

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS**

**ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE
POUR L'HISTOIRE DES RELIGIONS**

IAHR BULLETIN
Erfurt Congress Edition



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The IAHR is an international body of national and regional associations for the study of religions and a member of the *Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines* (CIPSH) under Unesco.

For more information on the IAHR see <http://www.iahr.dk> and the official policy statement of the IAHR p. 4 in this *IAHR Bulletin 40, August 2015, Erfurt Congress Edition*.

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Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen July 7, 2015

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IAHR Bulletin 40, 2015

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1. IAHR - Policy Statement

The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) is a worldwide body of national and regional associations for the academic study of religion, and is a member of the Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines/The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (CIPSH) under the auspices of UNESCO.

The IAHR was founded in 1950 at the 7th international congress of the history of religions in Amsterdam. Since then the IAHR has grown to 35 national, 6 regional and 4 affiliated associations, with six further applications for membership or affiliation since 2010, reflecting the international and global diversity of the association.

The IAHR is composed of a General Assembly, an International Committee, and an Executive Committee. The General Assembly meets at each Quinquennial Congress and is composed of all members of constituent societies of the association present at that congress. The International Committee, which consists of two voting delegates from each national or regional association, meets during every Congress to elect the Executive Committee, and to make recommendations on matters of importance to the IAHR. The International Committee also meets once between the congresses. The Executive Committee consists of 12 members, representing major areas of the world, and features as reasonable a gender balance as possible.

The IAHR holds world congresses every five years. The next (XXI) Quinquennial Congress will be held in August 2015. The IAHR also sponsors regional and special conferences during the quinquennial periods, and carries on a tradition of holding its congresses and conferences in as many parts of the world as possible. This serves to support the work of IAHR members and affiliates, and to encourage international collaboration and intercultural exchange between scholars.

The IAHR seeks to promote the activities of all scholars and affiliates who contribute to the historical, social, and comparative study of religion. As such, the IAHR is the preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical and cross-cultural study of religion, past and present. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.

2. Welcome & Announcement

Dear Congress participants, members and affiliates to the IAHR,

Welcome to the *IAHR Bulletin 40, August 2015, Erfurt Congress Edition* and welcome to the IAHR XXI World Congress in Erfurt, Germany, August 23-29, 2015.

This *IAHR Bulletin 40, August 2015, Erfurt Congress Edition* can be accessed and downloaded freely by all IAHR members and IAHR 2015 World Congress participants from the IAHR website.

Though it is primarily meant to serve members participating in the IAHR International Committee Meeting as appointed delegates and in the General Assembly as members, is the hope that many more participants and IAHR members will acquaint themselves with the contents of this *IAHR Bulletin*.

I hope so, because the documents enclosed speak of important developments and discussions within the IAHR; within its elected leadership, within its constituency and thus within the institutionalized academic study of religions around the world. The documents thus constitute important 'source material' for scholars of the historical, social and comparative study of religions and the history thereof.

Another reason for my hope for a broader readership is this: shared knowledge about the past and present history and activities of the IAHR - activities all meant to further the aim of the IAHR, i.e. the promotion of the academic study of religion and the international collaboration of scholars whose work has a bearing on the subject - is a necessary condition for the continuous building and re-building of the IAHR as a global community of scholars with an - ever so contested - shared academic 'identity'.

This *Bulletin* tells about the activities of the IAHR Executive and International committees, especially over the past 5-10 years, and it thus serves the equally important function of giving you, as a congress participant and IAHR member, a picture of what your elected leadership has accomplished and not, - and what their ambitions and visions and those of candidates for the next Executive Committee for the IAHR may be.

The IAHR, as proudly stated in the revised policy statement rendered in this *Bulletin*, claims to be the "preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present". Or, as stated in the IAHR Constitution §1: the IAHR "[...] has as its objective the promotion of the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns."

Heartfelt thanks are therefore extended to Congress directors, Profs. J. Rüpke and C. Bochinger as well as to Congress Coordinator Dr. E. Begemann, to the members of the Organizing Committee, and to each and every member of the Academic Program Committee, including, of course, the co-chairs, Profs. C. Bochinger and

M. Marcos, for their meticulous and hard work to help align the IAHR 2015 Erfurt World Congress academic program with the general aims of the IAHR - and with the ongoing efforts of the IAHR leadership to improve, secure and tighten up the IAHR academic profile. Thanks are also extended to the IAHR Honorary Life Members for once again serving the IAHR as members of the Congress Advisory Committee.

Last but not least thanks are extended to all those scholars and colleagues who have carefully prepared and submitted proposals for panels and papers, that is to all the IAHR members who will be participating in the IAHR World Congress, whether as panelists or chairs. It is thanks to your dedication to the academic study of religions and to the IAHR that the IAHR 2015 World Congress with the overall theme "Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present" no doubt will prove to be a "preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present".

I am thus looking forward, with pleasure and great expectations, to the IAHR World Congress Erfurt 2015, to the impressive academic program with its keynote lectures, its many and diverse panels and papers, and - no doubt - stimulating academic discussions as well as to the important IAHR business meetings.

Part of the Congress, however, is not just the academic discussions following the papers and presentations. Part of the Congress and our academic business is also the many kinds of publications springing from the Congress.

As regards the *Congress Proceedings* and the keynote lectures, the Congress Directors and hosting parties, in cooperation with the IAHR Executive Committee and Publications Officer, will be responsible for the publication.

As regards official *Adjunct Proceedings*, the IAHR Executive Committee may invite individual organizers of panels and symposia to propose a publication of Adjunct Proceedings. Subject to approval by the Executive Committee, editors of Adjunct Proceedings are permitted to use the name of the IAHR event in the title or other prominent section of the publication. If you think that your particular panel or symposium is suited for an Adjunct Proceedings, I invite you to send a proposal for Adjunct Proceedings to the IAHR General Secretary and Publications Officer. The proposal should include the name or names of the editor/s, a preliminary table of contents, and the name of the publishing company.

As regards *spin-off volumes* in general, whether formally approved or not, it is assumed that they will acknowledge that the papers therein were presented at the IAHR World Congress. Furthermore, it is requested that a minimum of 3 copies of all spin-off publications be made available to the Executive Committee.

I also request all journal editors and publishers who receive articles and manuscripts based on papers given at the IAHR World Congress to ensure that there is an acknowledgment along the following lines: "This article is a revised version of a paper given at the XXI World Congress of the International Association for the History of Religions in Erfurt, August 23-29, 2015".

Almost every IAHR World Congress can be seen as a milestone in the history of the IAHR, displaying a mixture of, on the one hand, past and more classical

approaches, and, on the other, current trends, fashions, and innovations, - as well as heated debates about the right paths for the (future) academic study of religions. Doubtless the IAHR XXI World Congress, Erfurt August 23-29, 2015, will be no exception to the rule.

Allow me, therefore, to once again express, on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all participants, the keynote speakers included, to everybody engaged in proposing and vetting papers and sessions, and to the members of the various Congress committees. Thanks are also extended to the Congress patrons, benefactors and sponsors, including Dorothea Ditchfield who has most generously sponsored the IAHR Gary Lease Memorial Lecture to be delivered by Prof. Hubert Seiwert..

Special thanks, of course, go to the host institutions: the German Association for the Study of Religions/Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW), the Department for the Study of Religions (Religionswissenschaft) at the Max-Weber-Centre (MWK, Institute for Advanced Study), and the Research School "Religion" (RSR) of the University of Erfurt, Germany.

Your academic and administrative work, in general and in regard to this IAHR World Congress, is essential to the IAHR.

Tim Jensen
IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen July 7, 2015

3. IAHR International Committee

IAHR XXI World Congress 2015, Erfurt

Announced Delegates from Member Associations and Affiliated Societies

According to the IAHR Constitution Article 4b, the International Committee is composed of:

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

Furthermore, one appointed representative of an affiliated association or society may be present at the International Committee, but may not vote.

According to the IAHR Rules of Procedure point 5c,

[...] 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.

point 5.e,

It is the duty of the officers of each constituent or affiliated society and association to notify the General Secretary of the IAHR of the name(s) of the designated representative(s).

point 15.b,

Each member of the International Committee shall have one vote. Voting rights at the International Committee are the privilege of representatives of fully paid-up constituent national or regional member societies and associations. The General Secretary, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, shall alone determine whether a constituent society or association is fully paid up at the time of any vote to be taken by the International Committee. One appointed representative of an affiliate member association may be present at the International Committee, but may not vote.

The following list of IAHR member associations and societies as well as affiliates is accompanied by a) the names of presidents and secretaries currently figuring on the IAHR website, and b) those names of delegates, specifically designated or not, to the 2015 International Committee, whom member associations and societies as well as affiliates have announced to the General Secretary in due time.

Member associations ineligible to vote:

An asterisk (*) indicates that – at the time of writing – the association or society is

not paid up to the latest completed financial year (2014), and thus is not entitled to vote. Neither at the International Committee Meeting nor at the General Assembly. Two asterisks (**) indicate that the Executive Committee has declared the membership lapsed but has not yet struck the name of the association from the list of member associations. The association in question has thus no voting rights. According to the IAHR Rules of Procedure 15a and 15b "The General Secretary, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, shall alone determine whether a constituent society or association is fully paid up at the time of any vote to be taken ..."

1. National and Regional Member Associations and Societies

Africa (Regional member association): AASR (*African Association for the Study of Religions*)

President: Prof. Elias Bongmba

Secretary: Prof. Afe Adogame

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

Secretary: Prof. Afe Adogame

Treasurer: Prof. Abel Ugba

Australia: AASR (Australian Association for the Study of Religions)

President: Prof. Douglas Ezzy

Executive Officer: Dr. Joshua Roose

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

Designated delegate: Prof. Carole Cusack

Austria: ÖGRW (*Österreichische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft*)

President: Prof. Johann Figl

Secretary: Karl Baier

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Designated delegate: Prof. Rüdiger Lohlker

Designated delegate: Dr. Franz Winter

Belgium: BABEL (*Association belge pour l'étude des religions/ Belgische Associatie voor de Studie van Religies*)

President: Jos Verheyden

Secretary: Daniel Praet

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Jos Verheyden

Secretary: Prof. Daniel Praet

Brazil: ABHR/BAHR (*Associação Brasileira de História das Religiões/ Brazilian Association for History of Religion*)

President: Eduardo Meinberg de Albuquerque Maranhão Filho

Secretary: Patricia Carla de Melo Martin

NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Canada: CSSR/SCÉR (*Canadian Society for the Study of Religions/ La Société Canadienne pour l'Étude de la Religion*)**

President: Dr. Rubina Ramji

Secretary: Dr. Heather Shipley

(One Vote Only)

NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Canada (Quebec): SQÉR (La Société québécoise pour l'étude de la religion)**

China: CARS (Chinese Association for the Study of Religion)

President: Prof. Zhuo Xinping

Secretary: Prof. Zheng Xiaoyun

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

Secretary: Prof. Zheng Xiaoyun

**Czech Republic: (Ceska Spolecnost Pro Studium Nabozenstvi/
Czech Society for the Study of Religion)**

President: Prof. Tomáš Bubík

Secretary: Prof. David Zbírál

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Tomáš Bubík

Secretary: Prof. David Zbírál

**Denmark: DASR (Dansk Selskab for Religionsstudier/
Danish Association for the Study of Religions)**

President: Prof. Jørn Borup

Secretary: Prof. Laura Feldt

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Jørn Borup

Secretary: Prof. Laura Feldt

**Eastern Africa (Regional member association): EAASR (Eastern African
Association for the Study of Religions)** (Note: the IAHR General Secretary has not
been able to get in contact with any officer from the named association in order to
learn about the status of this association)

President: NN

Secretary: NN

NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

**Estonia:EAUS/ESSR (Eesti Akadeemiline Usundiloo Selts/ Estonian Society for
the Study of Religions)**

President: Prof. Madis Arukask

Secretary: Prof. Piret Koosa

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

Designated delegate: Dr. Jaan Lahe

**Europe (Regional member association): EASR (European Association for the
Study of Religions)**

President: Prof. Einar Thomassen

Secretary: Prof. Marco Pasi

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Einar Thomassen

Secretary: Prof. Marco Pasi

**Finland: SUS (Suomen Uskotieteilinen Seura/Religionsvetenskapliga
Sällskapet i Finland/Finnish Society for Religious Studies)**

President: Prof. Peter Nynäs

Secretary: Anna Haapalainen
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Peter Nynäs
Secretary: Dr. Anna Haapalainen

France: Société Ernest-Renan. Société Française d'Histoire des Religions

President: Prof. Dominique Briquel
Secretary: Prof. Charles Guittard
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Secretary: Prof. Charles Guittard
Treasurer: Mme Régine Guittard

Germany: DVRW (Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft)

President: Prof. Christoph Bochinger
Treasurer: Dr. Stefan Schröder
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Christoph Bochinger
Designated delegate: Prof. Dr. Christoph Kleine

Greece: GSSCR (Greek Association for the Study of Culture and Religion)

President: Prof. Nikos Zaharopoulos
Secretary: Prof. Panayotis Pachis
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Secretary: Prof. Panayotis Pachis
Designated delegate: Dr. Olympia Panayotidou

***Hungary: Magyar Vallástudományi Társaság/
Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religions***

President: Prof. Mihály Hoppál
Secretary: Prof. Ábrahám Kovács
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Secretary: Prof. Ábrahám Kovács
Designated delegate: Dr. Bulcsú Hoppál

India: IASR (Indian Association for the Study of Religion)

President: Prof. Dr. Rana P.B. Singh
Secretary: Dr. Devasia M. Antony
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Ireland: ISASR (Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions)

President: Prof. James Kapalo
Secretary: Mr. Brendan McNamara
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. James Kapalo
Designated delegate: Prof. Alexandra Grieser

Italy: Società italiana di storia delle religioni

President: Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro
Secretary: Prof. Giovanni Casadio
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Secretary: Prof. Giovanni Casadio
Designated delegate: Prof. Alessandro Saggioro

***Japan: Nihon Shukyo Gakkai/
The Japanese Association for Religious Studies***

President: Prof. Masako Keta
Secretary: Prof. Takeshi Kimura
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Secretary: Prof. Takeshi Kimura
Designated delegate: Prof. Yoshitsugu Sawai

Latin America (Regional member association): ALER (Asociación Latinoamericana para el Estudio de las Religiones)

President: Prof. Elio Masferrer Khan
Secretary: Prof. Isabel Lagarriga Attias
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

***Latvia: LRPB (Latvijas Reliģiju pētniecības biedrība/
Latvian Society for the Study of Religions)***

President: Prof. Janis Priede
Secretary: Prof. Anita Stasulane
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Lithuania: LSSR (Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions)

President: Prof. Milda Ališauskienė
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Milda Ališauskienė

Mexico: SMER (Sociedad Mexicana para el estudio de las Religiones)

President: Prof. Benjamin Preciado
Secretary: Dr. Dora Sierra
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Designated delegate: Prof. Yolotl González Torres
Designated delegate: Prof. Oscar Figueroa

***Netherlands: NGG (Nederlands Genootschap van Godsdienshistorici/
Netherlands Association for the History of Religions)***

President: Prof. Kocku von Stuckrad
Secretary: Dr. Markus Altena Davidsen
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Kocku von Stuckrad
Secretary: Dr. Markus Altena Davidsen

New Zealand: NZASR (New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions)

President: Prof. Ben Schontal
Secretary: Prof. Will Sweetman
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Vice-President: Geoff Troughton

North America: NAASR (North American Association for the Study of Religion)

President: Prof. Russell T. McCutcheon
Secretary: Dr. Craig Martin
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Designated delegate: Prof. Luther M. Martin

Designated delegate: Prof. Donald Wiebe
**Norway: NRF (Norsk Religionshistorisk Forening/
Norwegian Association for the History of Religions)**
President: Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen
Secretary: Prof. Asbjörn Dyrendal
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Knut A. Jacobsen

**Poland: Polskie Towarzystwo Religioznawcze/
Société Polonaise de Science des Religions***
President: Prof. Zbigniew Stachowski
Secretary: Prof. Andrzej Wojtowicz
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Romania: RAHR (Romanian Association for the History of Religions)
President: Prof. Andrei Oisteanu
Secretary: Prof. Eugen Ciurtin
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Russia: Russian Association for the History of World Religions
Secretary: Prof. Marianna Shakhnovich
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Designated delegate: Prof. Ekaterina Teryukova
Designated delegate: Prof. Elena Stepanova

**Slovakia: SSŠN/SASR (Slovenská spoločnosť pre štúdium náboženstiev pri
SAV Bratislava/Slovak Association for the Study of Religions)***
President: Dr. Roman Kečka
Secretary: Dr. Tomáš Hrustič
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

**South America: Mercosur/Mercosul (Regional member association): ACSRM
(Asociacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur / Associacao de
Cientistas Sociais da Religiao do Mercosul)**
President: Prof. Emerson Giumbelli
Secretary: Prof. Siliva Montenegro
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

**South and Southeast Asia (Regional member association): SSEASR (South
and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion)**
President: Prof. Amarjiva Lochan
Secretary: Prof. Sophana Srichampa
NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

South Korea: KAHR (Korean Association for the History of Religion)
President: Prof. Chae Young Kim
Secretary: Prof. Gil Yong Lee
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Chae Young Kim

Southern Africa: ASRSA (Association for the Study of Religion in Southern Africa)

