



As we approach the end of 2024, on behalf of the Secretariat and the members of the Council, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your unwavering support throughout the year. Your dedication and commitment have been instrumental in our success. We wish to extend our warmest wishes for a Happy New Year in 2025.

In 2024 we engaged with one another and worked to support the Association. Activities and achievements of the Association during the past year include the following:

(1) The 8th International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts held in Québec City, Canada

The 8th International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts was held in Québec City, Canada, from August 26 to 30, 2024, with 11 sessions and more than 150 delegates.

(2) Preparation of the 16th International Symposium on River Sedimentation

The 16th International Symposium on River Sedimentation (16th ISRS) will be held in Omaha, USA in August 4 to 7, 2025. The theme of the symposium is “Centennial of Modern Sediment Transport Mechanics”. The organizer of this conference is University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The official website of the conference is open now and abstract submission will begin soon. (<https://irsr2025.org>) WASER members will enjoy discounted registration fees for participation in the Conference.

(3) Preparation of the 9th International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts

The 9th International Conference on Estuaries and Coasts (9th ICEC) will be held in Qinzhou, China in December, 2026. The theme of the conference is “Estuaries and Coasts under Modern Civilizations”. The official website of the conference is open now. (<https://ICEC2026.scimeeting.cn>)

(4) Invitation for hosting the 17th ISRS in 2028

WASER is currently in the process of selecting a venue for the 17th ISRS that is scheduled to be announced in Omaha, USA in 2025. Several universities and institutes have already shown interest in hosting the event. However, WASER is still open to more proposals for hosting the 17th ISRS in 2028.

(5) Participated the Academic Activities for the 40th Anniversary of IRTCES and 3rd Asia International Water Week

Representatives from WASER participated in the Academic Activities for the 40th Anniversary of IRTCES and 3rd Asia International Water Week, including promotion through the exhibition board, and participation in UNESCO Water Family Symposia and many other special sessions and side events.

(6) *International Journal of Sediment Research* becomes Open Access

The *International Journal of Sediment Research*, the official journal of WASER, becomes Open Access journal starting from January, 2024.



Authors who publish in the *International Journal of Sediment Research* can make their work immediately, permanently, and freely accessible. The impact factor is 3.5 for 2023, according to the 2023 Journal Citation Reports (JCR) released by Clarivate Analytics in June, 2024. The efforts of our Editor-in-Chief Prof. Hongwei Fang and his team in achieving this important increase are greatly valued.

The *International Journal of Sediment Research* is an international, peer reviewed journal, focusing on publication of original contributions related to theoretical advances, numerical modelling, field observational and laboratory studies and reviews dealing with processes, products and techniques in the field of sedimentation and erosion. All WASER members are encouraged and welcomed to submit their important papers to the *International Journal of Sediment Research*. The Journal website can be found at: <https://www.journals.elsevier.com/international-journal-of-sediment-research>.

(7) Participated in UNESCO events

Representatives from WASER participated in several UNESCO events, including the UNESCO-IHP International Sediment Initiative (ISI) Advisory Board Meeting, the 26th session of the Intergovernmental Council of the UNESCO-IHP, UNESCO International Symposium on Category II Centers, the 31st IHP Regional Steering Committee Meeting for Asia and the Pacific, and contributed to the UNESCO-IHP publication “Applications of AI for Water Management”.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to extend my thanks to all the Officers and Members of the WASER Council for their help and support. Special thanks are due to Professor Des. Walling who continues to give valuable support to the Association. I also would like to thank the Secretary General Prof. Jianli Zhang, Vice President and Executive Secretary General Prof. Cheng Liu, Treasurer Prof. Hongling Shi and Secretary Dr. Ying Zhao for their excellent and hard work as in dealing with the operational activities of the Secretariat.

May the coming year bring you prosperity, good health, and continued success. Thank you once again for your support, and we look forward to working together for an even more remarkable year ahead. Let us continue to work together, learn from each other, and support one another in our shared journey of growth and discovery.

Finally, I wish all of you and your families a happy and prosperous New Year 2025!

Helmut Habersack
President of WASER