DRAFT SECRETARIAT WORK REPORT FOR 2016-2019 AND WORK PLAN FOR 2019-2022

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The World Association for Sedimentation and Erosion Research (WASER) was founded during the 9th International Symposium on River Sedimentation held in Yichang, China in October, 2004. Thanks to the efforts by previous President Prof. Des. Walling, Prof. Giampaolo Di Silvio and current President Prof. Zhaoyin Wang, and all previous and current Council members, the Association is becoming a well-known Association worldwide after 15 years of development. I am honored to work for the Association succeeding Prof. Chunhong Hu as the Secretary-General in 2016. It is my great pleasure to make the Secretariat work report for the past 3 years and work plan for future 3 years.

# 1. ACTIVITIES DURING 2013-2016

**1.1 WASER website and Newsletter**

The Website "front-office" of the Association, which plays important roles in expanding the Association’s influence to the World. The website has been updated regularly, including the sections covering WASER and erosion/sedimentation related news, the IJSR journal, ISRS symposia and its proceedings, and related documents and research papers. Since last Council meeting in 2016, the website has released over 150 pieces of news, over 50 pieces of coming events, over 15 research papers, and all papers published in IJSR. The servers used for the website were upgraded by the IWHR Information Center in October 2018, because the existing servers were outdated. All information held on the website has been moved to the new servers. Some minor problems resulting from the move are being resolved.

The first issue of the relaunched WASER Newsletter was circulated in November 2015, and to date 16 issues of the Newsletter and one New Year message have been produced and circulated. The Newsletter aims to facilitate communication across the WASER community and includes WASER news, news from the sediment world, the contents of the International Journal of Sediment Research and the journal International Soil and Water Conservation Research, as well as information on upcoming conferences.

**1.2 New Members Recruiting and membership fee collection**

Total 9 new paid members were registered in Stuttgart Symposium in 2016 and 8 members paid their membership fees during 2017-2019. I am glad to see that the total amount of received membership fees are greatly increased during the past three years compared with previous term though it is still a very small sum. The total received membership fees are USD 640 in 2016-2019. The total number of valid paid members is 23 now. Many thanks are extended to the LOC of the 14th ISRS for their helping the Association to attracted new members and collected membership fee and registration form in the Symposium System. Hope we will see more new members join the Association.

We continue our experience on WASER Community. The WASER Community was established to identify and establish contact with those people with an interest in the Association and to facilitate communication by creating a mailing list. As of August 2019, 220 experts from 40 countries and regions have been registered as the members of WASER Community.

**1.3 Technical support for the 14th ISRS and establishing the venue for the 15th ISRS**

The Secretariat has maintained close contact with the LOC of the 14th ISRS, providing necessary technical support for the symposium organization, including distributing the symposium announcement through different mailing lists, several websites and newsletters, providing mailing lists of previous symposia, organizing Chinese participants, and providing suggestions and other help.

The Secretariat began the process of establishing the venue for the 15th ISRS in October 2018. As we all know that the Council had preliminarily decided during its council meeting in 2016 that the 15th ISRS would be held in Italy in 2022 organized by the University of Padova. After several contacts with Prof. Giampaolo Di Silvio and Prof. Stefano Lanzoni, they decided the venue changed to Florence, a larger Italian city with more convenient conference facilities and world-celebrated touristic attractions, considering the size of the Symposium. The final decision by WASER and IRTCES on January 24, 2019 was to accept the invitation from University of Florence and University of Padua to host the 15th ISRS in 2022 in Florence after receiving the Proposal from both universities dated on January 14, 2019.

**1.4 Technical support for the IJSR**

The Secretariat has maintained close contact with the IJSR office and has provided necessary technical support for the journal, including manuscript reviewing as well as organizing the reviewing process, recommending reviewers, distributing IJSR content lists through the WASER website and newsletters, and providing suggestions and other help.

The IJSR changed from being a quarterly journal to a bimonthly journal in 2019. The SCI Impact Factor for the IJSR has increased steadily from 1.494 in 2016 to 1.659 in 2017 and 1.970 in 2018.

**1.5 Supporting elections and selection of candidates for prizes and other awards**

The Secretariat has provided support for the nomination and election of Officers and Council members, and the nomination of papers and selection of winners for the IJSR awards. Commissioned by the Qian Ning Prize Foundation Commission, the Secretariat organized the selection of International Qian Ning Prize 2019.

**1.6 Supporting WASER Co-Organized or Co-Sponsored Conferences and Training**

The Secretariat has provided support for a series of WASER Co-Organized or Co-Sponsored Conferences and Training Workshops. These include 8 international conferences and workshops held in India, Spain, Algeria, France and China, and one international training workshop to be held here tomorrow.

**1.7 Daily routine work and domestic administrative affairs**

The Secretariat has carried out its daily routine work which is necessary for the day to day administration and management of the Association.

As a registered International Association in China and the professional authority is the Ministry of Water Resources of China, the Secretariat of WASER must conform to Chinese laws and related management requirements specified by the Chinese authorities. The Secretariat is required to prepare a number of documents, including an annual report, a financial audit and tax audit for annual inspection by the Ministry of Civil Affairs and Ministry of Water Resources. It must also be inspected and audited by the National Audit Office.

