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I. Nominations for the Next Executive Committee

In Brno, September 6-7, 2008, the IAHR Executive Committee appointed an IAHR Nominating Committee. The committee was composed of professors Giulia S. Gasparro, Jan G. Platvoet and Armin W. Geertz. The committee’s job was to submit nominations for the next Executive Committee (2010-2015) to the members of the International Committee in accordance with the IAHR Constitution § 4c and the rules for the nomination procedure (cf. http://www.iahr.dk/nominations.html).

In a letter (cf. 'Appendix 1_ Nominations2010-2015.pdf') as of October 20, 2009, the Nominating Committee has submitted its nominations. The candidates nominated by the committee are as follows:

President: Rosalind I.J. Hackett (United States)
Vice-President: Ingvild S. Gilhus (Norway)
Vice-President: Abdulkader Tayob (South Africa)
General Secretary: Tim Jensen (Denmark)
Deputy General Secretary: Maria del Mar Marcos Sanchez (Spain)
Treasurer: Brian Bocking (Ireland)
Deputy Treasurer: Marianna Shakhnovich (Russia)
Publications Officer: Morny Joy (Canada)
Membership Secretary: Abrahim H. Khan (Canada)
Internet Officer: Silas Guerriero (Brazil)
Member without portfolio: Satoko Fujiwara (Japan)
Member without portfolio: Amarjiva Lochan (India)

According to the mentioned §4c (and the rules for the nomination procedure), "Members of the International Committee may propose alternative nominations not less than one month prior to each international congress. The International Committee at its meeting just preceding the General Assembly, shall elect the Executive Committee and shall report this to the General Assembly."

I consequently urge members of the International Committee who want to propose alternative nominations to do so in writing (e-mail or regular mail) to the IAHR General Secretary no later than July 14, 2010.

On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, I extend my warmest greetings and thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for their excellent service to the IAHR.
II. Proposals for IAHR Honorary Life Membership

According to the relevant rules "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."

The procedure regarding proposals for and recommendation of honorary life membership is as follows (cf. [http://www.iahr.dk/honorary_nominations.html](http://www.iahr.dk/honorary_nominations.html)):

"The International Committee appoints by recommendation of the Executive Committee an Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members. The General Secretary of the IAHR shall then request the IAHR affiliates 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 five names. Their recommendation shall be accompanied by brief statements of the achievements of the recommended persons. Their recommendation will be presented to the International Committee by the General Secretary of the IAHR."

The International Committee of the IAHR at its meeting in Brno September 10, 2008, appointed Prof. Yolotl Gonzales Torres, Prof. Peter Antes, and Prof. Michael Pye members of the 2010 Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee.

In line with the procedure mentioned above, I herewith ask the member associations of the IAHR to suggest one or two names. Please send the proposals to the IAHR General Secretary (by e-mail or regular mail) no later than January 14, 2010.
III. The XXth IAHR Quinquennial World Congress 2010

The IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress takes place in Toronto, Canada, August 15-21, 2010. The theme is: Religion: A Human Phenomenon.

The World Congresses constitute the primary public event sponsored by the IAHR, the International Association of the History of Religions. The IAHR World Congresses bring together scholars interested in the academic and scientific study of religions to share the results of their research and to engage in discussion and debate of the major issues and concerns in the field. Workshops, panels, and symposia, as well as the presentation of individual papers, will provide ample opportunity for this kind of engagement of various new developments in the study of religion in diverse venues around the world.

Registration for the 2010 Toronto World Congress has been open for a while, and you will find all the information you need regarding registration, fees, accommodation, call for papers, financial assistance etc at the Congress website at http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr/Home.htm
You may, of course, also access the Congress website directly from the IAHR homepage at http://www.iahr.dk/

Please note that early registration closes on January 31, 2010, and that deadline for submissions is April 30, 2010.

For your convenience, please also find attached an IAHR promotional brochure and the ‘Müller brochure’ on the importance of an international congress.

On behalf of the host associations, the Congress committees and the IAHR Executive Committee, I sincerely ask you to do whatever possible to ensure that all of your individual members are informed about this event.

If you have a website, please post the info about the World Congress on your website as soon as possible, and if possible please also send an e-mail message directly to each of your members so that we can make sure that all members of the IAHR know about this event, about the deadlines for proposals of papers and registration, about the opportunities to register at the special 'early bird’ registration fee, about how to apply for the least expensive accommodation (the Toronto hosts have provided excellent options in regard to inexpensive accommodation) as well as for financial support.

