

IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement

February 2019



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I. Preface

Dear Colleagues
Officers and Individual Members of
IAHR Member Societies and Affiliates

Dear Colleagues,

As the first communication from the IAHR Acting Secretary General in 2019, this e-Bulletin Supplement brings you the “Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Bern, Switzerland, June 19, 2018.” I would like to take this opportunity to thank again those delegates of IAHR member and affiliate associations/societies who managed to participate in the International Committee Meeting, by traveling or via internet.

Let me highlight two matters of decision in the minutes, first, the recommendation and conferment of Honorary Life Membership and, second, the recommendation of a new affiliate.

As I reported at the meeting, the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, consisting of Dr. Jan G. Platvoet (Bunnik), Prof. Yolotl González Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Susumu Shimazono (Tokyo), had submitted a report letter of recommendation (Appendix I) to the end that IAHR Honorary Life Membership be conferred on the following three persons all of whom had, in accordance with the related IAHR rules, “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”:

Prof. Brian Bocking, Cork, Ireland
Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus, Bergen, Norway
Prof. Gerrie ter Haar, Rotterdam, The Netherlands

The International Committee accompanied and endorsed the recommendation of each of the mentioned scholars with applause. I would like to congratulate here again the named new Honorary Life Members and to thank the members of the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee for their work and service to the IAHR. I also would like to re-stress Dr. Platvoet’s words that the Advisory Committee was disappointed to receive only three names and encourages the IAHR member associations to propose more candidates for 2020.

It is also a pleasure and privilege to inform that the International Committee, following the recommendation from the IAHR Executive Committee, unanimously decided to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly, meeting in Otago 2020, the admission of the *Society of Biblical Literature* (SBL) as an affiliate to the IAHR.

In addition to the minutes, this e-Bulletin Supplement contains various pieces of information on the upcoming IAHR World Congress and Conferences, which have been

updated since the meeting in Bern (III & VI). Reports of two IAHR Conferences during 2018 are also included (VII & VIII).

The entirely new items are, thus, IV & V. Item IV is based on the plan of an Extended Executive Committee Meeting, which will take place in September, 2019, for the purpose of having an intense discussion on the future of the IAHR (please see p. 10, for the announcement of the plan during the International Committee Meeting in Bern). Prior to the meeting, the Executive Committee would like to welcome your reflections and suggestions for matters to be discussed during the Extended Executive Committee Meeting and further at the International Committee Meeting in 2020. Please read pp. 18–19 for details. Your inputs will not only be considered by the Executive Committee but also be put in record, to be shared by the entire IAHR circle and further by the future generations of scholars whenever they see the need to know what mattered for the international development of the academic study of religion around 2020.

Item V announces the establishment of the Nominating Committee, whose task is to submit nominations for the next Executive Committee (for the term 2020-2025) to the members of the International Committee.

Please share this IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, February 2019 with the members of your respective national or regional IAHR member associations and societies. It is most important for the well-functioning of the IAHR that not only officers but also all individual members of your organization are continuously being informed and updated on IAHR-related matters.

If you have any questions regarding the IAHR, please do not hesitate to contact me (fujiwara@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp).

Respectfully yours,

Satoko Fujiwara, IAHR Acting Secretary General
Tokyo, February 1, 2019

II. Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Bern, Switzerland, June 19, 2018

[To be adopted at the next International Committee Meeting in Otago, New Zealand, August, 2020]

[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee in December 31, 2018]

The President, Prof. Tim Jensen presiding.

Prof. Jensen opened the meeting by welcoming the delegates of the International Committee, with a special greeting to those attending the meeting online via Zoom. He asked the Acting Secretary General, Prof. Satoko Fujiwara, to ascertain that the meeting had been announced and called in accordance with the IAHR Rules of Procedure. Prof. Fujiwara 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. These announcements are recorded on p. 32 of the IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition, June 2018. The first call was published in the IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2017, on p. 48.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

No amendment to the provisional agenda was requested.

2. Membership

Prof. Fujiwara reminded the assembly of the IAHR Constitution, Article 4b, about the composition of the IAHR International Committee: “(i) Two representatives from 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.”

She noted that the IAHR has no individual members at the moment. She also pointed out that Rule 6 allows 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. Prof. Giovanni Casadio of the Italian Association has asked to let one of its members, Prof. Alessandro Saggiaro attend the meeting as an observer. The request was unanimously accepted.

Prof. Fujiwara also observed that, according to Rule 5d, “[m]embers of the Executive Committee of the IAHR may not serve as representatives for their constituent societies at the International Committee meetings”, and that no delegate can represent more than one association.

2.1. Ascertainment of Membership

The following members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR were present: President, Tim Jensen; Vice-president, M. Mar Marcos; Vice-president, Veikko Anttonen; Acting Secretary General, Satoko Fujiwara; Treasurer, Philippe Borne; Deputy Treasurer, Marion Maddox; Further Members: Milda Ališauskienė, Amarjiva Lochan, David Thurfjell, Katja Triplett.

Apologies from: Deputy Secretary General, Ann Taves

Prof. S. Fujiwara noted that associations and societies which are not paid up to the latest completed financial year (2017) are not entitled to vote at this IC meeting. These are: Quebec, Nigeria, Poland and Slovakia. She added that among these four associations, only a delegate from the Slovakian Association is attending this meeting, via Zoom. In addition, one of the IAHR regional associations, the EAASR (Eastern African Association for the Study of Religions), is still on the IAHR website under the list of member associations and societies, but its membership has been declared lapsed during the most recent EC meeting.

