

# IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement

## August 2017



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## I. Introductory Summary

Dear Colleagues,  
IAHR Members and Affiliates,  
Officers of IAHR Member Associations and Affiliate Societies

It is with best wishes from the IAHR Executive Committee that I send you this IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2017 with important news and information on IAHR matters.

First of all, as announced in an email sent to Officers of IAHR Member Associations and Affiliate Societies on June 7, Prof. Afe Adogame has resigned from his post as Secretary General of the IAHR.

On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, let me once again extend sincere gratitude to Prof. Adogame for the services he has rendered the IAHR.

The Executive Committee held a meeting on July 8-9 in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, in conjunction with the 7th SSEASR Conference, also an IAHR Regional Conference. The Committee discussed matters thoroughly and unanimously agreed to appoint me, Publications Officer Satoko Fujiwara, as Acting Secretary General until a new Executive Committee is elected at the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress in Dunedin, New Zealand (Please see Appendix for the written approval of the EC).

It is an honor to have such a profound trust from the Committee members. I will do my best to secure and further the wellbeing and the aims of the IAHR, above all, to cooperate with the Dunedin host to hold a successful World Congress. I am also grateful to Prof. Ann Taves for her service as Interim Acting Secretary General from June 6 to July 8.

Second, the preliminary minutes of the International Committee Meeting and the General Assembly in Erfurt, 2015 are included. These are to be adopted at the next International Committee Meeting, which will be held in Bern, Switzerland, within the context of the 2018 EASR Conference. During the meeting, recommendations for Honorary Life Membership will be presented. Therefore, I would like to call for suggestions from the IAHR constituent member associations.

Third, as previously announced, the IAHR XXII Quinquennial World Congress will take place at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand in 2020. I will briefly report on how things have been progressing.

Fourth, an EASR-IAHR joint-statement on the European Academy of Religion was issued in May 2017 and is currently available from the IAHR website. I will draw attention to this issue including a link to the statement because the concern is not yet widely known outside Europe.

Fifth, I would like to announce upcoming IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, that is, the EASR annual conference in Leuven, 2017, also in Bern, 2018, and the AASR biennial conference in Lusaka, 2018. A report on the latest IAHR Regional Conference as the above-mentioned 7th SSEASR Conference is forthcoming.

Sixth, the World Humanities Conference took place in Liège, Belgium during August 6-12, 2017. It was co-organized by UNESCO, the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (CIPSH) and the World Humanities Conference – Liège 2017 Foundation. I will report on the outcomes of the conference, which is the first of its kind in the history of the CIPSH.

Respectfully yours

Satoko Fujiwara, IAHR Acting General Secretary  
Tokyo, August 18, 2017

## **II. Minutes from the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Erfurt, August 26, 2015**

[To be adopted at the next International Committee Meeting in Bern, June 2018]  
[Preliminarily adopted by the IAHR Executive Committee, January 30, 2016]

The President, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett presiding.

Prof. Hackett welcomed the delegates of the International Committee and asked the General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, to ascertain that the meeting had been announced and called in accordance with the IAHR Rules of Procedure. With reference to the General Secretary's report in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, p.52, Prof. Jensen confirmed that the meeting had been announced several times and in accordance with the IAHR Rules of Procedure Rule 3d, by way of the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, the IAHR website, and specific emails sent to IAHR officers. The first call was published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp. 40–41.

### **1 Adoption of the Agenda**

With reference to a need arising from the anticipated transfer of the IAHR bank accounts (from Ireland to Switzerland), the Treasurer and the General Secretary asked that an extra item ('Proposed Changes to the Constitution Caused by Transfer of Bank Account') be added as item 12 to the agenda, thus making "Any other business" item 13.

With this amendment, the agenda was unanimously adopted.

### **2 Membership**

Prof. Jensen referred to the Constitution Article 4b, according to which the International Committee of the IAHR is composed of:

- (i) Two representatives each of the constituent national and regional societies;
- (ii) The Executive Committee[... ];
- (iii) Up to four individual members co-opted by the International Committee on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

Prof. Jensen added that the IAHR at the moment had no individual members but that Rule 6 allowed for the International Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to adopt observers and/or consultants to participate in its sessions without voting rights.

With reference to Rule 5d Prof. Jensen noted that "[m]embers of the Executive Committee of the IAHR may not serve as representatives for their constituent societies at the International Committee meetings". Prof. Jensen also stressed that no representative can represent more than one association.

#### **2.1 Ascertainment of Membership**

The following members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR were present: President Rosalind I.J. Hackett; Vice-president Ingvild S. Gilhus; Vice-president Abdulkader Tayob; General Secretary Tim Jensen; Deputy General Secretary Mar Marcos; Treasurer Brian Bocking; Deputy Treasurer Marianna Shakhnovich; Membership Secretary Abraham H. Khan; Publications Officer Morny Joy; Members without Portfolio Satoko Fujiwara and Amarjiva Lochan.

Apologies from: Internet Officer Silas Guerriero.

The following representatives of the IAHR national and regional member societies and associations were present: Africa (AASR): Afe Adogame & Elias Bongmba; Australia (AASR): Carole Cusack; Austria (ÖGRW): Rüdiger Lohlker & Franz Winter; Belgium (BABEL): Jos Verheyden & Daniel Praet; Brazil (ABHR/BAHR): none; Canada (CSSR/ SCÉR) [one vote only]: none; \*\*Canada(Québec) (SQÉR) [one vote only]: none; China (CARS): Zheng Xiaoyun; Czech Republic (CASR): Tomáš Bubík & David Zbiral; Denmark (DASR): Jørn Borup & Laura Feldt; Eastern Africa (EAASR): none; Europe (EASR): Einar Thomassen & Marco Pasi; Estonia (EAUS/ESSR): Jaan Lahe & Ülo Valk; Finland (SUS): Peter Nynäs & Anna Haapalainen; France: Charles Guittard & Régine Guittard; Germany (DVRW): Christoph Bochinger & Christoph Kleine; Greece (GSSCR): Panayotis Pachis & Olympia Panagiotidou; Hungary (MVT): Abraham Kovács & Bulcsu Hoppál; India (IASR): none; Ireland (ISASR): James Kapalo & Alexandra Grieser; Italy (SISR): Giovanni Casadio & Alessandro Saggiaro; Japan (JASR): Takeshi Kimura & Yoshitsugu Sawai; Latin America (ALER): none; Latvia (LRPB): none; Lithuania (LSSR): Milda Ališauskienė; Mercosur/South America (ACSRM): none; Mexico (SMER): Yolotl González Torres; Netherlands (NGG): Markus Altena Davidsen; New Zealand (NZASR): Geoff Troughton & Douglas Pratt; North America (NAASR): Luther M. Martin & Donald Wiebe; Norway (NRF): Knut A. Jacobsen; \*Poland (PTR): [see below]; Romania (RAHR): none; Russia: Ekaterina Teryukova & Elena Stepanova; Slovakia (SSŠN/SASR): none; South Korea (KAHR): Chae Young Kim; Southern Africa (ASRSA): none; South and Southeast Asia (SSEASR): Sophana Srichampa & LeHang Nga; Spain (SECR): Francisco Diez de Velasco & Santiago Montero; Sweden (SSRF): Jenny Berglund & David Thurfjell; Switzerland (SGR/SSSR): Jens Schlieter & Anja Kirsch; Turkey (TAHR): none; Ukraine (UARR): Anatoliy Kolodnyy & Liudmyla Fylypovych; United Kingdom (BASR): Bettina Schmidt & Graham Harvey; United States (AAR): Amy Allocco & Robert Puckett.

(\*) The association or society was (at the time of the meeting of the International Committee) not paid up to the latest completed financial year (2014), and thus not entitled to vote, neither at the International Committee Meeting nor at the General Assembly.

(\*\*) The Executive Committee has declared the membership lapsed but had not yet struck the name of the association from the list of member associations. The association in question thus had no voting rights. According to the IAHR Rules of Procedure 15a and 15b "The General Secretary, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, shall alone determine whether a constituent society or association is fully paid up at the time of any vote to be taken ..."

Ascertaining the membership and the right to vote of those present, some colleagues present claiming to be members of the Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions were kindly asked to leave the room since the membership of the named association had been

declared lapsed. Besides, no representatives or delegates from the named association had been announced. Two confirmed representatives of the Polish association were allowed to be present but with no voting rights, since the Polish association was not paid up to the latest completed financial year (2014).

(During the ascertainment of membership an error was discovered: the listing in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 8–14 of the national member associations and societies, with an indication of whether they were paid up or not, incorrectly indicated that the CSSR/SCÉR (Canada) was not fully paid up to the latest completed financial year (2014).)

With reference to Article 6 and Rule 10, according to which “A meeting of the International Committee requires a minimum attendance of ten members from a minimum of seven national associations”, Prof. Hackett concluded that the International Committee had a quorum.

## *2.2. Ascertainment of Affiliation*

With reference to the Rules of Procedure, Rule 5c according to which “each affiliated association may appoint no more than one (non-voting) representative to attend each International Committee meeting”, it was ascertained that the following affiliated associations and societies were present:

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE): Henrik Bogdan;  
International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR): Dimitris Xygalatas;  
International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA): Eileen Barker;  
International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC): Sarah M. Pike;  
Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions (SAMR): Jeffrey Brodd.

## *2.3 Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee*

With reference to the Rules of Procedure, Rule 5.f. provision that “[o]n the recommendation of the Executive Committee, up to four individuals may be co-opted as voting members by the International Committee at the beginning of the session”, the General Secretary reported that presently there were no individual members.

With reference to Rule 6, allowing the International Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to adopt observers and/or consultants to participate in its sessions without voting rights, the General Secretary reported that the IAHR Executive Committee recommended that a representative of the applicant Philippine association, Prof. Esmeralda Sanchez, be allowed to participate. The Executive Committee also recommended that Prof. Michael Pye be allowed to participate in order for him to function as ‘returning officer’ during the elections. The International Committee unanimously agreed to adopt the mentioned colleagues as observers without voting rights.

Moreover, it was recommended that nominees for the 2015–2020 Executive Committee who were in Erfurt but not already participating as delegates from member associations be allowed to be present not only in order for them to deliver an oral statement of candidacy but also to understand better the workings of the Committee in advance of the election. Consequently, Profs. Peter Beyer, Anne Kubai, Ann Taves, and Katja Triplett were by unanimous agreement allowed to be present without voting rights.

Last but not least, it was proposed by the Executive Committee that Prof. Armin W. Geertz, serving as chair of the IAHR 2010–2015 Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee be

admitted to the meeting in order for him to present the suggestions from that committee to the International Committee. The International Committee unanimously agreed to this proposal.

### **3 Minutes of the International Committee Meeting, Liverpool 2013**

The Minutes (*IAHR BULLETIN Number 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 17–36), preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee July 29, 2014 and first published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp.14–39 and thus circulated to the members of the IAHR International Committee in accordance with the relevant rule(s), were unanimously adopted by the International Committee.

### **4 Report by the General Secretary**

The General Secretary initially honored the memory of the following IAHR Honorary Life Members who had passed away since the World Congress in Toronto 2010: Professor Jean Leclant († September 16, 2011) Professor Julien Ries († February 23, 2013) Professor Noriyoshi Tamaru († December 12, 2014) Professor Jacques Waardenburg († April 8, 2015) Professor R.J. Zwi Werblowsky († July 9, 2015).

He extended condolences to their families. Obituaries have been or will be published, he added.

With reference to his full and detailed written report, published in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 49–77, Prof. Jensen expressed his wish to restrict the oral report to a minimum in order to provide more time for other items on the agenda. Prof. Jensen consequently focused on the following:

#### **4.1 Executive Committee and International Committee: Meetings and Meeting Locations**

Prof. Jensen extended thanks to all the hosting member associations (the SSEASR, the SSRF, the BASR, the EASR, the AASR, and the DVRW) and their various local partners and university departments for facilitating the meetings of the Executive and International Committee since 2011. With reference to his written report as well as to his report to the International Committee in Liverpool 2013 on the same issue, he deemed it fair to say that the outgoing Executive Committee had been fairly successful with its efforts to implement the IAHR principle of rotation, i.e., to move the Executive as well as International Committee meetings around the world. The principle of rotation and its implementation has been and remains, Prof. Jensen said, highly important for our continued efforts to enhance and extend the IAHR as a global association and thus to promote the academic, non-religious study of religions globally, the key aim of the IAHR.

#### **4.2 Communications**

The *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, together with the IAHR website and occasional email letters with important pieces of information sent to the officers and members at large of the IAHR member associations and affiliates, constitute the main means of communication from and about the IAHR. Consequently, it is of the utmost importance to the well-being and functioning of the IAHR that the officers of the IAHR

member associations and affiliated societies forward the digital version of the *IAHR Bulletin* and the digital *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* to their membership, and Prof. Jensen therefore urged the officers to do everything in their power to share these and other news items from the IAHR with their membership at large. The IAHR Executive Committee and its General Secretary have no other means to contact the IAHR members directly, neither by regular mail nor by email.

With its information about the more permanent ‘fundamentals’ of the IAHR (the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure, the IAHR membership and leadership, past congresses and conferences, proceedings, publications and proceedings, *NVMEN*, and the Women Scholars Network) as well as about most of the news and information from the IAHR General Secretary’s desk, the IAHR website together with the IAHR Bulletin and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement functions as the public face of the IAHR. Prof. Jensen mentioned that the website had been revamped in 2013, *inter alia* to better accommodate the needs and wishes of the Executive Committee. The General Secretary – in continuous contact over the past 7–8 years with the IAHR webmaster, Jeremy Hughes (Knoxville, USA), extended his heartfelt thanks to the webmaster for his almost daily work with the IAHR website, updating information, posting of news, etc.

Though the IAHR Facebook Group, in contrast to the IAHR website, is not meant to serve as an official vehicle or platform for news from the IAHR Executive, it nevertheless serves an important purpose which the website does not, namely communication among individual IAHR members and information about IAHR related events and matters. Prof. Jensen thanked the President, Prof. Hackett and the colleagues assisting her, Justin Lane and Sarah Gallant, for the work with the IAHR Facebook Group.

Likewise, he extended thanks to Prof. Hackett and Publications Officer Prof. M. Joy for their untiring efforts developing the IAHR Women Scholars Network, also by way of the 2015 revamped website, and the General Secretary also took the opportunity to extend thanks to all the scholars actively participating in and supporting the IAHR Women Scholars Network, thereby helping the IAHR pursue its efforts to practice a responsible strategy and implementation of globalization, as well as to work continually towards gender equality and empowerment of women scholars, and, by extension, IAHR-related scholarship around the world.

#### *4.3 IAHR Congresses and Conferences*

With reference to his extensive written report listing the 2010–2015 IAHR Special and Regional Conferences (as well as the IAHR Co-Sponsored Conference in Macau 2015) and his extensive report on the bids for and decision regarding the hosting of the 2015 World Congress, Prof. Jensen extended thanks to all the colleagues whose engagement and hard work had made these IAHR conferences and the World Congresses in Toronto and Erfurt possible.

Special thanks were extended to the BASR (UK) and the CASR (Czech Republic) and their local partners; the two member associations that had joined the DVRW in preparing and sending detailed and impressive bids for hosting the 2015 World Congress.

Prof. Jensen briefly summarized his report on the many meetings that since 2011 had taken place between the IAHR leadership and the German Congress hosts. He himself, the Deputy General Secretary, the President, and the Treasurer, had been in continuous email and telephone contact with the German hosts on all relevant matters, e.g. the overall planning



of meetings, sessions and social events, problems arising in spite of the meticulous work executed by the Academic Program Committee, and the distribution of travel grants made possible, *inter alia*, by an IAHR total grant of approx. 18.000 EUR. Indeed, all members of the Executive Committee had been involved in various aspects of the planning of the Congress as well as in discussions leading to distributions of grants.

