. As its President pro-tempore, I will represent WASER in the Workshop, while Council member Prof. Nakagawa as the host of ISRS in Kyoto, will speak about sediment research in Japan with particular reference to last years' disasters.

INTERNATIONAL WATER ASSOCIATIONS FORUM ON WATER SECURITY

Another important inter-organizational meeting has been organized and will take place in Chengdu (China) during the next IAHR Congress, on September 9th, 2013.

The issue of Water Security (namely the sustainable balance between supply and demand of hydro-resources) will be jointly debated by a number of scientific associations connected in different ways with water. WASER will be represented by vice-President Prof. Zhaoyin Wang, who will contribute to compiling the final Forum declaration, pointing out the importance of sediment in water resources management.

THE PAST AND FUTURE OF WASER

In my short report I have tried to give an indication of the activities and achievements of the Association during the last three-year term. Even more important, however, is what we intend to do during the years 2014-2016, as will be amply illustrated in the Work Plan of WASER to be presented by Secretary-General, Prof. Chunghong Hu.

Before concluding, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Officers and Members of the Council for the period 2010-2013 for their help and support over the past three years. Special thanks are due to Prof. Des Walling, Prof. Zhaoyin Wang, Prof. Gerrit Basson and Prof. Ulrich Zanke who gave me valuable support in their roles as Past President and Vice Presidents and to the Secretariat of WASER for their work in dealing with the day to day operation of

the Secretariat. It is important and right that membership of the Council should rotate in order to give new member an opportunity to contribute to the development of our Association and on behalf of all the Council I wish to thank all retiring members for their important and valuable contributions to both the work of the Council and to the Association more generally.

G. Di Silvio

Italy

Sept. 1, 2013