President: Prof. Johannes A. Smit

Secretary: Prof. Denzil Chetty

NO DELEGATES ANNOUNCED

Spain: SECR (Sociedad Española de Ciencias de las Religiones/ Spanish Association for the Sciences of Religions)

President: Prof. Mar Marcos

Secretary: Prof. Raquel Martín Hernández

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

Designated delegate: Prof. Francisco Díez de Velasco

Designated delegate: Prof. Santiago Montero

Sweden: SSRF (Svenska Samfundet för Religionshistorisk Forskning/ Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion)

President: Prof. Jenny Berglund

Secretary: Prof. David Thurfjell

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Jenny Berglund

Secretary: Prof. David Thurfjell

Switzerland: SGR/SSSR (Schweizerische Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft/Société Suisse pour la Science des Religions)

President: Prof. Jens Schlieter

Secretary: Prof. Ricarda Stegmann

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Jens Schlieter

Designated delegate: Dr. Anja Kirsch

Turkey: TÜDTAD (Türkiye Dinler Tarihi Derneği) / TAHR (Turkish Association for the History of Religions)

President: Harun Güngör

Secretary: Ali İhsan Yitik

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Harun Güngör

Designated delegate: Prof. Durmuş Arik

Ukraine: UARR (Ukrayins'ka Asotsiatsiya Religiyeznavtsiv/ Ukrainian Association of Religion Researchers)

President: Prof. Anatoliy Kolodnyy

Secretary: Prof. Liudmyla Fylypovych

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Anatoliy Kolodnyy

Vice-President: Prof. Liudmyla Fylypovych

United Kingdom: BASR (British Association for the Study of Religions)

President: Prof. Graham Harvey

Secretary: Prof. Bettina E. Schmidt

DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:

President: Prof. Graham Harvey

Secretary: Prof. Bettina E. Schmidt

United States: AAR (American Academy of Religion)

President: Prof. Thomas Tweed
Executive Director: Jack Fitzmier
DELEGATES ANNOUNCED:
Designated delegate: Professor Amy Allocco
Designated delegate: Dr. Robert Puckett

2. Affiliates Associations and Societies (no voting rights)

ESSWE: European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism

President: Prof. Andreas Kilcher
Secretary: Prof. Mark Sedgwick
DELEGATE ANNOUNCED:
IAHR liaison officer: Prof. Henrik Bogdan

IACSR: International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion

President: Prof. Joseph Bulbulia
Secretary: Prof. Dimitris Xygalatas
DELEGATE ANNOUNCED:
Secretary: Prof. Dimitris Xygalatas

ISORECEA: International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association

President: Prof. Dinka Marinović Jerolimov
Secretary: Prof. Milda Ališauskienė
DELEGATE ANNOUNCED:
Designated delegate: Prof. Eileen Barker

ISSRNC: International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture

President: Prof. Sarah M. Pike
Secretary: Prof. Evan Berry
DELEGATE ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Sarah M. Pike

SAMR: Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions

President: Prof. Jeffrey Brodd
Secretary: Prof. Nancy Evans
DELEGATE ANNOUNCED:
President: Prof. Jeffrey Brodd

4. IAHR International Committee Meeting Erfurt 2015

Wednesday August 26, 2015, 9:00-13:00

(Lecture Hall HS 3, Building LG1)

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Membership:
 - 2.1. Ascertainment of membership;
 - 2.2. Co-option as recommended by the Executive Committee
3. Minutes of the International Committee Meeting Liverpool 2013
4. Report by the General Secretary
5. Report by the Treasurer
6. Additional matters of report by the Executive Committee
7. Election of the 2015-2020 Executive Committee
8. Proposal for a Change of Name for the IAHR
9. Proposal for Changing [IAHR] 'General Secretary' to Secretary General
10. Recommendation of new members and affiliates
11. Recommendation of Honorary Life Members
12. Any other business

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen July 7, 2015

5. IAHR General Assembly Erfurt 2015

Saturday August 29, 2015, 10:30

('Alte Heizkraftwerk' (City Centre))

Provisional Agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda
2. Minutes of the General Assembly Toronto 2010
3. Brief report by the outgoing General Secretary
4. Brief report by the outgoing Treasurer
5. Adoption of new members and affiliates
6. Recommendation of changes to the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure
7. Other recommendations of the International Committee requiring a vote by the General Assembly
8. Report on the conferment of Honorary Life Membership
9. Report on the election of the incoming Executive Committee
10. Public transfer of office to the incoming Executive Committee
11. Brief statement by the incoming President
12. Brief statement by the incoming General Secretary
13. Suggestions from the General Assembly to the incoming Executive Committee
14. Any other business

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen July 7, 2015

6. IAHR International Committee Meeting Liverpool, UK September 4, 2013

MINUTES

[To be adopted at the next International Committee Meeting in Erfurt, Germany, August 26, 2015]

[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee in Cape Town, South Africa, July 29, 2014]

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

Prof. Hackett welcomed the delegates of the International Committee and asked the General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, to ascertain that the meeting had been announced and called in accordance with the IAHR Rules of Procedure. With reference to the General Secretary's report in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 3, Prof. Jensen confirmed that the meeting had been announced several times and in accordance with the IAHR Rules of Procedure Rule 3d. The final call, with the preliminary agenda (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 2-3), was emailed to the main officers of the IAHR members and affiliates on August 1, 2013. At the same time, the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013* was made public on the IAHR website.

1. Adoption of the Agenda

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

2. Membership

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

Two representatives each of the constituent national and regional societies;

(ii) The Executive Committee [...];

(iii) Up to four individual members co-opted by the International Committee on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

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

2.1. Ascertainment of Membership

The following members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR were present: President, Rosalind I.J. Hackett; Vice-president, Ingvild S. Gilhus; Vice-president, Abdulkader Tayob; General Secretary, Tim Jensen; Deputy General Secretary, Mar Marcos; Treasurer, Brian Bocking; Membership Secretary, Abraham H. Khan; Publications Officer, Morny Joy; Member Without Portfolio, Satoko Fujiwara; Apologies from: Internet Officer, Silas Guerriero; Deputy Treasurer, Marianna

Shakhnovich and Member without Portfolio, Amarjiva Lochan.

The following representatives of the IAHR national and regional member societies and associations were present: Africa (AASR): Afe Adogame & Elias Bongmba; Australia (AASR): Douglas Pratt; Austria (ÖGRW): none; *Belgium (BABEL): Jos Verheyden & Daniel Praet; Brazil (ABHR/BAHR): none; Canada (CSSR/ SCÉR) [one vote only]: none; Canada (Québec) (SQÉR) [one vote only]: none; Czech Republic (CASR): David Zbírál; Denmark (DASR): Annika Hvithamar & Olav Hammer; China (CARS): none; Eastern Africa (EAASR): none; Europe (EASR): David Václavík; Finland: Teemu Pauha; France: Charles Guittard; Germany (DVRW): Katja Triplett & Juerg Ruepke; Greece (GSSCR): none; Hungary: Abraham Kovács & Bulcsu Hoppál; India (IASR): none; Indonesia: none; *Ireland (ISASR): James Kapalo & Yafa Shanneik; Italy: Giovanni Casadio & Marco Pasi; Japan: Izumi Niwa; Latin America (ALER): none; Latvia (LRPB): Janis Priede; *Lithuania (LSSR): Milda Ališauskienė; *Mercosur (ACSRM): none; Mexico: none; Netherlands (NGG): Kim Knibbe; New Zealand (NZASR): none; Northern America (NAASR): Gregory Alles; Norway (NRF): none; Poland: none; Romania (RAHR): none; Russia: none; Slovakia (SSŠN/SASR): none; South Korea (KAHR): none; Southern Africa (ASRSA): none; South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR): none; Spain (SECR): none; Sweden (SSRF): Susanne Olsson & Jenny Berglund; Switzerland (SGR/SSSR): None; Turkey (TAHR): none; Ukraine (UARR): none; United Kingdom (BASR): Bettina Schmidt & Graham Harvey; United States (AAR): Amy Allocco & Thomas A. Tweed.

(*Applicant Associations and Societies, membership recommended by the IAHR Executive Committee, pending recommendation by the IAHR International Committee and admission by the IAHR General Assembly (cf. Article 3A))

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

2.2. Ascertainment of Affiliation

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

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE): none; International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR): Luther H. Martin; International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA): none; International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC): none.

2.3 Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee

With reference to the Rules of Procedure, Rule 5.f. provision that "[o]n the recommendation of the Executive Committee, up to four individuals may be co-opted as voting members by the International Committee at the beginning of the

session", the General Secretary reported that presently there were no individual members.

With reference to 'Rule 6. Observers and Consultants' provision that "[on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the International Committee may allow observers and/or consultants to participate in its sessions. They shall not have the right to vote.", the IAHR Executive Committee recommended that Prof. Donald Wiebe, IAHR Honorary Life Member and signatory to the IASR Recommendations to be discussed in items 9, 10, and 11, be allowed to participate as an observer with speaking rights. Prof Wiebe was co-opted.

3. Minutes of the International Committee Meeting, Toronto 2010

The Minutes (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 5-22), preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee on January 31, 2013 and first published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011*, pp. 6-26 and thus circulated to the members of the IAHR International Committee in accordance with the relevant rule(s), were unanimously adopted by the International Committee.

4. Report by the General Secretary

With reference to his full and detailed written report, published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 23-40, Prof. Jensen invited the members of the International Committee to ask questions and offer their comments to any matters arising from the report. At the same time he expressed his wish to restrict the oral report to a minimum in order to provide more time for discussion, be it about matters arising from the report or about other items later in the agenda in need of a more nuanced discussion. Prof. Jensen consequently focused on the following:

1) With reference to the written report, section 1.2. (pp. 23-24) Prof. Jensen explained the continuous efforts (cf. also *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010*, pp. 38-39) of the Executive Committee to implement the IAHR principle of rotation, i.e. to move the Executive as well as International Committee meetings around the world. Consequently, and in view also of the General Secretary's efforts to stimulate membership development and cooperation with existing member associations in Latin America, the Executive Committee had investigated the possibility of locating the International Committee meeting in, respectively, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico City, and finally, Quito, Ecuador. The decision eventually to locate the International Committee Meeting 2013 in Liverpool, and thus (once again) in conjunction with an EASR Annual Conference, was taken after careful consideration of the costs and risks involved in choosing Quito. Furthermore, the need for a quorum ("attendance of ten members from a minimum of seven national associations", Constitution § 6) also played a role. Prof. Jensen extended thanks to colleagues in Mexico, not least to IAHR Honorary Life Member, Prof. Yolotl Gonzales and to colleagues in Cuba and in the NAASR for participating in the deliberations, as well as to anthropologist Prof. Enrique Aguilar Montalvo for his willingness to offer to host an IAHR Co-Sponsored Conference in Quito. Thanks were also extended to the Executive Committee members, especially Silas Guerriero, Mar Marcos

and Abraham Khan for assisting the General Secretary in various very helpful ways. Last but not least, Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude that the BASR and the EASR had been ready to host the 2013 IAHR International Committee Meeting 2013, stressing that he and the Executive Committee was well aware of the extra planning and efforts it takes to accommodate such a meeting. He added that he would have more to say as regards the plans for the location of the annual meeting of the Executive Committee in 2014 under item 6.

2) With reference to the written report, section 1.3 (pp. 24-25), on his fairly extensive electronic communication with IAHR members and affiliates via newsletters, email letters of information, the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, and the IAHR website, Prof. Jensen expressed his concern that the information from and about the IAHR did not always reach the individual members of the IAHR, i.e. all the individual members of all the IAHR national and regional member associations and societies as well as all the individual members of the IAHR affiliates. Neither he, nor the IAHR Treasurer nor the IAHR Membership Secretary is in possession of any list of names and emails of the individual members of the IAHR member associations and affiliates. There is no way he, or anybody else, can address all these IAHR members directly. There is but one way for the IAHR to send all the information to the IAHR members and that is via the officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliates, relying on them to communicate the information promptly to their individual members. Therefore, it is of utmost importance to the proper functioning of the IAHR that the officers of member associations and affiliates remember to send to the General Secretary up-to-date information including email addresses on the key officers (normally those listed on the IAHR website, i.e. the President, Secretary, and Treasurer). Even more important, though, is that these officers, when receiving news and information from the IAHR, do promptly circulate the information, be it by newsletters, email letters of information, or simply forwarding the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* to their members. In most member associations and affiliates such circulation can be effectuated simply by way of forwarding it to the email addresses of the individual members, and - if the association in question has a website or Facebook site - by uploading it on the respective websites etc. Prof. Jensen thus appealed to all the officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliates and to all the delegates to the International Committee Meeting to help in improving this communication with all their individual members. It is vital to the well being of the IAHR, i.e. to all the IAHR member associations and affiliates, that the individual members are well informed about the IAHR and the many IAHR-related scholarly initiatives, activities, developments, and discussions.

3) In regard to IAHR congresses and special or regional conferences, Prof. Jensen, referring to the written report section 2 (pp. 26-31) once again expressed his thanks to the Toronto organizers, not least to the Congress Director, Prof. Wiebe and his staff, including IAHR Membership Secretary, Prof. Khan, for hosting and organizing the IAHR XX World Congress, for the speedy and perfect publication of the Congress Proceedings, and for their generous assistance when a limited number of print copies were mailed to countries and libraries of member associations around the world. The [IAHR World Congress Proceedings, Toronto 2010. Religion: A Human Phenomenon](#) can be found and downloaded for free at the IAHR website.

4) Looking forward to the next IAHR World Congress, to be held in Erfurt, and hosted by the German Association for the Study of Religions/Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW), in cooperation with the Department for the Study of Religions (Religionswissenschaft), the Max-Weber-Centre (MWK, Institute for Advanced Study), and the Research School "Religion" (RSR) of the University of Erfurt Germany, Prof. Jensen extended his heartfelt thanks to those member associations that had submitted bids for hosting the 2015 IAHR XXI World Congress. He added that the Executive Committee was very well aware of the amount of work that had gone into each of these bids, and all of the bids had been very impressive.

5) With reference to the written report (p. 28), Prof Jensen said that he, as a member of the (local) organizing committee and the Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos, as academic program co-chair, had had several promising meetings with the hosts and that he himself had paid Erfurt a visit in June 2013. The Erfurt 2015 World Congress had long had its own website. A first circular about the Congress and its theme ***Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present*** had been communicated to the officers and members of IAHR members and affiliates in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*, and, apart from the calls for panels and papers to be sent to the officers (and thus hopefully also all the members) of the IAHR member associations and affiliates, a link at the IAHR website takes visitors directly to the Congress website.

6) As regards the 2010-2013 IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, held respectively by: the *Norwegian Association for the History of Religions* (NRF) & the Departments for the Study of Religions at NTNU in Trondheim and the University of Tromsø (Trondheim, Norway, March 1-2, 2012), the *Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion* (SSRF), the *European Association for the Study of Religions* (EASR) & The Study of Religions at Södertörn University (Södertörn, Sweden, August 23- 26, 2012), the *African Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR) (in collaboration with PANAFSTRAG) (Njoro, Kenya, July 18- 23, 2012), and the *South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion* (SSEASR) & the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (Manila, Philippines, May 16-19, 2013), Prof. Jensen thanked all colleagues whose engagement and hard work had made these conferences possible and successful.

7) In addition, Prof. Jensen directed the attention of the members of the IAHR to the revised set of Rules and Procedures for [IAHR Special](#) and [IAHR Regional Conferences](#), the full text of which can be found at the IAHR website and in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013* (pp. 36-38). The revised Rules make explicit the obligation of the hosting association to ensure that the academic program and the individual papers contribute to the general aims of the IAHR as spelled out in the IAHR Constitution, "Article 1: [...]The IAHR [...] has as its objective the promotion of the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns." A new requirement, as regards the obligations of the host of an IAHR special or regional conference, is the obligation, within two months of the event, to provide the IAHR General Secretary with a brief (max. 1000 words) report on the conference suitable to be reproduced in an *IAHR Bulletin* or an *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*. This provision is intended to make

this kind of IAHR-sponsored scholarly activity more visible and to make it possible for the IAHR membership at large to get information about key aspects of the academic program in question. If the conference leads to a publication, the rules have not been changed: the publication must be consistent with the IAHR congress publication policy.

8) Looking forward, Prof. Jensen asked the members and affiliates to ensure that their conference planning and activities do not interfere unnecessarily with the IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress in Erfurt, August 23-29, 2015, adding that the IAHR and the local German host will try their best to accommodate possible wishes for finding time and space for business meetings of members and affiliates that may need to be arranged within the framework of the IAHR World Congress.

9) While briefly highlighting the most important membership developments, apart from the applications for membership dealt with under item 7, positive (recently adopted new members and affiliates as well as the reentry of the *Australian Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR) and the reorganization of the Russian association into *Association of Russian Centers for Study of Religions*) as well as negative (lapsed membership), Prof. Jensen noted that the IAHR Executive Committee, in spite of the declarations of lapsed membership, naturally kept an eye open to possible ways of re-establishing vital and functioning associations in countries like Israel, Cuba, Nigeria and Portugal but that it was all important to make sure that there was a local basis before offering further assistance.

10) He therefore also drew the attention of the International Committee to the introduction of a re-admission policy for lapsed associations (pp. 32-33) agreed upon by the Executive Committee.