With the grants provided by the German hosts and various German institutions the total amount used for subsidies amounts to 32.275 EUR, and some 52 scholars have been assisted. Some 1.600 panels and papers had been submitted, of which some 1.500 were included in the final program. The number of registered participants passed 1.000, thus putting extra pressure on the German hosts for everything to be in place in order to accommodate this relatively large number of participants.

Prof. Jensen on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee extended heartfelt thanks to the Congress directors, Profs. Rüpke and Bochinger as well as to Congress Coordinator Dr. Begemann, to the members of the (local) Organizing Committee, and to each member of the Academic Program Committee, including, of course, the two co-chairs, Profs. Bochinger and Marcos, for their meticulous and hard work, including their constant efforts to help align the academic standard of the IAHR World Congress academic program with the general aims of the IAHR and the IAHR's ongoing efforts constantly to improve, secure and tighten up its academic profile. Congress directors Bochinger and Rüpke have contributed to the special *NVMEN* 60th Anniversary celebratory publication (see ahead) with an article unfolding their reflections in regard to the congress theme and the dynamics of the academic study of religions.

Prof. Jensen also extended thanks to the IAHR Honorary Life Members who kindly accepted to serve as members of the Congress Advisory Committee, and he extended special thanks to Dorothea Ditchfield who had generously sponsored the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture and whose support was highly important with regard to making the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture an established feature of IAHR World Congresses. Gary Lease, who passed away in 2008 while serving as the IAHR Treasurer, was a staunch supporter of the IAHR and its aim: to promote and strengthen the academic and non-religious study of religions worldwide. To have, the General Secretary added, Prof. Hubert Seiwert deliver the 2015 Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture in the shape of the Opening Lecture bodes well for the future of the IAHR and the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture.

Before finishing his report on IAHR conferences and congresses, Prof. Jensen directed the attention of the members of the International Committee to the revised rules for hosting an IAHR conference, rules now stressing that the member associations hosting an IAHR sponsored conference had an obligation to ensure that the academic program and the individual papers contribute to the general aims of the IAHR as spelled out in the IAHR Constitution, "Article 1: [...]The IAHR [...]has as its objective the promotion of the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns." Furthermore it was now explicit that the IAHR General Secretary be kept informed about developments and provided with conference programs and the address list of the participants, that publication of the proceedings must be consistent with the IAHR congress publication policy, and that the host of an IAHR regional conference, within two months of the event, shall provide the IAHR General Secretary with a brief (max. 1.000 words) report on the conference suitable to be reproduced in an IAHR Bulletin or an IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement.

#### *4.4 Membership Development*

With reference to item 10 on the Agenda (“Recommendation of new members and affiliates”), Prof. Jensen limited his oral report to the following:

During 2010–2015, the IAHR has continued the process of globalization as regards the adoption of member associations from various parts of the globe, having furthermore strengthened its position as the pre-eminent global forum for the academic study of religions by way of affiliation to the IAHR of international associations dedicated to the study “of particular areas within the academic study of religions”.

However, he also noted that the Executive Committee in the same period, in accordance with the 2010 revised rules (IAHR Rules of Procedure, Rule 1.c.), had also declared lapsed the membership of some member associations which over several years had not complied with the IAHR requirements as regards the payment of annual fees and/or had not communicated with the IAHR leadership in order to maybe reach an agreement as regards the payment of fees.

Thus the membership of the Asociación Cubana de Estudios sobre la Religión, Israel Society for the History of Religion, the Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions, the Associação Portuguesa parao Estudo das Religiões, and the Indonesian Association for the Study of Research of Religion have all eventually been declared lapsed.

In view of this policy the Executive Committee had agreed on a re-admission policy, and Prof. Jensen with reference to his written report pp. 62–63 asked the members and the member associations to make themselves familiar therewith.

Last but not least, Prof. Jensen mentioned that there was a well-founded hope that an Israel society may spring to life, and that the Nigerian association may be re-admitted in accordance with the re-admission policy by the incoming Executive Committee.

He also mentioned that several colleagues, within and without the IAHR Executive Committee, had been trying to stimulate a process towards the establishment of anew and functioning Indonesian association, and that the IAHR leadership had been in continuous contact in order to offer assistance in case the Cuban colleagues find it suitable to try to establish a new Cuban association.

#### *4.5 Finances, CIPSH, and the IAHR African Trust Fund*

With reference to the full report by the Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, the General Secretary stated his satisfaction with the fact that the financial situation in 2015, as well as in 2013 and 2010 (cf. *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010, 42–45; 55–62*), was significantly better than in Tokyo 2005 when he first took office. He noted that though the major reason for the improvement was the agreement made with Brill in 2008 as regards *NVMEN*, a strict scheme in regard to the soliciting of annual dues and the rise in the rate of dues as of 2014, had also contributed to the much healthier state of affairs. However, as spelled out in previous reports by the General Secretary and then acting Treasurer Prof. Jensen as well as by the now outgoing Treasurer Prof. Bocking the situation is not quite as healthy as it looks because it still depends to a significant degree on the capability of most officers and members of the Executive Committee to finance most (at times all) of their IAHR-related expenses themselves. As stated by Prof. Bocking in his report, “[p]roviding EC members with full funding for attendance at EC meetings would have required a significant

additional commitment (perhaps 12,000 USD annually) from the IAHR budget.” Prof. Jensen then took the opportunity to express his gratitude for the way in which the outgoing IAHR Treasurer had managed the IAHR finances 2010–2015 as well as for his highly important participation and close cooperation with the General Secretary in the 2006–2008 negotiations with Brill when he served (2005–2010) as Publications Officer. Last but not least, Prof. Jensen extended special thanks to Honorary Life Member, Prof. Akio Tsukimoto for his generous donation to the IAHR. The IAHR rarely receives so generous a gift.

In regard to CIPSH, the *Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines*, under UNESCO, the General Secretary initially referred to his earlier reports stating that the IAHR membership to the CIPSH, in terms of fees paid and grants received, had paid off. However, since 2010, this situation had changed dramatically, and in 2013 the IAHR Executive Committee decided to not pay any annual fees to CIPSH unless CIPSH was revived. In 2014 efforts to rescue or revive CIPSH resulted in a call for a General Assembly to be held in Paris, October 14–15, 2014, and it was decided to have the President, Prof. Hackett represent the IAHR in Paris. It was also decided that the General Secretary should nominate Prof. Hackett for a position as Vice-President in the new CIPSH executive committee, and that the IAHR should pay the fee for 2014, but not for 2013 when CIPSH had appeared to be non-functioning. On an additional note it must be remarked that it was later agreed to pay the arrears for 2013, and that Prof. Hackett in Paris was elected one of two CIPSH vice-presidents. A decision, Prof. Jensen added, about any payment of fee for 2015 and about the IAHR’s future relationship with CIPSH has been referred to the incoming 2015–2020 IAHR Executive Committee.

As regarded the IAHR African Trust Fund, Prof. Jensen referred to his written report pp. 65–66 for an overview of applications and grants awarded over the five years 2011–2015. Having summarized the discussion reported on in more length in his written report pp. 66–67, the General Secretary reported on the concluding considerations and unanimous decision taken by the IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Cape Town, SA, in 2014 as regards a suggestion to extend the fund beyond 2015 and/or allocating a larger amount than 4,000 USD in 2015 (perhaps to subsidize the travel of scholars from Africa to the IAHR World Congress in Erfurt):

The Executive Committee had agreed on a limit of 4,000 USD each year, an amount of money, moreover, which in most years had turned out to be more than the IAHR African Trust Fund Board of Trustees required. Furthermore, the IAHR had already made a substantial contribution to the Congress travel subsidy fund to support scholars from weaker economies, and the allocation of travel support against published criteria was a matter for the Erfurt Congress Organizing Committee.

The Executive Committee, moreover, noted that the cycle of advertising, adjudicating and awarding the IAHR ATF grants typically ran between Sept–March. Thus, there would be ample time for the incoming Executive Committee meeting in Erfurt to make any arrangements it might deem suitable beyond 2015.

In light of this the Executive Committee at its meeting in Cape Town 2014 agreed:

- that the IAHR ATF in 2015 would continue to run as at present; that is, there would be a final tranche of 4,000 USD from the current fund made available to the IAHR ATF Board of Trustees in 2015, to support research by scholars in line with the IAHR ATF criteria;

- that efforts should be made, as also suggested by the IAHR ATF Board of Trustees Secretary, Prof. Adogame, to publicize the fund to promising candidates at the imminent AASR conference in Cape Town, so that the full allocation could hopefully be disbursed to projects of eligible scope and quality;
- that in briefing the new incoming Executive Committee in Erfurt, the outgoing General Secretary would briefly remind members of the history and purpose of the fund and its activation by the 2005–2010 Executive Committee and implementation by the 2010–2015 Executive Committee, as well as of the amount actually spent over the 5 years to 2015.

Prof. Jensen ended his report on the IAHR African Trust Fund by extending thanks to all the members of the Board of Trustees and special thanks to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Prof. Afe Adogame.

#### *4.6 IASR Recommendations and IAHR Executive Response*

Since the full text of the ‘Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions’ as well as the responses from the Executive Committee had been published several times (first in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*, pp. 12–20 & 21–35, then in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 42–50 & 51–65), and since the matter, furthermore, was referred to in the General Secretary’s report 2010–2013 (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 40) as well as in the preliminary Minutes from the International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, September 4, 2015 (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp. 31–32), Prof. Jensen refrained from further reporting on this matter, referring the members to the named publications, all easily accessible on the IAHR website.

Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude to the members of the IASR Consultation for their steadfast dedication to the IAHR and their continuous concern for its future well-being.

#### *4.7 The IASR Proposal to Change the Name of the IAHR*

Prof. Jensen, with reference to item 8 (“Proposal for a Change of Name of the IAHR”) and his written report pp. 68–69 refrained from further comments on this matter.

#### *4.8 The AASR 2010 Proposal ‘Restructuring the IAHR Executive’, Follow-Up*

With reference to his detailed written 2015 report (pp. 69–70), to the *IAHR Bulletin, 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010*, and to the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, Prof. Jensen summarized the situation as follows: the IAHR International Committee at its meeting in Toronto 2010 concluded its discussion about the AASR proposal by rejecting the proposal. Nevertheless, it asked the 2010–2015 Executive Committee to consider the proposal and the delegations and duties of members of the Executive Committee and to report on its discussions at the International Committee Meeting in 2013. The Executive Committee discussed the matter at meetings in Cork 2013 and reported to the International Committee in Liverpool in 2013, and it also continued discussions at its meeting in Cape Town 2014. However, it did not come to appoint where it had any recommendations beyond what was implicit in its recommendations in Toronto 2010: based on the experiences with the new (as of 2005) delegation of duties, especially

the offices of Membership Secretary and the Internet Officer, it was recommended to do away with the two named offices and thus, as of the nominations and elections 2015–2020, to have four members without a portfolio ('four further members'), a recommendation and a change to the IAHR Constitution later unanimously decided upon by the International Committee and General Assembly in Toronto 2010. This means, Prof. Jensen added, that the 2015–2020 incoming Executive Committee will have to do the same as the outgoing (cf. the remarks in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p.18): it has to figure out how best to deal with the duties formerly allocated to the Membership Secretary and Internet Officer, and it has to do what has been done already by the outgoing Executive Committee, namely engage the four further members actively in the on going work and discussions of the Executive Committee, work and discussions going on not just during the annual business meetings but throughout the year by way of electronic communication and meetings in the context of various IAHR conferences. Prof. Jensen finally mentioned that the outgoing Executive Committee had agreed that it would not be appropriate nor very helpful to come up with a set of recommendations to be discussed and maybe voted on in Erfurt 2015. It must be up to the incoming 2015–2020 Executive Committee, constituted on the basis of the changes made to the Constitution in 2010, to take up the discussion and consider if it wants to work towards a restructuring of the IAHR Executive Committee and maybe come forward in due time with a proposal to be discussed and voted upon in 2018 and 2020.

#### *4.9 IAHR Related Publications*

*NVMEN*, International Review for the History of Religions – as of 2011 published in six issues per annual volume, with Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Olav Hammer as current Managing Editors and Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus as Reviews Editor – remains, Prof. Jensen said, the IAHR flagship journal, striking, in the opinion of the outgoing Executive Committee that “balance between amore classical historical-philological IAHR profile and a more innovative IAHR profile” which is “the hallmark of the IAHR and the way for the IAHR journal to have its own special identity”(cf. *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 57).

Consequently, the General Secretary was happy and proud to be able to show to the members of the International Committee a ‘dummy’ of the *NVMEN* 60th anniversary publication, edited by Profs. Armin W. Geertz & Tim

Jensen on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee. Though it had been the intention of Brill to have it published and ready for the Erfurt World Congress, Brill now had scheduled the publication for November 2015, but Congress participants could pre-order the book for the extraordinary price of 25 EUR.

The publication, entitled *NVMEN, the Academic Study of Religion, and the IAHR – Past, Present and Prospects*, Prof. Jensen continued, was based on the past and present close connection between *NVMEN* and the IAHR, and thus on the history and development of the study of religions reflected in both of them. The contents were constituted by a mixture of, on the one hand, reprints of past key contributions to *NVMEN* as well as to the IAHR, and on the other hand, new contributions that – in line with the reprints selected – look forward at the same time as they look back. The book has reprints of contributions by C.J. Bleeker, R. J. Zwi Werblowsky, A. Schimmel, U. Bianchi, E. J. Sharpe, M. Pye, A.W. Geertz &

R. T. McCutcheon, and T. Jensen, and new contributions by D. Accorinti, G. Alles, C. Bochsinger & J. Rüpke, G. Casadio, S. Fujiwara, R. I. J. Hackett, O. Hammer, M. Joy, M. Pye, and D. Wiebe.

The General Secretary extended thanks to past and present Brill acquisition editors as well as to Brill editor Maarten Frijswick for suggesting the publication and for their support editorial process, a process bearing witness to the excellent working relationship between the IAHR and Brill, a relationship going back to the very beginnings of the IAHR and *NVMEN* (and described by Prof. Giovanni Casadio in his contribution to the celebratory publication). Prof. Jensen also extended thanks to the *NVMEN* Managing Editors, Profs. Alles and Hammer and to Reviews Editor, Prof. Gilhus for their gigantic work and service to *NVMEN* and the IAHR.

It was a pleasure, Prof. Jensen continued, to be able also to announce the publication of *Philosophy and the End of Sacrifice – Disengaging Ritual in Ancient India, Greece and Beyond* (ed. by Peter Jackson and Anna Pya-Sjödén), the first publication in the new Equinox/IAHR book series ‘The Study of Religions in a Global Context’.

The new IAHR book series strongly supports the continued development of historical and comparative studies, as well as encouraging work that is also in other ways innovative within the academic study of religions. Prof. Jensen thanked former and current IAHR Publication Officers, Profs. Brian Bocking and Morny Joy, Equinox editors Janet Joyce and Valerie Hall, the Managing Editor Prof. Triplett, and the editorial board for their efforts, cooperation and contributions to the new IAHR book series.

It is the hope of the IAHR Executive Committee that the new IAHR/Equinox book series will assist the IAHR in furthering its aims and scholars, including of course junior scholars, from around the world and the total range of the IAHR constituency, are encouraged to use this new venue for the publication of their work.

Mentioning IAHR and IAHR-related proceedings, Prof. Jensen took the opportunity to thank Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress Director Prof. Wiebe and his staff for preparing and publishing a digital version (uploaded at the IAHR website) already within a year after the event, and for finding the means for distributing 100 print copies to libraries around the world.