The following representatives of the IAHR national and regional member societies and associations were present: Africa (AASR): Elias Bongmba; Australia (AASR): Daniel Peterson; Austria (ÖGRW): Franz Winter; Belgium (BABEL): Bert Broeckaert; Brazil (ABHR/BAHR): Eduardo Meinberg Maranhão* and Márcia Eneas; Canada (CSSR/ SCÉR) [one vote only]: Morny Joy; Canada(Québec) (SQÉR) [one vote only]: none; China (CARS): none; Czech Republic (CASR): none; Denmark (DASR): Laura Feldt; Europe (EASR): Marion Bowman & Marco Pasi; Estonia (EAUS/ESSR): Madis Arukask; Finland (SUS): Tiina Mahlamäki & Terhi Utriainen; France: none; Germany (DVRW): Gritt Klinkhammer & Anna Neumaier; Greece (GSSCR): Panayotis Pachis*; Hungary (MVT): none; India (IASR): none; Ireland (ISASR): Jenny Butler; Italy (SISR): Giovanni Casadio & Chiara Tommasi; Japan (JASR): Takeshi Kimura* & Yoshitsugu Sawai*; Latin America (ALER): none; Latvia (LRPB): none; Lithuania (LSSR): Rasa Pranskeviciute; Mercosur/South America (ACSRM): none; Mexico (SMER): none; Netherlands (NGG): William Arfman; New Zealand (NZASR): Will Sweetman & Geoff Troughton; Nigeria (NASR): none; North America (NAASR): Gregory Alles & Adrian Hermann; Norway (NRF): Sissel Undheim; Philippines (PASCHR): Esmeralda Sanchez; Poland (PTR): none; Romania (RAHR): Eugen Ciurtin ; Russia: Marianna Shakhnovich & Ekaterina Terioukova; Slovakia (SSŠN/SASR): Roman Kečka*; South Korea (KAHR): Woncheol Yun & Chae Young Kim; Southern Africa (ASRSA): Maria Frahm-Arp*; South and Southeast Asia (SSEASR): Simona Chaudhuri; Spain (SECR): Silvia Alfayé & Juana Torres; Sweden (SSRF): none; Switzerland (SGR/SSSR): Jens Schlieter & Martin Baumann; Turkey (TAHR): none; Ukraine (UARR): Yevgeniy Kharkovshchenko; United Kingdom (BASR): Steven Sutcliffe & Christopher Cotter; United States (AAR): none.

* : *Delegates attending the meeting online (Zoom)*

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. Satoko Fujiwara observed that a quorum had been reached.

2.2. Ascertainment of Affiliation

Prof. Fujiwara reminded the assembly that according to the Rules of Procedure, Rule 5c, “each affiliated association may appoint no more than one (non-voting) representative to

attend each International Committee meeting.” She noted that two affiliated associations had one delegate present, with no voting right: the European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE), represented by Egil Asprem, and the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR), represented by Armin Geertz.

The SBL, Society of Biblical Literature is now an applicant society. Its affiliation (as an ‘affiliate’) has been recommended by the IAHR Executive Committee. If also recommended by the present assembly (item 8), it will be provisionally affiliated, awaiting full affiliation during the next IAHR General Assembly in New Zealand, 2020.

2.3 Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee

Prof. Fujiwara observed that according to the Rules of Procedure (5f), “[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.” For the present meeting, Prof. Fujiwara had no one to recommend under this category.

3. Adoption of the Minutes of the International Committee Meeting Erfurt 2015

Prof. Fujiwara noted that the Minutes of the last International Committee Meeting have been published in the IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2017, p. 4–29 and then circulated to the members of the IAHR International Committee in accordance with the relevant rules. They have been preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee on January 30, 2016. The assembly unanimously adopted the Minutes.

4. Report by the Acting Secretary General

The Acting Secretary General, Prof. Fujiwara began by honoring the memory of Prof. Jonathan Z. Smith, who passed away in December 2017. An obituary, written by Prof. Russell McCutcheon, will be published in *NVMEN*. Since a full report has been published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition*, p. 31-40, Prof. Fujiwara focused on the few following matters, especially those that have had some developments from the recent IAHR EC meeting.

4.1 Executive Committee and International Committee: Meetings and Meeting Locations

Prof. Fujiwara extended thanks to all the hosting member associations – which are the Finnish association, the SSEASR, and the Swiss association, and their various local partners and university departments – for facilitating the meetings of the Executive and the International Committee since 2016. She noted that the efforts to enhance and extend the IAHR as a global association have been continued, by moving the Executive as well as the International Committee meetings around the world.

4.2 Communications

Prof. Fujiwara stated that the IAHR Bulletin and the IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, together with the IAHR website and occasional email letters with important pieces of information have

been sent to the officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliates. They are the main means of communication from and about the IAHR. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance to the well-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. Prof. Fujiwara kindly asked all the delegates to do everything they could to share these and other news items from the IAHR with the membership at large. The IAHR Executive Committee and its Acting Secretary General have no other means to contact each individual IAHR member.

She added that she would be very grateful if the officers of the member associations systematically communicate whenever new officers, president, secretary and treasurer are elected. On the IAHR website, there is a page of all the member organizations and societies, including affiliates, with the names and contact information for all the officers, and it needs to remain updated. She also noted the efficient and pleasant collaboration with Mr. Jeremy Hughes, a skillful webmaster who works on a daily basis, and extended thanks to him. She also thanked Prof. Jenny Berglund and Prof. David Thurfjell for their hard and careful work as administrators of the IAHR Facebook site. Noting the recent scandals over Facebook, Prof. Fujiwara stated that the IAHR EC is very much aware of the issues at stake. The EC will examine further the possibility to use other Social Network Services as communication platforms, in parallel with Facebook (see below, under item 6.2).

Prof. Jenny Berglund has also been devoted to developing the Women Scholars Network (WSN), together with Prof. Jay Johnston. Prof. Fujiwara extended thanks to both and further to other steering committee members of the Network. The Network has its own Facebook page, which now has 524 members. Right now the steering committee is looking for at least 2 scholars who can coordinate the WSN mentoring network. The task of the coordinators is to introduce senior scholars to young scholars who are trying to find position at universities or trying to publish their books. Prof. Fujiwara invited people who might know someone interested to take up this task to contact Prof. Berglund. Lastly, Prof. Fujiwara thanked all the scholars actively participating in the WSN for their work toward gender equality and empowerment of women scholars in a global context.

4.3 IAHR Congresses and Conferences

In her written report, Prof. Fujiwara listed the IAHR Special and Regional Conferences that took place between 2015 and 2018. She also reported on the bids for and decision regarding the hosting of the 2020 World Congress. She extended thanks to all the colleagues whose engagement and hard work made all these IAHR conferences and the World Congresses in Erfurt and in Dunedin (Otago) possible, in particular the Congress Directors of the Erfurt World Congress, Prof. Dr. Christoph Bochsinger and Prof. Dr. Jörg Rüpke, and Congress Coordinator, Dr. Elisabeth Begemann for their publication of the Congress proceedings, which came out about one year after the Congress.

