PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**Professor Zhaoyin Wang, President of WASER**

Fifteen years have passed since WASER was established and launched at the 9th ISRS at the Three Gorges Dam Site in China in 2004. Under the excellent leadership of the first and second terms of President Prof. Des Walling and the third and fourth terms of President Prof. Di Silvio, WASER has seen many important developments and passed successfully through its infant and young child stages.

I personally have been involved in the Association from its initiative, establishment and development. The Association was initiated by Prof. Bingnan Lin, the Chairman of IRTCES Advisory Committee in the 1990s, and was discussed in the 7th ISRS in Hong Kong in 1998. IRTCES drafted a proposal on establishment of the Association in 2002, and positive responses were received from scientists and engineers of sedimentation and UNESCO and IAHS. Sixty scientists from 16 countries expressed their willingness to be founding members. The first Council meeting was held in Beijing on 16 Oct., 2004 and the Association was formally announced its establishment on 19 Oct. at the Three Gorges Dam Site during the 9th ISRS. The Association completed its registration as international social organization in the Ministry of Civil Affairs of China in July 2009. I have been honored serving the Association as its first Secretary General, Council member, Vice President, and I am pleased to succeed Prof. Di Silvio and to serve as the President for the fifth and sixth terms President.

Three years ago the Council met in Stuttgart at the 13th ISRS. Today we have the council meeting again in Chengdu and will review progress, identify new initiatives and discuss development plans for the future.

Looking back over the past three years, I feel that the Association has prospered and continued to grow and strengthen its standing. We now have 253 members (including WASER Community members) representing more than 40 countries and all continents. In the elections held this year 153 members cast their votes. Professor Kejun Yang and the local organization committee have done an excellent job in organizing the 14th ISRS and the council meeting. Professor Guangquan Liu, Secretary General of WASER and Professor Cheng Liu, the Executive Secretary General & Treasurer of WASER have made great efforts for development of WASER. I am grateful for the support from IRTCES and particularly the director of IRTCES, Professor Shangfu Kuang.

Now let’s review the activities of WASER from 2016-2019:

**The 14th International Symposium on River Sedimentation:** Sichuan University and the LOC of the symposium have done an excellent job. The Symposium has been attracting more than 300 participants from 25 countries and regions, it will be one of the most successful ISRS Symposia.

**The International Journal of Sediment Research:** The International Journal of Sediment Research (IJSR) is a journal of WASER and is founded by IRTCES. Two Editorial Board meetings were held in Beijing on 6 Dec. 2016 and 30 Oct. 2017 discussing development of the journal. The journal has changed from a quarterly journal to a bimonthly journal from 2019. The Impact Factor of the journal reaches 1.97 in 2018. I extend my congratulations and thanks to Professor Hongwei Fang, the chief Editor and all associate editors and review board members, for their wonderful works and contributions.

**The Website and Newsletter:** The Secretariat has been making continuous efforts in maintaining the WASER website and regularly releasing Newsletters. The Website and Newsletters have been attracting attentions of people interested in WASER and its activities since 2016.

**International Conferences and Training courses:** The Association sponsored or co-sponsored 9 international conferences and training workshops in India, Spain, Algeria, France and China in the past 3 years. These have raised WASER’s profile and promoted collaboration and cooperation with agencies and other organizations in the field of sedimentation.

1. WASER co-sponsored the International Conference on the Status and Future of the World's Large Rivers， which was held in New Delhi in April, 2017. Professor Helmut Habersack attended the conference.
2. WASER co-sponsored the First World Conference on Soil and Water Conservation under Global Change (CONSOWA), which was held in June 2017 in Lleida, Spain. I attended the conference on behalf of WASER.
3. WASER co-sponsored FRIEND 2018 - International Conference on African Large River Basin Hydrology, which was held in Staoueli, Algeria in May, 2018. Professor Hongwei Fang attended the conference and made a Keynote Presentation;
4. WASER co-sponsored the 13th International Conference on Hydroscience & Engineering, which was held in Chongqing, China in June, 2018. I attended the conference on behalf of WASER;
5. WASER sponsored the 6th International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts (ICEC-2018)，which was held in Caen, Franc in August, 2018. Professor Guangquan Liu and Professor Cheng Liu attended the conference on behalf of IRTCES and WASER;
6. WASER sponsored a Round-Table Meeting of Leaders of Water-related International Organizations, which was organized by the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR) in Beijing in October, 2018. I attended the meeting and signed the Beijing Declaration on Sustainable Development of Water on behalf of WASER;
7. WASER co-sponsored the UNESCO International Training Workshop on Integrated Sediment Management in River Basins, which was held in Beijing in November, 2018. Professor Des. Walling, Professor Cheng Liu and I attended the workshop and gave lectures;
8. WASER co-organized a session on ‘Sediment Transportation and Geo-hazard Mitigation’ during the International Conference on Silk-road Disaster Risk Reduction and Sustainable Development, which was held in Beijing in May, 2019. Professor Cheng Liu, Dr. Yu and I chaired the session;
9. WASER is collaborating with World Bank, Sichuan University and UNESCO Beijing Office and will organize the Workshop on RESCON 2 and Numerical Modeling for Assessment of Sediment Management Alternatives in Chengdu next week. Professor Cheng Liu will attend the workshop on behalf of WASER.