As for spin-off publications from the Toronto 2010 World Congress, Prof. Jensen said that neither he nor the Publications Officer had received information about spin-off publications, and he kindly asked the members to provide whatever relevant information they had in this regard and to consult the By-Laws for rules.

Having mentioned those proceedings and spin-off publications from IAHR conferences, published between 2010–2015, of which he and the Publications Officer were actually aware, and having thanked the colleagues responsible for these publications, Prof. Jensen ended his report on IAHR publications by directing the attention of members to the fact that Nos.1–40 of the *IAHR Bulletin* can now be accessed by all IAHR members and the public at large at the IAHR website.

The (IAHR) Bulletin, for years part and parcel of *NVMEN*, served as the mouth piece of the IAHR as an organization. A separate IAHR Bulletin, to supplement what was published in *NVMEN* from and about the IAHR, appeared in 1986 when Michael Pye, then Secretary-General, decided to produce and publish a supplement to what he called the more “formal notices” which were intended to appear in *NVMEN*, “the official published organ of the IAHR” (*IAHR Bulletin* February 1986, p.1).

During his two terms as General Secretary (1985–1995) Prof. Pye managed to publish 33 issues of the IAHR Bulletin, and these 33 issues constitute and contribute to a highly important part and period of the IAHR's history and identity, *inter alia* the concerted and strategic efforts of Prof. Pye and colleagues to build and expand a global and strong IAHR organization. Consequently, an offer from another former IAHR General Secretary, succeeding Prof. Pye in 1995 and serving also the two permitted terms until 2005, Prof. Armin W. Geertz, to have the 33 1986–1995 issues scanned so that they could enter the digital archive of the IAHR provided by the IAHR website had been accepted with great gratitude by the now outgoing General Secretary who extended thanks to Profs. Pye and Geertz, and encouraged all IAHR members to enjoy the 33 newly uploaded issues of the IAHR Bulletin at <http://www.iahr.dk/bulletins.php>.

#### 4.10 Concluding Remarks

Stepping down as General Secretary, having served the IAHR for two terms, 2005–2015, Prof. Jensen looked back (and forward) as had many of his predecessors when exiting. Looking back Prof. Jensen found it safe to say that the IAHR leadership, i.e., the Executive and International Committee, as well as the General Assembly, during the two terms had continued to fulfil its mandate, namely (Constitution §1), promoting “[...]the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject”, and thus also doing its best to make of the IAHR what it proudly claims to be (cf. the website policy statement), namely the “preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present”.

The IAHR leadership had done so by way of:

- assisting the establishment and adoption of new national and regional associations and societies for the academic study of religion(s);
- adopting (in accordance with the Constitution §3b) affiliates, i.e., international associations for the study of particular areas within the academic study of religion, and thus linking them to and including them in the IAHR;
- framing the thorough amendments to the Constitution ratified during the 2010 Toronto Congress, with, *inter alia*, introduction of terms that signal that ‘history of religions’, also within the IAHR, is different from what it was in the 1950s;
- making other innovations to the Constitution and By-Laws meant to further geographic representation, gender balance and cultural diversity (e.g. revised Rules for the Nominating Committee);
- clarifying and tightening the academic profile of the IAHR.

As regards developments and improvements specifically pertaining to gender, Prof. Jensen noted that

- the Nominating Committee 2015–2020 was constituted of three females and two males;
- the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Committee 2010–2015 was constituted of two females and one male; and that
- while the IAHR Executive Committee 2005–2010 was constituted of seven males and five females (one serving as President), the 2010–2015 Executive had six females (one serving as President, another as Vice-President) and six males on board.

The 2015–2020 nominations, Prof. Jensen added, most certainly also reflect the global character of the IAHR membership and leadership as well as the (successful) efforts to help strike a gender balance.

Moreover, during this period, the IAHR Women Scholars Network was established and developed, and the new Equinox/IAHR book series 'The Study of Religion in a Global Context' had been introduced, with the aim of being avenue not least for younger scholars worldwide.

In terms of the 'globalization' of the IAHR, the outgoing Executive Committee had thus continued the efforts towards globalization that can be seen as ongoing from the 1950s and speeded up and strategically developed by Profs. Michael Pye (1985–1995) and Armin W. Geertz (1995–2005).

Taking over in 2005, the outgoing General Secretary (functioning as Acting Treasurer 2008–2010), and the then-Treasurer, late Prof. Gary Lease, together with the Executive Committee initiated steps to help improve the financial situation. With the great help of the then-Publications Officer, now outgoing Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, the situation has been improved considerably.

Due to the positive change in the financial situation over the past 10 years, the IAHR had been better able to face some of the challenges pertaining to the continuous efforts to become more global. In Tokyo 2005 outgoing General Secretary Geertz (*IAHR Bulletin 38*, p.38), in light of the then gloomy financial situation, stated that if the situation did not improve, the IAHR would become more virtual than real, most IAHR events would most likely happen only in economically strong countries, and "once again, we would be back to the routines and power structures of yesteryears".

Prof. Jensen agreed: financial strength or weakness is crucial to IAHR's capacity for global outreach, and the importance of the improvement of the financial situation cannot be overestimated. Thanks to the improved finances the IAHR Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen said, had been able to put 'globalization' to work, e.g. by way of giving considerable travel grants to help scholars from around the world participate in the IAHR business meetings, congresses, and conferences.

Last but not least Prof. Jensen wanted to stress that the outgoing Executive Committee, continuing the work of the 2005–2010 Executive, had worked assiduously to guard the academic respectability of the IAHR by clarifying the commitment to academic objectives. As he himself had stated in his statement for candidacy for the position of General Secretary in 2005: "'global' in the language of the IAHR, is not the same as 'ecumenical'." Lasting traces of these efforts are found in the 2010 addition to the first article of the IAHR Constitution, but the tightening up of the academic profile can also be seen from the revised rules as to the obligation to see to it that the academic programs of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences are in line with the stated aims of the IAHR.

The outgoing Executive Committee had thus, in the opinion of Prof. Jensen, done its best to expand the IAHR while at the same time trying to secure that the 'identity' of the IAHR continued to reflect what was arguably first formulated more explicitly by General Secretary Zwi Werblowsky in his famous Marburg 1960 statement:

If the IAHR has any *raison d'être* it is by reason of a division of labor which makes the Organization the responsible organ and international meeting ground for those



scholars who wish to serve the cause of Religionswissenschaft in its strict sense.  
(*NVMEN* 7, p. 220)

Prof. Jensen stressed that he wanted to quote these words because he, as is evident e.g. from the coming *NVMEN* 60th anniversary publication, with many others consider the Marburg 1960 Congress and the late Zwi Werblowsky's statement a cornerstone in the building of an institutional consensus as to the perspective and ethos of the IAHR.

But, headed, he also quoted these words to signal that it had been a privilege and honor – standing on the shoulders of great(er) scholars and former general secretaries like, to mention but a few of the more recent ones, Zwi Werblowsky, Michael Pye and Armin W. Geertz – to serve the IAHR, trying to further develop the IAHR along the lines staked out by the Werblowsky statement.

Stepping down as General Secretary, Prof. Jensen wanted to thank all his colleagues in the outgoing Executive Committee for their hard work, commitment, and support. A special thank you was extended to the outgoing President, Prof. Hackett, as well as to the outgoing Treasurer, Prof. Bocking.

The President, Prof. Hackett thanked the General Secretary for his report and opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report. There were no questions nor comments. The President then expressed her gratitude to the General Secretary for his devotion and dedicated work for the IAHR and asked that the report be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

### ***5 Report by the Treasurer***

With reference to his full and written report in the *IAHR BULLETIN Number 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 78–85, the Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking displayed the overview rendered below (cf. p. 84 in the detailed written report) of the IAHR accounts and briefly commented as follows:

*Income*: there are two reliable sources of income: 1) from Brill for *NVMEN* (currently 10,295 EUR p.a.), and 2) member and affiliate associations' annual dues (now c. 10,000 USD p.a.). CIPSH no longer offers any financial support.

The Treasurer added a few notes to the above. 1) *Payments from Brill* in respect of each issue of the IAHR journal *NVMEN* constitute the major guaranteed source of income for the IAHR, with 65,058 EUR provided since 2010. Payments are adjusted upwards annually according to the annual Netherlands Euro inflation rate. 2) *Annual dues* fulfil two main and important functions. One is symbolic, namely to renew the membership of each constituent member and affiliate association each year. (Failure to pay dues over several years, and despite reminders, means an association may eventually be declared lapsed.) The other function is to augment IAHR funds through a small levy on the worldwide membership. In general, member associations pay annual dues promptly, to the great happiness of your treasurer, although a few still need reminders. The annual levy was set at 1 USD per individual member several decades ago and had lost perhaps 80% in value over the years. Consequently in 2013 the Executive raised the annual dues for associations of between 34 and 499 members to 3 USD per member and the dues for associations with 500+ members (there are currently only two; Japan and USA) to 2,000 USD. Smaller associations of fewer

than 34 members pay the unchanged minimum rate of 100 USD. The EC additionally agreed to review the rate at least every five years, i.e., by 2018.

The new dues rates have made a significant difference to dues income. 11,139 USD (including some arrears) were collected in 2014 compared with an average of 4,800 USD in each of the four previous years.

As for the CIPSH, the IAHR Endowment Fund and the IAHR African Trust Fund, he referred to what had already been reported by the General Secretary and to the details provided by his written report.

*Expenditure:* Average annual expenditure during the period 2010–2014, including expenditure on the 2010 Toronto Congress, has averaged 17,000 USD.

The Treasurer added a few words on major expenditures: a) *Conference support:* Since 2010, the IAHR has provided financial support to IAHR conferences including 30,000 USD to the Toronto World Congress as well as sums of 1,000–2,000 USD to AASR Conferences in Kenya (2012) and Cape Town (2014) and SSEASR conferences in Bhutan (2011) and Manila (2013). Conference support in the reporting period 2010–2014 has thus averaged 8,000 USD p.a., including the IAHR subvention to the Toronto Congress in 2010. In non-Congress years conference support has averaged 1,700 USD. Regarding the 2015 Erfurt Congress, the Executive Committee agreed in 2013 to make a subvention in Euro to the Erfurt Congress equivalent to 15,000 USD plus the IAHR Endowment amount of 8,695 USD, a total of 23,695 USD. b) *Executive Committee expenses:* Crucial to the IAHR's effectiveness is the annual Executive Committee meeting which generally lasts two days and is held in a different part of the world each year, in connection with an IAHR conference which, in most cases, EC members also attend. In practice, most of the costs of EC meetings in the period 2010–2014 have been met by members from their own resources or their university travel funds. For example, in 2013 eleven members met in Cork at a total cost of 3,535 USD (average per person subsidy 320 USD) while in 2014 the IAHR contributed less than 5,000 USD in total towards EC members' travel and accommodation for the meeting in Cape Town. Providing EC members with full funding for attendance at EC meetings would have required a significant additional commitment (perhaps 12,000 USD annually) from the IAHR budget. Since the real cost of EC members' travel and subsistence is thus much more than the IAHR subsidies, the low figure thus hides/reveals the continuing 'hidden subsidy' to IAHR from EC members' own resources. c) *Publications and web expenses:* Payments include the costs during 2010 of producing printed Congress proceedings from both Durban (2000) and Tokyo (2005). Other payments are largely for webmaster assistance with the iaahr.dk website.

*Bank Accounts and exchange rates:* The IAHR currently maintains two bank accounts: an EUR account (balance May 31, 2015:55, 418EUR) and a USD account (balance May 31, 2015:25, 698USD). The IAHR accounts are traditionally reported in US dollars, so the recent sharp rise of the dollar/fall of the Euro has 'cost' IAHR 4,633USD in the period 2010–2014 and may 'cost' a further 5,000 USD in 2015 alone. However, this has no practical effect so long as the IAHR has both USD and Euro bank accounts on which to draw as appropriate. It should however be noted that of the IAHR's 24,000 USD annual income only 7,000 USD or so is actually received in dollars, so any expenditure above that amount in any year from the USD account will deplete the dollar reserves.

Prof. Bocking in ending his report extended thanks to all those treasurers and other officers of IAHR member associations who have over the last five years ensured payment of annual dues in the right amount, at the right time, and to the right IAHR account. Finally, Prof.

Bocking thanked the President, General Secretary and all of his colleagues on the 2010–2015 Executive Committee for their support, encouragement and patience with regard to his efforts as Treasurer during the period.

The President, Prof. Hackett thanked the Treasurer for his clear report and opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report. There were no questions nor comments. The President then thanked the Treasurer for his excellent and dedicated work for the IAHR and asked that the report be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

### IAHR accounts 01/01/2010 – 31/12/2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Totals	Average p.a.	5 months
Exchange rate (€-\$) at 31 Dec	0.80	0.77	0.76	0.73	0.83	2010-14	2010-14	to 31/5/2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$			\$
<b>Opening balance at 1/1 brought fwd</b>	<b>63,529</b>	<b>47,334</b>	<b>67,635</b>	<b>68,217</b>	<b>87,942</b>	<b>63529</b>		<b>94,261</b>
Foreign Exchange gain/loss		1,282	728	2,324	-8,967	-4,633		-5,419
<b>INCOME</b>								
NUMEN	11,350	14,866	8,512	18,049	12,281	65,058	13,012	1,928
Dues	5,159	5,332	4,921	3,787	11,139	30,338	6,068	9,540
CIPSH	11,795	2,079	0	0	0	13,874	2,775	0
Donations	0	121	0	0	2,986	3,107	621	0
IAHR Endowment Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,695
IAHR African Trust Fund	0	4,000	3,535	0	2,119	9,654	1,931	0
Other	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total income (€)</b>	<b>28,304</b>	<b>26,399</b>	<b>16,968</b>	<b>21,836</b>	<b>28,525</b>	<b>122,032</b>	<b>24,406</b>	<b>20,163</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Conference support	33,395	1,299	3,000	366	2,000	40,060	8,012	18,112
Committee Expenses	5,651	1,229	9,205	3,433	7,570	27,088	5,418	5,107
IAHR African Trust Fund	958	4,000	3,535	0	2,119	10,612	2,122	0
IAHR Endowment Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIPSH	0	0	789	0	723	1,512	302	0
Publications & Web	3,020	776	0	311	283	4,390	878	0
Bank charges	0	41	260	325	544	1,170	234	166
Other	1,475	35	325	0	0	1,835	367	0
<b>Total expenses (€)</b>	<b>44,499</b>	<b>7,380</b>	<b>17,114</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>13,239</b>	<b>86,667</b>	<b>17,333</b>	<b>23,385</b>
Surplus/deficit	-16,195	19,019	-146	17,401	15,286	<b>35,365</b>		-3,222
<b>Closing balance at 31/12 carried fwd</b>	<b>47,334</b>	<b>67,635</b>	<b>68,217</b>	<b>87,942</b>	<b>94,261</b>	<b>94,261</b>		<b>85,620</b> (31 May)
IAHR African Trust Fund	12,000	8,000	4,465	4,465	2,346	<b>2,346</b>		2,345
IAHR Endowment Fund	8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695	<b>8,695</b>		0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS at 31 Dec</b>	<b>68,029</b>	<b>84,330</b>	<b>81,377</b>	<b>101,103</b>	<b>105,302</b>	<b>105,302</b>		<b>87,965</b>

### 6 Additional Matters of Report by the Executive Committee

The General Secretary, with reference to the meeting of Sunday, August 23, 2015 in Erfurt of the outgoing Executive Committee, reported that the Executive Committee, in line with an earlier decision taken, did not want to bind the hands of the incoming 2015–2020 Executive Committee in financial affairs and matters of principle. Consequently, it had decided to hand over several matters for discussion and decision to the incoming Executive, *inter alia*, a proposal to discuss whether the IAHR ought to adopt a policy on diversity, a request for readmission by the Nigerian association, and the future relationship to CIPSH. He also reported that while in Erfurt he had received the good news that the (re-)establishment of an Israeli association for the study of religion was now planned to happen during a meeting to be held in October 2015. Prof. Jensen was very pleased with this, adding that the Israel society had been one of the oldest IAHR member societies, and that it would have been a loss to the IAHR if there were no Israel society. He thanked Shai Feraro and other Israel colleagues for taking this initiative, a most apt way to honor the now late Zwi Werblowsky.