11) Finally, Prof. Jensen, with regard to important membership developments, drew attention to the continuous activities since 2010 of the IAHR President and General Secretary as regards the cooperation with the *American Academy of Religion* (AAR) trying to do exactly what the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions had recommended, namely to work together with the AAR in helping them to develop the vision for their "Global Connections" project". With reference to his report pp. 33-34, especially the mentioned "new scheme for their [the AAR] international outreach" and the key issue about how to secure "a permanent link between the AAR and its International Committee and activities and the IAHR", Prof. Jensen could add that the AAR, represented in the IAHR International Committee meeting in Liverpool by Profs. Amy Allocco (chair of the AAR International Connections Committee) and Tom Tweed (AAR President Elect) had decided to suggest that the link be established through appointing liaisons from, respectively, the AAR and the IAHR to serve on the AAR International Connections Committee and thus participate in the new collaborative research grant program. Prof. Jensen said that he considered this suggestion an important step forward and he invited the AAR representatives to inform the International Committee about the new collaborative research grant program. Profs. Allocco and Tweed took the opportunity, handed out some written information, made reference to the information on the AAR website, and expressed their gratitude that the cooperation with the IAHR had thus been

strengthened in regard to a specific international program for collaborative research, a program hopefully to the benefit of AAR scholars as well as scholars who are members of other IAHR member associations and societies.

12) As stated in the “[Procedures Concerning *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*](#)”, the IAHR Executive Committee considers *NVMEN* the flagship journal of the IAHR, with “a proud tradition of quality and international coverage, and the editorial board is very keen on improving it in tune with current developments in the subject and in the IAHR organization”. The Executive Committee, which had most recently discussed *NVMEN* during its meeting in Södertörn in August 2012 and also with regard to the questions related to *NVMEN* in the ‘Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions’ (p. 50), agreed, as stated in our response (p.57) to that recommendation that “*NVMEN* strikes a fairly good balance between a more classical historical-philological IAHR profile and a more innovative IAHR profile”, and we “want to strike that balance, not least because we think this is the hallmark of the IAHR and the way for the IAHR journal to have its own special identity”. Though the IAHR Executive constitutes the *NVMEN* Editorial Board, discusses *NVMEN* during the *NVMEN* Editorial Board meetings and is, through the IAHR General Secretary and the Publications Officer, frequently in contact with the Managing Editors and the Brill Acquisitions Editor, there can be no doubt that without the daily and very hard work of the Managing Editors as well as of the Reviews Editor, there would be no *NVMEN*. Prof. Jensen therefore extended warm thanks to the current Managing Editors, Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Olav Hammer, as well as to the Reviews Editor, Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus. He also extended thanks to Brill for their goodwill and excellent cooperation. Prof. Jensen added that this excellent cooperation also showed in the ongoing work for a planned special publication celebrating the fact that *NVMEN*, Volume LX, 2013 marked the 60th Anniversary of *NVMEN*. The special *NVMEN* publication will be based on the past and present close connection between *NVMEN* and the IAHR, and thus on the history and development of the study of religions reflected in both of them. According to the plans for the contents of the special publication, the book will have reprints of contributions by C. J. Bleeker, R.J. Zwi Werblowsky, A. Schimmel, U. Bianchi, E. J. Sharpe, M. Pye, A.W. Geertz & R.T. McCutcheon, T. Jensen, and new contributions by R.I.J. Hackett, D. Wiebe, J. Platvoet & A. Adogame, C. Bochsinger, J. Ruepke & H. Seiwert, G. Casadio, M. Joy & S. Marcos, S. Fujiwara, and G. Alles & O. Hammer.

13) As of 2008 the *NVMEN Book Series* (as well as *Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent*) was no longer an IAHR-related book series. Since 2008, the General Secretary, Prof. Jensen and the Publications Officer, first Prof. Bocking and then (since 2010) Prof. Joy have tried, on behalf of the Executive Committee, to pave the way a new IAHR book series. Thanks not least to the two named Publications Officers and to Janet Joyce of Equinox, the General Secretary in July 2013 was able to finalize and sign an agreement with Equinox regarding this new IAHR book series with the working title *The Study of Religions in a Global Context*. The first Editorial Board had been appointed. The members are:

- Morny Joy, University of Calgary, Canada, Managing Series Editor
- Katja Triplett, University of Göttingen, Germany, Managing Editor

- Maya Burger, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
- Denzil Chetty, University of South Africa, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Jakob De Roover, University of Ghent, Belgium
- Florence Pasche Guignard, University of Toronto, Canada
- Peter Jackson, University of Stockholm, Sweden
- Jay Johnston, University of Sydney, Australia
- Sylvia Marcos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
- Steven Sutcliffe, Edinburgh University, Scotland
- Terhi Utriainen, University of Helsinki, Finland

Prof. Jensen expressed his hope that the new IAHR/Equinox book series will assist the IAHR in furthering its aim, namely to promote the scientific, academic study of religions, and he encouraged scholars, not least junior scholars, from around the world and from the total range of the IAHR constituency to use this new venue for the publication of their work. Finally he thanked Profs. Bocking and Joy as well as Equinox for their work and cooperation and he welcomed the Managing Editor Katja Triplett as well as the other editorial board members and thanked them for their willingness to serve the IAHR.

14) As regards other IAHR related publications, Prof. Jensen first extended thanks and congratulations to the Italian association (SISR), *inter alia* represented by Prof. Giovanni Casadio, and to the local host, not least IAHR Honorary Life Member Prof. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro and her staff, for the impressive two [volume publication from the Messina 2009, SISR, EASR and IAHR Special Conference](#). The keynote lectures from the same Messina 2009 SISR, EASR and IAHR Special Conference (including the article by the General Secretary, Prof. Jensen on *The EASR Within the (World Scenario of) the IAHR*), have already been published in a separate volume in 2010, namely in *Historia Religionum. An International Journal*, 2, 2010, Pisa-Roma, Fabrizio Serra Editore.

15) As for the IAHR African Trust Fund, its history, the current composition of the Board of Trustees and information in general, Prof. Jensen invited the International Committee to visit the revamped [IAHR website](#) where the [IAHR African Trust Fund](#) has its own icon and page. Prof. Jensen also asked that the International Committee took a look at the names of recipients of the 2011 and 2012 grants allocated, adding that there had been no applicants for the 2013 grants, and to make sure that the call for applications for 2014 was announced as early as September 2013. Prof. Jensen thanked the members of the Board of Trustees and extended special thanks to the Secretary to the Board, Prof. Afe Adogame.

16) Following up on his reference to the revamped IAHR website, Prof. Jensen expressed his satisfaction with the new website, expressing the opinion that the new design was more in line with the academic profile of the IAHR than the former and that the links available served to improve its functionality. He hoped the members thought so too, and he invited the members to use the website and to feel free to send to him critical remarks and suggestions for further improvements. He thanked the website manager, Jeremy Hughes, Knoxville, TN, USA for his work and excellent cooperation and he also

extended thanks to the President, Prof. Hackett for her input during the process as well as for her management of the IAHR Facebook site.

The President, Prof. Hackett, opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report. There were no questions or comments. Prof. Hackett then thanked Prof. Jensen for his report and proposed that it be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

5. Report by the Treasurer

With reference to the written report p. 41 in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, the Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking, restricted his oral report to the following:

The IAHR accounts have improved steadily and significantly since 2005. The improvement continues, and the most recent balance as of July 7, 2013 is US\$79,992 as compared to the 2010 balance of US\$69,042. The average annual balance since 2010 has been US\$76,822.

Though the IAHR accounts thus remain safely in credit, the Treasurer stressed what has been stressed also in previous reports: the financial stability of IAHR continues to depend on members of the IAHR Executive making substantial contributions from their personal or institutional resources towards travel and attendance at IAHR meetings.

The IAHR has two main sources of income: *NVMEN* payments from Brill Publishers of about US\$13,000 per annum and annual dues from constituent member associations and affiliates totalling up to US\$5000 per annum. CIPSH is no longer providing any financial subsidy. Hence, IAHR's 'guaranteed' annual income is about \$15-18,000 annually.

Prof. Bocking added that dues are generally paid, if not always in time then following a reminder or two. Prof. Bocking thanked the treasurers and other officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliates for their cooperation. The President, Prof. Hackett, opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report.

Prof. Luther Martin asked about the size of the IAHR Endowment Fund. The Treasurer answered that the IAHR Endowment Fund did not exist as a separate entity with its own account but the amount of money in the general accounts still earmarked 'endowment fund' was \$8,695. He added that he would have more to say about this under item 6.

Prof. Marco Pasi asked about the annual fee paid to the CIPSH. Prof. Bocking replied that it was €600 but that the IAHR had not been asked to pay since 2012.

Prof. Abraham Kovacs recommended that the Treasurer and the Executive Committee looked into the possibilities of gathering funds from other sources (private). The Treasurer responded that the IAHR Executive Committee time and again had discussed this possibility as well as the difficulties linked to it. He would, however, have something more to say about one possibility under item 6.

Prof. Hackett thanked Prof. Bocking for his report and proposed that it be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

6. Additional matters of Report by the Executive Committee

The General Secretary reported that the IAHR Executive Committee during its most recent meeting in Cork, Ireland, September 1-2, 2013, had decided upon taking the following steps:

- *IAHR World Congress 2020, letters of interest*: The procedure, started out of necessity after Tokyo 2005, of issuing a call for bids for hosting the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, would be continued. However, the Executive Committee wanted to initiate matters and hopefully make the process less burdensome for applicants by way of first issuing an invitation for less demanding letters of interest rather than for a full-fledged and time-consuming bid or application. Such letters of interest would be invited a year before the Erfurt 2015 World Congress. It would then be up to the incoming 2015 Executive Committee to move forward.

- *2015 IAHR Nominating Committee* (for the incoming Executive Committee): The current Executive Committee had decided on a list of names of senior IAHR members to be tasked with constituting the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee. According to the relevant IAHR rules, "The Nominating Committee is composed of five senior colleagues who no longer seek office. The members of the committee are chosen in view of their close knowledge of the IAHR and their wider knowledge of international scholarship. The members of the committee are also chosen in terms of gender and regional representation." The names would be announced, Prof. Jensen added, as soon as the proposed members had accepted the invitation to serve the IAHR in this function.

- *Lapsed Membership*: Following many years of missing dues and several efforts to find ways to revitalize the Indonesian Association for the Study and Research of Religion, the Executive Committee had decided to declare the membership of the named association lapsed. Hopefully, this might inspire and also ease the way for Indonesian scholars to take steps towards the establishment of a new association. The IAHR Executive Committee in various ways has been and still will be in contact with Indonesian scholars in order to offer its support if so wished.

- *CIPSH*: Referring to his report (4.2. pp. 35-36) and Appendix II on the sad developments within the *CIPSH* and the UNESCO, Prof. Jensen reported that the IAHR Executive Committee had decided to continue membership of the *CIPSH*. The general aims of the *CIPSH* were still worthy of support, and the fact that the *CIPSH* had not been able to offer any grants for the last few years was balanced by the fact that the IAHR had not been asked to pay the annual fee after 2012. The situation, including possible efforts to revitalize the *CIPSH*, was to be followed closely by the IAHR, especially by the IAHR President, General Secretary, and Treasurer.

- *IAHR leaflet*: The Executive Committee had decided to produce a *leaflet* on the IAHR for the 2015 World Congress. The leaflet was intended to be informative and promotional.

- *IAHR Endowment Fund*: The Treasurer reported that the Executive Committee had discussed once again the IAHR Endowment Fund. There had been no donations and so the amount of money had not increased for years. Considering this as well as the difficulties linked to concerted fundraising, the Executive Committee had decided that the sum of money currently earmarked 'IAHR Endowment Fund' should be used for one of its original purposes, namely the support of IAHR scholars in need of financial support. It would

therefore be added to the grant given to the 2015 IAHR World Congress in Erfurt to support travel expenses of attendants, in particular members of the IAHR International Committee.

Prof. Luther Martin proposed that in this case the money available be used to support junior scholars and scholars from weak currency countries. The Treasurer and the General Secretary responded that efforts would be made to ensure that this would be the case and that the IAHR grant given to the Erfurt 2015 World Congress on top of the money from the 'IAHR Endowment Fund' would also be used for that purpose; all of this, however, had to be done in close cooperation with the Erfurt 2015 hosts.

- *Annual Dues to be Raised:* The Treasurer furthermore reported that annual dues are to be raised. Based upon the fact that it was at least 30 years since the dues were first set at US\$1 per member, an amount today equivalent to approx. \$5, and following intensive discussions about the pros and cons, the Executive Committee had agreed to raise the fee for constituent member associations from \$1 per individual member to US\$3 (approx. €uro2.25) per year per individual member, to retain a minimum payment of US\$100 (€75) for associations with no more than 33 individual members, and to raise the fee for associations with 500 and more individual member to \$2,000 (€1,500). The dues paid by the IAHR affiliates (\$100) remain the same, and IAHR regional member associations continue to be exempted from paying fees. The fee level shall moreover be reviewed every five years from now on, with the expectation that fee levels will at least keep pace with inflation.

Prof. Bettina Schmidt remarked that this was a big change and a significant amount of money if compared with the current fee of US\$1 per member.

Prof. Marco Pasi remarked that the rise might cause a problem in regard to the fact that a member association to a regional association like the EASR has to pay fees for their membership both to the EASR and to the IAHR.

Profs. Marco Pasi and Katja Triplett also raised the issue of differentiated membership fees (students/scholars), and Prof. Triplett added the information that the German association now operates with an average fee of €40 that might then be respectively raised or reduced, depending on the academic status and situation of the member in question.

The Treasurer, in response, observed that the rise had been very long delayed while fees levied by member associations had in most cases risen over the years. He noted that the minimum fee payable by small associations had not been increased and remained at US\$100.

- *Fundraising:* The Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, finally reported that the Executive Committee had discussed the possibilities of raising money by way of members making a bequest to the IAHR. For several reasons, however, it had been decided not to ask for a bequest but for donations in general. A circular, also to be posted on the website, rather than a personal letter, will be drafted.

Prof. Gregory Alles asked if funds raised in that way would then be put into a special account? Prof. Bocking responded that it will be put into the general accounts.

There were no more matters of additional report.

7. Recommendation of New Members and Affiliates

The General Secretary had received applications for membership from the following national associations:

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

as well as from the following regional association:

- *Asociation de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur* (ACSRM)

The General Secretary informed the International Committee that the Executive Committee, at meetings in 2011, 2012, and 2013, unanimously agreed to recommend the adoption of the named associations and societies.

Prof. Jensen invited representatives from the applicant associations and societies to rise and say a few words if they so liked, and at the same time he suggested that the International Committee dealt with the applications in the order listed above.

Association belge pour l'étude des religions/ Belgische Associatie voor de Studie van Religies (BABEL).

Profs. Jos Verheyden & Daniel Praet, representatives of BABEL, explained the origins of the new association and the General Secretary, in response to a question, added a few more words on the history leading up to the establishment of BABEL. Profs. Verheyden and Praet stressed that the new association, also following some remarks from the IAHR leadership regarding the draft constitution, had done its best to make it an open and democratic association welcoming everybody. At the moment, the number of members is 90, 50% being French speaking, the other 50% Flemish speaking.

The international Committee unanimously voted for the recommendation to the IAHR General Assembly of the membership of BABEL.

The President congratulated the representatives of BABEL.

Irish Association for the Academic Study of Religions (IAASR).

Profs. James Kapalo & Yafa Shanneik, representatives of the IAASR, did not want to add anything to the application filed.

The international Committee unanimously voted for the recommendation to the IAHR General Assembly of the membership of IAASR.

The President congratulated the representatives of IAASR.

Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions (LSSR).

Prof. Milda Ališauskienė, representative of the LSSR, said a few words about the association and its history. The membership numbers 27 at the moment. The international Committee unanimously voted for the recommendation to the IAHR General Assembly of the membership of LSSR.

The President congratulated the representative of LSSR.

Asociación de los Cientistas Sociales de la Religión (ACSRM).

The General Secretary summarized the history of the IAHR talks with the ACSRМ and its officers since the first contact to the ACSRМ taken by the IAHR General Secretary in 2008 following the recommendations of Prof. Michael Pye. Prof. Jensen added that the ACSRМ should not be seen as a competitor to the ALER, and that the General Secretary and the Executive Committee were continuing efforts to strengthen the relations with the ALER. The international Committee unanimously voted for the recommendation to the IAHR General Assembly of the membership of ACSRМ.

The President congratulated the ACSRМ.

8. Recommendation of Honorary Life Members

The General Secretary described the procedure for the conferment of honorary life membership 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, according to the IAHR Rules of Procedure, is as follows:

The International Committee, at its meeting during a quinquennial congress, appoints by recommendation of the Executive Committee an Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members. The Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee is appointed for a term of five years.

The General Secretary of the IAHR shall, one year before each meeting in the International Committee, request the IAHR constituent member societies and associations to suggest one or two names and the Executive Committee to suggest up to three names. These names will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee which will choose up to three names.

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 conferment of Honorary Life Membership by the International Committee shall be reported to the General Assembly.

The 2010-2015 Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, consisting of Profs. Giulia Sfameni Gasparro, Yolótl Gonzales Torres, and Armin W. Geertz, in a letter dated August 7, 2013, had submitted its recommendations. The General Secretary read the letter (see 'Appendix to 2013 Intl. Comm. Meeting Minutes') and presented in alphabetical order the names of the three persons (as well as the accompanying argument) put forward to the International Committee for decision:

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

The International Committee conferred honorary life membership on each of the three nominees by way of acclamation.

The President congratulated the new IAHR Honorary Life Members, and so did the General Secretary, who also extended thanks to the Advisory Committee members for their service to the IAHR.