Since Prof. Fujiwara was appointed Acting Secretary General in July last year, she has been in continuous communication with Prof. Will Sweetman, Congress Director of the 2020 World Congress. The President, Prof. Jensen, as a member of the Advisory Committee of the World Congress, visited the conference site during the winter of 2017 and had very fruitful meetings with local representatives. In addition, the IAHR Deputy Secretary General, Prof. Ann Taves, as a co-chair of the Academic Program Committee (APC), has been discussing with Dr. John

Shaver and Prof. Ben Schonthal, the two other co-chairs of Academic Program Committee, over the members of the APC and also over keynote speakers and other important matters for the program. They also discussed with other EC members of the IAHR over these matters whenever possible and appropriate, including during the last EC business meeting in Bern. One of the important things that was decided during that meeting was the change of the naming of the location. So far, it had been announced as “World Congress, Dunedin, 2010.” However, as the name of Otago is better known than the name of Dunedin, we came to think it would be easier for people to remember the Congress by the name of Otago. Therefore, from now on, Congress will be referred to as the 2020 Otago Congress. Prof. Fujiwara kindly requested that the officers of the IAHR members and affiliates make sure that their own conference planning and activities are not conflicting with the IAHR World Congress in Otago, August 23-29, 2020. She also notified that the IAHR and the local host would do their best to accommodate any member societies and association that would like time and space to hold a business meeting within the framework of the IAHR World Congress. In addition, the affiliates of the IAHR will have chances to hold their academic meetings right before or after the World Congress. Interested parties are welcome to contact Prof. Fujiwara about this matter.

4.4 Membership Development

Prof. Fujiwara briefly mentioned that after the World Congress in Erfurt, the IAHR received one application for affiliation from a very large international society, the Society of Biblical Literature, SBL. The President, Prof. Jensen and herself could meet with the SBL Executive Director, Prof. John Kutsko during the SBL-AAR annual meeting in Boston, 2017.

She added that during the same annual meeting, the President, Prof. Jensen, the Deputy Secretary General, Prof. Ann Taves and herself had a meeting with the AAR leadership. Several possibilities to enhance the IAHR-AAR collaboration were discussed. Prof. Fujiwara mentioned the grant program called AAR’s Collaborative International Research Grants (CIRG), that has been specifically established for the benefit of individual members of IAHR member associations and societies. Each individual member of the IAHR member associations and societies can apply, as long as there is more than one AAR member in his/her research group. It started in 2013, but not many people have noticed the program. Prof. Fujiwara added that the IAHR is also thinking of creating a new Program Unit for the AAR annual meeting, which would organize a panel for CIRG recipients.

Prof. Fujiwara ended this item by emphasizing that if she had been referring to the AAR in particular, among the IAHR’s 40 member associations, it was not implying that the IAHR privileges the AAR in any way. However, as AAR has a large international membership, it is important for the IAHR to have constructive relationships with it.

4.5 Finances

Prof. Fujiwara noted that according to the Treasurer’s report (see below), the financial situation of the IAHR remains healthy. However, the location of the next world congress in 2020 might engender important travel costs, especially if the IAHR wants to enable scholars from weak currency countries to attend the congress. To help the IAHR to support more scholars and to ensure the continuous development of the academic study of religion, any

donation would be more than appreciated.

4.6 CIPSH (International Council for Philosophy and Human Sciences)

In her written report, Prof. Fujiwara gave extensive details concerning the most recent developments about the CIPSH. She commented briefly on the following points: CIPSH has lately resumed its activities and launched 3 new projects. The first is called CIPSH's own Global Humanities Chair program. The second is a Global History of Humankind project, and the third is the Global Humanities Report project. In addition, Prof. Rosalind Hackett, the IAHR's ex-President, now Vice-President of CIPSH, has proposed a school outreach project. Prof. Fujiwara reported that during the last IAHR EC meeting, it was discussed how the IAHR could increase its presence within the CIPSH under such new circumstances. It was decided to launch two working groups, in connection with the CIPSH's new projects. One of the working groups is about religious education (RE) based on the impartial and non-confessional, academic study of religion. Prof. Fujiwara added that prior to this decision, two proposals from two international scholars, one from Prof. Wanda Alberts of the German association and the other from Prof. Chae Young Kim of the South Korean association had been received. Both of them encouraged the IAHR to initiate working groups or networks for the study-of-religion based religious education. The IAHR EC has thus observed an increased international interest in the development of an alternative to confessional and traditional RE, and would like to encourage it.

Prof. Fujiwara noted that in many countries, the development of such a RE within public education is not considered. In such countries, religion is usually taught about in history classes. This is one reason for creating a second working group focusing on history. Designed to update and internationalize collaboratively second-order discourses on the history of religions in the world, it would have the purpose, *inter alia*, to improve school and college education. This working group is directly related to the CIPSH's project on a "Global History of Humankind". If the CIPSH moves on with its "Global History of Humankind" project, it is likely that the IAHR will be assigned to the part of the history of religions. The working group will start by sending a survey to its member societies/associations to check if there have recently been such attempts.

Prof. Fujiwara added that the two working groups will not receive any financial support from the IAHR. Further announcements will be given on the IAHR website as well as in the IAHR e-Bulletin Supplements.

4.7. IAHR Related Publications

4.7.1 NVMEN, the IAHR's flagship journal

Prof. Fujiwara reported about the recent *NVMEN* editorial board meeting, held in the context of the last EC meeting. She observed that according to Brill's acquisition editor, Ms Laura Morris, *NVMEN* has been doing very well. The number of full text downloads has increased from 10,500 in 2014 to 17,500 in 2017. This means an increase of 70% of the number of downloads from 2014 to 2017. The number of citations is also increasing. Prof. Fujiwara extended thanks to *NVMEN*'s Managing Editors, Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Laura Feldt and Review Editors, Prof. Carole Cusack and Dr. Rose Mary Amenga-Etego, for their almost daily hard work for the journal. She also extended thanks to the assembly, for the increased

readership of *NVMEN*.

4.7.2. IAHR Book Series Equinox

Prof. Fujiwara referred to the report of the IAHR Book Series' Managing Editor, Prof. Katja Triplett, under the item 6 on the agenda.

4.7.3 Other publications

Prof. Fujiwara mentioned the publication of the Proceedings of the XXI World Congress of the IAHR in Open Access, freely downloadable from De Gruyter's website¹. She asked the delegates to send this information to the individual members, if this had not already been done. She also asked the assembly to send her information regarding publications and spin-offs that have developed from the Erfurt Congress.

She also mentioned the publication of the *NVMEN* 60th anniversary publication in 2015, edited by Profs. Armin W. Geertz & Tim Jensen on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee. Entitled *NVMEN, the Academic Study of Religion, and the IAHR – Past, Present and Prospects*, it contains new contributions that offer both retrospective and prospective perspectives, and reprints of past key contributions to *NVMEN* as well as to the IAHR.