Prof. Jensen, also while in Erfurt, had received a draft proposal for a constitution for a new

Cuban association, and he expressed his hope that a Cuban association might be (re-)established in connection with a conference in Havana, Cuba, July 2016.

The President, Prof. Hackett opened the floor for questions and comments. There were no questions nor comments.

### **7 Election of the 2015–2020 Executive Committee**

With reference to his email message of May 26, 2015 to members and officers of the IAHR International Committee and member associations and affiliates, as well as to the 2015–2020 nominees and nominating committee, in which the General Secretary announced that he had decided, in view of the fact that he was himself up for election, to hand over all further handling of the elections, including the soliciting of statements of candidacy (to be published on the IAHR website and in the *IAHR Bulletin*) from the named nominees, to the IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, Prof. Jensen handed responsibility of this matter over to the President and the Treasurer to conduct the election of the 2015–2020 Executive Committee.

Prof. Hackett, presiding, with reference to the General Secretary's 2010–2015 written report (*IAHR BULLETIN Number 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp.52–53) and the series of email announcements sent to the International Committee and member associations and affiliates, as well as to the 2015–2020 nominees and to the 2015–2020 nominating committee chaired by Prof. Peter Antes, ascertained that all the IAHR rules and procedures for nominations (including alternative nominations) and elections of the Executive Committee, including the announcements of nominations and the deadline for alternative nominations, had been attended to. On May 26, 2015, the final and total nominations had been announced in an email to the same recipients and thus (hopefully) also to the IAHR membership at large. Having thus ascertained that the relevant rules and procedures had been followed, she asked the Treasurer, Prof. Bocking to execute the elections. Prof. Bocking noted that in an election not all candidates could be successful and he congratulated, on behalf of the delegates present and the whole IAHR membership, all of the nominees; being nominated was already an acknowledgment within the IAHR of a candidate's capability, scholarly standing and commitment to the work of the IAHR.

With the help of a PowerPoint presentation Prof. Bocking explained the steps of the procedure and the details of the elections proper. Voting would start with the election of officers with designated duties, in the order listed in the Constitution, beginning with the Presidency. This would be followed by the election of the four further members. Voting would take place sequentially by secret ballot in the case of contested posts, while candidates for non-contested posts would be declared 'elected unopposed'. Each voting representative would be provided with a set of ballot papers in different colors, the first for voting for (one) President, then for voting for (two) Vice-Presidents, then voting for (one) General Secretary, and finally voting for the four further members (all other posts being uncontested). Prof. Bocking also explained the procedures in case of tied votes, and the role of the President, who would not vote except in the case of a tie, where the President would exercise her casting vote as necessary. He also explained the function and assistance of Prof. Michael Pye as 'returning officer' and of the two outgoing Vice-Presidents (neither standing for election), Profs. Gilhus and Tayob, as tellers.

Before the act of voting, the nominees for contested posts present were given the opportunity to deliver a three-minute oral statement, while candidates for non-contested posts took a minute briefly to introduce themselves to the electorate. At the same time the candidate's name and the position she or he had been nominated for was displayed by way of a PowerPoint presentation. Absent nominees for contested posts had been invited to send a video presentation although that offer was not taken up; in the case of an absent candidate, the PowerPoint also showed a photograph of the candidate. Thus each nominee present, with the exception of Prof. Peter Beyer who refrained from giving an oral statement, delivered a brief statement. Following this, the Treasurer announced a coffee break during which the members with a voting right could collect and sign for their voting papers.

After the break the voting procedure was set in motion as announced, and following each round of voting for each position, Prof. Michael Pye reported the result to the President and then formally announced the result on behalf of the IAHR. The outcome of the elections was as follows:

President (one position)

Peter Beyer, Canada (8 votes)

Tim Jensen, Denmark (58)

(spoiled/incomplete ballot papers: 1)

Vice-Presidents (two positions)

Veikko Anttonen, Finland (38)

Anne Kubai, Sweden (33)

Mar Marcos, Spain (61)

General Secretary (one position)

Afe Adogame, United Kingdom (35)

Jenny Berglund, Sweden (32)

Deputy General Secretary

Ann Taves, USA (elected unopposed)

Treasurer

Philippe Bornet, Switzerland (elected unopposed)

Deputy Treasurer

Marion Maddox, Australia (elected unopposed)

Publications Officer

Satoko Fujiwara, Japan (elected unopposed)

Further Members (four positions)

Milda Alisauskiene, Lithuania (43)  
Chae Young Kim, South Korea (39)  
Amarjiva Lochan, India (48)  
Marianna Shakhnovich, Russia (24)  
David Thurfjell, Sweden (42)  
Katja Triplett, Germany(53)  
Frank Usarski, Brazil (18)

*The following were thus duly elected to the IAHR Executive Committee 2015–2020:*

President: Tim Jensen

Vice-Presidents: Veikko Anttonen, Mar Marcos

General Secretary\*: Afe Adogame

Deputy General Secretary: Ann Taves

Treasurer: Philippe Bornet

Deputy Treasurer: Marion Maddox

Publications Officer: Satoko Fujiwara

Four Further Members: Milda Alisauskiene, Amarjiva Lochan, David Thurfjell, Katja Triplett

\*From 2015 onwards 'Secretary General'; see (9) below

The President, Prof. Hackett congratulated all the elected nominees, and thanked all the nominees not elected for their willingness to serve the IAHR.

Prof. Jensen, resuming his duty as General Secretary, thanked the two Vice Presidents, Profs. Gilhus and Tayob, the elections officer, Prof. Pye, the Treasurer Prof. Bocking as well as the members of the Nominating Committee, Profs. Maya Burger, Gerrie ter Haar, Sylvia Marcos, Peter Antes (chair), and Luther H. Martin for their service to the IAHR.

### ***8 Proposal for a Change of Name for the IAHR***

With reference to

- a) the proposal for a change of name discussed by the International Committee in Liverpool 2013 (cf. the relevant section of the Minutes from the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool 2013, *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 30–33),
- b) the IAHR Executive Committee's effort to encourage the IAHR members to discuss the revised proposal from Profs. Martin and Wiebe (see the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2013*, p.3 ),
- c) the decision to thus have a (in regard to this proposal) decisive discussion by the International Committee in Erfurt in order for it (in case of are commendation for a change of name) to bring the matter before the General Assembly, and
- d) the fact that the General Secretary had not received any other proposals for a change of name from any member association

the General Secretary invited Profs. Martin and Wiebe to ever so briefly state the case for the revised proposal to change the name for the Association to **the International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)**.

When Profs. Wiebe and Martin had done so, Prof. Jensen thanked them and opened the floor for questions and comments. He also reminded the committee members that a proposal for another name than the one proposed by Profs. Martin and Wiebe had not been filed to him and the Executive Committee, and that it was thus only the name proposed by Profs. Martin and Wiebe and not any other possible name that was up for discussion and voting.

Prof. Giovanni Casadio (Italy) read aloud a written statement which he afterwards has been kind enough to hand over to the General Secretary for him to include it in the minutes. The statement read:

CHANGE OF NAME? No, thanks.

1. The only viable alternative name to *History of Religions* is *Study of Religion(s)*, which is the denomination (official or in English translation) of the majority (29 vs. 8) of the IAHR member associations and societies. The term “study” is, however, too generic and amorphous, as was already noted in Paris by the IAHR International Committee in 1992, and is now recognised even by the supporters of the name change. The alternative name proposed at that time, “academic study” (which is used in the denomination of two national associations), was also discarded later on for being too inclusive, as it comprises the various philosophies and theologies of religion(s), which are studied and taught in an academic milieu yet are not historico-empirical and critical disciplines. See Doc. 1.

2. The denomination *Historical and Scientific Studies of Religions* that is now proposed by scholars (who do not represent any national or regional associations, but only themselves, and this is a notable deterioration with respect to Rome 1990 and Mexico 1995, where the motion to change the name was presented by the British Association), is odd and awkward. Odd, because history itself is a science, and there is no apparent opposition between history and science; awkward, because it is redundant and equivocal, with regard to the adoption of two plural (“studies” and “religions”) which violate both the rules of English usage and the traditional epistemology of the study of religions (= religious studies).

3. *Science* is appropriate in German (*Wissenschaft*) and – with a notable amount of ambiguity – in French, Spanish, and Italian. In English it is not appropriate to define a branch of humanistic and cultural studies.

4. Martin and Wiebe mean “Scientific” as a study which uses cognitive science, evolution theory, biology, neuroscience as methods or approaches, but the name of a scholars’ association should describe the field of study, rather than supply an arbitrary choice of methods or approach.

5. History (historical), instead, is not the definiens of a method. History (of religions) is a field (*res gestae*) and a discipline (*historia rerum gestarum*) which is the traditional rendering in French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, Romanian, Turkish, Portuguese, and Korean of the (German) original name of the discipline, *Religionswissenschaft*, as formulated by the founding father of the field as an academic area, F. Max Müller: See Doc. 2.

2. The preservation of the denominator HISTORY in the name of not only several South and North European societies but also in few – but very representative – Asiatic (Turkey and South Korea) and South American (Brazil: an immense country) associations is by itself very telling.

6. Like Religion, or Hinduism, the Scientific (a quite controversial definer from the emic

point of view: see Doc. 3b) Study of Religion is already there. It does not need to be invented. It has already its own tradition and its own association, the *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (SSSR), which was founded just one year before our association. See Doc. 3a. The members come prevalently from the so-called social sciences (sociology, psychology, political science, economics) and have their flagship review, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, which is, by the way, quite different from NUMEN in its contents and its aims. See Doc. 3 a.

7. Both the Social Science of Religion and the Cognitive Science of Religion (notice, in this case, the usage of the singular for both the discipline and the field) have their own highly structured associations and organs, with a significant mutually enriching interplay with the IAHR and its national and regional affiliated societies. See Doc. 4. An interplay and a cooperation which – in the view of the Italian association that I represent, a view shared by the French, the Romanian and the Swiss francophone societies – should not imply a loss of our identity, according to the explicit and implicit intentions of the founders of the association, the Dutch G. van der Leeuw and C. J. Bleeker, the Italian R. Pettazzoni, and the Romanian M. Eliade.

8. History can be practiced—in compliance with the basic rules of philology—utilising approaches based on methods developed within the field of the social (homo sapiens is essentially a *zoon politikon* according to Aristotle) and natural (homo sapiens is primarily an animal) sciences. But history is by itself a full-fledged multifaceted “science” (in the sense of a non-confessional empiric study) with its own widely articulated methodology (which is not limited to the study of written documents) and does not require further qualifications.

Prof. Casadio ended up stressing that he was speaking on behalf of the Italian association. Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus also commented on the proposal, saying that she was in favor of the proposed change and that she liked the insertion of ‘Historical’ in the revised proposal, adding that she found the acronym a bit problematic, though.

Prof. Takeshi Kimura, one of two delegates of the JARS, conveyed the concern of JARS board members: in case the proposal to change the name of the IAHR was adopted by the International Committee and thereafter put to the General Assembly for the final decision by way of a vote in favor or against a new name, the location of the World Congress and thus of the General Assembly might be decisive. The majority of participants in the General Assembly held this year in Erfurt most likely would be from Europe, not least from Germany. This might be seen as a rather parochial way for an international association to take such an important decision. The IAHR and the International Committee ought to consider this before taking a decision.

The General Secretary thanked the speakers for the comments and asked if anybody else wanted to comment on the proposal. Since this was not the case, he proposed that a vote by a show of hands be taken, not least because it was agreed upon in Liverpool 2013 that the discussion of the International Committee on the proposal for a change of name was undertaken with regard to a possible recommendation to the General Assembly to vote on a (possible) recommendation from the International Committee that the IAHR change its name and thus the constitution.

Prof. Hackett then asked for a vote by a show of hands. The vote had the following result: – In favor of the proposal to change the name for the Association to the *International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion* (IAHSSR): 15



– Against: 40

–Abstentions: 9

The proposal to change the name for the Association to the *International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)* was thus rejected by a majority of the members of the International Committee and thus would not be brought before the General Assembly.

### **9 Proposal for Changing [IAHR] ‘General Secretary’ to ‘Secretary General’**

The proposal submitted by the Executive Committee (and to be taken to the General Assembly for a final decision if accepted by the International Committee because it implied a change to the Constitution) was, the General Secretary explained, caused by worries expressed by some members that ‘General Secretary’ in some contexts did not signal the same importance, weight or authority as did ‘Secretary General’. Prof. Jensen added that if the proposal submitted won the favor of the International Committee, the recommendation to the General Assembly ought to mention that a change of name to Secretary General entailed a change of name from ‘Deputy General Secretary’ to ‘Deputy Secretary General’.

Prof. Hackett opened the floor for questions and comments. There were no comments or questions, and she therefore asked for a show of hands. An overwhelming majority was in favor of the proposal.

The proposal was thus to be brought before the General Assembly for it to take the decision that implied a change to the constitution.

### **10 Recommendation of new members and affiliates**

The General Secretary, with the help of a PowerPoint presentation, and with reference to his report in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, p. 60, reported that the International Committee Meeting at its meeting in Liverpool, September 4, 2013, unanimously agreed, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly (meeting in Erfurt August 29, 2015) that it adopt as *members* (cf. the Constitution §3A) the following national associations:

- *Association belge pour l’étude des religions/Belgische Associatie voor de Studie van Religies (BABEL)*, Belgium;
- *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions (ISASR)*, Ireland;
- *Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions (LSSR)*, Lithuania;

as well as the following regional association:

- *Asociacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur (ACSRM)*, South America.

In addition to this, he reported that the Executive Committee had received (March 2, 2015) an application for membership from the *Philippine Association for the Study of Culture, History and Religion (PASCHR)*, and that the Executive Committee at its meeting in Erfurt, Sunday August 23, 2015, unanimously agreed to recommend to the International

Committee that they recommend that the association become a new member of the IAHR at the General Assembly.

Prof. Hackett invited *PASCHR* President, Prof. Esmeralda Sanchez, to say a few words if she so wanted, and Prof. Sanchez rose and expressed the wish of the *PASCHR* to be adopted as a member of the IAHR.

Prof. Hackett then asked for a show of hands in favor of or against the recommendation of the adoption of each of the abovementioned applicants. In each case there was an overwhelming or unanimous majority in favor and the recommendation of the membership of each applicant was accompanied by applause.

The General Secretary, finally, reported that the IAHR Executive Committee had, upon the receipt (August 1, 2014) of an application with the relevant information attached, decided to recommend to the International Committee that it recommends to the General Assembly meeting in Erfurt to adopt as an affiliate (cf. the Constitution §3B) the *Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions (SAMR)*.

Prof. Hackett asked for a show of hands in favor or against the recommendation of the adoption of the applicant as an affiliate to the IAHR. An overwhelming majority was in favor and the recommendation was accompanied by applause.

### **11 Recommendation of Honorary Life Members**

The General Secretary, having referred to the rules in regard to the procedure for Proposals for Honorary Life Membership, asked Prof. Armin W. Geertz, the chair of the 2010–2015 Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee to present to the International Committee their proposals for Honorary Life Membership.