9. The IASR Consultation Recommendations, and the Response from the IAHR Executive Committee

The General Secretary pointed out that the discussion under this item was not meant to include the proposal and discussion about the change of the name. That proposal and that discussion was to take place under item 10.

With reference to the IASR proposals and the IAHR Executive Committee responses (first printed in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*, and then reprinted in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 42 - 50 & 51-65), Prof. Jensen reported that the IAHR Executive Committee had nothing to add to its written responses, and he therefore invited Prof. Donald Wiebe, Director of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion (IASR), and chair of the 'IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions', briefly to narrate the *raison d'être* for the consultation and to refer to the responses from the IAHR Executive Committee to the proposals submitted.

Having said a few words about the reason for calling the consultation, *inter alia* the wish to use a small sum of money accumulated during the IAHR Toronto 2010 World Congress that for various reasons could not just be granted to the IAHR, for a purpose related to the well-being and continuous improvement of the IAHR, Prof. Wiebe expressed his great satisfaction with the very thorough responses by the IAHR Executive Committee to the proposals made by the IASR consultation. In terms of the contents of the responses, Prof. Wiebe likewise was absolutely satisfied. The steps already taken or about to be implemented by the IAHR Executive Committee were all, Prof. Wiebe thought, sound and promising.

Consequently, there was agreement not to spend more time on these aspects of the IASR recommendations and the IAHR Executive Committee responses, but to move on to the maybe more 'thorny' issue about the proposal for a change of the name of the IAHR.

Prof. Jensen once again thanked Prof. Wiebe and the other colleagues constituting the IASR consultation for their devotion to the well-being and continuous improvement of the IAHR.

10. The IASR Consultation Proposal to Change the Name of the IAHR

The General Secretary, Prof. Jensen, referred the International Committee to the IASR proposal (most recently printed in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 44 & 48-49):

The proposal for the change of name stated that such a name change was desirable in order more clearly to "reflect our scientific objectives", and it furthermore read:

[...] The current name has an illustrious and understandable history and has served the Association well for most of its history, but given developments in the multiplicity of scientific approaches adopted in the study of religions today, that name no longer represents the Association's objectives or its membership internationally. [...] On day one of our discussions, two candidates for an alternative to the current name emerged: i) "The International Association for the Study of Religions" and ii) "The International Association for the Scientific Study of Religion."

The discussion on a name change for the IAHR continued on the second day. In reviewing the first day's discussion, especially the matter of making clear the IAHR's concern with the non-confessional study of religion, there was "full support for recommending:

That the Executive Committee of the IAHR recommend to the International Committee a change of name from "The International Association for the History of Religions," IAHR to "The International Association for the Scientific Study of Religions," IASSR, to be taken to the General Assembly of the IAHR at its 2015 quinquennial world congress for approval.

Prof. Jensen also summarized the IAHR Executive Committee's preliminary response (*Ibid.* pp. 54-55) as follows:

The Executive Committee is in total agreement as to the importance of communicating the scientific objectives of the IAHR in every possible way, in words and acts.
[...] Though we can see a point in adjusting the name as well as other developments mentioned in the report and recommendations, we also hesitate: The Executive Committee is not convinced that a change of name can 'do the trick'. Also, the Executive Committee, well aware of the connotations linked to 'history of religions' in the US context, thinks that the IAHR has by now become a 'brand' that signals exactly this: the IAHR is the preeminent international forum for the academic, scientific study of religion(s)! [...]
Apart from the above-mentioned additions to the policy statement and Constitution, we have also taken care in other sections of the text of the Constitution to make sure that the wording signals that the IAHR is an umbrella association for the academic, scientific study of religion that comprises a broader spectrum of approaches, *inter alia* historical, social and comparative studies of religion.
Furthermore, the recent active and fairly successful initiative to have a broad range of *associated* ['*affiliated*'] societies and associations devoted to special approaches and themes, also serves to help the IAHR evolve in accordance with the developments in the field of the academic, scientific study of religions.
Mention, moreover, must also be made of the fact that the tightened-up profile of the IAHR for several years has also been communicated to members and others by way of an explicit statement in each issue of NVMEN.
Consequently: The Executive Committee is hesitant, for various reasons, in regard to this proposal and recommendation. [...]
However, the IAHR Executive Committee will discuss the proposal again at its 2013 annual meeting and it will be put on the agenda for the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool 2013. If the International Committee wants to have a change of the name up for discussion and decision in 2015, then the Executive Committee will act accordingly.

Prof. Jensen continued by reporting that the Executive Committee at its recent meeting (Cork, Ireland, September 1-2, 2013) had discussed the matter even more thoroughly and that its response was still the same. Nevertheless, the Executive had discussed a variety of possible new names, including the one proposed by the IASR consultation, namely "The International Association for the Scientific Study of Religion (IASSR)". Other possible new names discussed were: "International Association for the Study of Religions (IASR)", and "International Association for the Academic Study of Religions (IAASR)". During the discussions in the Executive Committee, mention had once again been made of the 'IAHR' nowadays constituting a good 'brand', and that a reading of the 'history' in this name to mean the Chicago/Eliade 'history of religions' was an 'American speciality', while in Europe 'history of religions', even if in many countries substituted with the broader 'study of religion(s)', was still not too far from what was signalled by 'Religionswissenschaft', i.e. from what the IASR proposers actually indicated that they wanted the proposed new name to refer to.

During the discussions, mention was also made of notions that 'science' was an ambiguous term, sometimes signalling something more narrow than what was likely to be intended by the proposers. 'Historical', it was also mentioned, actually stressed the importance of the historical dimensions, and thus might be more appealing also to the many scholars of religion who practise a historical-philological approach.

The discussion at the Executive Committee meeting, Prof. Jensen said, was concluded with a decision to suggest to the International Committee that it should

discuss four options: 1) leaving the name as it is: IAHR; 2) change it to 'International Association for the Study of Religion(s), IASR; 3) change it to 'International Association for the Academic Study of Religions (IAASR); or 4) change it to 'International Association for the Scientific Study of Religions' (IASSR). The Executive Committee, however, also decided that it ought to report to the International Committee that it was not in favor of option 4, i.e. the proposal from the IASR consultation.

Having thus reported the conclusions from the renewed discussions in the Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen invited Prof. Wiebe to take the floor. Prof. Wiebe once again thanked the Executive Committee for its way of handling the proposal even though he was not in agreement with the arguments and the conclusions. He repeated the arguments put forward by the IASR consultation but also added that he wanted to put forward yet another possible name for consideration, namely "International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)".

The President, Prof. Hackett opened the floor for comments, questions and discussion.

Prof. Giovanni Cassadio commented on the sense of 'scientific': if you say 'historical' *and* 'scientific', this may indicate that 'Historical' is not 'Scientific'. Prof. Wiebe responded, saying that there *was* a need of finding a more descriptive name to keep our intellectual movement moving ahead. Most of the national associations have changed their names to the study of religion(s) to indicate the contemporary broader range of approaches, yet, in Prof. Wiebe's opinion, there also was a deep need of stressing the scientific side of the study of religion(s). Prof. Marco Pasi proposed a change to IASR, i.e. the International Association for the Study of Religions. In his opinion, 'study' was neither too broad nor too vague, but rather 'comprehensive', and everybody might be comfortable with that name. When new associations were being created, most of them, Prof. Pasi added, adopted exactly that name. Prof. Pasi, apart from that, also said that he was against the combination of 'Historical' and 'Scientific', for the reason already mentioned by Prof. Casadio. Prof. Brian Bocking thought that it was to be remembered that while the IAHR had become a brand, and a rather strong one, the acronym 'IASR' far from being an exclusive and strong brand would be just one more 'IASR' among many. Why change, he said, a stronger brand for a weaker one? Prof. Pasi responded that he did not think that thinking about the brand was important. Prof. Ingvild S. Gilhus found it difficult to find the right name. She herself preferred 'the study of religions', but she also found it important to keep the historical dimension of the study of religions alive and visible.

Prof. Juerg Rüpke found the discussion important as well as difficult because it implied a conceptualization of 'who we are', and he thought further discussion was needed. A few other delegates voiced their preference for the name 'IASR'.

The General Secretary proposed that the discussion be continued within the member associations and that the matter be put on the agenda of the International Committee meeting in Erfurt 2015. Following a question from Prof. Wiebe, he also suggested that the International Committee, following a discussion on whether to change the name, should bring its conclusions or recommendations before the General Assembly, for the General Assembly in Erfurt 2015 then to make the final decision for a change or not, and - if for a change - for the new name.

Following a few more comments and suggestions, *inter alia* from Prof. Gregory Alles who asked that sufficient time be allotted in 2015 for such a discussion, and

from Prof. Douglas Pratt that the national and regional member associations be asked to discuss the matter before Erfurt 2015 and thus to be prepared to decide upon what should be brought forward to the General Assembly from the International Committee, the General Secretary's proposal was accepted by a show of hands. The members of the IAHR constituent associations, therefore, are to be encouraged to discuss the matter which will then be discussed again at the International Committee meeting in Erfurt in order for the International Committee to put forward to the General Assembly a specific proposal for discussion and decision. The IASR consultation group represented by Prof. Wiebe will also be given the opportunity to rethink the name and add further comments in favour of a change of name, be it a change to the one proposed originally ("International Association for the Scientific Study of Religions (IASSR)", or the one ("International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)" proposed during the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool 2013.

11. Special Report on Reflections on Proposals by the AASR and the IASR Consultation as regards Communication and Executive Government

The General Secretary, with reference initially to the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 15-16; 45; 47; 61, introduced the matter at hand, outlining key moments and aspects of the most recent and relevant history: In Durban 2000, it was decided to restructure the IAHR Executive Committee. As can be seen from the remarks of the then General Secretary, Prof. Armin W. Geertz, (*IAHR Bulletin Supplement July 2004*, p. 5) about the descriptions of the duties and functions of the now 10 (rather than six) designated officers and two members without portfolio, the main reasons for the new offices were two: to involve the individual members of the Executive Committee more in the day-to-day work of the IAHR and to help relieve the General Secretary from matters that could be taken care of by other officers.

The last mentioned reason primarily referred to the new offices of, respectively, Internet Officer, Publications Officer, and Membership Secretary. The 2005 Tokyo elections and the term 2005-2010 marked the first term with an Executive Committee thus composed.

In 2010 in Toronto, the IAHR Executive Committee, the first one elected in accordance with the new composition and the revised related Article 4c in the Constitution, proposed yet another (constitutional) change in regard to the offices and functions of the Executive Committee. The change was to be applied with the nominations and elections for the term 2015-2020 and the EC's proposal and arguments (see e.g. the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 17-18) to a large degree relied on the General Secretary's five years of daily work, including coordination and collaborations between the new offices and delegation of duties, especially those of the above-mentioned three new officers. The proposal implied that there would be no Internet Officer and no Membership Secretary as of 2015.

When the proposal and rationale for this was in place, almost ready to be sent to the members in advance of the business meetings during the Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress, the Executive Committee received (May 10, 2010) a detailed proposal for a more thorough restructuring of the IAHR Executive Committee. The proposal had the title 'Restructuring the IAHR Executive', and it was meant for "discussion and decision" by the International Committee at its meeting in Toronto. The proposal entailed a major change/amendment to the IAHR Constitution,

Article 4c. It called for four functional units (Presidency, Secretariat, Treasury, and Communication). The proposal was signed by Profs. Gerrie ter Haar and Jan G. Platvoet, and it was submitted by Prof. Afe Adogame on behalf of the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR).

The Executive Committee, in the proposal sent to members and uploaded on the IAHR website (June 18) in a special 'business meeting folder', included its preliminary response to the AASR proposal. The response was preliminary because the proposal was so thorough that the Executive Committee deemed it necessary to discuss it equally thoroughly during a meeting before giving a more adequate response. This more thorough discussion took place during the out-going Executive Committee Meeting in Toronto August 2010, and afterwards the AASR proposal was put before the International Committee in Toronto August 18, 2010.

Continuing his outline of the history of the matter, Prof. Jensen moved to the Minutes from that meeting, remarking that they (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 14-16) show that the International Committee discussed the AASR proposal quite thoroughly. Though several kinds of criticism and scepticism were voiced, and though nobody apart from the proposers voiced a wish to change the IAHR Constitution Article 4c in accordance with the proposal, almost all speakers voiced the opinion that the proposal touched upon important matters and that it ought to serve as an inspiration to the incoming Executive Committee. Accordingly, it was decided (*Ibid.* p. 16) that "the Executive Committee be asked to report on its related discussions at the next International Committee Meeting".

The proposal by the Executive Committee for a change of Article 4c in relation to the offices of the Executive Committee was - with a small change from 'four members without portfolio' to 'four further members' - then adopted by the International Committee and later by the General Assembly.

Though the AASR proposal thus, as remarked by Prof. Platvoet (*Ibid.* p. 18) "could not be implemented until 2020", it has, as indicated, been the subject of discussions and a source of inspiration, and the IAHR Executive Committee 2010-2015 has discussed several related aspects on a number of occasions, most recently, Prof. Jensen continued, at its meeting in Cork, September 1-2, 2013. At the same time, he said, it could also be claimed that the proposal by the Executive Committee submitted and adopted in Toronto 2010, including another related proposal to add two more members to the Nominating Committee, witnessed that critical reflections on the functions, composition and effectivity of the Executive Committee and its relation to the continuing process of globalization of the IAHR had been ongoing ever since the current President and General Secretary first took office in 2005 as members of the then restructured Executive Committee. As regards the aim and effort of the AARS proposal, which is similar to one of the main aims of the 2000 Durban restructuring, namely to involve the individual members of the Executive Committee more in the day-to-day work of the IAHR, Prof. Jensen repeated what he said also in Toronto in 2010: the rule in 2005-2010 as well as 2010-2015 had been that each and everybody in the Executive Committee was participating and 'put to work'. The Executive Committee had worked as an integrated whole, as regards the short-term as well as long-term policy of the IAHR, during and in between meetings. True, the daily work of the IAHR Executive Committee to a very high degree depended on the work of one officer, namely the General Secretary, and the Executive Committee therefore also agreed that for the General Secretary to have a kind of secretary would be a great advantage, not just to the General Secretary but to the IAHR. Since that was not realistic, the Executive Committee had discussed whether it could allot the General

Secretary and the Treasurer a certain amount of money to buy assistance from time to time. However, more permanent provisions incurring staffing costs could mean a major revision of the budget available, although it might be argued that such costs could be kept down if the administrative help in question was recruited in a low-income country.

Furthermore: the Executive Committee agreed that the daily business of the IAHR was running fairly smoothly, with a close cooperation between the President and the General Secretary, between the General Secretary and the Treasurer, and between these three officers altogether, the three thus constituting a kind of daily 'leadership' of the IAHR Executive. Admittedly, quite a lot of the workload fell to the office of the General Secretary, with the General Secretary therefore functioning as the '*primus motor*'.

Nevertheless, it was equally clear to the current Executive Committee that the 'Achilles heel' was the whole complex of 'communication': the challenges linked to being able (rather at the moment *not* being able) to communicate IAHR news and information swiftly and directly not only to the members of the IAHR, i.e. the member associations and affiliates, but more particularly to the individual members of those member associations and affiliates, were considerable. The Facebook site established and run by the President, Prof. Hackett, the Women Scholars Network, established and run by the President and the Publications Officer, Prof. Joy, the redesigned website, the assistance of the webmaster in regard to the technicalities linked to the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, all of this constituted an evident improvement as regards communication. The same did, of course, apply to the flagship journal *NVMEN*, the new IAHR book series, and the easy access via the IAHR website to e.g. electronic versions of proceedings from IAHR congresses and conferences as well as to past issues of the *IAHR Bulletin*, *IAHR Bulletin Supplement*, and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*.

Yet, the initial communication with the constituency, the individual members of the member associations and affiliates, Prof. Jensen said, also referring to his report on this issue, most definitely was not quite satisfactory. Too much depended on officers of the member associations and affiliates: they were the ones who had to make sure that email communication from the General Secretary (or some other member of the Executive Committee) reached their individual members. Too often this was still not the case.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen thus expressed his hope that the 2015-2020 incoming Executive Committee could continue the efforts of the current Executive to find the best way to implement and utilize the newest electronic possibilities, and, at the same time, to find ways to relieve the General Secretary of some of the duties that the 2000 revised composition of the Executive Committee did not quite manage to redistribute.

Prof. Jensen, however, finally expressed the opinion of the Executive Committee that it would be wrong if this current Executive Committee, in 2013-2014, decided upon more specific devices and means to best meet the challenges facing the 2015 incoming Executive Committee, nominated and elected as it was, in accordance with the current 2010 revised Article 4c of the IAHR Constitution.

The President thanked the General Secretary for his report on this matter.

12. IAHR XXI World Congress, Erfurt 2015

Prof. Jensen invited Prof. Juerg Rüpke, Erfurt, one of two 2015 IAHR World Congress directors, to take the floor and inform the members of the International Committee about the planning and the progress of the congress.

Prof. Rüpke briefly mentioned the most important steps taken: the formation of the local organizing committee, of the congress secretariat, with Frau Elisabeth Begemann as head, of the academic program committee, and of the congress website. The first call for panel proposals had been issued and in Spring 2014; the call for individual papers would be issued. By the end of December 2014 participants will know if their papers have been accepted, in due time for any applications for visa. Prof. Rüpke added a few words about the congress location, Erfurt, and he mentioned that Frankfurt is the most convenient airport for arrivals and departures.