She further reminded the organizers of former IAHR Special and Regional Congresses to send her web-links to their proceedings or any other outcome documents. Information about IAHR related conferences after Brno 2008 is largely missing on the IAHR website.

4.8. *An Extended Executive Committee Meeting to Discuss the Future of the IAHR*

Upon the initiative of the President, Prof. Tim Jensen, there will be a special, extended EC meeting in 2019, in order to discuss the future of the IAHR in a concerted and strategic manner. The meeting will be the occasion to reflect about what kind of new challenges the IAHR is now facing, and how it will handle them. To contribute to the discussion, ex-Presidents, ex-Secretary Generals and World Conference organizers have been invited to this extended EC meeting. The outcome of the meeting will be presented at the IC meeting and the GA of the next World Conference in 2020.

4.9. *IAHR website: new URL*

Prof. Fujiwara indicated that the IAHR website's URL has now a regionally neutral URL: www.iahrweb.org. The old URL is still functional and redirects to the new one automatically. She added that the IAHR logo has been refreshed: it is now in a better quality and meets printing purposes. It is available on the IAHR website or upon demand.

5. Report by the Treasurer

With reference to his full report published in the IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition, p. 31-40, the Treasurer, Prof. Ph. Bornet, pointed out the following elements as to the period of 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017. He observed that this is a midterm report in

¹ <https://www.degruyter.com/view/product/465404>

anticipation of the full report for the years 2015 to 2019 which will be presented at the next IAHR General Assembly in 2020. Referring to the table at the end of the report (see below), the Treasurer noted with satisfaction that the IAHR's finances are in a healthy state, with a balance of approximately \$126'000 as per 31 December 2017, up from \$105'000 at the beginning of the term (1 January 2015).

Income

Total income for the whole period has been approximately \$72'000 with an average of \$24'000 / year. There are two main streams of regular income: amounts paid by Brill for *NVMEN* (€10'295 / year = about \$12'000, depending on the exchange rate), and dues from national and affiliate associations (about \$11'000 / year, also depending on the exchange rate, since dues are now published and paid in euros exclusively).

Expenditure

Average expenditure for non-congress years (2016, 2017) has been approximately \$14'000 / year. The major item of expenditure has been the subsidy given for the Erfurt congress in 2015 (\$24'000). Thanks to the very efficient organization of the Erfurt congress, a substantial part of that subsidy (\$9'800) could be returned to the IAHR in 2016. Apart from this, the IAHR has spent amounts for enabling members of the EC committee to attend work meetings: \$8'000 / year, a very modest sum considering the EC's 12 members and the representation of the IAHR through its President or Secretary General at multiple events in addition to the yearly EC meeting (see below for more details). In addition, the IAHR has supported the organization of several IAHR labelled (IAHR Regional and Special) conferences with smaller amounts.

Further remarks

The major change at the beginning of the term has been the move of the account from Ireland to Switzerland, a complex process that was successfully completed thanks to the precious help of the previous IAHR Treasurer, Prof. B. Bocking. The IAHR was formerly maintaining two accounts: one in euros, the other in US dollars. Due to technical reasons related to the new bank, the IAHR holds now its finances in euros exclusively. While having a limited impact on the operations, since most of the transactions were already executed in currencies other than the US dollar, the move also facilitates the Treasurer's work. The transfer from the former US dollar account to the new euro account was done in early 2016, when the US dollar was relatively high against the euro (\$1 = €0.92). To keep up with previous reports, however, the accounts are reported in USD. Consequently, the recent rise of the euro (\$1 = €0.83 by the end of 2017) created an artificial income of about \$15'000 in 2017. Since interest rates in Switzerland are either extremely low or even negative, the present Treasurer did not find it worth to pursue any initiative to officially register the IAHR as a charity, enabling it to have interest-bearing accounts. According to art. 3a of the Constitution, amended in Erfurt, the IAHR's "primary location" is the official address of the IAHR Treasurer. Officially registering the IAHR as a charity in the current location of the Treasurer, Switzerland, might prove an additional challenge for future Treasurers, when they likely will have to move the IAHR account to their own country.

The Treasurer reminded the assembly about the possibility to make a donation, in order to enable more scholars from weak currency countries to attend the next World Congress.

Persons interested can directly contact him, to explore the different possible ways to make a donation tax deductible (*inter alia*, through Transnational Giving Europe). He also added that the recent EC meeting decided to slightly amend the yearly dues for Affiliate Associations, which so far had not well reflected the Affiliate Associations' size. The new rates are as follows: For Affiliate Associations up to 50 members: € 80 euros; from 51 to 100 members: € 1.60/member; larger than 100 members: € 160.

In conclusion, the Treasurer would like to thank warmly the former IAHR treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking, for not only introducing him to the intricacies of the IAHR accounting in Erfurt, but also for continuing to work "behind the scenes" until the setting up of a new account, and for still providing him with extremely helpful advice whenever needed. He thanked Dr. Elisabeth Begemann from Erfurt, who has been extremely helpful in the process to get the money refunded on the IAHR account in 2016. He finally extended thanks to the colleagues treasurers and officers of all member associations, who – for the large majority of them – have been collaborating in a very efficient way, taking due notice of the new bank information.

Summary of IAHR Finances: Years 2015-2017

All figures in USD

	2015	2016	2017
INCOME			
200 Dues national assoc.	11 230,67	10 962,15	10 719,34
210 Dues affiliates	270,50	743,06	471,67
220 NVMEN	7 549,74	14 482,31	12 557,52
240 Other (e.g. legacies and donations)	2 890,00	21,00	0,00
Total Income	21 940,91	26 208,53	23 748,53
EXPENDITURE			
110 African Trust Fund awards	3 049,56	0,00	0,00
120 Bank charges + audit	312,46	136,27	476,54
130 CIPSH subscription	660,00	1 260,00	720,00
140 2015 & 2020 Congress support	23 787,93	-9 838,30	0,00
141 Conference support	0,00	0,00	5 853,41
160 Website/publications	0,00	1 682,78	2 253,52
170 EC Travel and Expenses	7 933,59	7 975,58	7 475,16
191 To Gary Lease Lecture Fund	0,00	0,00	0,00
Total Expenditure	35 743,54	1 216,33	16 778,63
Surplus(+)/ Deficit (-)	-13 802,64	24 992,20	6 969,90
Opening balance	105 302,00	84 506,72	105 371,03
Foreign Exchange gain (+) /loss (-) on opening balance	-6 992,64	-2 615,65	15 053,00
Foreign Exchange gain (+) /loss (-) on transfers	0,00	-1 512,24	-1 277,96
Surplus (+) / Deficit (-)	-13 802,64	24 992,20	6 969,90
Closing balance	84 506,72	105 371,03	126 115,97
US\$ account	26 962,27	0,00	0,00
€ accounts	52 313,14	100 351,69	96 159,94
€ accounts in US\$	57 544,45	105 371,03	115 391,93
CHF accounts Special Fund			10 513,76
CHF accounts Special Fund in US\$			10 724,04
	84 506,72	105 371,03	126 115,97