Prof. Geertz took the floor and read the letter of nominations that he – on behalf of the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, consisting of the three honorary life members of the IAHR, namely, Prof. Giulia S. Gasparro (Messina), Dr. Yolótl Gonzales Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus) – had submitted to the General Secretary in accordance with the relevant rules on July 20, 2015.

The Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee proposed that IAHR Honorary Life Membership be conferred on the following three senior scholars:

- Prof. Giovanni Casadio, Salerno, Italy;
- Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Knoxville, USA; and
- Prof. Susumu Shimazono, Tokyo, Japan.

The proposals were unanimously supported by the International Committee, and IAHR Honorary Life Membership conferred upon each of the mentioned senior scholars by applause. The letter sent and read by Prof. Geertz is rendered in full below:

#### *Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships of the IAHR (2015)*

*An Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members of the IAHR, namely, Prof. Giulia S. Gasparro (Messina), Dr. Yolótl Gonzales Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus) was constituted in accordance with the procedural provisions, and we have the privilege of reporting as follows. In accordance with the rules, two IAHR constituent member societies and one affiliate responded to the General*

*Secretary Prof. Tim Jensen's call for proposals, suggesting one name each, and the Executive Committee suggesting three names. These names were then forwarded to the Advisory Committee, which was asked to choose up to three names. According to the rules, "honorary life memberships can be conferred on senior scholars who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers and/or other outstanding contributions." We were conscious of various criteria such as academic achievement and reputation, global balance and gender balance, contribution to the work of the IAHR, but found that it was not possible to take all relevant criteria into account simultaneously and equally. It was necessary to establish a shorter list from within the slightly larger pool of eminently suitable persons and after considerable thought, the committee reached unanimous agreement that the following three persons (alphabetical order) should be put forward to the International Committee for decision:*

*Prof. Giovanni Casadio, Salerno, Italy*

*Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Knoxville, USA*

*Prof. Susumu Shimazono, Tokyo, Japan*

***Giovanni Casadio*** is Professor of History of Religions at the University of Salerno, Italy. He has authored some 150 publications in Italian, English, French, German, Spanish, and Romanian related to Greek religion (Dionysus, Orphism, Plato, Plutarch), Near Eastern religions (Iran, Ugarit, Mesopotamia), ancient Christianity and syncretism (Gnosticism, Manichaeism), woman and gender studies, and to the history of the history of religions. Prof. Casadio is founder and editor of the series *Biblioteca di Studi Religiosi* and *Biblioteca di Storia delle Religioni* and *Humanitas*, and he is a member of the advisory board of several international journals. He has served for several years on the board of the *Società italiana di storia delle religioni (SISR)*, one of the most active member associations within the IAHR, past and present. Prof. Casadio likewise has served as a member and Publications Officer (2000–2007) on the Executive Committee of the EASR. He is currently serving the SISR as Secretary and the EASR as Vice-President. He has been and still is one of the most steadfast and active supporters of the IAHR and well versed in the history of the association.

***Rosalind I. J. Hackett*** is Professor of Religious Studies at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee in Knoxville since 1986, and is an adjunct Professor in Anthropology and faculty associate at the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy. She was a Distinguished Professor in the Humanities from 2003–2008. She taught in Nigerian universities from 1975–1983, while conducting fieldwork. As a specialist on the religions of Africa, she has published widely on new religious movements in Africa, religious pluralism, art, gender, the media, and religion in relation to human rights. She recently published on proselytization, religion and conflict, global Pentecostalism and Evangelicalism, and is currently working on sound in and as religion. Prof. Hackett has been very active organizationally. Within the IAHR, she has served as Deputy Secretary-General (1995–2000), Vice President (2000–2005) and two terms as President (2005–2015). She was Program Chair of the XVIIIth IAHR World Congress in Durban (2000) and active in coordinating panels at many IAHR conferences (1995–2015). She was Treasurer and founding member of the African Association for the Study of Religions (1993–1998) and Ex-officio member (1998–2005). Prof. Hackett currently serves as Vice President of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies under UNESCO (2014–2017). She has served as President of the North American Association for the Study of Religion (1993–1994), on the Executive

*Council of the American Society for the Study of Religion (1999–2002) and on a number of steering committees in the American Academy of Religion (1986–2009).*

**Susumu Shimazono** is Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, Department of Religious Studies. His many research fields include religions in modern Japan, comparative study of contemporary religions, new religions, death and life studies, public philosophy and religion, and comparative study of civilizations. He has produced a large number of publications, some of which are available in English as well. He has served as President of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies (2002–2005 and 2008–2011). He served as Congress Director of the 2005 Tokyo Congress of the IAHR, the largest world congress in its history, the success of which owes to his initiative.

Armin W. Geertz (on behalf of the Advisory Committee)

July 20, 2015

### **12 Proposed Changes to the Constitution Caused by Transfer of Bank Account**

The Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, took the floor and used a PowerPoint presentation to put forward the proposal and to provide the background for the proposal. The background, he explained, is the following:

Banks are subject to increasing restrictions on who may open a bank account, and where. The IAHR bank accounts have to be transferred to the new Treasurer's location, Switzerland.

A basic requirement for opening a corporate (IAHR-type) bank account in Switzerland is that Switzerland must be the 'primary location' of the IAHR.

This condition is met if:

- (a) The IAHR Constitution does not state that the IAHR is located outside Switzerland;
- (b) the Constitution states that 'the primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the Treasurer'; and
- (c) the Treasurer is resident in Switzerland.

In order to comply with these requirements and thus facilitate a (hopefully) smooth transfer of the accounts, the Executive Committee proposed the following changes to the Constitution:

- A new sentence to be added at the end of Article 3A of the IAHR Constitution to read as follows: "The primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the IAHR Treasurer"
- The clause in Article 1 of the IAHR Constitution which reads "and is legally registered in the Hague, the Netherlands" to be moved from the IAHR Constitution into a new section VI within the IAHR's Rules of Procedure and the current (final) section VI to be renumbered section VII.

Consequently, the Treasurer, on behalf of the Executive Committee, recommended that the Constitution §§ 1 and 3 be amended so that it reads as follows:

§ 1:

"The International Association for the History of Religions (abbreviated from its English title to IAHR), was founded in September 1950 on the occasion of the VIIIth International History

of Religions Congress. The IAHR is a nonprofit worldwide organization which has as its objective the promotion of the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.”

...

§ 3:

“The IAHR is constituted by national and regional member societies and associations for the historical, social and comparative study of religions. These are such bodies as are now members and such as have been, upon application, recommended for membership by the Executive Committee, pending recommendation by the International Committee (see below), and admission by the General Assembly at a future quinquennial Congress. The primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the IAHR Treasurer.”

Furthermore, it was recommended that the Rules of Procedure were amended to read as follows following Rule 20d (under VII. the change is only of numbering; formerly 21, now 22):

#### **VI. Legal Registration of the IAHR**

##### **Rule 21. Legal Registration**

The IAHR is legally registered in the Hague, the Netherlands.

#### **VII. Adoption, Amendment and Suspension of the Rules of Procedure**

##### **Rule 22. Adoption**

The International Committee shall adopt the Rules of Procedure by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

Each and all of the proposals were unanimously agreed upon by a show of hands and thus to be brought before the General Assembly for it to take the final decision.

#### ***13 Any other business***

There was no other business.

Prof. Hackett closed the meeting, extending thanks to all the members of the International Committee for their active participation.

Minutes prepared by the then General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, assisted by notes taken by the then Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos, and by comments from former Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking

### **III. Minutes from the IAHR General Assembly, Erfurt, 2015**

[To be adopted at the next General Assembly in 2020]  
[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee, January 30, 2016]

#### *Welcome by the President of the IAHR*

Prof. Hackett welcomed the participants to the General Assembly and the closing of the IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress in Erfurt 2015. She explained that though everybody was more than welcome to attend, voting rights were restricted to paid-up individual members of paid-up IAHR member associations.

#### *Welcome by the General Secretary of the IAHR*

Prof. Jensen likewise welcomed the participants to the last of many business meetings taking place in conjunction with the World Congress. Saying a few more words about the rules as regarded the General Assembly, he stressed that the basis of the IAHR is constituted by the individual scholars and members of the IAHR member associations, and that it is these members and this basis that constitute the General Assembly meeting once every five years in conjunction with a quinquennial World Congress. The General Assembly is thus composed of all members of the IAHR member associations present at the congress in question. The General Assembly may, however, take action only on matters referred to it from the International Committee (that met Wednesday, August 26 in Erfurt), but it may also refer any matter to the International or Executive Committee for consideration and report. It is, Prof. Jensen added, the privilege of the General Assembly to make amendments to the Constitution and to adopt new members and affiliates but it does so only on the recommendation of the International Committee. Prof. Jensen, with reference to the detailed listing (*IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, p. 52) of information about the IAHR sent to the officers and members of the IAHR member associations and societies and to the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014* with the first call for the General Assembly 2015, ascertained that the meeting had been called in accordance with the relevant Rules of Procedure.

Prof. Hackett then moved on to the first item on the provisional agenda, printed in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, p. 16, displayed also on a PowerPoint presentation in the meeting room.

#### **1 Adoption of the Agenda**

The agenda was adopted by general consent.

#### **2 Minutes of General Assembly Toronto 2010**

The minutes, printed in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 37-48, were adopted by general consent.

### **3 Brief Report by the Outgoing General Secretary**

The General Secretary initially asked the General Assembly to honor the memory of IAHR Honorary Life Members, Profs. Jean Leclant, Julien Ries, Noriyoshi Tamaru, Jacques Waardenburg and R.J. Zwi Werblowsky who had all passed away during the past five-year term with a minute's silence.

With reference to his detailed written report (*IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 49–77), as well as to the oral report to the International Committee at its meeting on August 26 in Erfurt, the General Secretary reported as follows:

#### *3.1 Meetings and Meeting Locations*

The outgoing Executive Committee had, in his opinion, been fairly successful with implementing the principle of rotation, moving the IAHR business meetings around the world, thus enhancing and extending the continuous efforts to make of the IAHR a truly global association and to promote the academic, non-religious study of religions globally, the key aim of the IAHR. He thanked all the hosting member associations and their local partners for facilitating the meetings.

#### *3.2 Communications*

With reference to his detailed listing of his communications on behalf of the Executive Committee to the IAHR members and affiliates, Prof. Jensen stated that the *IAHR Bulletin*, the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, the IAHR website and occasional email letters sent to the officers and members at large from the desk of the General Secretary constitute the main channels of communication from and about the IAHR. Since the IAHR Executive Committee and its General Secretary have no means to contact the IAHR membership directly, Prof. Jensen once again stressed how important to the well-being and proper functioning of the IAHR it is that the officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliate societies find ways to share the information from and about the IAHR with their, and thus the IAHR's, membership at large. How, he asked, should the members around the world keep up an interest in the IAHR and 'identify' themselves as IAHR members if they did not get to read the information from and about the IAHR?

With its information about news from the desk of the General Secretary as well as its information about the 'fundamentals' of the IAHR (Constitution, Rules of Procedure, lists of IAHR membership, past congresses and conferences, proceedings, publications and proceedings, as well as its link to e. g. the IAHR Women Scholars Network), the IAHR website functions as the public face of the IAHR, and Prof. Jensen expressed his hope that the members visit the website from time to time. The General Secretary – in continuous contact over the past 7–8 years with the IAHR webmaster, Jeremy Hughes (Knoxville, USA) – extended his thanks to the webmaster for his almost daily work with the IAHR website, updating information, posting news, etc.

Though the IAHR Facebook Group is not serving as the official vehicle for news from the IAHR Executive, it seems to serve another purpose, namely communication among individual IAHR members and information about IAHR related events and matters. Prof. Jensen thanked the President, Prof. Hackett and the colleagues assisting her, Justin Lane and Sarah Gallant, for the work with the IAHR Facebook Group.

Likewise, he extended thanks to Prof. Hackett and Publications Officer Prof. M. Joy for

developing the IAHR Women Scholars Network, and, with reference to the successful meeting of the Women Scholars Network that had taken place some days before in Erfurt, he extended thanks to all the scholars actively participating in and supporting the network, thereby assisting the IAHR in its efforts to practice a responsible strategy and implementation of globalization, as well as to work continually towards gender equality and empowerment of women scholars, and, by extension, IAHR-related scholarship around the world.

### *3.3 IAHR Congresses and Conferences*

With reference to the listing of the 2010 –2015 IAHR Special and Regional Conferences (as well as the IAHR Co-Sponsored Conference in Macau 2015) and his equally extensive report on the bids for and decision regarding the hosting of the 2015 World Congress, Prof. Jensen extended thanks to all the colleagues who had made these IAHR conferences and the World Congresses in Toronto and Erfurt possible. Warm thanks were extended to the BASR (UK) and the CASR (Czech Republic) and their local partners; the two member associations that had joined the DVRW in preparing and sending detailed and impressive bids for hosting the 2015 World Congress.

Special thanks were extended to the German and local Erfurt hosts of the IAHR XXI World Congress, to Congress directors, Profs. Rüpke and Bochinger, to Congress Coordinator Dr. Begemann, to the members of the (local) Organizing Committee, and to each member of the Academic Program Committee, including, of course, the two co-chairs, Profs. Bochinger and Marcos, for their meticulous and hard work, including their constant efforts to help align the academic standard of the IAHR World Congress academic program with the general aims of the IAHR and the IAHR's ongoing efforts constantly to improve, secure and tighten up its academic profile. Prof. Jensen likewise thanked the German hosts for their continuous and at times daily contact and cooperation with the IAHR leadership on matters pertaining to the Congress, and for their cooperation in regard to raising and distributing funds for partial travel grants to participants.

Prof. Jensen also extended thanks to the IAHR Honorary Life Members who accepted to serve as members of the Congress Advisory Committee, and special thanks were extended to Dorothea Ditchfield for generously sponsoring the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture. Before finishing his report on IAHR conferences and congresses, Prof. Jensen mentioned that the rules for hosting an IAHR conference had been revised. They now make it an obligation for a host to ensure that the academic program and individual papers contribute to the general aims of the IAHR as spelled out in the IAHR Constitution, "Article 1: [...] The IAHR [...] has as its objective the promotion of the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns." Furthermore, it had been made explicit that the IAHR General Secretary be kept informed about developments and provided with conference programs, that publication of the proceedings must be consistent with the IAHR congress publication policy, and that the host of an IAHR regional conference, within two months of the event, shall provide the IAHR General Secretary with a brief report on the conference, a report later to be published either in the *IAHR Bulletin*, the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* and/or the IAHR website.

Prof. Jensen thanked those colleagues who had already provided such a written report and this led him to remind the members of the rules regarding congress and conference



publications and spin-off publications, *inter alia* the obligation to mention the relation to the IAHR congress or conference in question. With reference to his written report pp. 73–74, he expressed his sincere wish that colleagues who knew about IAHR related publications that had not been registered with the IAHR and on the IAHR website contact the IAHR General Secretary and/or Publications Officer. In line with what was said earlier on the importance attached to the dissemination to members of e. g. the *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, Prof. Jensen stressed the importance that publications related to the IAHR appeared as such, also publications related to the Erfurt 2015 World Congress. If the IAHR is never mentioned, the IAHR might well be forgotten.

### 3.4 Membership Development

With reference to item 5 on the Agenda (“Adoption of new members and affiliates”), Prof. Jensen limited his oral report to the following: During 2010–2015, the IAHR has continued the process of globalization as regards the adoption of member associations from various parts of the globe, having furthermore strengthened its position as the pre-eminent global forum for the academic study of religions by way of the *affiliation* to the IAHR of international associations dedicated to the study “of particular areas within the academic study of religions”. However, the Executive Committee, in accordance with the 2010 revised rules (IAHR Rules of Procedure, Rule 1.c.), had also declared lapsed the membership of some member associations which over several years had not complied with the IAHR requirements as regards payment of fees. The outgoing Executive Committee has been eager to develop the membership and have more members. But it has also agreed that it wanted the member associations to be alive and to pay the dues.