The General Secretary Prof. Jensen added that he, the President, and the Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos (as co-chair of the Academic Program Committee) had been in continuous contact with the congress directors and secretariat, and, referring also to his report, he mentioned his site visit to Erfurt in June 2013. He had been very happy with the location and the plans for the various academic and social activities and events and he looked forward to the XXI IAHR Erfurt World Congress with the greatest expectations. He once again thanked the local organizers for their hard work and service to the IAHR.

The President also thanked Prof. Rüpke and the Erfurt hosts, and she strongly recommended that the International Committee members circulate all information about the upcoming IAHR World Congress to the members of their respective associations.

13. Any other business.

- Profs. Afe Adogame and Elias Bongmba, representatives of the AASR, the African Association for the Study of Religions, announced the AASR biannual conference, July 30 to August 2, 2014, in Cape Town, South Africa.
- The President, Prof. Hackett, suggested that the members visit the IAHR Facebook site.

Prof. Hackett then closed the meeting, extending thanks to the International Committee members for attending the meeting, and to the Executive Committee members for the work done in the previous year. Prof. Hackett extended special thanks to the Treasurer and the General Secretary.

(Minutes prepared by the General Secretary, Tim Jensen, with the assistance also of notes taken by the Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos, during the meeting)

7. General Assembly of the IAHR
Toronto, Canada
Saturday August 21, 2010

Minutes of the Meeting

[To be adopted at the next General Assembly in Erfurt 2015]
[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee, January
31, 2011]

Welcome by the President of the IAHR

Prof. Hackett welcomed the participants to the General Assembly and the closing of the IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress in Toronto 2010. She explained that though everybody was more than welcome to attend, voting rights were restricted to paid-up individual members of paid-up IAHR member associations, and she asked attendees to kindly write their name and indicate their national or regional member association on a sheet of paper that was then sent around.

Welcome by the General Secretary of the IAHR

Prof. Jensen likewise welcomed the participants to the last of many business meetings taking place in conjunction with the World Congress. He thanked those present who – in their capacity as delegates to the IAHR International Committee – had helped make the International Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 18 a highly constructive, effective, and memorable event.

Prof. Jensen continued saying a few words about the structure and various ‘layers’ within the IAHR:

The basis, he said, is constituted by the individual scholars and members of the IAHR member associations, and it is these members and this basis that constitute the General Assembly meeting once every five year in conjunction with a quinquennial World Congress. Without the individual members and this basis, there would be no IAHR.

Next we have the constituent national and regional IAHR member associations and the International Committee. The International Committee, apart from the Executive Committee, is composed of two delegates from each member association. The International Committee, also meeting once in between two consecutive World Congresses, elects (following a nominations procedure also allowing the member associations to nominate candidates) the IAHR Executive Committee and reports the outcome of the election to the General Assembly. Likewise the International Committee confers, on the recommendation of an Advisory committee, Honorary Life Membership on a number of members. Each association (except for the two Canadian associations), no matter its size, has two votes, one per delegate present at the International Committee Meeting.

The General Assembly is composed of all members of the IAHR member associations present at the congress in question. The General Assembly may take action only on matters referred to it from the International Committee, but it may

also refer any matter to the International or Executive Committee for consideration and report. It is the privilege of the General Assembly to make amendments to the Constitution and to adopt new members and affiliates but it does so only on the recommendation of the International Committee.

A meeting of the General Assembly thus is an important meeting, and Prof. Jensen once again welcomed the attendees.

Wanting to ascertain that the meeting had been called in accordance with the relevant Rules of Procedure, and with reference to these as well as to several announcements and calls for the meeting (e.g. in the November 2009 e-Bulletin and in a formal notification emailed to all officers May 7, 2010), Prof. Jensen confirmed that the prescribed procedures had been followed.

Prof. Hackett then moved on to the first item on the provisional agenda, printed in the *IAHR Bulletin*, Toronto Congress Edition, 39, 2010 p. 15, and displayed at the meeting by means of a Power Point presentation

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by general consent.

2. Minutes of General Assembly Tokyo 2005

The minutes, printed in the *IAHR Bulletin*, Toronto Congress Edition, 39, 2010, pp. 30-37, were adopted by general consent.

3. Brief report by the outgoing General Secretary

Prof. Jensen referred to his detailed written report published in the *IAHR Bulletin*, Toronto Congress Edition, 39, 2010 pp. 38-54, available in a web version on the IAHR website and, due to the cost of printing, in a limited print edition. With reference also to his oral report to the International Committee on Wednesday, August 18, he reduced his oral report to the General Assembly to the following:

Prof. Jensen first paid his deep respect to the memory of the IAHR Treasurer, Gary Lease, who passed away January 4, 2008, as well as to the memory of IAHR Honorary Life Members Michio Araki, Carsten Colpe, Åke Hultkrantz, Manuel Marzal, and Gerardus Oosthuizen who had all passed away following the IAHR World Congress in Tokyo 2005.

Prof. Jensen then reported that the Executive Committee, following the loss of elected Treasurer, Prof. Lease, suffered yet another loss when elected Deputy Treasurer, Prof. Pratap Kumar, in December 2008 resigned from the IAHR Executive Committee. Prof. Jensen on behalf of the Executive Committee extended his gratitude to Prof. Kumar for his many valuable contributions to the IAHR.

Following Prof. Kumar's resignation, the General Secretary had functioned as Acting Treasurer.

With reference to the IAHR principle that meetings of the Executive Committee, the International Committee, and the General Assembly are located in accordance with a principle of rotation between the various regions of the IAHR, Prof. Jensen acknowledged that neither the 2000-2005 nor the 2005-2010 Executive Committee had proved capable of living up to that principle. Most of the annual meetings of the Executive Committee and all of the meetings of the International Committee in between consecutive quinquennial congresses had been held within the confines of (the 'extended') Europe, lately most often in conjunction with an EASR annual conference.

Though there were many good reasons for this, not least the certainty that an annual EASR conference was taking place and thus could serve as locus for a meeting in the Executive and that a quorum (an attendance of ten members from no less than seven national associations) could be had at a meeting in the International Committee, Prof. Jensen strongly advised the incoming Executive Committee to try its best to realize the principle of rotation. He also encouraged non-European associations to host IAHR Special or Regional Conferences and thus also host meetings of the Executive and International Committee, and he strongly advised members to approach the IAHR General Secretary at the earliest possible stages of consideration and planning. This would also enable the Executive Committee to apply in time (normally one or two years ahead) to the CIPSH for subventions.

On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude to all those colleagues whose engagement and hard work had made the many (nine since 2005) IAHR Special and Regional Conferences possible and successful, and he referred the members to the *IAHR Bulletin*, Toronto Congress Edition 39, 2010, p. 40 as well as to the IAHR website at <http://www.iahr.dk/proceedings.html> for a list of the conferences as well as for an overview of related Proceedings and Spin-Off publications.

With special regard to the recent publication of the Proceedings from Durban 2000 and Tokyo 2005, both available at the IAHR website, Prof. Jensen extended his thanks to those most heavily involved in the editorial work, namely Profs. Brian Bocking, Rosalind I.J. Hackett, and Michael Pye.

A call for bids for hosting the IAHR 2015 World Congress had been issued in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, November 2009, but no bids had come in. Another call for bids, Prof. Jensen, would therefore be issued.

Prof. Jensen then moved on to say a few words about the noticeable improvement, since Tokyo 2005, of the IAHR finances, adding comments on the increase in payment of membership fees, the CIPSH, the IAHR African Trust fund, and the IAHR Endowment Fund. He added that what he said in this regard would not be repeated in his report as Acting Treasurer.

With reference to his predecessor, Prof. Armin W. Geertz, who in 2005 stated that if the situation did not improve, the IAHR would become more virtual than real, most IAHR events would most likely happen only in economically strong countries, and "once again, we would be back to the routines and power structures of yesteryears,..." (*IAHR Bulletin*, Tokyo Congress Edition, 38, 2005, p. 38), Prof. Jensen noticed that the financial situation had been prioritized by the 2005-2010 Executive Committee, and that he was happy to be able to report that the situation had improved considerably.

Consequently, it had been possible to assist colleagues in need of travel and conference grants for them in order to participate in the Toronto 2010 World Congress:

25.000 USD had been granted for that purpose from the IAHR general funds, and on top of that the IAHR had secured 7.000 USD for the same purpose from CIPSH. CIPSH grants as well as grants from the IAHR general funds had also been given to a number of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences in 2005-2010.

The improved financial situation, linked to the aim of the IAHR to help promote the academic study of religion all around the world, had made it

possible for the Executive Committee, in consultation with the AASR and other regional and national African member associations, to decide to transfer 8.000 USD from the general funds to the IAHR African Trust Fund, thus, over a period of five years, bringing the total amount of money in that fund up to the stipulated 20.000 USD. At the same time the IAHR African Trust Fund would be transformed from an 'endowment' to a 'sinking' fund: beginning in 2010, the fund would grant 4.000 USD each year for five years. A Board of Trustees had been set up, and the first announcement for applications issued.

Prof. Jensen thanked the associations and officers involved and extended special thanks to Prof. Afe Adogame, the AASR General Secretary, who had accepted to function as Secretary to the Board of Trustees.

As regards the IAHR Endowment Fund, Prof. Jensen briefly mentioned that he had transferred the amounts donated to that fund from the IAHR general funds to a separate bank account named the 'IAHR Endowment Fund'. It must now, he said, be up to the incoming Executive Committee to take further decisions on this fund. .

Adding a few words on the reasons for the improved finances, Prof. Jensen said that the most important reason was the income generated by the new contract with Brill in regard to *NVMEN*, and he once again thanked Prof. Bocking, the outgoing IAHR Publications Officer, for his work and cooperation in this regard.

However, Prof. Jensen said, mention ought to be made also of the steps taken to implement a more strict dues policy, and of the will of the member associations to actually try to pay their dues and to pay hitherto unpaid dues. Prof. Jensen therefore expressed his gratitude, not only to the many member associations that had paid annual fees without interruption, but also to those that, despite financial hardship, had managed to pay up or made arrangements to do so before the end of 2010.

Prof. Jensen noticed that the Acting Treasurer's report proved that active participation in the meetings of the CIPSH, together with punctual applications for grants (and a robust follow-up) had proved fruitful. The annual fee to the CIPSH and a bi-annual expense to cover part of travel costs for IAHR representatives to CIPSH meetings had been well placed. The membership to CIPSH had, at least in this period, paid off in terms of money.

Though not wanting to end this part of the report on a pessimistic note, Prof. Jensen added a word of warning, directing attention to the fact that the improved financial situation was based also on an indirect and 'hidden' income constituted by the money (up to some 10,000 USD per year) contributed by the members of the Executive Committee as they themselves cover almost all of the costs related to traveling to and from IAHR business meetings. The day most of the members of the Executive Committee, including the President and the General Secretary, can no longer find the money to finance most of their expenses related to the execution of their duties at their own universities or bank accounts, the IAHR Executive Committee and thus the IAHR may face a serious problem. The IAHR Executive, Prof. Jensen wanted to also stress, now as before, thus, were not 'swanning around the world' on members' money .

Moving from the report on the significantly improved financial situation - so central to the furthering of the aims of the IAHR, namely to promote the academic study of religions and the activities of all scholars who contribute to the historical, social, and comparative study of religions – Prof. Jensen concentrated

on what he considered an equally important achievement, namely the tightening up of the academic profile of the IAHR.

Referring to criticisms and recommendations brought forward in Tokyo 2005, to his own welcome to the Congress participants in the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, pp. 5-6, as well as to his welcome talk at the Opening Ceremony, the General Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the fact that one of the first tasks completed by the 2005-2010 Executive Committee was a revision of the IAHR policy statement (also published in the *IAHR Bulletin 39, 2010, Toronto Congress Edition*, p. 4) with special regard to the tightening up of the academic profile.

The proposed amendment to Article 1 in the IAHR Constitution, Prof. Jensen continued, was meant to tighten up the Constitution accordingly, and he added (with reference to statements by Profs. J. Zwi Werblowsky and Michael Pye, quoted in his written report) that he and the Executive considered the profile now highlighted in perfect line with the dominant tradition within the IAHR, a tradition, however, from time to time in need of reinvigoration and reinforcement.

Prof. Jensen also saw the efforts of the Toronto hosts in regard to the academic program as being in line with this revised policy statement, and he expressed his hope that the new statement might also make it easier for other hosts of IAHR conferences to make it clear for possible donors as well as for participants that the “IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.”

The IAHR membership, the General Secretary pointed out, had developed steadily since 1950. 2005-2010 was no exception to the rule. In Tokyo 2005 the number of member associations grew to 42 (37 national and five regional ones), and if the associations currently applying for membership were adopted, the total number of member associations would be 46.

Prof. Jensen added that the IAHR leadership, in some cases in collaboration with the EASR leadership, had been of assistance to nascent national associations, but he also said that the IAHR leadership was careful not to try to force an establishment of an association upon scholars. The establishment of a regular national association was not necessarily the one and only way to help promote the academic study of religions. Also in that regard there might be good reasons for exercising restraint, and the same was the case also in regard to some of the dormant, malfunctioning or totally defunct IAHR member associations.

Prof. Jensen recounted his efforts to assist associations in Cuba, Israel, and Russia, adding that recent contacts with scholars from Israel had given him new hope that the Israel association may be revitalized. As regards Belgium-Luxembourg, Prof. Jensen said that he and the President had been in contact with a group of younger Belgian scholars trying to found a new Belgian association. Considering that there had been no payment of dues and no communication over the last few years, and the clear email message in 2009 from the Treasurer of the *Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire des Religions* saying “Our society is nearly completely dead. Consequently, consider that we are no longer members of any supra-national association”, the IAHR Executive Committee considered the membership of the afore-mentioned society lapsed.

Looking briefly at the various regions of the world, Prof. Jensen noticed that membership development in Eastern and Central Europe continued, and as for Africa and the African associations, he expressed his

satisfaction about renewed contacts to the Nigerian and the Eastern African associations, extending special thanks to Dr. Danoye Laguda and Dr. Afe Adogame for their assistance.

As for Latin and South America, Prof. Jensen thanked Prof. Michael Pye for his report regarding the ACSRM, the Asociacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur (Associacao de Cientistas Sociais da Religiao do Mercosul). He reported that he had taken contact to the ACSRM, and that the incoming Executive Committee would follow up his contact. Likewise, the Executive Committee would renew its efforts to get in closer cooperation with the Brazilian association and with ALER, and the efforts to assist a restructuring or revitalization of the Cuban association would be continued.

Looking at South and Southeast Asia, Prof. Jensen noticed the admirable activities of the *SSEASR*, the positive signals in regard to payment of dues from the Indonesian as well as from the Korean association, and he thanked Prof. Chae Young Kim, now *KAHR* Vice-President, for his assistance.

Finally Prof. Jensen mentioned the ongoing efforts to find a solution in regard to Taiwan and Australia.

As for North America and the USA, he said, there could be no doubt that the application from the AAR for membership to the IAHR, and the recommendation of this by the NAASR, the Executive and now also by the International Committee was a major and highly significant development.

Another significant development was the (re-) discovery of ‘affiliates’ as a category in the IAHR Constitution (Article 3AB) clearly distinct from ‘members’ and the decision by the Executive and the International Committee to try to make the IAHR benefit from this possibility to have different kinds of relations to different kinds of associations. With reference to the upcoming item 5, Prof. Jensen expressed satisfaction that the IAHR had already received applications for affiliation from no less than four potential affiliates. The Executive Committee, he said, was certain that the affiliation of these and similar learned societies would prove beneficial to the IAHR.

Finally, in regard to membership, Prof. Jensen reported that he had received a few requests for individual membership but that all applicants, except for one, in accordance with the IAHR Constitution Article 3B, had been referred to seek membership in an already existing national or regional association.

The General Secretary then said a few words about the important role of the IAHR website and about the recent effort to redesign the site and to take advantage of new possibilities for communication with members. Prof. Jensen extended his thanks to Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, the first elected (in 2005) Internet Officer, for all the work done, and he also extended thanks to Jeremy B. Hughes, a webmaster at the University of Tennessee, who had accepted to do the restructuring and to maintain the website--all for a very reasonable fee.

The major challenge, however, remained, Prof. Jensen added that, in spite of the use of new electronic facilities, it remained challenging to ensure that communication from the IAHR General Secretary reached the individual members of the member associations? For this to happen, Prof. Jensen, said, he still had to rely on the officers of the various associations to forward communication from the IAHR. The IAHR Executive Committee does not have lists of the individual members of the member associations.

Before saying a few words on IAHR publications, Prof. Jensen thanked Morny Joy and her students who maintained the site for the IAHR Women

Scholars Network, and he also extended thanks to all those otherwise engaged in the network and all of those who had joined the meeting of the network in Toronto.

As could be read from the written reports by the General Secretary, first to the International Committee in Brno 2008, then to the International Committee and the General Assembly in Toronto 2010, the agreements between Brill and IAHR on *NVMEN Book Series (NBS)* and *Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles (SoR)* had come to an end in 2008.

At the same time, however, the IAHR had entered into a new agreement with Brill on *NVMEN*. *NVMEN* had been and still was the flagship journal of the IAHR, and the Executive Committee as well as Brill was very happy about the new agreement, and about *NVMEN*.