The IAHR Executive Committee has decided to allocate 15.000 USD on top of the money we have been granted for this purpose from the CIPSH/UNESCO, to the Toronto Congress in order to help fund IAHR scholars in need of partial financial support.

The guidelines according to which the IAHR/CIPSH funds are granted to IAHR scholars may be found in 'Appendix2_IAHRCIPSHGrantsToronto.pdf'.
Preference will be given to those officers or members who have been delegated by their national or regional association to be one of two representatives (normally the President and the Secretary) to the International Committee of the IAHR. Please notice, however, that only delegates from member associations that are paid up will be considered eligible for receiving funding.

In case your society or association is in a position to donate a sum of money, be it ever so small, for the same purpose, please contact me as soon as possible.

I can mention that the CSSR as well as the SQER have made significant contributions for which we are indeed grateful.

For a list of other current patrons, benefactors and sponsors, please cf. [http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr/sponsors.htm](http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr/sponsors.htm)
IV. IAHR Business Meetings Toronto August 15-21, 2010

According to the IAHR By-Laws (Rule 3.d.), "[t]he General Secretary shall notify the officers of the constituent societies/and or members of the Executive Committee concerning the date, place and provisional agenda of each session at the latest one month in advance."

Though I will send you a formal notification with exact dates, locations and a provisional agenda for the Toronto 2010 meeting of the International Committee and the General Assembly in the beginning of 2010, I sincerely ask the member societies and its officers to consider the appointment of your two delegates to the IAHR International Committee already now.

According to the IAHR By-Laws, Rule 5.c., "[t]he executive committees of each constituent society appoint no more than two representatives to each International Committee meeting. These are normally, but not necessarily, the president and secretary of the constituent society."

The General Assembly, "composed of all members of constituent societies of the association" present at the congress in question, "may take action only on matters referred to it from the International Committee, and it may refer any matter to the International or Executive Committee for consideration and support." (Constitution, Article 4a).

I cannot but encourage all constituent member societies to do whatever in their power to ensure the participation in the International Committee meeting also in Toronto 2010 of delegates from their society. It is vital to the well being of the IAHR that as many of its members as possible participate in the discussions and decisions of the International Committee and the General Assembly. This is, of course, also the reason (see above) why we have decided to give preference to officers or members who have been delegated by their national or regional association to be one of two representatives to the International Committee when IAHR/CIPSH funds are to be granted to applicants.

Please remember (see below) that voting rights are dependent upon annual payment of dues, that "each constituent society shall provide the General Secretary with a list of fully paid members who shall then be recognized as members of the General Assembly", and that the General Secretary of the IAHR shall also be notified about the names of the designated representatives (By-Laws, Rules 5b and 5e).
Invitation for Bids for Hosting the IAHR XXIth Quinquennial World Congress in 2015

The IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Messina, September 12-13, 2009, decided that the General Secretary should issue a call to all member societies and associations regarding bids for hosting the IAHR XXIth Quinquennial World Congress in 2015.

Consequently, I herewith ask the officers of the IAHR member societies and associations to consider if this is the time for your society or association to host an IAHR World Congress.

In case you decide to ponder the matter and maybe even submit a bid, I strongly recommend that you take a close look at guidelines for running an IAHR World Congress. You can find the guidelines at the IAHR website under the heading "A Basic Framework for Running an IAHR World Congress" (http://www.iahr.dk/congress.html).

Bids should be sent by both e-mail (mailto:t.jensen@ifpr.sdu.dk) and ordinary mail to the General Secretary of the IAHR, Tim Jensen, The Study of Religions, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, DK-5230, Odense M, Denmark.

Deadline for bids: May 1st, 2010
V. Dues Accounting & Membership Fee 2010

"The most disappointing aspect of the whole situation [the dire financial situation of the IAHR in 2005, TJ] is the state of affiliate dues payments." Thus wrote the then General Secretary, Prof. A. W. Geertz, when commenting, in his Report to the International Committee and General Assembly, on the Treasurer's Report (cf. IAHR Bulletin, Tokyo Congress Edition, Number 38, 2005, 39f and 48).

It is a pleasure to be able to state, as I also did in my Report to the International Committee in Brno 2008, that the financial situation of the IAHR has improved considerably since Tokyo 2005. This is due to the new source of income that is one of the results of our new agreement with Brill on Numen, to a concerted effort to limit expenses to an absolute minimum, and to equally concerted efforts to secure at least a minimum of CIPSH grants for the IAHR.

It is, furthermore, also a pleasure to be able to add that the situation in regard to dues payments has improved considerably, and I want to extend my thanks to all the member associations which, since Tokyo 2005, have paid long standing dues, and, of course, to all those member associations that continuously have been paying their annual dues. Thank you.