6. Additional Matters of Report by the Executive Committee

6.1 Report by Prof. K. Triplett, Managing Editor of the IAHR Book Series

Prof. Triplett reported on the IAHR book series by Equinox, “The Study of Religion in a Global Context”. The first volume was launched in Erfurt, 2015, and the next followed in Helsinki, 2016. The third volume will be published soon, and early subscribers receive a 25% conference discount. She encouraged the audience to contact the series’ General Editor (Prof. Morny Joy) and herself as the Managing Editor about proposals for a publication in the series, in particular for monographs:

<https://www.equinoxpub.com/home/the-study-of-religion-in-a-global-context/>.

6.2 Report by Prof. D. Thurffjell, co-Manager of the IAHR Facebook page

Prof. Thurffjell reported about the IAHR Facebook page, noting that anyone can be a member, but that posts are moderated, by himself, Prof. Berglund and Prof. Fujiwara. The minimal requirement for a post to be accepted is that it should be connected with the academic study of religions. It is an important medium for communicating IAHR-related information: it has now 1538 members, and 765 have been active. This number is growing steadily. Statistics show that people use the page often on Fridays: so that might be a good time to post new information. Prof. Sweetman asked if the page was targeting a specific audience. Prof. Thurffjell answered that it is not really the case, since the page is public. It contributes therefore to give to the IAHR a presence in the public space. Prof. Geertz asked whether people could use pseudonyms and hide their real identity. Prof. Thurffjell answered that moderation makes it mostly a non-issue. Prof. Pasi asked whether the IAHR had considered using academia.edu. Prof. Thurffjell answered it was a possibility to be considered in the future. Prof. Triplett added that the IAHR WSN is already using academia.edu.

7. Recommendation of changes to the Nomination and Election Process of the IAHR Executive Committee

Prof. Fujiwara explained that shortly after the 2015 election of the IAHR Executive Committee in Erfurt, Prof. Brian Bocking, who was its Election Manager, sent the Executive Committee his suggestions regarding the formalization of the withdrawal process (see e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern edition, p. 51-52). As his suggestions are purely practical – mainly about formalizing the question of withdrawal of nominees – and will not harm the interest of any member of the IAHR, Prof. Fujiwara recommended that the assembly accepts them. They were accepted by a show of hands.

8. Recommendation of New Members and Affiliates

Prof. Fujiwara informed the assembly that in early 2016, the President, Prof. Jensen, received an application for affiliation from the Society of Biblical Literature (SBL). The IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Helsinki July 2016 unanimously decided to recommend to this IAHR International Committee the adoption of the SBL as an affiliate to the IAHR. Prof.

Fujiwara asked whether the assembly was in favor of recommending SBL as a new IAHR Affiliate Association. The proposal was accepted by a show of hands and it will be then recommended to the GA in Otago 2020.

9. Recommendation of Honorary Life Members

Prof. Fujiwara referred to the IAHR rules stating 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 Yolotl González Torres as its members. The Advisory Committee then elected Prof. Platvoet as its chair. Prof. Fujiwara then requested the IAHR constituent member societies and associations to suggest one or two names in the e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2017. When the deadline for call for suggestions passed on Dec 31, 2017, she sent all suggestions to Prof. Platvoet. On March 25, 2018, Prof. Platvoet sent her a letter of recommendation of 3 honorary life members (see Appendix). The three names are: Prof. B. Bocking, Prof. I. Gilhus and Prof. Gerrie ter Haar.

Prof. Fujiwara asked the assembly whether it was approving the proposal of these three names, as new IAHR Honorary Life Members. The proposal was unanimously accepted, with thanks to the Advisory Committee. She also reminded the assembly to remember their right and possibility to suggest one or two names for the next time.

10. IAHR XXII World Congress, Otago 2020

Prof. Will Sweetman was invited to report about the World Congress. He thanked the EC for the trust in organizing the congress in the last week of August 2020. He announced the upcoming launch of the Congress’ website, iahr2020.kiwi / iahr2020.org and informed that the congress organizers will be present at the coming AAR conference in Denver. Prof. Sweetman noted with satisfaction that the IABS (International Association of Buddhist Studies) would be meeting in South Korea a week before the IAHR congress. Other associations are very much welcome to organize meetings in Otago the week preceding the Congress. He invited interested delegates to contact him about this. He also invited the assembly to already begin to think about putting panels together for the Congress.

He kindly requested that the officers of the IAHR member associations/societies and affiliates make sure that all individual members receive information about the Congress now and in the coming years leading up to the event.

11. Any Other Business

Prof. M. Joy passed a request Canadian Association about whether it would be possible to pay the yearly dues in the local currency. The Treasurer answered that it is logistically not possible to publish the IAHR dues in all local currencies. However, the level of the current

dues in Euros is still lower than the equivalent in USD that was offered as an alternative rate up to 2015. In addition, it is possible to minimize bank transfer fees by using a third party system. Officers of the Canadian Association are very welcome to contact him about it.

Prof. Jensen thanked all delegates for coming to Bern. He thanked warmly Prof. S. Fujiwara for all her work as Acting Secretary General since last year as well as Prof. A. Adogame for the great services he rendered to the IAHR until his resignation.

III. IAHR XXII World Congress, Otago 2020: Call for Papers

We have been calling our XXII World Congress “Dunedin 2020.” However, as the name of Otago is better known and easier to remember than the name of Dunedin, the Congress organizers and the IAHR Executive Committee decided to call it “Otago 2020,” during their business meeting in Bern.

The Otago host has launched a beautiful and multi-functional website. Please visit: <https://www.iahr2020.kiwi/> for updates of the Congress.

The key dates of the Congress are as follows:

Submissions/Registration opens: August 1, 2019

Submissions close: December 31, 2019

Outcomes notified: March 15, 2020

Registration closes/Program announced: June 30, 2020



Congress theme and subthemes:

While welcoming contributions on any topic in the academic study of religion, the Congress will have the theme of **Centres and Peripheries**.