Prof. Jensen extended thanks to those colleagues (Profs. Kim Knott, Steven Engler, Pratap Kumar, and Katja Triplett) who to the very end served the IAHR as editors of *NBS* and *SoR*, and he also thanked Prof. Einar Thomassen and Prof. Maya Burger for their services to the IAHR as managing and reviews editor respectively of *NVMEN*. Likewise he welcomed Profs. Olav Hammer and Gregory Alles to the team of managing editors. Finally he extended thanks to Prof. Ingvild S. Gilhus for her willingness to succeed Prof. Burger as *NVMEN* Review Editor.

Prof. Jensen mentioned that Proceedings from the World Congresses in Durban 2000 and Tokyo 2005 had been published and uploaded at the IAHR website at <http://www.iahr.dk/proceedings.html>.

The General Secretary thanked all colleagues involved in the editorial process, IAHR Publications Officer Prof. Bocking, Prof. Hackett, and Prof. Pye.

The General Secretary ended his oral report giving thanks to Vice-Presidents Profs. Gerrie ter Haar and Akio Tsukimoto, Internet Officer Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, and member-at-large Prof. Alef T. Wasim for their many years of service to the IAHR.

Thanks were also extended to the Toronto hosting member associations, to the Congress Director, Prof. Donald Wiebe, to the Congress Secretariat, to the Academic Program Co-Chairs, Profs. Ingvild S. Gilhus and Luther H. Martin, and to everybody else in Toronto and around the world for their contribution to the Congress.

The President, Prof. Hackett, then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Replying to a comment on the need for assistance to scholars in Bangladesh, Prof. Jensen said that the IAHR so far had directed one scholar from Bangladesh to seek membership in the SSEASR but the IAHR Executive most certainly was willing to assist scholars in Bangladesh (as well as in India).

Prof. Platvoet wanted to—for the record—express his dissatisfaction with the distinction made between members and affiliates. There should be only one category. All associations should be member associations. Prof. Jensen replied that the current Executive Committee had not invented the distinction. It had, for many years, been a part of the IAHR Constitution.

Prof. Hackett then thanked Prof. Jensen for his report and proposed that it be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

4. Brief report by the outgoing Acting Treasurer

The outgoing Acting Treasurer, Prof. Jensen, referring to what he had written and said in the General Secretary's report on finances, displayed the audited financial statement in a Power Point presentation and also referred the General Assembly to his written report, *IAHR Bulletin 39, 2010, Toronto Congress Edition*, pp. 55-60.

Having added a few words in explanation to a few items, Prof. Jensen asked if the General Assembly had any questions to the financial statement. This not being the case, Prof. Hackett asked the General Assembly to formally adopt the report by the outgoing Acting Treasurer. The report was adopted by a show of hands and with applause.

5. Adoption of new members and affiliates

Having referred to the most relevant articles and rules in the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure, Prof. Jensen displayed a) the names of associations and societies applying for *membership*, and b) the names of associations and individuals applying for *affiliation*, saying that the adoption of each of the named applicants had been recommended first by the Executive Committee and then by the International Committee, at its meetings in Brno 2008 or at its meeting in Toronto.

Each of the following applicants was then adopted as a member association by an overwhelming majority show of hands, and with applause:

- ☐ *Eesti Akadeemiline Usundiloo Selts/The Estonian Society for the Study of Religions (ESSR)*
- ☐ *Associacao Portuguesa para o Estudo Das Religioes/Portuguese Association for the Study of Religions (APER)*
- ☐ *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*
- ☐ *Latvijas Reliģiju pētniecības biedrība/ Latvian Society for the Study of Religions (LRPB)*

Each of the following applicants was then adopted as an *affiliate* by an overwhelming majority show of hands, and with applause:

- ☐ *International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR)*
- ☐ *International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA)*
- ☐ *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC)*
- ☐ *European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE).*

Finally, Prof. Helen Farley, Queensland University, was affiliated as an individual member to the IAHR by an overwhelming majority show of hands, and with applause.

Prof. Hackett welcomed the new members and affiliates to the IAHR family.

6. Recommendation of changes to the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure

Having referred to the relevant articles of the Constitution, Prof. Jensen displayed in a Power Point presentation the changes to the IAHR Constitution as recommended by the IAHR International Committee on the recommendation

also of the IAHR Executive Committee. Prof. Jensen also mentioned that in so far as the changed articles were reproduced in the Rules of Procedure, the Rules of Procedure were also changed. He added that the International Committee at its meeting in Toronto had made other changes to the Rules of Procedure, and to procedures regarding the nomination of candidates to the Executive Committee and to IAHR Honorary Life Membership. These changes, though, were the responsibility of the International Committee only. They would, he added, just like possible changes to the Constitution, be made public at the IAHR website. The current Constitution and Rules of Procedure were copied in the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, pp. 71-80.

Displaying the proposed changes to the Constitution, Prof. Jensen showed the current text in a left row and the proposed changes in the right row. Going through the articles in question, Prof. Jensen, ever so briefly, explained key points in the rationale behind the recommended changes: the wish to tighten up the academic profile of the IAHR also in the Constitution, to allow for the vocabulary ('academic study of religions', 'history of religions', 'cross-cultural study of religion', 'comparative study of religions') to better reflect names and realities amongst the members, to clarify and specify the existing distinction between constituent *member* societies and *affiliates*, to clarify and specify the text as regards the position of *provisional* members and affiliates, to incorporate procedures in regard to fees and lapsed membership, and to codify the meeting of the International Committee in between two consecutive quinquennial congresses.

Following a substitution of the term 'members without portfolio' with 'further members', a substitution recommended by the International Committee but by a mistake not substituted in the text displayed, the General Assembly adopted all of the recommended changes by such an overwhelming majority show of hands that the presiding officer without a doubt could state that the required two thirds of the General Assembly voted for.

7. Other recommendations of the International Committee requiring a vote by the General Assembly

There were no other recommendations requiring a vote by the General Assembly

8. Report on the conferment of Honorary Life Membership

The General Secretary, having informed about the procedure for the recommendation and conferment of IAHR Honorary Life Membership, reported that the International Committee, following the recommendations from the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, at its meeting Wednesday August 18, 2010 in Toronto had conferred Honorary Life Membership on five members, all of whom had, in accordance with the relevant criteria "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. Jensen announced the names of each new Honorary Life Member as follows:

- ☐ Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus, Denmark)
- ☐ Prof. Mihály Hoppál (Budapest, Hungary)
- ☐ Prof. Hans G. Kippenberg (Bremen, Germany)
- ☐ Prof. Luther H. Martin (Burlington, USA)

□ Prof. Donald Wiebe (Toronto, Canada)

The General Assembly applauded the conferment of Honorary Life Membership to each of the named by applause, and Prof. Jensen congratulated the new Honorary Life Members and thanked Profs. Yolotl Gonzales, Peter Antes and Michael Pye for serving the IAHR once again as members to the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee.

9. Report on the election of the incoming Executive Committee

The General Secretary, having informed about the prescribed procedure for the nomination and election of the Executive Committee (Article 4c in the Constitution, and the ‘Nomination Procedure for the Executive’, cf. the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, p. 72, and pp.78-79) and having informed also about the submission of nominations (*ibid.* p. 63), reported that the International Committee at its meeting Wednesday August 18, 2010 in Toronto had elected the following officers and members of the IAHR Executive Committee 2010-2015:

- 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: Abraham H. Khan (Canada)
- Internet Officer: Silas Guerriero (Brazil)
- Member without portfolio: Satoko Fujiwara (Japan)
- Member without portfolio: Amarjiva Lochan (India)

The General Assembly accompanied the display and election of each of the names and persons with applause, and Prof. Hackett congratulated all the members of the incoming Executive Committee on the election.

Prof. Jensen extended thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee, Profs. Giulia S. Gasparro, Jan G. Platvoet, and Armin W. Geertz, for their service to the IAHR.

10. Public transfer of office to the incoming Executive Committee

Profs. Hackett and Jensen left the stage. Shortly after they returned, joined by Prof. Bocking, elected Treasurer, thus signifying the transfer of office.

11. Brief statement by the incoming President

Prof. Hackett expressed how pleased and honoured she was to have been reelected for another five-year term, thus getting the chance to continue projects and undertake new ones in the service of the IAHR.

She extended thanks to the members of the outgoing Executive Committee

adding that it had been a pleasure to work together with all of them. She looked forward to the work ahead and to the cooperation with the new members of the incoming Executive Committee.

12. Brief statement by the incoming General Secretary

Prof. Jensen said that it had been an honour and pleasure to serve the IAHR in 2005-2010 and that he was grateful to have been elected to serve for another five-year term.

Prof. Jensen said that the overall aim of his work, now as before, would be to help the IAHR promote its stated aims, and thus, as stated in his statement of candidacy, “help carve out more and more space for the academic study of religion all around the world.” He was proud, he said, referring to the same statement of candidacy, to serve as General Secretary to what was the “preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical and cross-cultural study of religion...”, and “not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns”.

Prof. Jensen then mentioned some of the decisions taken by the incoming Executive Committee at its first meeting in Toronto, August 19, 2010:

The IAHR finances, though in a much better shape today than for long, must be stabilized and further improved. The income from fees and the contract with Brill must be supplemented by income stemming from some kind of targeted fundraising.

Membership development is to be continued, now as before, with the help of various members of the Executive Committee in touch with various countries and regions. A special effort in regard to South and Latin America, and the ongoing efforts to stimulate and assist colleagues and associations in Africa, Belgium, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Israel, Korea, Poland, and Russia to be continued.

Linked to this it was decided to chart, describe, analyze and compare the various IAHR regional member associations.

The International Committee had asked the incoming Executive to discuss the possible inspiration from the AASR proposal (signed by Profs. G. ter Haar and J. G. Platvoet) of a restructuring of the IAHR Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was due to report on its discussions at the next International Committee Meeting in 2013.

The final decision regarding the establishment of an IAHR book series had been taken. The Publications Officer and the General Secretary would continue talks with Equinox. The intention was to have a book series that was attractive to

IAHR members and scholars, a book series thus reflecting and assisting the global academic study of religions linked to the IAHR.

The website was to be further developed, also in order to serve as a vehicle for more and improved interactive communication between members, be it the national and regional member associations, the IAHR affiliate associations or the individual members.

Last but not least, the incoming Executive Committee was pleased to announce that Dorothea Ditchfield had graciously offered to establish a Gary Lease Memorial Lecture.

The General Secretary extended thanks to the members of the outgoing Executive Committee, to the members of the International Committee, to the Congress organizers, to the Congress Director Prof. Wiebe, to the Academic Program Chairs, to Congress Secretariat members Sydney Yeung and Professor

Abraham Khan, to the Honorary Congress Chair Prof. Geertz, and to the Congress Chair, IAHR President, Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett.

13. Suggestions from the General Assembly to the incoming Executive Committee

Prof. Strenski congratulated the Congress organizers and thanked them for their great work. He also suggested that future organizers see to it that the plenary sessions were arranged so that there was time right afterwards for questions and discussions, and he expressed his hesitations in regard to the choice made to have a relatively high number of plenary speakers focus on cognitivist approaches. Prof. Strenski finally suggested that the IAHR consider establishing an IAHR Facebook group or network.

Prof. Casadio suggested that more time was allotted for questions and discussions following the report by the General Secretary. Profs. Hackett and Jensen responded that the incoming Executive Committee would discuss the issues raised.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

Prof. Hackett then closed the formal meeting.

Prof. Hackett thanked all of those who had worked so hard to make the Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress such a great success. She finally asked Congress Director Prof. Donald Wiebe to enter the stage, and together with Prof. Jensen, the IAHR General Secretary, she handed over a present to Prof. Wiebe as a small token of gratitude.

Prof. Hackett then declared the 2010 XXth Quinquennial World Congress of the IAHR, the International Association for the History of Religions, in Toronto, Canada, officially closed.

(Minutes prepared by the General Secretary, Tim Jensen, with the assistance of notes taken by Deputy General Secretary, Maria del Mar Marcos Sanchez)

8. IAHR 2010-2015
General Secretary's Report
Erfurt
August 23-29, 2015

Initially, it is my sad duty to announce the passing away of IAHR Honorary Life Members, Professors Jean Leclant († September 16, 2011), Julien Ries († February 23, 2013), Noriyoshi Tamaru († December 12, 2014), and Jacques Waardenburg († April 8, 2015).

We honor the memory of the abovementioned colleagues and friends and extend our condolences to their families. Obituaries have been or will be published, *inter alia*, in *NVMEN*.

1. Executive Committee and International Committee: Meetings and Meeting Locations

According to the IAHR Constitution Article 5, the IAHR Executive Committee, or at least the President, General Secretary and Treasurer shall, if possible, meet at least once a year.

Apart from its Incoming Meeting in Toronto, 2010, the IAHR Executive Committee has held annual meetings in Thimpu, Bhutan, July 2-3, 2011, in Södertörn, Sweden, August 22-23, 2012, in Cork, Ireland, September 1-2, 2013, in Cape Town, South Africa July 29-30, 2014, and (upcoming outgoing meeting) in Erfurt, Germany, August 23, 2015. The meetings have all taken place within the framework of an IAHR Regional or Special Conference or World Congress, apart from the one in Cork, Ireland, which nevertheless took place just before the nearby Liverpool IAHR/EASR/BASR conference.

As communicated in my report to the International Committee and General Assembly in Toronto 2010 (*IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition*, August 2010, 38-39), the Executive Committee has been acutely aware of the importance of the implementation of the IAHR principle of rotation, and it has therefore tried its best to move the Executive as well as the International Committee meetings around the world. Though our strong efforts to locate the 2013 Executive as well as the International Committee meeting in Latin America (not least to help strengthen IAHR ties to this part of the world) did not succeed, and despite all the challenges mentioned in earlier reports (see *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition*, August 2010, pp. 38-39, and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition*, August 2013, pp. 23-24) the outgoing 2010-2015 Executive Committee has managed, I think, fairly well in this respect.

Allow me to extend thanks to all the hosting member associations (the SSEASR, the SSRF, the BASR, the EASR, the AASR, and the DVRW and their various local partners and university departments for facilitating the meetings of the Executive Committee, and, as regards the BASR and Liverpool 2013, also the International Committee. It has provided a wonderful opportunity to link up with known and unknown colleagues and to get insights in the various milieux for the academic study of religion around the world. The principle of rotation and its implementation has been and remains highly important for our continued efforts to enhance and extend the IAHR as a global association and thus to promote the academic, non-religious study of religions globally, - the key aim of the IAHR.

2. Communications

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

The *IAHR Bulletin* (which according to a decision taken by the IAHR Executive Committee 2005-2010 may be published only at the occasion of each quinquennial World Congress) and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* are normally edited and (for the larger part at least) written by the General Secretary on behalf of the IAHR Executive and International Committee.

Though some of the contents, e.g. a call for a meeting in the International Committee and the corresponding meeting agenda, may be of most immediate and direct use to those IAHR members who serve as officers in national or regional member associations and affiliated societies, and thus most likely also as delegates to and members of the IAHR International Committee, the *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* are addressed to *all* the members of the IAHR, and they are therefore meant to be shared, one way or the other, with all the members of the respective member associations and affiliated societies.

The *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, contain the most vital and important documents from and about the IAHR, be these the provisional or final minutes from the meetings of the International Committee, the General Assembly, the General Secretary's and the Treasurer's reports to the International Committee and the General Assembly, calls for meetings, or other important information and documents, e.g. the proposal and argument for a new name which you will find enclosed in this *IAHR Bulletin*.

Consequently, it is of the utmost importance to the wellbeing and functioning of the IAHR that the officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliated societies forward the digital version of the *IAHR Bulletin* and the digital *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* to their membership. The membership of the IAHR member associations and affiliates constitute the IAHR membership at large. The IAHR Executive Committee and its General Secretary, however, have no means to contact this IAHR membership directly, neither by regular mail nor by email.

Digital versions of the *IAHR Bulletin* and *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* can also be found at the IAHR website at <http://www.iahr.dk/bulletins.php> and as of 2015, thanks to former IAHR General Secretary Armin W. Geertz who has taken the initiative to scan all the issues published from 1986 to 1995, the IAHR website functions also as the digital archive for all published issues of the *IAHR Bulletin*. More on this ahead.

2.1. The *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, and email letters of information: 2010-2015

Since the *IAHR Bulletin* is published, in a digital as well as print version, only in connection with an IAHR (quinquennial) World Congress, the General Secretary on behalf of the Executive and International Committees communicates with the IAHR members in between congresses and meetings of the International Committee and the General Assembly mainly via the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* and occasional email letters of information.