Thus, the membership of a Cuban, Israeli, Nigerian, Portuguese, and Indonesian association had all eventually been declared lapsed. In view of this policy, the Executive Committee, however had also agreed on a re-admission policy, and the Nigerian association had applied for re-admission; the incoming Executive Committee was about to apply the principles of the new policy to this application. The General Secretary also mentioned that several colleagues, within and without the IAHR Executive Committee, *inter alia* Prof. Morny Joy, had tried to stimulate a process towards the establishment of a new and functioning Indonesian association, that the IAHR leadership was in continuous contact with Cuban colleagues who had drafted a new constitution for a new Cuban association that might hopefully (depending also on new Cuban regulations for associations in general) spring to life during or after a conference to be held in Habana, Cuba, July 2016. Last but not least he reported that he had very good reasons to believe that a new Israel society for the study of religions would be a reality in the near future (October), not least thanks to Shai Feraro, a young Israel scholar with whom Prof. Jensen had been in contact for a year or so. The General Secretary added that he could not think of a better way for scholars in Israel to honor the memory of late Zwi Werblowsky.

Before closing his report on IAHR membership developments, Prof. Jensen, with reference to his written report (p. 61) added a few words on the cooperation between the IAHR and the, as of 2010 national US IAHR member association, American Academy of Religion, the AAR:

The IAHR leadership, in close cooperation with the AAR leadership, had tried to make sure that the membership within IAHR of the AAR might develop into a well-functioning mode of cooperation, not least as regards an outreach of the AAR to international scholars located outside the USA and often members of IAHR member associations and affiliates. The AAR

has appointed a liaison to the IAHR, and the IAHR has done likewise, asking the General Secretary to stay in close cooperation with the AAR, not least as regards the AAR international research grants scheme meant to further cooperation between US based AAR/IAHR scholars and non US-based IAHR members. Though the cooperation with the AAR leadership had been very good, promising, and rewarding, Prof. Jensen encouraged the incoming IAHR leadership to continue the close cooperation with the AAR, in order to make sure that the AAR did not forget that it is the IAHR that is the *international* (and preeminent) association for the academic scientific study of religion, and in order to make sure that the collaborative research grant requirement, according to which one partner in the grant scheme must be a member of the IAHR, is not neglected when the funding is decided upon.

### *3.5 Finances, CIPSH, and the IAHR African Trust Fund*

With reference to the written and oral report by the Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, the General Secretary stated his satisfaction with the fact that the financial situation in 2015, as well as in 2013 and 2010 (cf. *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010, 42–45; 55–62*), was significantly better than in Tokyo 2005 when he first took office. Though the major reason for the improvement was the agreement made with Brill in 2008 as regards *NVMEN*, a strict scheme concerning the soliciting of annual dues and the rise in the rate of dues as of 2014, had also contributed to the much healthier state of affairs. The fees are no longer just symbolic support, and Prof. Jensen thanked all the member associations for their support also in terms of the payment of fees.

This Erfurt World Congress, Prof. Jensen continued, is a very good example of how important it is for the IAHR in terms of democracy and scholarship to be able to use some of its general funds to assist scholars from all over the world to participate. Prof. Jensen once again stressed that he agreed with former General Secretary Prof. Armin W. Geertz when he said: if we do not have any money, if we cannot assist scholars from weak-currency countries then we will be back in the old euro-centric times.

This Erfurt World Congress, Prof. Jensen continued, the first one since Rome 1990 to be held in Europe, hosts, as far as he had been informed, almost 50/50 of participants from inside and outside Europe, or to be more precise: 54% from Europe and 46% from outside Europe (a first estimate). Due, he added to the fact that the German hosts have managed to raise a substantial amount of money, but also due to the fact the IAHR had been able to add an equally substantial amount of money to help fund scholars from around the world participate in the Congress.

Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude for the way in which the outgoing IAHR Treasurer had managed the IAHR finances 2010–2015 as well as for his highly important participation and close cooperation with the General Secretary in the 2006–2008 negotiations with Brill when he served (2005–2010) as Publications Officer. Prof. Jensen also extended special thanks to Honorary Life Member, Prof. Akio Tsukimoto for his generous donation to the IAHR. The IAHR rarely receives so generous a gift.

In regard to CIPSH, the *Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines*, under UNESCO, the General Secretary initially referred to his earlier reports stating that the IAHR membership to the CIPSH, in terms of fees paid and grants received, had paid off. The IAHR did receive grants that de facto assisted scholars from around the world. The IAHR, for example, received some 5.000 USD for the Toronto 2010 World Congress. But the IAHR has

also supported the CIPSH by way of an annual fee paid, and that fee has been paid also to support the general work of the CIPSH, inter alia promoting the humanities around the world. Prof. Jensen added that the outgoing President, Prof. Hackett, since 2014 one of two CIPSH Vice-Presidents, would be invited to take the floor under item “Any other business” to inform about an upcoming UNESCO/CIPSH Humanities World Congress planned for 2017. However, Prof. Jensen continued, since 2010, this situation had changed dramatically, and in 2013 the IAHR Executive Committee decided to not pay any annual fees to CIPSH unless CIPSH was revived. In 2014 efforts to rescue or revive CIPSH resulted in a call for a General Assembly to be held in Paris October 14–15, 2014. It was therefore decided that the IAHR should pay the fee for 2014, but not for 2013 when CIPSH had appeared to be non-functioning. A decision, Prof. Jensen added, about any payment of fee for 2015 and about the IAHR’s future relationship with CIPSH has been referred to the incoming 2015–2020 IAHR Executive Committee.

As regarded the *IAHR African Trust Fund* (originally based on money accumulated in connection with the Durban 2000 World Congress and the work of the organizers, not least Profs. Pratap Kumar and Rosalind I.J. Hackett), Prof. Jensen referred to his written report pp. 65–67 for an overview of applications and grants awarded over the five years 2011–2015, as well as for a full report on discussions and decisions. The *IAHR African Trust Fund* has, Prof. Jensen reported, come to an end. It was the 2011 decision of the outgoing Executive Committee that it be a ‘sinking fund’ ending 2015. All the money set aside for the IAHR African Trust Fund had not been spent. On top of the 12.000 USD originally there, it was agreed to add 8.000 USD. But no more than 13.000 USD in total had been spent over the years. It will be up to the incoming Executive Committee to decide if it wants to continue the fund or start a similar one. The outgoing Executive Committee unanimously agreed not to take any decisions that might bind the hands of the incoming Executive Committee for instance by way of prolonging the *IAHR African Trust Fund* beyond 2015. Prof. Jensen ended his report on the *IAHR African Trust Fund* by extending thanks to all the members of the Board of Trustees and special thanks to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Prof. Afe Adogame.

### 3.6 *The IASR Proposal to Change the Name of the IAHR*

Prof. Jensen, with reference to his written report pp. 68–69, reported: It follows from several *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplements*, and from, *inter alia*, the Minutes from the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool 2013, that there have been extensive discussions about the proposal to change the name of the IAHR, originally submitted by the IAHR Honorary Life Members, Profs. Luther H. Martin and Donald Wiebe, on behalf of the IASR consultation. Following the meeting and discussion in Liverpool, Profs. Martin and Wiebe submitted a revised proposal for changing the name of the IAHR, this time from the IAHR to *International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religions* (IAHSSR), cf. the *IAHR BULLETIN*, 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015, pp. 103–106.

This proposal had been discussed (under item 8) at the International Committee Meeting Wednesday August 26, 2015, in Erfurt and following the discussion a vote was cast. The proposal was rejected by a majority of votes, namely 40 members voting against the proposal, 15 in favor of the proposal, and 9 abstentions.

This, Prof. Jensen added, was the reason why the General Assembly did not have the proposal on its agenda. Prof. Jensen then thanked Profs. Wiebe and Martin and the other

participants in the IASR Consultation for taking the time and making the effort to reflect on and discuss possible ways of improving the IAHR and its work. That kind of dedication to the IAHR could hardly be overestimated.

### 3.7 *NVMEN*

The editorial board of *NVMEN*, International Review for the History of Religions, the IAHR flagship journal, is constituted by the IAHR Executive Committee, and it is the IAHR Executive Committee that recommends the managing as well as reviews editors of *NVMEN* to Brill Publishers. Current managing editors are Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Olav Hammer and current Reviews Editor is Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus. The General Secretary thanked the editors for their service to *NVMEN* and thus to the IAHR, and he extended special thanks to Prof. Gilhus who is stepping down at the end of 2015.

Next, the General Secretary announced a forthcoming *NVMEN* 60th anniversary publication, edited by Profs. Armin W. Geertz & Tim Jensen on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee. Though it had been the intention of Brill to have it published and ready for the Erfurt World Congress, Brill had re-scheduled the publication for November 2015.

The publication, entitled *NVMEN, the Academic Study of Religion, and the IAHR – Past, Present and Prospects*, is based on the past and present close connection between *NVMEN* and the IAHR, and thus on the history and development of the study of religions reflected in both of them. The content includes, on the one hand, reprints of past key contributions to *NVMEN* as well as to the IAHR, and, on the other hand, new contributions that – in line with the reprints selected – look forward at the same time as they look back. The book has reprints of contributions by C. J. Bleeker, R.J. Zwi Werblowsky, A. Schimmel, U. Bianchi, E. J. Sharpe, M. Pye, A.W. Geertz & R.T. McCutcheon, and T. Jensen, and new contributions by D. Accorinti, G. Alles, C. Bochinger & J. Rüpke, G. Casadio, S. Fujiwara, R.I.J. Hackett, O. Hammer, M. Joy, M. Pye, and D. Wiebe.

The General Secretary extended thanks to past and present Brill acquisition editors as well as to Brill editor Maarten Frijswick for suggesting the publication and for their support during the editorial process, a process bearing witness to the excellent working relationship between the IAHR and Brill, a relationship going back to the very beginnings of the IAHR and *NVMEN*.

It was a pleasure, Prof. Jensen continued, to be able to announce also the forthcoming *Philosophy and the End of Sacrifice – Disengaging Ritual in Ancient India, Greece and Beyond* (ed. by Peter Jackson and Anna Pya-Sjödén), the first publication in the new Equinox/IAHR book series 'The Study of Religions in a Global Context'.

The new IAHR book series supports the continued development of historical and comparative studies, as well as encouraging work that is also in other ways innovative within the academic study of religions.

Prof. Jensen thanked former and current IAHR Publication Officers, Profs. Brian Bocking and Morny Joy, Equinox editors Janet Joyce and Valerie Hall, the Managing Editor Prof. Triplett, and the editorial board for their efforts, cooperation and contributions to the new IAHR book series.

Prof. Jensen ended his brief oral report on IAHR publications by directing the attention of members to the fact that Nos. 1–40 of the IAHR Bulletin can now be accessed by all IAHR members and the public at large on the IAHR website. Thanks not least, of course, to IAHR Honorary Life Member and former President and Secretary General, Prof. Michael Pye who

managed to publish 33 issues of the *IAHR Bulletin* during his two terms as Secretary General.

But thanks must also go, Prof. Jensen added, to another IAHR Honorary Life Member and former General Secretary, Prof. Armin W. Geertz, who had been so kind as to offer to have the 33 1986–1995 issues scanned so that they could enter the digital archive of the IAHR provided by the IAHR website.

The General Secretary, consequently, extended his heartfelt thanks to Profs. Pye and Geertz.

### *3.8 Concluding Remarks*

Stepping down as General Secretary, Prof. Jensen asked that he be allowed to look back over the past two terms during which he had served the IAHR as General Secretary.

Looking back Prof. Jensen found it fair to say that the IAHR leadership, i. e., the Executive and International Committee, as well as the General Assembly, during the two terms managed to continue to fulfill its mandate, namely (Constitution § 1), to promote “ [...] the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject”, and thus also doing its best to make the IAHR what it proudly claims to be (cf. the website policy statement), namely the “preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present”.

The IAHR leadership had done so by way of:

- assisting the establishment and adoption of new national and regional associations and societies for the academic study of religion(s);
- adopting (in accordance with the Constitution § 3b) affiliates, i. e., international associations for the study of particular areas within the academic study of religion, and thus linking them to and including them in the IAHR;
- framing the thorough amendments to the Constitution ratified during the 2010 Toronto Congress, with, inter alia, introduction of terms that signal that ‘history of religions’, also within the IAHR, is different from what it was in the 1950s;
- making other innovations to the Constitution and By-Laws meant to further geographic representation, gender balance and cultural diversity (e. g. revised Rules for the Nominating Committee);
- clarifying and tightening the academic profile of the IAHR.

As regards developments and improvements specifically pertaining to gender, Prof. Jensen found it worth noticing that

- the Nominating Committee 2015–2020 was constituted of three females and two males;
- the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Committee 2010 –2015 was constituted of two females and one male; and that
- while the IAHR Executive Committee 2005–2010 was constituted of seven males and five females (one serving as President), the 2010 –2015 now outgoing Executive had six females (one serving as President, another as Vice-President) and six males on board.

Moreover, during this period, the IAHR Women Scholars Network was established and developed, and the new Equinox/IAHR book series ‘The Study of Religion in a Global Context’ was introduced, with the aim of being a venue not least for younger scholars worldwide.

In terms of the 'globalization' of the IAHR, the outgoing Executive Committee had thus worked hard to continue the efforts towards globalization that can be seen as ongoing from the 1950s and speeded up and strategically developed by Profs. Michael Pye (1985–1995) and Armin W. Geertz (1995–2005).

Furthermore, Prof. Jensen said, 'putting globalization to work' takes a strong economy. Thanks to the noticeable improvement of the IAHR finances over the past ten years, the IAHR Executive Committee had actually been able to put 'globalization' to work, e. g. by way of giving considerable travel grants to help scholars from around the world participate in the IAHR business meetings, congresses, and conferences.

Last but not least Prof. Jensen wanted to stress that the outgoing Executive Committee, continuing the work of the 2005–2010 Executive, had worked assiduously to guard the academic respectability of the IAHR by clarifying the commitment to academic objectives. As he himself had stated in his statement for candidacy for the position of General Secretary in 2005: "'global' in the language of the IAHR, is not the same as 'ecumenical'." Lasting traces of these efforts are found in the 2010 addition to the first article of the IAHR Constitution, but the tightening up of the academic profile can also be seen from the revised rules as to the obligation to see to it that the academic programs of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences are in line with the stated aims of the IAHR.

The outgoing Executive Committee had thus, in the opinion of Prof. Jensen, done its best to expand the IAHR while at the same time trying to secure that the 'identity' of the IAHR continued to reflect what was arguably first formulated more explicitly by General Secretary, Zwi Werblowsky in his famous Marburg 1960 statement:

If the IAHR has any *raison d'être* it is by reason of a division of labor which makes the Organization the responsible organ and international meeting ground for those scholars who wish to serve the cause of Religionswissenschaft in its strict sense.  
(*NVMEN* 7, p. 220)

Prof. Jensen stressed that he wanted to quote these words because he, as is evident e. g. from the coming *NVMEN* 60th anniversary publication, with many others, consider the Marburg 1960 Congress and the late Zwi Werblowsky's statement a cornerstone in the building of an institutional consensus as to the perspective and ethos of the IAHR, despite all disagreements and cultural differences.

But, he added, he also quoted these words to signal that it had been a privilege and honor – standing on the shoulders of great(er) scholars and former general secretaries like, to mention but a few of the more recent ones, Zwi Werblowsky, Michael Pye and Armin W. Geertz – to serve the IAHR, trying to further develop the IAHR along the lines staked out by the Werblowsky statement.