In addition, WASER secretariat has done the following jobs, which will be discussed in the council meeting:

**The Amendment of the Statutes:** Besides the elected members, the new Council also includes co-opted members and ex-officio members. The ex-officio members are the Secretary-General and Executive Secretary-General, the Chief Editor of IJSR, and a representative of the Department of Hydrology of the Ministry of Water Resources of China (MWR), who will be nominated by the ministry. The secretariat explained that: As an international organization registered in China, a representative nominated by the MWR is requested and the representative will bridge the gap between the association and the government. The inclusion of the ex-officio members has required an amendment to the Statutes.

**New WASER Council in the term 2019-2022:** Professor Des. Walling chaired the Nomination Committee and he and other 6 members nominated candidates for the new council. Thanks to the efforts of the committee and all members of the association 12 Council members have been elected according to the Statutes. Details will be reported. Besides the 12 elected members, the new Council also includes:

1. Co-opted members: Professor Des. Walling, Professor Giampaolo Di Silvio, and Professor Ulrich C.E. Zanke will continue their service in the council as co-opted members. Professor Kejun Yang, the local organizer of the 14th ISRS, is recommended by Professor Des. Walling to join the Co-opted members.
2. Ex-officio members are Professor Guangquan Liu (Secretary-General), Professor Cheng Liu (Executive Secretary-General), Professor Hongwei Fang (Editor in Chief of the IJSR), and Professor Wensheng Zhang (representative nominated by the MWR).

**Future ISRS symposia and council meetings:** Florence has been selected as the venue for the 15th ISRS and the next WASER Council Meeting and General Assembly in 2022, this was approved by the Council. The council will discuss the venue for the 16th ISRS and council meeting in 2025. Selection of future ISRS venues is important for development and promotion of WASER. Suggestions are welcome for future ISRS venues and organizers.

**International Qian Ning Prize:** The Qian Ning Prize Foundation Commission and the WASER Secretariat organized the selection procedure of International Qian Ning Prize 2019. A Nomination Committee has been formed by recommendation of the Foundation Commission and WASER Council. The winners of the International Qian Ning Prize 2019 are Prof. Silke Wieprecht from Germany and Prof. Marwan Hassan from Canada.

**The IJSR Best Paper Awards:** IJSR has completed the selection of best papers, for the Award for Distinguished Contributions to Sediment Research. Three best papers are selected. Details will be reported by Professor Hongwei Fang, the Editor in Chief of IJSR.

**THE WORK PLAN IN THE NEW TERM**

Professor Guangquan Liu, the secretary-general, will give a report of the work plan in the new term from 2019-2022.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to all the Officers and Members of the Council for their help and support over the past three years. Special thanks are due to Professor Des. Walling, Professor Giampaolo Di Silvio, and Professor Ulrich C.E. Zanke who gave me valuable support in their roles as Past Presidents and Vice President, and to Guangquan Liu for his excellent work as Secretary General and to Cheng Liu for his hard work as Executive Secretary General & Treasurer in dealing with the operation affaires of the Secretariat.

On behalf of WASER I wish to thank retiring members, Professor Stefano Lanzoni, Professor Yitian Li and Professor Matt Romkens, for their important and valuable contributions to the council and our association. I would like to extend my thanks to Professor Shangfu Kuang, the director of IRTCES and all officers of IRTCES. Without the support of IRTCES as secretariat of WASER our Association would not exist.

Thank you.

Zhaoyin Wang