In Tokyo 2005, 17 member associations were in bad standing (dues missing for 3 or more years), and several others were not fully paid up. Today, as can be seen from 'Appendix 3_ DuesAccountingNovember2009.pdf', the vast majority of the 37 national member societies are currently paid up (the 5 regional associations are expected to pay dues).

Out of the 8 member associations still in bad standing, four are either dormant, defunct or dissolved (Russia, Israel, Belgium/Luxembourg, and Cuba). However, I trust that the Russian association will soon be reactivated, and that the Cuban association can be reorganized and thus revitalized.

As regards the other four associations, as well as the Belgium/Luxembourg association, I have mailed each of them once again recently reminding them of the missing fees and of former dues notices, encouraging them to contact me and inform me if there is anything the IAHR can possibly do in order to be of any assistance.

As said before: we are indeed very grateful that the vast majority of the member societies are paid up, and we hope that the more 'pro-active' billing policy has been of some help also. Nevertheless, we think we can improve our procedures and thus help the members remember to pay the annual fee if we introduce fixed dates and deadlines for the annual payment of the fee.
The IAHR Executive Committee, consequently, has decided, that a dues notice is to be sent to the member societies in the beginning of January each calendar year, and that the annual dues have to be paid to the IAHR no later than January 31 each calendar year. Likewise, member societies will receive a receipt and notification that the dues have been well received, while members that have not paid by January 31, will receive a reminder. This policy will be implemented as of January 2010, also in order to help as many member associations as possible to be paid up before the World Congress in Toronto, August 2010.

The Executive Committee has also decided to recommend to the International Committee that the IAHR include in its Constitution and By-Laws paragraphs spelling out criteria, a procedure and a timeline that make it possible to determine when a membership, thanks to missing dues, can be considered and declared 'inactive' and 'lapsed'. This proposal, together with other proposals for amendments to the Constitution and the By-Laws will be mailed to all the members of the International Committee in due time before the business meetings in August 2010 in Toronto.

Allow me, however, to remind you that as it is now, voting rights are dependent upon annual payment of dues. Article 7B in the IAHR Constitution reads:

One of the most important rights and privileges of membership in the IAHR is the right to vote in the meetings of the International Committee and in the General Assembly. This voting right is dependent upon annual payment of the membership dues.

Furthermore (see what has been said above about the rules and guidelines according to which the IAHR/CIPSH funds for the Toronto 2010 World Congress are granted to scholars, including those who are delegates to the IAHR International Committee), only delegates from member associations that are paid up can receive funding.

**NB:** I do want to stress though, that ordinary individual members of member societies that have not paid their dues are *not* prevented from applying for and receiving grants.
IAHR Regional & Special Conferences

Since the XIXth Quinquennial World Congress in Tokyo, March 24-30, 2005, on "Religion: Conflict and Peace" hosted by the Japanese Association for Religious Studies, the IAHR has sponsored the following Regional and Special conferences:


The IAHR Executive Committee wishes to express its gratitude to all the colleagues whose engagement and hard work have made these conferences possible and successful.

The IAHR Executive Committee( see the Minutes from the International Committee Meeting, September 10, Brno, p. 13) has decided not to encourage IAHR regional or
special conferences in 2010 because we want to focus our attention and effort (and sparse funding) on the XXth IAHR World Congress in Toronto, August 15-21, 2010.

So far we have no requests from member societies and associations in regard to IAHR special and regional conferences in 2011 and onwards, but we know that the SSEASR plans to have its 4th Conference in Bhutan in June 2011.

The IAHR Executive Committee is pursuing the same strategy as previous Executive Committees in regard to implementing and furthering the global character of the IAHR, and we encourage national or regional member societies and associations that have not recently hosted IAHR special and regional conferences to consider this possibility.

Likewise, we would very much like to ensure that the locations in which we have the Executive Committee meetings as well as the meeting of the International Committee that normally takes place in between two World Congresses (e.g. in Brno 2008, and thus again in 2013) also reflects the global character of the IAHR constituency.

I thus encourage national and regional member societies and associations that might be contemplating hosting an IAHR special or regional conference in 2011-2014 to approach the IAHR General Secretary at the earliest possible stages of consideration and planning. An early approach is also recommended in regard to the possibility of obtaining CIPSH grants, since the IAHR has to apply for such several years in advance.

As for the rules and regulations for IAHR special and regional conferences, see http://www.iahr.dk/conferences.html.