The list below shows the email letters of information and the issues of the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* that have been sent to the officers of the IAHR member societies and affiliates (and thus hopefully onward to all the individual members of the member associations and affiliates). An indication of the core contents of the communications from 2010-2015 is also given:

- October 27, 2010: invitation for bids for hosting the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress in 2015. Also posted on the IAHR website.
- November 17, 2010: summary from the IAHR President of the survey results from the Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress. Also posted on the IAHR website.
- [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011.](#)
This *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* entailed announcements and information about the
 - Decision to Accept the Bid from the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW) to host the IAHR 2015 World Congress in Erfurt, Germany
 - Publication of the Toronto 2010 Proceedings
 - Declaration of the Lapsed Membership of the (previous) Belgian Association
 - Restructuring and Renaming of the Russian Association
 - Establishment of the *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions (ISASR)*.
 Moreover, it also contained the
 - Provisional Minutes from the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Toronto 2010, and
 - Provisional Minutes from the IAHR General Assembly, Toronto, 2010.
- December 22, 2011: the (good) news that the Australian Association for the Study of Religions had rejoined the IAHR and that the IAHR had created an IAHR Facebook page was emailed to all key officers.
- [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013.](#)
This *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* entailed announcements and information about the
 - Passing away of IAHR Honorary Life Member, Professor Emeritus Julien Ries
 - First Circular on the IAHR 2015 XXI World Congress in Erfurt, Germany,
 - BASR, EASR, and IAHR Special Conference in Liverpool, UK, September 3-6, 2013
 - SSEASR Bi-Annual and IAHR Regional Conference in Manila, the Philippines, May 16-19, 2013
 - IAHR International Committee Meeting 2013 in Liverpool, September 4,
 - 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions'
 - 'Response by the IAHR Executive Committee to the IASR Recommendations'
 - Revised Rules regarding IAHR Special and Regional Conferences (see ahead)
 - Developments in IAHR Membership (see details of these and other developments ahead)
 - Re-admission policy following lapsed membership (see ahead)
 - Extended Deadline for Recommendations for IAHR Honorary Life Membership
- May 15, 2013: reminder about the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, Wednesday, September 4, as well as information on travel grants set aside by the IAHR Executive Committee to help fund expenses for a limited number of delegates to the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool September 2013.
- [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013.](#)
This *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* entailed documents and information specifically linked to the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool September 4, 2013:
 - Call and provisional Agenda for the meeting
 - the 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions'
 - the 'Response by the IAHR Executive Committee to the IASR Recommendations'
 - Provisional Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Toronto 2010
 - IAHR General Secretary's Report 2010-2013
 - IAHR Treasurer's Report 2010-2013
 - Appendix I: 5th SSEASR Conference, Manila 2013: Report for the IAHR
 - Appendix II: CIPSH April 2012 Letter to Presidents & Secretary-Generals
- September 28, 2013: an email message was sent to the five members of the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee to confirm the establishment of the committee, to thank the

members for their service to the IAHR, and to ask them to agree on a chairperson.

- [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2013.](#)

This *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* entailed announcements and information about the

- Proposal for a Change of Name (with an encouragement to discuss the proposal with a view to a decision to be taken in Erfurt 2015)
- Recommendation and Conferment of Honorary Life Membership
- Appointment and Establishing of the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee
- Recommendation of the Adoption of New National and Regional Members
- IAHR African Trust Fund: Call for Grant Applications 2014
- IAHR XXI World Congress, Erfurt 2015: Call for Panels
- IAHR Special & Regional Conferences 2014-2015
- AAR International Initiatives: Linking up with the IAHR

- July 23, 2014: an email message, from the Erfurt IAHR World Congress host, with a reminder about the Call for Panels and Papers

- [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014.](#)

This *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* entailed announcements and information about the

- IAHR XXI World Congress Erfurt 2015: Extended Deadline Panel Proposals: December 15
- Renewed Proposal and Rationale for a Change of Name from the 'International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)' to the '*International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)*'
- Provisional Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, UK, 2013
- IAHR Business Meetings Erfurt 2015: First Call
- IAHR Honorary Life Membership: Call for Suggestions
- Invitation for Letters of Interest for Hosting the IAHR XXII World Congress 2020

November 10, 2014: an email message to the IAHR International Committee with 'IAHR News November 2014: Nominations and Elections for the IAHR Executive Committee 2015-2020'. Attached were the nominations submitted by the chair of the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee, Prof. Peter Antes, to the IAHR General Secretary, November 4, 2014. The message also contained an announcement of the scheduled date (Wednesday August 26) for the upcoming International Committee Meeting in Erfurt, general information on the IAHR rules and procedures for nominations (including alternative nominations), and specific information about the May 23, 2014 deadline for alternative nominations (to be submitted, according to the IAHR Rules of Procedure, "not less than three months prior to each quinquennial congress").

- November 10, 2014: an email message to the nominees with congratulations on their nomination and information about the November 10, 2014 email message sent to the International Committee. The email message also contained information about the scheduled date and time for the meeting in Erfurt of the incoming Executive Committee, and about the future soliciting of statements of candidacy to be published before the elections in Erfurt.
- March 29, 2015: an email message to the IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2010-2015 (Profs. Giulia S. Gasparro, Yolotl Torres Gonzales, and Armin W. Geertz) with a listing of nominations and names for Life Members suggested by the IAHR Executive Committee, as well as with a listing of nominations and names suggested by and sent to the General Secretary in due time (no later than December 31, 2014) by IAHR member associations. The IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2010-2015 was asked to prepare its own list of up to three names to be presented to the International Committee at its meeting on August 26, 2015 in Erfurt.
- May 7, 2015: a reminder about 1) the deadline May 23, 2015 for submission of alternative nominations for the IAHR Executive Committee 2015-2020, and 2) a request to inform the IAHR General Secretary of the names of the (one or two) delegate(s)/representative(s) from each member society or association to the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Erfurt, August 26, 2015.

- May 26, 2015: an email message with an attached document on the total and final nominations, i.e. the nominations from the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee *and* the alternative nominations submitted by members of the IAHR International Committee, for the 2015-2020 IAHR Executive Committee. The message was also sent to the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee, att. Chair Prof. Peter Antes, and to the nominees for the IAHR 2015-2020 IAHR Executive Committee.

Apart from these communications sent from the desk of the General Secretary, the IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking, has sent annual notifications of membership fees to the relevant officers of member associations and affiliates.

2.2. IAHR Website

It goes without saying that the IAHR website is the public 'face' of the IAHR, and with its information about the fundamentals of the IAHR, the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure, the IAHR membership and leadership, past congresses and conferences, proceedings, publications and proceedings, *NVMEN*, and the Women Scholars Network functions as the basic platform for information about the IAHR. Since most of the news and information from the IAHR General Secretary's desk, be it news contained in the *IAHR Bulletin* and *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* or not, are also announced and uploaded on the website at the same time as sent to the members via email, the IAHR website also functions as the site for news about and from the IAHR.

Following from the 2010 change to the Constitution as regards the composition of the Executive Committee, especially the deletion of the two positions of, respectively, Membership Secretary and Internet Officer, the new 2015-2020 Executive Committee will not include these two offices. In practice, as is evident from the arguments provided by the Executive Committee and the General Secretary (see ahead pp.70-71 with references) in favor of the proposed change, the duties pertaining to these two offices, not least the duties pertaining to the Internet Officer, have to a large degree been executed by the General Secretary. It has thus been the General Secretary who has sent to the webmaster, Jeremy Hughes, updates and news about officers of members and affiliates, about publications, etc..

The IAHR website was revamped in 2013, *inter alia* to accommodate some of the needs and wishes of the Executive Committee, and hopefully the result has been satisfactory also to the IAHR's members. Judging from comments received, the redesigned website also satisfied the wishes expressed (see, *inter alia*, the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*](#), pp. 45, 49) in the 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions'.

Thanks are extended to the President for her kind and competent cooperation in regard also to the revision of the website, and to Jeremy Hughes, not just for his expertise and assistance in that regard but for his, at times daily, service to the IAHR. With the greatest respect for an IAHR that is, so to speak, not his own, Jeremy Hughes has executed the orders and fulfilled the wishes of an IAHR General Secretary totally ignorant of matters pertaining to the maintenance and technicalities of a website, in a fabulously speedy and smooth manner.

2.3. IAHR Facebook Group and IAHR Women Scholars Network Website

The IAHR Facebook group as well as the IAHR Women Scholars Network (website and Facebook page) constitute other forms of communication, including communication between individual IAHR members.

Though these platforms are, beyond doubt, not just highly valued by many

IAHR members but also by the Executive Committee, and though they have been established by the IAHR Executive Committee and are maintained by IAHR officers (the President, Prof. Hackett, and the Publications Officer, Prof. Joy, with the assistance of Justin Lane and Sarah Gallant) on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, and also entail news about the IAHR, none of them are, however, meant to function as official vehicles or platforms for the news from the IAHR Executive Committee regarding IAHR business.

Judging from the reports to the IAHR Executive Committee from Profs. Hackett and Joy, these media platforms serve their purposes extremely well, and on behalf of the Executive Committee, I want to thank Profs. Hackett and Joy for their hard work in establishing and developing these new platforms.

The Women Scholars Network website has been revamped during 2015, along with the revisions to the WSN steering committee, and it plays a key role in the work of the expanding Women Scholars Network. The new website makes it possible to network also in between the many face-to-face realtime meetings taking place during the IAHR conferences and congresses.

Thanks must be extended to all those scholars who participate in and support the IAHR Women Scholars Network, at these meetings or in cyberspace, and thanks are to be extended also to Profs. Hackett and Joy for their untiring work in, also in this way, helping the IAHR pursue its efforts to practise a responsible strategy and implementation of globalization, as well as to work continually towards gender equality and empowerment of women scholars, and, by extension, IAHR-related scholarship around the world.

3. IAHR Congresses and Conferences

3.1. IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress, Toronto, Canada 2010, August 15-21

The key documentation of the Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress is available to the IAHR readership on the IAHR website in the digital version of the [IAHR World Congress Proceedings, Toronto 2010. Religion: A Human Phenomenon.](#)

Since these *Toronto Proceedings*, with their wealth of information on the IAHR, the academic program, the IAHR formal meetings and minutes, the Congress committees, the Congress Director's and Congress Administrator's reports, abstracts, and the contributions of the Congress participants, is thus easily available to all, I consider it sufficient to refer to this publication as regards the Toronto World Congress. Thanks are extended, however, once again to Congress Director, Professor Donald Wiebe, and his hard working staff, for providing the IAHR and posterity with this enduring record of the Toronto 2010 World Congress.

Another 'souvenir' related to and available to everybody at the IAHR website is the [IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010.](#) A print edition was distributed to business meetings participants during the Toronto Congress. The provisional Minutes from the meetings of the IAHR International Committee and General Assembly in Toronto was sent to all IAHR officers with the [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011](#), and the provisional Minutes from the International Committee Meeting in Toronto were included again in the [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013](#). A Congress survey was conducted by the IAHR Executive Committee on the initiative of the President, Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett, and a summary of the findings of the survey was posted at the IAHR website at the same time (November 17, 2010) as all officers received email notification thereof and an executive summary of the findings. It may be added that the findings proved to be very helpful to the Erfurt 2015 Congress organizers.

3.2. IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress, Erfurt, Germany, August 23-29, 2015

The preparations for the 2015 World Congress began before the Toronto World Congress with the first call for bids for hosting the World Congress being issued with the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2009*](#) (p. 6), and with a deadline of May 1st, 2010.

Since no bids were received, it was decided to repeat the call during the Toronto World Congress and to issue another call for bids. This call was issued October 26, 2010 with an April 1st, 2011 deadline for submissions.

Three IAHR member associations (in cooperation with various local departments or centers for the academic study of religions) filed bids for hosting the 2015 IAHR Quinquennial World Congress:

- The Czech Association for the Study of Religions (CASR) with the Department for the Study of Religions, Masaryk University, offered to host the Congress in Brno, the Czech Republic. The bid was submitted and signed by Dr. David Václavík, President of the Czech Association for the Study of Religions and Dr. Ales Chalupa, Head of the Department for the Study of Religions at Masaryk University.
(The bid from CASR and the Department for the Study of Religions at Masaryk University was accompanied by letters of recommendation from some individual IAHR members and IAHR Honorary Life Members, as well as from some member associations and affiliates.)
- The Religious Studies Subject Group in the School of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh, supported by colleagues in the interdisciplinary study of religions in related Schools including the Religion and Society Edinburgh Network, in association with the British Association for the Study of Religions (BASR), offered to host the Congress in Edinburgh, Scotland. The bid was submitted and signed by Dr. Steven Sutcliffe on behalf of the Local Committee, with the names of the members of the Local Committee as well as the names of the BASR Honorary Secretary and President listed in the bid.
- The German Association for the Study of Religions/Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW), with the Department for the Study of Religions (Religionswissenschaft), the Max-Weber-Centre (MWK, Institute for Advanced Study), and the Research School "Religion" (RSR) of the University of Erfurt Germany. The bid was submitted and signed by Prof. Dr. Christoph Boehinger, President of the DVRW, and Prof. Dr. Jürg Rüpke, Speaker Research School 'Religion' University of Erfurt, and Co-speaker Kollegforschergruppe 'Religious Individualization' at the Max-Weber-Centre, Fellow für Religionswissenschaft, Max-Weber-Kolleg.

During its meeting in Thimpu, Bhutan, July 2-3, 2011, the IAHR Executive Committee agreed that each of the three bids received was of a remarkably high quality. However, having carefully studied each of the bids with reference to the IAHR '[*Basic Framework for Running an IAHR World Congress*](#)', the Executive unanimously agreed gratefully to accept the bid from the German Association for the Study of Religions (DVRW) and its local partners in Erfurt. The IAHR General Secretary notified each of the three member associations about the decision, and extended thanks to each and everyone involved in the preparation for the bids for their engagement in the IAHR and their willingness to serve the IAHR by offering to host its prestigious Quinquennial World Congress.

The decision was announced in the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011*](#) (pp. 3-5), and the first communications with the coming host were initiated soon after. The General Secretary and the President thus met with Prof. Christoph Bochinger, President of DVRW, and Prof. Katja Triplett, member of the local organizing committee, during the EASR Annual Conference in Budapest in September 2011, to discuss, *inter alia*, the overall theme of the Congress. At the occasion of the EASR Annual and IAHR Special Conference in Södertörn, Sweden, August 2012, Congress Director, Prof. Jörg Ruepke from Erfurt, and Congress Coordinator, Dr. Elisabeth Begemann, presented the first draft flyer and discussed matters of mutual interest with the IAHR Executive Committee. In 2013, during the IAHR Special Conference in Liverpool, Prof. Ruepke and Dr. Elisabeth Begemann once again met with the IAHR Executive Committee. During the AAR Annual in Chicago, November 2012, the IAHR General Secretary, Prof. Jensen, once again met with Congress Coordinator, Dr. Begemann, and in June 2013, Prof. Jensen paid a site visit to Erfurt during which he participated in a meeting of the local organizing committee. In early January 2015, the IAHR President, Prof. Hackett, paid a site visit to Erfurt, and in September 2014, IAHR Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos, one of the two Academic Program Chairs, also paid a visit to Erfurt and participated in a meeting, September 19, of the organizing committee.

The IAHR General Secretary and the IAHR Deputy General Secretary have, apart from the abovementioned meetings, been in continuous email and telephone contact with the German hosts on relevant matters, and the IAHR President too has been continuously engaged in the overall planning of the World Congress, in the work related to the vetting of paper and panel proposals, and, with the IAHR Treasurer engaged too, in the difficult distribution of the travel grants made possible, *inter alia*, by an IAHR total grant of approx. 18.000 euro. With the grants provided by the German hosts and various German institutions the total amount used for subsidies amounts to 32.275 euro, and some 52 scholars have been assisted.

Some 2000 panels and papers have been accepted, of which some 1700 are included in the final program. The number of registered participants has passed 1000, thus putting extra pressure on the German hosts for everything to be in place in order to accommodate this relatively large number of participants.

The first circular about the Congress and its theme *Dynamics of Religion: Past and Present* was communicated to the officers and members of IAHR members and affiliates in the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*](#), and since then, hopefully, no member visiting the [IAHR website](#) could easily miss the [links](#) to the 2015 World Congress and its special [website](#). A decision to extend the deadline for panel proposals to December 15, 2014 (previously September 14), to merge, thus, with the deadline for paper and poster proposals, was communicated to all officers and thus to all IAHR members in the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*](#).

I want to extend heartfelt thanks to the Congress directors, Profs. Rüpké and Bochinger as well as to Congress Coordinator Dr. Begemann, to the members of the (local) Organizing Committee, and to each member of the Academic Program Committee, including, of course, the two co-chairs, Profs. Bochinger and Marcos, for their meticulous and hard work, including their constant efforts to help align the academic standard of the IAHR World Congress academic program with the general aims of the IAHR and with its ongoing efforts constantly to improve, secure and tighten up its academic profile. Congress directors Bochinger and Rüpké have contributed to the special *NVMEN* 60th Anniversary celebratory

publication (see ahead) with an article unfolding their reflections in regard to the congress theme and the dynamics of the academic study of religions.

I also want to extend thanks the IAHR Honorary Life Members who have kindly accepted once again to serve the IAHR as members of the Congress Advisory Committee.

Allow me also to extend thanks to Dorothea Ditchfield who has been so kind as to most generously support and sponsor the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture. Her support has been highly important in order to thus make the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture an established feature of the IAHR world congresses. Gary Lease, who passed away in 2008 while serving as the IAHR Treasurer, was a staunch supporter of the IAHR and its aim: to promote and strengthen the academic and non-religious study of religions worldwide. To have Prof. Hubert Seiwert deliver the 2015 Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture in the shape of the Opening Lecture bodes well for the future of the IAHR and the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture.

3.3. IAHR Regional, Special, and Co-Sponsored Conferences 2010-2015

Upon application, the IAHR Executive Committee has granted the status of an IAHR Special or Regional Conference to the following conferences:

IAHR Special Conferences

- *Norwegian Association for the History of Religions* (NRF) & the Departments for the Study of Religions at NTNU in Trondheim and the University of Tromsø: "Religions, Science and Technology in Cultural Contexts: Dynamics of Change", March 1-2, 2012, NTNU, Trondheim, Norway.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by the Vice-President, Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus, and the Secretary General Prof. Tim Jensen. Prof. Gilhus delivered a keynote lecture, and Prof. Jensen gave an opening speech related to the conference theme. A publication with conference contributions is in progress.