# 2 ACTIVITIES PLANNED 2019-2022

## 1.1 Sponsorship or co-sponsorship of international activities

(1) As the Association’s symposia, the 15th ISRS will be jointly hosted by the University of Florence and the University of Padua in Florence in 2022. This will be the venue for the seventh Council Meeting and General Assembly. The Secretariat will provide any technical supports requited by the LOC to ensure successful organization of the symposium.

(2) The venue of the 16th ISRS to be held in 2025 must be selected and decided prior to the 15th ISRS. There were contacts from the Ain Shames University in Egypt and from Lausanne-Montreux Congress Bureau (Swiss) shown their interest on organizing the ISRS in Egypt and region of Lake Geneva on the shore of Lausanne city in Swiss, respectively.

(3) WASER and the IRTCES sponsored the 7th International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts (ICEC 2018) will be held at Shanghai, China in 2021. WASER Co-Sponsored the 4th World’s Large Rivers Conference will be held at Moscow, Russia during August 3-7, 2020. WASER members can enjoy discount registration fee for attending these conferences.

(4) Other international conferences/workshops sponsored or co-sponsored by WASER are to be decided.

## 1.2 Participation in relevant international initiatives

WASER should continue its efforts to strengthen cooperation with UNESCO, IAHR, IAHS, World Bank, IHA, WASWAC and ICOLD, and to actively participate in IHP with a focus on ISI, IFI, IDI, WLRI and FRIEND etc.

## 1.3 Improved information sharing through the website and newsletters

The Secretariat will continue its efforts to share erosion and sedimentation related news, information, technical publications and other materials through the Association’s website and newsletters among WASER members and the sediment community. Members of WASER are encouraged to provide their contributions to the Secretariat.

## 1.4 Improve the quality of the IJSR journal

IJSR is the official Journal of WASER, which is jointly sponsored by the IRTCES and WASER. WASER members are encouraged to submit their high-quality manuscripts and to recommend excellent papers for the Journal, in order to further improve its quality, expand its influence and increase its impact factor.

## 1.5 Training courses, workshop and research project organization

Taking the advantage of the expert resources of the Association, WASER should consider to: (1) organize, sponsor or co-sponsor international training courses and workshops on key issues relating to erosion and sedimentation at appropriate times; (2) conduct bilateral or international cooperative research projects or case studies initiated by the WASER Council; and (3) submit study proposals for financial support from international organizations or the members’ own countries.

## 1.6 Council elections, prizes and awards

The Secretariat will support the process of nominating and electing the Officers and Council for 2022-2025, and the nomination and election of Honorary Members, and the nomination and selection of candidates for the IJSR awards and the Qian Ning Prizes for next term.

### 1.7 New Members Recruiting

Expansion of the membership of WASER by recruiting new members must be seen as a very important area of activity for the Association, in order to increase its size and ensure its future. Three types of WASER membership should be included: Individual members, corporate members and members of the WASER Community. All individual and corporate members shall pay or renew their membership dues regularly. They are entitled to all customary rights listed in the Status. The members of WASER Community are entitled to free WASER Newsletters and communications, and are permitted to vote in the election of the WASER Council, but they are not eligible for reduced registration fees when attending international meetings organized by the Association or to purchase publications at a preferential price.

(1) It is hoped that all Council members and existing members of the Association, as well as the Secretariat, will make a concerted effort to publicize the Association, and to recommend and encourage scientists and engineers to join the Association.

(2) All the symposia sponsored or co-sponsored by WASER should be requested provide a 10% discount on the registration fee for members of WASER in order to encourage more scientists and engineers to join WASER. It is also suggested that a 3-5% levy on Symposia registration fees should be imposed to support the activities of the Association. The LOC of the 14th ISRS had an agreement with WASER that the LOC will provide 5% levy on the Symposium registration fees to the Association.

(3) It is suggested that the organizers of the ISRS should help to promote the recruitment of WASER members by adjusting the registration fees. The total sum that includes the ISRS registration fee for WASER members and the minimum WASER 3-year membership due should be lower than the registration fee for standard participants. The LOC of the 14th ISRS already did like this and the LOC collected membership registration forms and membership fees on behalf of WASER in the Symposium System.

(4) On-site services for membership registration and information dissemination should be provided at symposia where staff of the secretariat of WASER are present.

(5) Encouragement and appropriate recognition should be given to those who demonstrate outstanding achievements in recruiting new members.

### 1.8 Close Communication among Council Members

It is suggested that Council will continue, as in the past, to discuss and deliberate matters via emails; individual members should actively participate in communications through emails, postal correspondence, telephone calls and faxes, internet conferences and other means to facilitate discussion of the Association’s activities, reviewing of reports and proposals from the WASER Secretariat and providing instructions and suggestions for future work.

## 1.9 Fund Raising

At present, the major source of financial support for WASER is the contribution from IRTCES/IWHR and Chinese Government. More financial resources for the Association are needed, in order to build a more influential and stronger association.

In the future 3 years, the Association will actively seek to obtain international financial support or to generate funds from within the Association.

Consulting and research activities under the auspices of the Association that make use of the corporate expertise of Association members could also provide a means of generating funds. It is suggested that all Council member can make joint efforts to raise more funds for the Association.

Finally, as the Deputy Director of the IRTCES, I would like on behalf the IRTCES to express our heartfelt thanks to all the past Council members and Officers who have done a great job in promoting the development and advancement of sediment and erosion research, and I also would like to express our continued support for the ongoing development of WASER to produce a stronger Association for the future.