As for those conferences that are not IAHR special or regional conferences: you are most welcome to inform the General Secretary about these conferences, and if you want the IAHR to announce them at the IAHR website, please tell us. Likewise, cf. below, we will be pleased to receive information, also 'after the fact', about conference and other activities within the IAHR member societies and associations.
IAHR Website Redesigned

The IAHR website has been redesigned. Please take a look at it if you have not already done so, at http://www.iahr.dk/.

For a couple of years, it has been evident to the IAHR Executive Committee as well as to the Internet Officer, Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, the first Internet Officer in the history of the IAHR, that the IAHR website had to be updated and redesigned to meet new demands and tastes. Something also had to be done due to the very heavy 'behind the scenes machinery' which the ordinary user never sees but which the Internet Officer was acutely aware of.

From the outset, the IAHR Internet Officer, however, also informed the Executive Committee that he did not want to redesign the website himself. The Executive Committee, therefore, has been discussing how to get the job done, effectively, without spending a fortune.

Besides, the new site had to be of such a kind that it does not take a specialist nor cost a fortune to continuously maintain it, post new information, change the names of officers etc.

Thanks to the President, Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett - who has been as devoted to the issues pertaining to the new website as she was to the construction of the old one years ago - Jeremy Brent Hughes at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, USA, agreed to take upon himself the task of redesigning the IAHR website as well as maintaining it on a daily and annual basis. And this for a very reasonable honorarium.

So, let me use this opportunity to thank Jeremy for what he has already done and for what he is going to do, and let me thank the President for her engagement in this. First and foremost, however, allow me to extend thanks to Francisco Diez de Velasco who has been such a trustworthy and reliable partner in the past four years, and who has meticulously maintained the IAHR website in spite of its 'heavy machinery'. It has been a pleasure cooperating with Francisco Diez de Velasco, - and I am happy that we still have some time together even if Francisco no longer will have to deal with my daily requests for additions and the ongoing restructuring of the website.

Now, the redesigned IAHR website at http://www.iahr.dk/ is but a click away. Please go there and make yourself familiar with the new look and the way the various links have been rearranged. The Executive Committee is very pleased with this new site.

While the Executive Committee, as well as several officers from the IAHR member societies, are very pleased with the new look, construction and reconstruction work is still going on behind the scenes, and the website can and must be improved and
developed continuously, - and in close cooperation with users.

The primary and most important users of the IAHR website are the members. The individual members of the constituent member societies, and the officers of the executive committees thereof. Therefore I urge you to go visit the new site, to enjoy it but also to do so with a critical eye to possible improvements.

Effective communication of key messages between the member associations and the IAHR Executive Committee c/o the General Secretary is of the uttermost importance. Calls for meetings, minutes from International Committee and General Assembly meetings and other like information are normally mailed directly and separately to the officers of the constituent societies and/or included in IAHR e-Bulletin Supplements, and in the IAHR Bulletin. Such communication, save the print Bulletin, normally is also posted and archived at the IAHR website.

Mostly, none of this constitutes a big challenge (except if the General Secretary does not have the correct current names and addresses of the officers). No, the challenge, to me as General Secretary and to the officers of the member societies, is to find ways to make sure that the information also reaches each individual member of the constituent society. Consequently, please consider if the IAHR can be of any help in regard to this part of the communication with the individual members of the IAHR.

As regards messages from the member societies to the IAHR, and thus to other member societies and to IAHR members around the world, there certainly is need for improvement and changes. It is, thus, not least in regard to the last mentioned kind of communication that I ask you to inform me, the Executive Committee and the webmaster how we may possibly best use the new website for this purpose.

In general feed back on the website will be much appreciated: What kind of innovation do you wish to see at the website beyond what is already there now? What other or different sections or links do you need? Do you want the IAHR to post announcements of your conferences, be it conferences open only to your own national or regional membership or to the IAHR membership in general? Do you need innovations capable of announcing a new issue of your journal, or a book authored by one of your members? Do you wish for a site continuously keeping track of developments and events within the other IAHR member societies?