Stepping down as General Secretary, Prof. Jensen wanted to thank all his colleagues in the outgoing Executive Committee for their hard work, commitment, and support. A special thank you was extended to the outgoing President, Prof. Hackett with whom Prof. Jensen had had a wonderful working relationship for ten years as well as to the outgoing Treasurer, Prof. Bocking with whom he had had an equally splendid cooperation.

The President, Prof. Hackett opened the floor for questions and comments to the oral as well as written report. There were no questions nor comments. The President then moved to ask the General Assembly to formally adopt the report. The report was adopted with applause. Prof. Hackett asked the General Assembly to join her in thanking the General

Secretary for his meticulous work as manifested in his report, constituting an important record not just of the work of the Executive Committee but also of the work of the IAHR membership at large.

#### 4 Brief Report by the Outgoing Treasurer

With reference to his full and written report in the *IAHR BULLETIN Number 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 78–85, the Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking displayed the overview rendered below (cf. p. 84 in the detailed written report) of the IAHR accounts.

The *payments from Brill* for each issue of *NVMEN* constitutes the major source of income for the IAHR, with 65,058 USD provided since 2010. The *annual membership dues*, hitherto mainly fulfilling a symbolic function, now, with the raise of the annual dues, however also actually augment the IAHR funds. The major expenditures are a) *Conference support*, b) *Executive Committee expenses*, and c) *Publications and web expenses*.

The IAHR currently maintains two bank accounts: a EUR account and a USD account. The IAHR accounts are traditionally reported in US dollars, so the recent sharp rise of the dollar/fall of the Euro has ‘cost’ IAHR 4,633 USD in the period 2010–2014 and may ‘cost’ a further 5,000 USD in 2015 alone. However, this has no practical effect as long as the IAHR has both USD and EUR bank accounts on which to draw as appropriate.

Prof. Bocking extended thanks to all those treasurers and other officers of IAHR member associations who have over the last five years ensured payment of annual dues in the right amount, at the right time, and to the right IAHR account. Finally, Prof. Bocking thanked the President, General Secretary and all of his colleagues on the 2010–2015 Executive Committee for their support, encouragement and patience with regard to his efforts as Treasurer during the period.

The President, Prof. Hackett thanked the Treasurer for his clear report and opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report. There were no questions nor comments. The President then thanked the Treasurer for his excellent and dedicated work for the IAHR and asked that the report be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

#### IAHR accounts 01/01/2010 – 31/12/2014

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Totals	Average p.a.	5 months
Exchange rate (€-\$) at 31 Dec	0.80	0.77	0.76	0.73	0.83			to 31/5/2015
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	2010-14	2010-14	\$
<b>Opening balance at 1/1 brought fwd</b>	<b>63,529</b>	<b>47,334</b>	<b>67,635</b>	<b>68,217</b>	<b>87,942</b>	<b>63529</b>		<b>94,261</b>
Foreign Exchange gain/loss		1,282	728	2,324	-8,967	-4,633		-5,419
<b>INCOME</b>								
NUMEN	11,350	14,866	8,512	18,049	12,281	65,058	13,012	1,928
Dues	5,159	5,332	4,921	3,787	11,139	30,338	6,068	9,540
CIPSH	11,795	2,079	0	0	0	13,874	2,775	0
Donations	0	121	0	0	2,986	3,107	621	0
IAHR Endowment Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,695
IAHR African Trust Fund	0	4,000	3,535	0	2,119	9,654	1,931	0
Other	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
<b>Total income (€)</b>	<b>28,304</b>	<b>26,399</b>	<b>16,968</b>	<b>21,836</b>	<b>28,525</b>	<b>122,032</b>	<b>24,406</b>	<b>20,163</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Conference support	33,395	1,299	3,000	366	2,000	40,060	8,012	18,112
Committee Expenses	5,651	1,229	9,205	3,433	7,570	27,088	5,418	5,107
IAHR African Trust Fund	958	4,000	3,535	0	2,119	10,612	2,122	0
IAHR Endowment Fund	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIPSH	0	0	789	0	723	1,512	302	0
Publications & Web	3,020	776	0	311	283	4,390	878	0
Bank charges	0	41	260	325	544	1,170	234	166
Other	1,475	35	325	0	0	1,835	367	0
<b>Total expenses (€)</b>	<b>44,499</b>	<b>7,380</b>	<b>17,114</b>	<b>4,435</b>	<b>13,239</b>	<b>86,667</b>	<b>17,333</b>	<b>23,385</b>
Surplus/deficit	-16,195	19,019	-146	17,401	15,286	35,365		-3,222
<b>Closing balance at 31/12 carried fwd</b>	<b>47,334</b>	<b>67,635</b>	<b>68,217</b>	<b>87,942</b>	<b>94,261</b>	<b>94,261</b>		<b>85,620</b> (31 May)
IAHR African Trust Fund	12,000	8,000	4,465	4,465	2,346	2,346		2,345
IAHR Endowment Fund	8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695		0
<b>TOTAL ASSETS at 31 Dec</b>	<b>68,029</b>	<b>84,330</b>	<b>81,377</b>	<b>101,103</b>	<b>105,302</b>	<b>105,302</b>		<b>87,965</b>

## **5 Adoption of New Members and Affiliates**

Having referred to the most relevant articles and rules in the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure, Prof. Jensen reported that the IAHR International Committee, at its meetings in Liverpool, September 4, 2013, and in Erfurt, August 26, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, had unanimously agreed to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly to adopt as members the following *national* associations:

- *Association belge pour l'étude des religions/Belgische Associatie voor de Studie van Religies* (BABEL), Belgium;
- *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions* (ISASR), Ireland;
- *Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions* (LSSR), Lithuania;
- *Philippine Association for the Study of Culture, History and Religion* (PASCHR), Philippines.

Each of the named applicant associations was adopted as a member association by an overwhelming majority show of hands and applause, and the General Assembly greeted the representatives of the named association present.

The General Secretary proceeded to the application for regional membership, reporting that the IAHR International Committee, at its meetings in Liverpool, September 4, 2013, and in Erfurt, August 26, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, had unanimously agreed to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly to adopt as a member the regional association *Asociacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur* (ACSRM), South America.

The named applicant association was adopted as a regional member association by an overwhelming majority show of hands and applause.

The General Secretary then proceeded to an application for affiliation, reporting that the IAHR International Committee, at its meeting in Erfurt, August 26, 2015, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, unanimously agreed to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly to adopt as an *affiliate* the *Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (SAMR).

The named applicant association was adopted as an affiliate by an overwhelming majority show of hands and applause, and the representative present was greeted by the General Assembly.

## **6 Recommendation of Changes to the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure**

Having referred to and displayed on a slide the relevant articles of the Constitution (§8) and the Rules of Procedure (Rule 22) regarding changes and amendments to the Constitution and the rules of Procedure as well as rules for voting (Rule 15acdeg), the General Secretary, Prof. Jensen and later, the Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, displayed on a slide the proposed changes to the IAHR Constitution as recommended by the IAHR International Committee on the recommendation also of the IAHR Executive Committee. Prof. Jensen also mentioned that in so far as the changed articles were reproduced in the Rules of Procedure, the Rules of Procedure were also changed.

There were two proposals:

1. a) inserting a sentence in the Constitution about the primary location of the IAHR, and  
b) move a sentence about the legal registration of the IAHR in The Hague, The



Netherlands, from the Constitution to the Rules;

2. Changing “General Secretary” to “Secretary General”, and “Deputy General Secretary” to “Deputy Secretary General”.

Ad 1. The Treasurer first reported on the background for the first proposal:

Banks are subject to increasing restrictions on who may open a bank account, and where. The IAHR bank accounts have to be transferred to the new Treasurer’s location, Switzerland. A basic requirement for opening a corporate (IAHR-type) bank account in Switzerland is that Switzerland must be the ‘primary location’ of the IAHR.

This condition is met if:

- (a) The IAHR Constitution does not state that the IAHR is located outside Switzerland;
- (b) the Constitution states that ‘the primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the Treasurer’; and
- (c) the Treasurer is resident in Switzerland.

Consequently, the proposal was as follows:

- A new sentence to be added at the end of Article 3 A of the IAHR *Constitution* to read as follows: “The primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the IAHR Treasurer.”
- The clause in Article 1 of the IAHR Constitution which reads “and is legally registered in the Hague, the Netherlands” to be moved from the IAHR Constitution into a new section VI within the IAHR’s Rules of Procedure and the current (final) section VI to be renumbered section VII.

If the proposal be adopted, the relevant paragraphs and articles of the Constitution and Rules of Procedure are to be changed as follows, with the deleted and added sentences marked in cursive script.

## **Constitution**

### Article 1

The International Association for the History of Religions (abbreviated from its English title to IAHR), was founded in September 1950 on the occasion of the VIIth International History of Religions Congress ~~and is legally registered in the Hague, the Netherlands~~. The IAHR is a nonprofit worldwide organization which has as its objective the promotion of the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.

...

### Article 3

The IAHR is constituted by national and regional member societies and associations for the historical, social and comparative study of religions. These are such bodies as are now members and such as have been, upon application, recommended for membership by the Executive Committee, pending recommendation by the International Committee (see below), and admission by the General Assembly at a future quinquennial Congress. *The primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the IAHR Treasurer.*

## **Rules of Procedure**

20.d. The minutes of the Editorial Board of *NUMEN* shall be circulated only to the members of the Editorial Board, to the Managing and Reviews Editors, and to the Publisher.

### *VI. Legal Registration of the IAHR*

#### *Rule 21. Legal Registration*

*The IAHR is legally registered in the Hague, the Netherlands.*

### **VII. Adoption, Amendment and Suspension of the Rules of Procedure**

#### **Rule 22~~1~~. Adoption**

The International Committee shall adopt the Rules of Procedure by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

Following this presentation of the issue by the Treasurer, the President asked if there were any questions and comments. This was not the case. The General Assembly then adopted the recommended changes by such an overwhelming majority show of hands that the President without a doubt could state that the required two thirds of the General Assembly voted for the adoption of the proposal.

The General Secretary then moved to add a few words in explanation for the second proposal, changing “General Secretary” to “Secretary General”, and, “Deputy General Secretary” to “Deputy Secretary General”, in the Constitution as well as in the Rules of Procedure, saying that it was a wish based upon a seemingly wide spread notion that ‘Secretary General’ signaled more ‘authority’ and status than General Secretary, and that ‘Secretary General’ furthermore had been in use for decennia within the IAHR.

The President asked if there were any questions and comments. This was not the case. The General Assembly then adopted the recommended changes by such an overwhelming majority show of hands that the President without a doubt could state that the required two thirds of the General Assembly voted for the adoption of the proposal.

### ***7 Other Recommendations of the International Committee Requiring a Vote by the General Assembly***

There were no other recommendations.

### ***8 Report on the Conferment of Honorary Life Membership***

The General Secretary, with reference to the relevant rules, explained that IAHR honorary life memberships “can be conferred on senior scholars who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers and/or other outstanding contributions.”

Having furthermore reported that the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2010–2015, consisting of three honorary life members of the IAHR, namely, Prof. Giulia S. Gasparro (Messina), Prof. Yolótl Gonzales Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus), had been constituted in accordance with the procedural provisions, and that the

chair of the committee, Prof. Geertz had submitted suggestions for new IAHR Honorary Life Members, first in time for the International Committee in Liverpool in 2013 and now again for the International Committee meeting in Erfurt in 2015, the General Secretary reported that the International Committee, meeting in Liverpool (cf. *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, p. 29) had conferred honorary life memberships on Profs.

- Jan G. Platvoet, The Netherlands
- Jonathan Z. Smith, USA
- Akio Tsukimoto, Japan

On its meeting August 26, 2015 in Erfurt, upon the recommendation of the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, the International Committee had conferred honorary life memberships on Profs.

- Giovanni Casadio, Salerno, Italy
- Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Knoxville, USA
- Susumu Shimazono, Tokyo, Japan

The General Assembly applauded the conferment of Honorary Life Membership to each of the named, and Prof. Geertz was invited to take the floor to share with the General Assembly the brief introductions by the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee to the merits of each of the named new IAHR Honorary Life Members.

Prof. Jensen then thanked Prof. Geertz and the two other members of the committee, Profs. Giulia S. Gasparro and Yolótl Gonzales Torres for serving the IAHR once again as members to the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee.

### ***9 Report on the Election of the Incoming Executive Committee***

With reference to the Constitution § 4: “[...] The International Committee, at its meeting just preceding the General Assembly, shall elect the Executive Committee and shall report this to the General Assembly”, to the current rules regarding the ‘Nomination Procedure for the Executive’, as well as to the relevant sections (pp. 86–89 & 90–102) in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, the General Secretary reported, with the assistance of a slide, on the result of the elections in the International Committee Meeting, August 26, 2015, Erfurt, of the 2015–2020 IAHR Executive Committee.

#### President (one position)

- Peter Beyer, Canada (8 votes)
- Tim Jensen, Denmark (58)
- (spoiled/incomplete ballot papers: 1)

#### Vice-Presidents (two positions)

- Veikko Anttonen, Finland (38)
- Anne Kubai, Sweden (33)
- Mar Marcos, Spain (61)

General Secretary (one position)

Afe Adogame, United Kingdom (35)

Jenny Berglund, Sweden (32)

Deputy General Secretary

Ann Taves, USA (elected unopposed)

Treasurer

Philippe Bornet, Switzerland (elected unopposed)

Deputy Treasurer

Marion Maddox, Australia (elected unopposed)

Publications Officer

Satoko Fujiwara, Japan (elected unopposed)

Further Members (four positions)

Milda Alisauskiene, Lithuania (43)

Chae Young Kim, South Korea (39)

Amarjiva Lochan, India (48)

Marianna Shakhnovich, Russia (24)

David Thurfjell, Sweden (42)

Katja Triplett, Germany (53)

Frank Usarski, Brazil (18)

The following were thus duly elected to the IAHR Executive Committee 2015–2020:

President: Tim Jensen

Vice-Presidents: Veikko Anttonen, Mar Marcos

General Secretary\*: Afe Adogame

Deputy General Secretary: Ann Taves

Treasurer: Philippe Bornet

Deputy Treasurer: Marion Maddox

Publications Officer: Satoko Fujiwara

Four Further Members: Milda Alisauskiene, Amarjiva Lochan, David Thurfjell, Katja Triplett

\*From 2015 onwards 'Secretary General'.

The President, Prof. Hackett congratulated the elected nominees, and thanked all the nominees not elected for their willingness to serve the IAHR.

Prof. Jensen thanked the two Vice-Presidents, Profs. Gilhus and Tayob, serving as tellers during the elections, Prof. Pye, serving as returning officer, and the Treasurer Prof. Bocking

who had prepared and overseen the whole process leading towards the elections in the International Committee. Prof. Jensen finally extended thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee, Profs. Maya Burger, Gerrie ter Haar, Sylvia Marcos, Peter Antes (chair), and Luther H. Martin for their service to the IAHR.

### ***10 Public Transfer of Office to the Incoming Executive Committee***

Profs. Hackett, Jensen and Bocking, the three officers from the outgoing Executive Committee who were on the stage, left the stage and thus stepped down from their offices (together with the other members of the outgoing Executive Committee).

(Before the outgoing President was allowed to step down, however, members of the Outgoing as well as Incoming Executive Committee showed their appreciation of her 20 years of service to the IAHR by handing over flowers and praises).

Shortly after, the members of the incoming Executive Committee entered the stage, thus signifying the transfer of office. The General Assembly welcomed and congratulated the incoming Executive Committee members with applause.