From its earliest moments, the academic study of religion has consistently placed certain traditions, peoples, geographies, concepts, and institutions at the centre of its analyses, while at the same time relegating others to the periphery. The 2020 Congress invites scholars to reflect on these dynamics, to historicize and critique them, and to reconsider how, why and with what effects scholars of religion have engaged in acts of normalization and marginalization. The setting of New Zealand, distant from the historical centres of religious studies in North America and Europe, provides a fitting location for this examination as well as for considerations of other related dynamics. These include patterns of dominance and subjugation, transformation and repositioning and, especially, migration and indigeneity. While we welcome interdisciplinary, multi-method and comparative research, we ask that scholars submit within one of seven themed areas.

Locality and movement: Studies that focus on the emplacement and migrations of people, texts and traditions over spaces and times. This includes themes of migration, colonization and diaspora. We especially welcome submissions examining the category of indigeneity and indigenous religions.

Regulating and debating: Studies that consider religion in the context of debates over the proper ordering of human society and the regulating of human behaviour, especially as it relates to the intersections of religion with legal regimes and/or structures of political power.

Historicizing and embodying: Studies that focus largely on situating religious communities,

persons, practices and/or institutions in their historical and cultural contexts. We especially welcome submissions examining religion in places, times and contexts that have been historically overlooked or marginalized in the study of religion.

Interpreting and comparing: Studies whose main focus is on interpreting, clarifying, comparing and/or analysing texts, rituals, stories, material culture, art or other elements of religion. This includes studies that examine the place of religion in material and textual artefacts not normally associated with religion.

Innovating and transforming: Studies that focus on the transformations of religion over time, with particular attention to recent transformations in technology, communication and social organisations. We especially welcome studies that reflect on the influence of new media on religion and religious studies.

Measuring and testing: Studies that focus on causal factors that lead to and shape systems of beliefs, behaviours, and institutions found in one or more traditions, regions, and/or across time. This includes studies that reflect on role and importance of scientific and empirical methodologies in the study of religions as well as studies that consider generally the interplay of science and religion (as methods, fields of expert knowledge, and historical constructs).

Reflecting and critiquing: Studies that critically consider the field of religious studies, its methodologies, theories, patterns of production, historical development, scholarly composition, institutional embedding, and future possibilities. We especially welcome submissions that examine the dynamics of centring and marginalising, foregrounding and ignoring, authenticating and debunking, in the study of religions.

For any further questions, please contact the organizers at: jade@dinamics.co.nz

IV. Call for Suggestions: Matters to be Discussed for the Future of the IAHR

To Officers of IAHR Member and Affiliate Societies, members of the IAHR International Committee

As I reported at the International Committee Meeting in Bern, June 19, 2018 (Cf. “4.8. An Extended Executive Committee Meeting to Discuss the Future of the IAHR” on p. 10 of this Bulletin), the IAHR Executive Committee will hold a special meeting September 13-15, 2019 in Delphi, Greece. IAHR Ex-Presidents, ex-Secretary Generals, World Conference organizers, *NVMEN* managing editors and a few scholars and leading officers in member associations the presence of whom has been deemed especially important to the furthering of the aims of this meeting and the diversity policies of the IAHR, have been invited to participate in order to contribute to and stimulate the discussion on the future of the IAHR.

As also reported in Bern, the outcome of the meeting as well as the further reflections and suggestions of the EC will be presented to the International Committee and the General Assembly at the World Congress in 2020.

In order to promote the fullest possible discussion of views, we would like to ask the leadership of all IAHR member and affiliate associations/societies to send their opinions and ideas. We leave it to you to decide to what degree you will engage your membership at large in the process and, in that case, how you want to handle such a process. We thank you in advance and look forward to whatever additional input you can provide.

Though we welcome *all* concerns and suggestions, we would also like to ask you to pay particular attention to the following issues:

1. What do you (and your members) expect from the IAHR? In what ways can the IAHR most effectively support the academic, scientific study of religion in your country or region?
2. What should be the benefits of being a member association/society of the IAHR?
3. What should be the benefits of being an affiliate of the IAHR?
3. What should be the benefits of the host of an IAHR's World Congress?
4. What should be the benefits of participants to the World Congress?

Your input, i.e. including input from your individual members, gathered and forwarded to us by you, will be much appreciated and taken into consideration during the special meeting in September, and thus also as we prepare for the meeting and discussions in 2020 in the International Committee.

Please send opinions and suggestions to: fujiwara@l.u-tokyo.ac.jp, either from your President's or Secretary General's email account by July 1, 2019.

On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee,
Tim Jensen, IAHR President
Satoko Fujiwara, IAHR Acting Secretary General

V. Nominating Committee 2020

In accordance with the relevant Rules, see <http://www.iahrweb.org/nominations.php>, the Executive Committee must appoint a Nominating Committee. The IAHR Executive Committee, at its meeting in Bern June 16-17, 2018, decided to appoint the following senior scholars:

Prof. Brian Bocking
Prof. Majella Franzmann
Prof. Rosalind Hackett
Prof. Abraham Khan
Prof. Chongsuh Kim

It is a pleasure to inform the IAHR membership that each of the five senior scholars agreed to once again serve the IAHR, and I have extended thanks from the IAHR Executive Committee to each of the named colleagues.

When established, the Nominating Committee members shall appoint one of its members as the Chairperson of the committee. Prof. Rosalind Hackett, in an email as of October 14, 2018, informed the IAHR Acting Secretary General that the Nominating Committee had asked her to serve as chair of the committee, and that she had accepted. Allow me to extend thanks to Prof. Hackett for her willingness to take upon herself this work.

The Nominating Committee shall then (see the mentioned Rules) submit nominations for the next [2020-2025] Executive Committee by mail to the IAHR International Committee, via the desk of the IAHR Acting Secretary General, not more than twelve months and not less than nine months prior to each quinquennial congress. This means, with reference to the IAHR World Congress 2020 in Otago, beginning August 23, that the 2020 Nominating Committee should send nominations to me, Satoko Fujiwara, the IAHR Acting Secretary General no earlier than **August 23, 2019 and no later than October 23, 2019** - for me to forward the nominations to the International Committee in due time, i.e., **no later than November 22, 2019**.