Please let us know if you have any wishes and suggestions as to contents and links that may serve your national or regional association better, - and thus also serve the IAHR better.
IX. Miscellaneous

- Following a request from Brill Publishers regarding the Brill 'Adopt a Library Project', the IAHR Executive Committee, asked to recommend libraries in Sub-Saharan Africa, recommended that the books in question be shipped to libraries in Nigeria and Zimbabwe.
- Proceedings from Tokyo 2005 as well as from Durban 2000 are in press and free pdf versions will also be hosted on the IAHR website later in the year.
- The IAHR Executive Committee has discussed proposals to sponsor a new IAHR Book Series, and we figure that we are able to have more news on that in the not too distant future. (Brill Publishers still publish the Numen Book Series and the SoR; the IAHR, however, no longer is associated with the two publication series).
- Though previously announced, please note that the new agreement with Brill Publishers on Numen means that each annual volume now consists of five issues. We consider this an improvement, and we encourage our members around the world to consider submitting articles to Numen.
- Professor Gregory D. Alles has been appointed managing editor of Numen. Prof. Alles will succeed Professor Gustavo Benavides whose term as managing editor expires at the end of 2010. However, to provide for as smooth a period of transition as possible, Brill Publishers, in agreement with the IAHR Executive Committee, has decided that Prof. Alles begins the work already as of January 2010. In 2010, then, there will be three managing editors of Numen: Profs. Gregory D. Alles, Gustavo Benavides and Olav Hammer. Prof. Alles is professor of Religious Studies at McDaniel College (formerly Western Maryland College), Westminster, Maryland, USA. He has published widely in English and German. Prof. Alles is a past president of the North American Association for the Study of Religion, and he has been a member of many an editorial board. The IAHR Executive Committee welcomes Prof. Alles and look forward to working together with him.
- Professor Ingvild Sælid Gilhus has been appointed Reviews Editor of Numen. Prof. Gilhus will succeed Professor Maya Burger whose term expires January 2010. Prof Gilhus is currently serving the IAHR as Deputy General Secretary, and in the previous term she served on the IAHR Executive Committee as a member-at-large. Professor Gilhus is professor in the history of religions at the Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion, University of Bergen, Bergen, Norway. Prof. Gilhus has published widely in Norwegian as well as English and in wide variety of subject areas within the study of religions. The IAHR Executive Committee has been extremely pleased with working with Prof. Burger, and we thank her for her excellent and hard work. The IAHR Executive Committee welcomes Prof. Gilhus and we look forward to working with Prof. Gilhus also in her new capacity of Numen Reviews Editor.
- Up to now, the rule was that a minimum of 12 free copies of any Adjunct or spin-off publications from IAHR sponsored conferences should be made available to
the Executive Committee. At its meeting in Messina, September 2009, the Executive Committee decided to change this rule. As of now 3 free copies of any Adjunct or spin-off publications from IAHR sponsored conferences should be made available to the Executive Committee. We kindly ask editors and publishers to remember and respect this rule. Please ship the copies to IAHR Publications Officer, Prof. Brian Bocking. As for other rules regarding the publication of IAHR Congress Proceedings, Adjunct Proceedings and other spin-off publications, please cf. the guidelines to be found at http://www.iahr.dk/congress.html

- It has been decided to try to establish an 'IAHR Young Scholars Network', and Vice-President, Prof. Gerrie ter Haar will contact the national member societies in that regard.

- Meanwhile, please help us make the IAHR Women Scholars Network known among your members, see http://www.iahr.dk/wnsn/

- In a few weeks time, the IAHR Membership Secretary will address the officers of the member societies requesting you to assist him in updating the IAHR membership data base. The information he needs is the size of the membership, as well as any possible updates in regard to officers. The information on membership and officers is important for many reasons. It is (see previous information in this e-Bulletin Supplement regarding criteria for awarding grants) important in regard to the distribution of grants to participants to the 2010 IAHR Congress in Toronto, it is important with respect to participation in the General Assembly of the Congress, and it is, of course, important in respect to participation of the (normally two) delegates of each member association to the International Committee Meeting.

- Last but not least: Please also help us update the general information we have on each member society. In continuation of what was said above regarding your input as to how we can better serve our member associations by way of contents and links at the IAHR website, we also want to revise and update the information we have on each society. So, please take a look at the IAHR website and send us an updated brief 'abstract' stating the year of the founding of the society, major events (conferences) in its history, major publications, name of journal, yearbook or the like (if any such is published), the address of your website (if you have one), information about annual or biannual meetings (if you have such), and any other information or news that you find important to share with the IAHR. So, please have a look at the information on your society and officers at http://www.iahr.dk/associations.html

- A print IAHR Bulletin nr. 39, Toronto Edition, is planned for distribution before or during the IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress, August 15-21, in Toronto, Canada. Please do not hesitate to register for this event, and please help us make sure that all the IAHR members know that the way to Toronto can easily be found at http://www.iahr.dk/
Looking forward to meeting you in Toronto 2010, and please do not hesitate to write in case you have any questions regarding the IAHR.

Sincerely

Tim Jensen
IAHR General Secretary (& Acting Treasurer)