### ***11 Brief Statement by the Incoming President***

Prof. Jensen said it had been a privilege, pleasure and honor to serve the IAHR as General Secretary for the past ten years (and following the passing of Gary Lease also as Acting Treasurer for some years), and that he considered it no less an honor to serve as President for the coming five years. He extended his thanks to the member associations for the honor shown by way of electing him IAHR President.

Admitting that it was (kind of) a relief to hand over the many and time consuming duties of the IAHR General Secretary to the incoming Secretary General, Prof. Jensen expressed his great pleasure to be given the opportunity to contribute in other ways to the continuous work needed to make the IAHR what it boasts to be, namely the “preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present.”

A work the success of which – though primarily depending on the work and dedication to the academic study of religion and to the IAHR by all members and affiliates – was also depending on the efforts of the Executive Committee to stimulate membership development, cultural diversity, and gender equality, clarifying and tightening, at the same time, the academic profile of the IAHR.

While the task of the Secretary General is to function as the primus motor of the IAHR leadership, the office of the President is different, Prof. Jensen stated. Though to a certain degree an honorary position and the tasks of the presidency not infrequently representative, the President has other important functions: s/he must be well versed in the history and workings of the IAHR, s/he must function as a source of advice and support to the Secretary General, s/he must provide a sense of continuity in the Executive Committee, and s/he must help the IAHR bridge past, present and future.

Prof. Jensen expressed his thanks to the outgoing President for the excellent way in which she had performed accordingly and contributed to what had been a wonderful working relationship between the two. Prof. Jensen likewise thanked all the other members of the outgoing Executive Committee for their cooperation and support. Finally, he congratulated

the members of the incoming Executive Committee, expressing his wish for a close, fruitful, and pleasant collaboration to the benefit of the IAHR over the next five years.

### ***12 Brief Statement by the Incoming Secretary General***

Prof. Afe Adogame thanked the outgoing General Secretary for his work and asked the IAHR members not to use the work and style of Prof. Jensen as a yardstick for him and his work, and he announced briefer reports and fewer emails from the desk of the Secretary General. Prof. Adogame extended his thanks to the organizing committee of the Erfurt Congress, and to the outgoing Executive Committee members.

Continuity, he went on, was, however, guaranteed with the incoming Executive Committee. As he saw it, though, the Executive Committee is but the servant of the IAHR, not its owner. He encouraged members to actively contribute, and he said that he wanted to commit himself to maintain an open door policy, disseminating all information and asking for feedback from IAHR members, by sending information from and about the Executive Committee.

The IAHR, he said, must open itself to new challenges, not least to young scholars, trying to make them part of the IAHR.

Prof. Adogame finally stated that he looked forward to the next World Congress. A call for bids would be circulated, he said, within the next months.

### ***13 Suggestions from the General Assembly to the Incoming Executive Committee***

There were no suggestions.

### ***14 Any Other Business***

Prof. Hackett, in her capacity of newly elected Vice-President to the *CIPSH*, took the floor to announce and promote the World Conference of the Humanities in Liège 2017, aimed at promoting and defending Humanities. She offered herself to be a link to the conference, and encouraged colleagues to keep an eye on future announcements and calls for papers and panels.

Congress directors, Profs. Jörg Rüpke and Christoph Bochinger, then took the floor to extend greetings to the IAHR thanking the IAHR for the trust shown when asking the DVRW and the local Erfurt institutions and colleagues to host the IAHR 2015 World Congress in Erfurt.

They extended thanks to the various German co-sponsoring organizations for their support and for the grants given, and they extended thanks to everybody, student assistants included, for their invaluable contribution to the planning and running of the congress.

The President, Prof. Jensen, then took the floor and likewise expressed his thanks on behalf of the IAHR to everybody involved in the planning and running of the IAHR XXI World Congress, and he extended a special thanks to the student assistants who had done a wonderful job.

Last but not least he handed over presents to Congress directors, Profs. Rüpke and Bochinger, while Prof. Hackett handed over a special gift to Congress Coordinator, Dr.

Elisabeth Begemann.

\* \* \*

Prof. Jensen then closed the formal meeting, thanking everybody present, and thereupon declared the 2015 XXI Quinquennial World Congress of the IAHR, the *International Association for the History of Religions*, in Erfurt, Germany, officially closed.

Minutes prepared by then General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, occasionally assisted by notes taken by then Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos.

## **IV. International Committee Meeting, Bern, June, 2018**

The IAHR International Committee Meeting 2018 will take place in conjunction with an EASR Annual Conference hosted by the SGR/SSSR, the Swiss Association for the Study of Religions, at University of Bern, 17-21 June 2018. The exact date and location will be announced later.

According to the IAHR Constitution (Article 4b) and By-Laws (Rules 1e and 5c), the executive committee of each constituent national or regional society and association shall appoint no more than two representatives to each International Committee meeting. These are normally, but not necessarily, the president and the secretary.

Also according to the Constitution (Article 6) and By-Laws (Rule 4b), meetings in the International Committee take place at the location and time of the quinquennial congress, and in addition to that, at the location and time of an IAHR conference in-between two consecutive quinquennial congresses.

A meeting of the International Committee requires a minimum attendance of ten members from a minimum of seven constituent national or regional societies or associations.

I sincerely ask you to take notice of the dates mentioned so that the IAHR International Committee can have its 2018 meeting with as many delegates from as many member associations as possible.

More information as regards the meeting as well as the conference in Bern will follow. For the moment please take a look at the conference announcements at the websites of the EASR (<http://www.easr2018.org/>).

The theme of the conference is Multiple Religious Identities – Individuals, Communities, Traditions.

Allow me to take the opportunity to thank the SGR/SSSR for hosting the IAHR International Committee Meeting 2018 in conjunction with the conference.



## V. IAHR Honorary Life Membership: Call for Suggestions

As can be seen from the relevant IAHR rules, ([http://www.iahr.dk/honorary\\_nominations.php](http://www.iahr.dk/honorary_nominations.php)) “The International Committee of the IAHR decided at its meeting in Toronto on August 18, 2010 that recommendations for honorary life membership should be presented to the International Committee at its meetings during quinquennial congresses and in between two consecutive congresses.”

In November 2016 the IAHR Executive Committee appointed the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2016-2020, with the IAHR Honorary Life Members Professor Jan Platvoet, Professor Susumu Shimazono, and Professor Yolótl Gonzales Torres as its members. The time has now come for the IAHR Secretary General “to request the IAHR constituent member societies and associations to suggest one or two names and the Executive Committee to suggest up to three names. These names will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee, which will choose up to three names. The General Secretary will then present their recommendation to the International Committee”, - that is to the International Committee at its meeting in Bern 2018.

I therefore sincerely request officers of the IAHR member societies and associations to consider this matter. In case they want to suggest one or two names, they are kindly asked to send the suggestions and names, with a brief argument in favor of the named, to the IAHR Acting Secretary General no later than December 31, 2017.

## **VI. IAHR XXII Quinquennial World Congress in Dunedin, New Zealand, August, 2020**

As officially announced in November, 2016, the XXII Quinquennial World Congress of the IAHR, hosted by the New Zealand Association for the Study of Religion (NZASR), will take place at the University of Otago in Dunedin, New Zealand, late August 2020. It will coincide with the NZASR's 50th anniversary. Please note that the dates have been changed from September to late August. We hope that the new dates will be more convenient for most of the IAHR member societies and associations to travel to Dunedin. Let's look forward to the first circular, which will be released in 2018.

During the latest IAHR Executive Committee Meeting, which was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, July 2017, Secretary of the NZASR, Prof. Will Sweetman was invited to report on the planning of the Congress. He highlighted two working themes for the Congress: "Centers and Peripheries," which was inspired by a geographical location, and "Rootedness and Migration," which connects the notion of indigeneity (Maoris), an important issue in New Zealand political life and academic discourse as well, and that of migrants. In response, the EC members recommended striking a balance between themes featuring the locality of the Congress and themes wide enough to accommodate international scholars with as many different interests as possible. Prof. Sweetman agreed to pay attention to recently underrepresented yet important areas of study as well. He also mentioned that he had good prospects not in the least because the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Mayor of Dunedin are in full support of the Congress.

In addition, Prof. Tim Jensen, IAHR President, visited Dunedin at the end of January and beginning of February 2017 and gave an interview on the Congress to Tourism New Zealand, which is available at the website of the Australasian Society of Association Executives (AuSAE).

<http://www.ausae.org.au/News/4792334>

The President reported that he had had very constructive and promising meetings with the local hosts and colleagues, and that his meetings with the Vice-Chancellor of the University and the Mayor of Dunedin as well as with local tourism agents were likewise very promising indeed.

## **VII. EASR-IAHR Joint-Statement on the European Academy of Religion**

The European Academy of Religion (EuARe) is an organization newly established in 2016. There is a shared concern over its development among the members of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR). Accordingly, President of the EASR, Prof. Einar Thomassen and President of the IAHR, Prof. Tim Jensen issued a joint-statement on May 24, 2017. The statement is available at the IAHR's website:

[http://easr.org/fileadmin/user\\_upload/content/pdfs/EASR-IAHR\\_joint\\_statement\\_about\\_the\\_EuARe.pdf](http://easr.org/fileadmin/user_upload/content/pdfs/EASR-IAHR_joint_statement_about_the_EuARe.pdf)

So far we have received nothing but supportive comments on the statement from European colleagues. We will welcome further comments and questions on this issue from all the IAHR member societies and associations.

## **VIII. Upcoming IAHR Special and Regional Conferences**

The IAHR Executive Committee has awarded the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) 2017 Annual Conference organized by the Belgian Association for the Study of Religions, BABEL, the status of an IAHR Special Conference. It will be held at the University of Leuven, Belgium, from 18-21 September 2017. The conference theme is “Communicating Religion.” IAHR’s Deputy Secretary General, Prof. Ann Taves is invited as a keynote speaker, and the IAHR President has been invited to give a welcome opening talk.

As noted on p.48 of this E-Bulletin Supplement, the EASR’s 2018 Annual Conference organized by the Swiss Association for the Study of Religions will be held at the University of Bern, 17-21 June 2018. The IAHR Executive Committee has awarded it the status of an IAHR Regional Conference.

The IAHR Executive Committee has also awarded the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) 8th Biennial AASR Conference co-hosted by the University of Zambia and Justo Mwale University the status of an IAHR Regional Conference. It will be held in Lusaka, Zambia, from 1-4 August 2018.

## IX. Report on the World Humanities Conference

The World Humanities Conference (WHC) took place in Liège, Belgium during August 6-12, 2017. It was co-organized by UNESCO, the International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences (*Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines*, CIPSH) and the World Humanities Conference – Liège 2017 Foundation.

The IAHR joined the CIPSH in 1951 and has been one of its most active member organizations. Therefore, the IAHR officers have observed all the difficulties the CIPSH have gone through in recent years. The IAHR has also been cooperating to revive it mainly through the efforts of three (current and ex-) Executive Committee members: ex-IAHR President, Prof. Rosalind Hackett, currently working as Vice-President of the CIPSH, current President, Prof. Jensen, most recently serving as chair of the 2017 CIPSH Nominations Committee and during the meeting in Liège appointed chair of a committee asked to draft revised statutes and by-laws, and Acting Secretary General, Fujiwara, working as a Core Group member (later as a Steering Committee member) of the WHC since December 2015. Prof. Jensen, furthermore, in Liège was elected member to the CIPSH Executive Committee.

The WHC itself was planned as a means to revivify the CIPSH and was expected to gather a large number of scholars in the various areas of the humanities from every corner of the world, as the first such attempt in CIPSH's entire history.

The conference was titled "World Humanities Conference. Challenges and Responsibilities for a Planet in Transition," with 6 subthemes, "Humanity and the Environment," "Cultural Identities, Cultural Diversities and Intercultural Relations," "Borders and Migrations," "Heritage," "History, Memory and Politics," and "The Humanities in the Changing World." According to a post-conference announcement, there were 800 attendees and 200 speakers (another report says 1000 attendees and 400 papers) from 60 different countries who presented papers on these themes.

The General Assembly of the CIPSH, which was held in conjunction with the conference, created a public statement on the sustainability of the humanities in the world and explored the possibility of launching new interdisciplinary projects lead by the CIPSH. The resulting report, titled "Outcome Document: A New Humanities Agenda for the 21st Century," is available at the CIPSH's website (<http://www.cipsh.net/web/news-202.htm>). Moreover, all the keynote and the plenary sessions, in one of which Prof. Jensen gave a speech, are available in full on the YouTube channel of Province de Liège (Search under "Conférence Mondiale des Humanités").

The IAHR announced the Call for Papers of the conference through the IAHR's website, but we did not strongly encourage scholars of the IAHR member associations to participate in this conference solely because the planning and the logistics of the conference were quite unstable till its last day. Officers of the other member organizations of the CIPSH were similarly hesitant.

As a result, a limited number of IAHR-related scholars presented papers during the conference. Nevertheless, it provided an important opportunity to learn what ideas other scholars in the humanities at large have to offer to tackle current academic and social crises.

The CIPSH itself, which has been suffering from the shortage of funds, has managed to find new sponsors in private/national sectors in the course of the preparation for the conference, though its attendants' opinions seemed to be divided over the appropriateness of the sponsors. Despite such ambiguous assessments among its attendants, the host of the conference boasts that the conference was broadcasted live and its videos on Facebook have surpassed 200,000 views just in a week. The social media thus enabled the academic conference of the humanities to publicize itself on an unprecedented scale.

## Appendix: Approval of Acting Secretary General by the Executive Committee: Extract from the Minutes

**IAHR**  
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS  
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS  
Member of the Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH) under UNESCO  
www.iahr.dk

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### IAHR EC Meeting, 8-9 July 2017, Ho Chi Minh City Extract from the minutes

Ho Chi Minh City, 9 July 2017

The IAHR Executive Committee, in its meeting of 8-9 July 2017, taking note of the resignation of the former General Secretary, Prof. Afe Adogame, and in accordance with the IAHR Constitution, art. 4, unanimously and enthusiastically appointed Prof. Satoko Fujiwara in the position of new Acting General Secretary, from the present date up to the next IAHR General Assembly in 2020.

The current composition of the Executive Committee is the following:

President: Prof. T. Jensen (Odense);  
Vice-Presidents: Prof. V. Anttonen (Turku) & Prof. M. Marcos (Santander);  
Acting Secretary General: Prof. S. Fujiwara (Tokyo);  
Deputy Secretary General: Prof. A. Taves (Santa Barbara);  
Treasurer: Prof. P. Bornet (Lausanne); Deputy Treasurer: Prof. M. Maddox (Sydney);  
Publications Officer: Prof. S. Fujiwara (Tokyo);  
Further Members: Prof. M. Alisauskiene (Kaunas); Prof. A. Lochan (Delhi);  
Prof. D. Thurfjell (Södertörn); Prof. K. Tripplett (Göttingen).

Signatures:

The block contains five handwritten signatures in black ink. The first signature is 'Milda Alisauskiene' with 'Alisauskiene' written in a separate column. The second signature is 'M. Marcos' with 'Lohan' written in a separate column. The third signature is 'Satoko Fujiwara'. The fourth signature is 'A. Taves'. The fifth signature is 'T. Jensen'.

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**Acting Secretary General:** Prof. Satoko Fujiwara, Department of Religious Studies, Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology/Faculty of Letters, The University of Tokyo, 7-3-1 Hongo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-0033 Japan. Tel + 81-3-5841-3888, email: fujiwara@lu-tokyo.ac.jp

**Treasurer:** Prof. Philippe Bornet, Department of South Asian Studies, University of Lausanne, CH-1015 Lausanne-Dorigny, Switzerland. Tel + 41 216922721, email: philippe.bornet@unil.ch