The relevant Rules, as well as the Constitution, also speak of 'Constraints' and 'Alternative Nominations'. I quote:

4. Constraints

a. "The Executive Committee is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Deputy General Secretary, a Treasurer, a Deputy Treasurer, a Publications

Officer, and four further members. The officers in particular, and the members of the Executive Committee in general, shall be chosen in such a way as reasonably to reflect various parts of the world where academic study of religion is pursued in its various disciplines. (...) The members of the Executive Committee shall hold office for one quinquennial term each and be subject to re-election, but not more than two-thirds of the Committee shall be carried on from one term to the next. No one member shall serve in the same office more than two terms and no other member shall serve for more than four terms in total." [Article 4.c of the Constitution].

b. At the International Committee meeting in Paris in 1993, it was recommended that the Nominating Committee strive towards a gender balance among the nominees for the Executive Committee.

c. At the International Committee meeting in Rome (1990) and recalled for the minutes in Paris (1993), it was recommended that nominees for the Executive Committee should be actively in post at a university or a comparable institution at the time of the election.

d. Nominees should be chosen for their organizational abilities as well as their scholarship, and they should be committed to the aims and goals of the IAHR

5. Alternative Nominations

a. "Members of the International Committee may propose alternative nominations not less than three months prior to each quinquennial congress." [Article 4.c of the Constitution].

b. Three months prior to each quinquennial congress means three months before the day prior to the opening of the congress

c. Such nominations shall be made public. Those nominations that are inconsistent with Point 4 above shall not be taken into consideration.

Following the announcement of the nominations by the Nominating Committee, I shall, of course, remind all officers of these Rules.

Thank you once again to the members of the Nominating Committee for their willingness to continue their service to the IAHR.

VI. IAHR Special & Regional Conferences 2019

The IAHR Executive Committee has awarded the status of an IAHR Special/Regional Conference to the following associations and affiliates for 2019.

South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR)
8th SSEASR Conference (IAHR Regional Conference)
June 13-16, 2019, Dhaka, Bangladesh
“Rivers and Religion: Connecting Cultures of South and Southeast Asia”
<http://sseasr.org/8th-conference.html>

International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC)
Cork Conference of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (IAHR Special Conference)
June 13-16, 2019
University College Cork, Ireland

European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR)
17th Annual Conference of the EASR (IAHR Regional Conference)
June 25-29, 2019, Tartu, Estonia
“Religion – Continuations and Disruptions”
<https://easr2019.org/>

Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW)
33rd Biannual Conference of the German Association for the Study of Religion (IAHR Special Conference)
September 3-6, 2019, Leibniz Universität Hannover, Germany
“Conceptualising Religion”
<https://www.dvrw2019.uni-hannover.de/en/>

As mentioned in my report in the IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Bern Edition, May 2018, I sincerely ask the members and affiliates of the IAHR to consider that their conference planning and activities do not interfere unnecessarily with the IAHR XXII Quinquennial World Congress in Otago, August 23-29, 2020. Members and affiliates are also kindly encouraged to consider ‘following in the footsteps’ of the European Association for the Study of Religions: the EASR does not hold its Annual Conference in the year of an IAHR World Congress, thus trying to make sure that individual members are not pressed to try to find time and money for two important conferences within the same year.

The IAHR and the local Otago host, on their side, promise to try their best to accommodate

possible wishes for finding time and space for business meetings that consequently must be arranged within the framework of the IAHR World Congress 2020.

VII. 16th Annual Conference (IAHR Regional Conference) of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), Bern 2018: A Report for the IAHR

Report on the EASR Conference “Multiple Religious Identities: Individuals – Communities – Traditions” (Bern, June 18-21, 2018)

To start with some statistics: The conference brought together 515 of the total 572 participants that had registered for conference. 454 scheduled presenters delivered 501 papers, which makes the 2018 conference the largest of the so far 17 annual conferences of the EASR. Invited speakers focused on the differences of the religious landscapes of Great Britain and France (Grace Davie), on the diversification of religious identities in the Baltic States (Milda Ališauskienė), on religious demarcation and deviance discourses in the Christian and Islamic world of the Middle Ages (Dorothea Weltecke), or on the situation of multiple religious identities in Urban Roman settings (Jörg Rüpke). In addition, keynote lectures presented the imagination of “saṃsāra,” or the realm of transmigration, in India and the West as a discourse on religious identity (Eugen Ciurtin), or the ambiguity of “the religious self” in pre- and post-national social contexts contrasting with normative models of religious identities of certain nation-states (Reinhard Schulze). Given the plurality of historical settings, methodologies, and cognitive interests in the panel contributions, I may just pick some trends. First, the current migration waves and the presence of minority traditions inspired several panels to reflect on these matters and contexts – under the perspective of new missionary activities, conflicts with secular states, or the emergence of, e.g., Muslim secularities. A second trend could be witnessed in various contributions on non-belief and the “nones” – either in quantitative or qualitative perspective. Comparatively few panels dedicated themselves to non-Western aspects of multiple identities, even though the few that did could add important aspects of often “blurred boundaries” and traditional settings of multiple religious belonging in Asia. Innovative historical examples deserve mention, too: Panels discussed multiple identities in pre-1990 communist countries, in the Russian Orthodox tradition, in Ancient Egypt, or offered fresh contemporary views on diverse religious practices, e.g., in the Highgate Cemetery in London. Some panels enriched the conference with dealing exclusively on theoretical aspects, and chose processes of individualization and pluralization, or discourse theory and diversity studies as their points of departure. In sum, the conference was in itself a mirror of multiple identities that make up the strength, but for some also the weakness, of the interdisciplinary field of the study of religion/s.

Jens Schlieter
Conference Organizer & Chair of the Programme Committee

VIII. 13th Conference (IAHR Special Conference) of International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA), Szeged 2018: A Report for the IAHR

Conference Report “UN(B)LOCKING RELIGION. STUDYING RELIGION IN TODAY’S CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE”

University of Szeged, Hungary

May 24-26, 2018

The biannual conference of the International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe conference attracted 96 participants coming from 17 European countries, from the United States of America, and the Russian Federation. Plenary keynote speeches were delivered by Detlef Pollack and Agnieszka Pasięka. 2 plenary and 23 parallel sessions attracted attention of both attending scholars, students and the public. The conference theme encouraged its participants to discuss the state-of-art of the study of religions in the region, development of these studies, new theoretical and methodological approaches in the study of religion in the CEE region.

During the conference Miklos Tomka Award winner was declared Emil Bjørn Hilton Saggau (Copenhagen University, Denmark) for his paper *(Un)-blocking the sacred: new perspectives on the religious revival in South East Europe*.

The cooperation with IAHR proved to be very beneficial. In addition, the organizational support from the Department for Religious Studies from the University of Szeged has been very helpful.

ISORECEA president

Dorota Hall

Appendix: Report and Recommendation on IAHR Honorary Life Membership

To: Prof. Satoko Fujiwara, IAHR Acting Secretary General

Re: IAHR Life Honorary Membership Recommendations 2018
Bunnik, The Netherlands, 25 March 2018

Dear Prof. Fujiwara,

Prof. Afe Adogame, IAHR Secretary General 2015-2017, informed us – Professor Yolotl González Torres, Professor Susumu Shimazono, and me – by a letter and e-mail message of 28 November 2016 that the IAHR Executive had appointed the three of us as Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2015-2020. He requested that we inform him whether we would be willing to serve the IAHR in that capacity. Which each of us did, with reservations.

After Professor Adogame's resignation, you, as IAHR Acting Secretary General, wrote to us on 18 August 2017 to request that we appoint a chair from among ourselves. As both Prof. González and Prof. Shimazono proffered valid reasons why they could not act as chair, that duty devolved by necessity on me, which I reluctantly acknowledged in an e-mail message to them and you on 17 September 2017.

As for our task, the IAHR-International Committee (IC) decided in its meeting at Toronto on August 18, 2010, that three recommendations for Life Honorary Membership should be presented to it at both its meetings during the quinquennial IAHR Congresses and midway in between two World Congresses. In our term of office as IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2015-2020 we therefore need to propose three candidates for IAHR Life Honorary Membership for the meetings of the IAHR-IC at Bern, Switzerland, 19 June, 2018, and at the University of Otago, at Dunedin, Aotearoa/New Zealand, in September 2020.

As for the three nominations to be recommended to the IAHR-IC on 19 June, you forwarded only three names to us in your e-mail message to each of us on 26 December 2017, to wit Professors Brian Bocking, Ingvild Gilhus, and Gerrie ter Haar.

Unlike the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2005-2010 we agreed that we should not ourselves add names to remedy this Eurocentric character of the present pool of candidates before making the final selection and recommendation for two reasons. One is that we have not been charged to expand the pool of candidates before making the final selection. The other is that despite this regrettable Eurocentricity of the three candidates proposed by the IAHR Executive as a group, all three deserve unreservedly to be recommended by us for nomination as IAHR Life Honorary Member for the sterling service they have provided at each of the three levels required by the IAHR Bye-law for Proposals for Life Honorary Membership: at the level of their personal scholarship in their distinctive disciplines; at the level of the IAHR member associations; and as IAHR Officers.

To detail this per person:

= As for his contribution to the academic study of religions, Prof. Brian Bocking has published widely on Buddhism and Asian, especially Japanese religions and is currently researching two Irish Buddhists U Dhammaloka (?1856-?1914) and Charles James William Pfoundes (1840-1907). As for his activity at the level of IAHR member societies: after being educated

at Lancaster and obtaining his MA and PhD degrees from Leeds, Brian Bocking held posts at Sterling, Tsukuba (Japan), Bath Spa, and SOAS, and played an active role in BASR, the British Association for the Study of Religions and in the foundation of the European Association for the Study of Religions.² From 2008 till his retirement in 2015, he served as Professor of the Study of Religions and Head of the new Department for the Study of Religions at University College Cork, at Cork, Ireland, and founding father of the Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions (ISASR). Both the UCC Department for the Study of Religions and the IASR are revolutionary developments in the Irish academic scene. As IAHR Officer, Brian Bocking served first as IAHR Publication Officer from 2005 to 2010 and had a major share in closing a new deal with Brill that greatly strengthened IAHR finances; and then as IAHR Treasurer from 2010 to 2015, during which period he saw to it that IAHR member societies paid the annual membership dues in time and thereby considerably strengthened IAHR financial resources.

- =Professor Anne Ingvild S. Gilhus has published widely in Norwegian and English in both her field of specialisation, the ancient religions of the Mediterranean, in particular Gnosticism and early Christianity, but also in modern religious developments in Norway and Scandinavia, and in the history and the methodology of the academic study of religions, particularly in Norway, Scandinavia and Europe.³ As for her contributions at the level of IAHR national and regional member societies, Profess Gilhus surely did play important roles in the Norwegian Association for the History of Religions as Professor of the Study of Religions at Bergen University, Norway, and in Norwegian-Danish, and Norwegian-Scandinavian cooperation in the study of religions, e.g. through the journal *Chaos*. At EASR level: in 2003 she organized the annual EASR conference at Bergen University, at which also the IAHR-IC met. After which she served for two terms as IAHR Officer: from 2005 to 2010 as Deputy General Secretary in charge of the organization of the IAHR World Congress at Toronto in 2010; and as IAHR Vice President from 2010 to 2015.
- = Professor Gerrie ter Haar authored and edited more than twenty books, some with translations into French, Italian, Spanish and Japanese, and numerous articles and book chapters on religion and religions in Africa and the Africa Diaspora. In addition, she edited, with Jim Cox, two book series: 'Religion in Contemporary Africa', at Africa World Press (Trenton [NJ]), and 'Religion in Modern Africa', published by Ashgate, both of which greatly assisted young African upcoming scholars in getting their books published. As for her service at the level of IAHR national and regional member societies: Professor ter Haar has always been an active member of the Dutch Association for the Study of religions and served as its Secretary from 1995 to 2002. Her greatest merit is her service to the African Association for the Study of Religions, of which she is a founding member. She served as AASR Bulletin Editor from 1993 to 2000, and as AASR Regional Representative from 1992 to 2005. In this office she saw to it that AASR-Europe became the AASR financial backbone. These and her many other services to the AASR have been crucial to AASR survival and development. As IAHR Officer, Professor ter Haar served IAHR Deputy General Secretary from 2000 to 2005, and was as such in charge of the organization of the IAHR World Congress at Tokyo in 2005; and as IAHR Vice President from 2005 to 2010.

² Cf. Bocking's research profile at <http://research.ucc.ie/profiles/A040/bbocking>

³ Cf. <http://www.uib.no/en/persons/Anne.Ingvild.S.Gilhus>

These data surely show that these three colleagues merit nomination as IAHR Life Honorary Members for their lifelong commitment to the academic study of religions in three distinct disciplines – Asian Religions, Ancient Religions, and African Religions –, the high quality of their contributions to it, and their service to the IAHR and its national and regional member societies.

We therefore unreservedly recommend that they be awarded IAHR Life Honorary Membership.

Yours,

Dr. Jan G. Platvoet, chair

Prof. Yolotl González Torres, member

Prof. Susumu Shimazono, member