- the *Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion* (SSRF), and the *European Association for the Study of Religions* (EASR) & the Study of Religions at Södertörn University, Sweden: "Ends and Beginnings", 11th EASR Annual Conference, August 23- 26, 2012, Södertörn University, Södertörn, Sweden.

The IAHR Executive Committee had its annual meeting in conjunction with the conference. IAHR President, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, and IAHR Secretary General, Prof. Tim Jensen, both gave an opening speech, both, *inter alia*, paying tribute to the contribution to the study of religions in Sweden, in Africa, and internationally by Södertörn University Professor, David Westerlund. Profs. and IAHR Vice-Presidents, Ingvild Sælid Gilhus and Abdulkader Tayob each delivered a keynote lecture. Some keynote lectures and other papers have been published in the journal *Temenos* and others are included in another publication (see ahead for details)

- the *British Association for the Study of Religions* (BASR), and the *European Association for the Study of Religions* (EASR): "Religion, Migration, Mutation", 12th EASR Annual Conference, September 3-6, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, UK.

The IAHR International Committee held its in-between quinquennial world

congresses meeting in conjunction with the conference.

- the *Dutch Association for the Study of Religion* (NGG), and the *European Association for the Study of Religions* (EASR): "Religion and Pluralities of Knowledge", 13th EASR Annual Conference, May 11-15, 2014, University of Groningen, Groningen, The Netherlands.

During the conference the IAHR General Secretary with other members of the IAHR Executive Committee met with the Erfurt 2015 IAHR World Congress local organizers to discuss several issues pertaining to the planning and running of the World Congress. A meeting amongst the present members of the editorial board of the new IAHR book series (published by Equinox) was also held and led by the Managing Editor, Prof. Katja Triplett.

Please see Appendix I below for the brief report from this conference.

IAHR Regional Conferences

- the *South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion* (SSEASR): "Mountains in the Religions of South and Southeast Asia; Place, Culture, and Power", 4th SSEASR conference, June 30- July 3, 2011, Thimphu, Bhutan.

The IAHR Executive Committee held its annual meeting in conjunction with the conference.

- *African Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR) in collaboration with PANAFSTRAG: "Sports, Leisure, Religion and Spirituality in Africa and the African Diaspora", 5th AASR Bi-Annual Conference, July 18- 23, 2012, Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya.

IAHR President, Prof. Rosalind R.J. Hackett, represented the IAHR Executive Committee at the conference and reported to the IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Södertörn, Sweden, August 2012.

- *South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion* (SSEASR) & the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (UST): "Healing, Beliefs Systems, Cultures, and Religions of South and Southeast Asia", 5th SSEASR Biennial Conference, May 16-19, 2013, Manila, Philippines 2013.

The IAHR Executive Committee was represented by the President, Prof. Rosalind R.J. Hackett, and the Publications Officer, Prof. Morny Joy. Prof. Hackett delivered a keynote lecture.

Please see the [*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*](#), Appendix 1, for a brief report from this conference.

- *African Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR): "Religion, Ecology, and the Environment in Africa and the African Diaspora", 6th AASR Conference, July 30-August 3, 2014, University of Cape Town, Cape Town South Africa.

The IAHR Executive Committee held its annual meeting in conjunction with the conference.

A brief report from this conference is in progress. A full congress report, by Prof. Elias K. Bongmba, AASR President, is available for Erfurt Congress participants at https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_fPqRALQh3nRUVhdEJoVnZSb1k&authuser=0

IAHR Co-Sponsored Conferences

Together with the *Philosophy and Religious Studies Program*, FAH, the University of Macau, and the *Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion*, Toronto, the IAHR co-sponsored a conference on "Cognition, Religion, and Science", January 12-13, University of Macau, Macau.

A brief report from this conference is in progress.

The IAHR Executive Committee thanks all colleagues whose engagement and hard work have made these conferences possible and successful, and thanks are extended to all those engaged in accommodating and hosting the annual meetings the Executive Committee. For publications related to IAHR-sponsored conferences, please see ahead.

3.4. Revised Rules and Procedures for IAHR Special and Regional Conferences

Following up, on the one hand, on its revision of the '[Basic Framework for Running an IAHR World Congress](#)', and, on the other, on its continuous efforts to tighten up the academic profile of the IAHR, the Executive Committee at its business meeting in Södertörn, August 2012, agreed on a revised set of Rules and Procedures for IAHR Special, Regional, and Co-Sponsored Conferences.

The revised set of Rules and Procedures for [IAHR Special](#), [IAHR Regional Conferences](#), and [IAHR Co-Sponsored Conferences](#), the full text of which is uploaded at the IAHR website and was first communicated to members in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, March 2013 (pp. 36-38), stresses the obligations of the hosting association to ensure that the academic program and the individual papers contribute to the general aims of the IAHR as spelled out in the IAHR Constitution, "Article 1: [...] The IAHR [...] has as its objective the promotion of the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns."

Furthermore, it is made explicit that the IAHR General Secretary be kept informed about developments and provided with conference programs and the address list of the participants, that publication of the proceedings must be consistent with the IAHR congress publication policy, and that the host of an IAHR regional conference, within two months of the event, shall provide the IAHR General Secretary with a brief (max. 1000 words) report on the conference suitable to be reproduced in an *IAHR Bulletin* or an *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*.

The principles, including the obligation to provide a brief report on the conference, were applied for the first time to the 2013 IAHR Regional Conference hosted by the SSEASR in Manila. Thanks are extended to the colleagues providing the report from this conference as well as from the ones in Groningen and Cape Town, 2014 (cf. Appendices 1-4).

3.5. Upcoming IAHR Special, Regional Co-Sponsored Conferences

Thanks are extended to members and affiliates who have been kind enough to avoid having their 2015 Annual or Biennial meetings and conferences conflict with the timing of the IAHR World Congress. The IAHR and the local German host

have tried their best to accommodate wishes for finding time and space for business meetings that need to be arranged within the framework of the IAHR World Congress.

At the moment, the IAHR Executive Committee has awarded the EASR 14th Annual Conference, hosted by the *Finnish Society for the Study of Religion* (in collaboration with the Department of the Study of Religions, University of Helsinki) the status of an IAHR Regional Conference. The theme of the conference is "Relocating Religion". The conference is to take place in Helsinki, Finland, June 29 to July 1, 2016. Please follow the EASR website for up-coming information.

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 or Regional Conferences to consider this possibility.

4. Membership Developments

4.1. Admission of Members and Affiliates 2010, and Applications and Recommendations for Membership and Affiliation 2010-2015

In 2010 my report regarding membership developments 2005-2010 began as follows: "the IAHR membership has developed annually and steadily since 1950. 2005-2010 is no exception to the rule." With the 2010 IAHR General Assembly adopting the *Estonian Society for the Study of Religions (ESSR)*, the *Portuguese Association for the Study of Religions (APER)*, the *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*, the *Latvian Society for the Study of Religions (LRPB)* as member associations and societies to the IAHR, and the *International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR)*, the *International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISORECEA)*, the *International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC)*, and the *European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE)* as affiliates, the five-year period 2010-2015 seemed to be no exception to the rule either.

At the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool, September 4, 2013, the International Committee unanimously agreed, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly (meeting in Erfurt 2015) to adopt as members the following *national* associations:

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

as well as the following *regional* association:

- *Asociation de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur (ACSRM)*

Following the meeting in Liverpool in 2013, the Executive Committee has ((March 2, 2015) received an application for membership from the *Philippine Association for the Study of Culture, History and Religion (PASCHR)*. The Executive Committee will consider this application during its outgoing meeting in Erfurt Sunday August 23, 2015.

The IAHR Executive Committee has, upon the receipt (August 1, 2014) of an application with the relevant information attached, decided to recommend to the International Committee, meeting in Erfurt 2015, that the *Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions (SAMR)*, be adopted as an IAHR affiliated society.

Apart from this, mention must be made of the good news that the long 'dormant' Russian association has become not only renamed ('*Association of Russian Centers for Study of Religions*'), but also restructured and revitalized, and that the *Australian Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR) rejoined the IAHR in 2011. Thanks are extended to the Russian and Australian colleagues as well as colleagues within and without the IAHR Executive Committee who have helped the General Secretary in paving the way for these developments.

Mention may also be made of the fact that the General Secretary, following previous futile contacts and efforts, also by the IAHR Membership Secretary, Prof. Khan, before and after Toronto 2010, received promising news from a colleague in Israel that scholars in Israel met in early May 2015 to discuss the possibility of establishing a new society (or revitalizing the old) that might later seek (re-)admission to the IAHR.

The General Secretary, furthermore, has received, May 2015, an enquiry and request from the *Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions* (NASR) regarding re-admission to the IAHR. The Executive Committee will consider the request during its outgoing meeting in Erfurt, Sunday August 23, 2015.

Special mention may be made of the continuous efforts to make sure that the membership within IAHR of the American Academy of Religion, a fact as of Toronto 2010, develops into a well-functioning mode of cooperation as regards the outreach of the AAR to international scholars located outside the USA and to members of IAHR member associations and affiliates. The AAR membership includes a considerable number of such scholars who are also members of the IAHR by way of being members of IAHR national or regional associations. Examples of two such (regional) associations are, respectively, the AASR, the African Association for the Study of Religions, and the NAASR, the North American Association for the Study of Religion. Following the adoption of the AAR as a member of the IAHR, the General Secretary has been in continuous contact with the AAR leadership. The AAR has appointed a liaison to the IAHR (Jack Fitzmier, the AAR Executive Director), and the IAHR liaison to the AAR has been the General Secretary. One result of the close contact and continuous efforts is a close cooperation between the AAR and IAHR leadership as regards the AAR international grants to research projects involving non US-based IAHR members, *inter alia* by way of the IAHR liaison being invited to join the annual meetings of the AAR International Committee. Another is the opportunity given to the IAHR General Secretary Prof. Jensen during the last several years to address the AAR international members during a breakfast meeting and a reception, as well as to inform the chairs of the AAR panels and programs about the IAHR in general and, e.g., the IAHR World Congress in Erfurt. The AAR has also established a link to the IAHR at their website. For more about the many years of work to include the AAR as well the work of the IAHR President and General Secretary to develop the cooperation between the AAR and the IAHR after 2010, see also the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 33-34.

Finally, mention may be made of the fact that the General Secretary, following up on contacts with the SBL leadership, initiated in 2008 by the President, Prof. Hackett and the General Secretary, Prof. Jensen during meetings with, *inter alia*, then SBL President, now IAHR honorary Life Member, Prof. Jonathan Z. Smith, made contact to the SBL leadership again in 2014 in order to learn if the SBL was still interested in affiliation to the IAHR. So far, though, nothing has come of these contacts. Maybe an affiliation of the *Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions* (SAMR) to the IAHR may pave the way for future talks.

4.2. *Membership Declared Lapsed*

Having thus duly noted that the IAHR during 2010-2015 has continued its process of globalization as regards the adoption of member associations from various parts of the globe, having furthermore strengthened its position as the pre-eminent global forum for the academic study of religions by way of the affiliation to the IAHR by international associations dedicated to the study "of particular areas within the academic study of religions", it must also be noted, in the same period, in accordance with the 2010 revised rules (IAHR Rules of Procedure, Rule 1.c.), that the Executive Committee has also declared lapsed the membership of some member associations that have over several years not complied with the IAHR requirements as regards the payment of annual fees and/or have not communicated with the IAHR leadership in order to maybe help solve financial or other problems. Thus the membership of the *Asociación Cubana de Estudios sobre la Religión* (no dues paid since 1999 plus certainty that the association in question is no longer in existence), of the *Israel Society for the History of Religion* (no dues paid since 1999 plus no response from those persons who seemed to be in office), of the *Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions* (dues paid for 1998 -2000, and for 2009-2010, despite an agreement to also pay for 2005-2009; no dues after 2010), of the *Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo das Religiões* (no dues paid since adopted as a member in 2010, and no response from the person supposed to be President to email messages), and of the *Indonesian Association for the Study of Research of Religion* (dues missing since 1996; after that dues paid only for 2008-2010, despite an agreement to pay for 2005-2007; no payments after 2010) have all been declared lapsed.

As noted above, there is hope that an Israel society may spring to life, and that the Nigerian association may in due course be re-admitted.

Several colleagues within and without the IAHR Executive Committee have been trying for some years to stimulate a process towards the establishment of a new and functioning Indonesian association, efforts which are continuing at the moment of writing.

As regards Cuba, the IAHR leadership has been in continuous contact with Cuban scholars before and after Toronto 2010 in order to offer our assistance in case Cuban colleagues think it worthwhile to try to establish a new Cuban association.

4.3. *Re-Admission Policy*

Following the introduction of the new Rules of Procedure in regard to membership, and in view of the discussions and decisions as regards lapsed membership, the Executive Committee at its business meeting in Södertörn, Sweden, August 2012, found it apt to discuss also a re-admission policy, and it agreed on the following:

In cases where the lapsed membership is due, for example, to the member association unilaterally withdrawing from IAHR, or a member association becoming gradually defunct through lack of membership/activity or similar circumstances, it is appropriate for the IAHR to adopt a 'case by case' approach to re-admission. As a general rule, the IAHR would encourage re-admission in such cases without regard to 'missing' dues.

However, where the Executive Committee has itself declared an association's membership lapsed under IAHR Rules as a

consequence of persistent non-payment of annual dues (which constitutes a significant financial debt owing to IAHR), re-admission will normally require payment of the missing dues, as follows:

- *the Executive Committee may consider re-admission at any time on certified receipt of full payment of the missing dues.*
- *where an association seeks re-admission to IAHR without paying any of the unpaid dues, the application will not normally be considered until five years after the association's membership was declared lapsed.*
- *At its discretion, the IAHR Executive Committee may accept certified part-payment of unpaid dues (the amount to be determined by the Executive Committee) to facilitate re-admission of a lapsed association before five years has passed.*

5. Finances, CIPSH, and the IAHR African Trust Fund

5.1. Financial Situation

With reference to the full report 2010-2015 from the IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking, I am happy and proud to be able to state that the financial situation in 2015, as in 2013 and 2010 too (cf. *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition*, August 2010, 42-45; 55-62), is significantly better than it was in 2005 when I first took office as General Secretary during the World Congress in Tokyo. The outgoing Executive Committee can thus hand over a healthy economy to the incoming Executive Committee. The importance of this primarily shows in the amounts of money that have been made available for grants for IAHR scholars in need of partial congress and conference support, be it for participation in the World Congress in Toronto 2010 or the one in Erfurt 2015, or in relation to the IAHR Regional or Special Conferences.

The healthy state of affairs is due primarily to the agreement made with Brill in 2008 as regards *NVMEN*, but a strict scheme in regard to the soliciting of the annual dues, and, the rise in the rate of dues as of 2014, also contributes. However, as spelled out in previous reports as General Secretary and Acting Treasurer (see e.g. *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition*, August 2010, 44-45) and also in the then Acting Treasurer's Report (*Ibid.* p. 41) as well as in the Treasurer's report 2010-2015 (below), the situation is not quite as healthy as it looks because it still depends to a significant degree on the capability of most officers and members of the Executive Committee to finance most (at times all) of their IAHR-related expenses themselves. As stated by Prof. Bocking in his report, "[p]roviding EC members with full funding for attendance at EC meetings would have required a significant additional commitment (perhaps \$12,000 annually) from the IAHR budget."

Allow me to direct a special thank you to the outgoing IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking for his excellent managing of the IAHR finances 2010-2015, as well as for his highly important participation and close cooperation with me in the 2006-2008 negotiations with Brill when he served (2005-2010) the IAHR as Publications Officer. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with Prof. Bocking.

Last but not least: as can be read from the Treasurer's report below, the IAHR rarely receives donations. However, during this term we actually did receive a donation from IAHR Honorary Life Member, Prof. Akio Tsukimoto. On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, I want to thank Prof. Tsukimoto for this most generous gift and donation.

5.2. CIPSH (*Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines*)

In my 2010 report, I had no problems stating that the IAHR's active engagement with the CIPSH, in terms of participation in the meetings and affairs of the CIPSH, including the CIPSH journal *Diogenes*, and in terms of the grants for IAHR sponsored conferences hitherto received from the CIPSH, had proved fruitful. The IAHR *expenses*, comprising the annual fee to the CIPSH and a biennial expense to cover part of travel costs for the IAHR participant(s) to the CIPSH General Assembly, had been very well justified in terms of the *income* generated, i.e. the grants that we received from the CIPSH to help fund more scholars from weak economy countries to participate in the 2005-2010 IAHR Special and Regional Conferences as well as in the Toronto 2010 World Congress.

Apart from this financial dimension, the IAHR Executive Committee 2005-2010 remained convinced that the IAHR also had an interest in actively supporting the humanities via the active engagement in and support to the CIPSH.

This situation, regrettably, changed dramatically after the 2010 report: IAHR Executive Committee member, Prof. Satoko Fujiwara, kindly agreed to represent the IAHR at the General Assembly of the CIPSH in Nagoya, Japan, December 11-12, 2010. Her report to the Executive Committee made it clear that CIPSH was in deep trouble: the money coming from UNESCO was less and less, and UNESCO wanted the CIPSH to 'stand on its own', as sort of an equal 'partner'. In Nagoya, the 2011 budget was cut from the 2010 €17,000 to €6,000. What was more, the CIPSH Budget Committee did not suggest the allocation of any grant to any member association.

The impact of the severe financial crisis of UNESCO on the CIPSH was stressed in a letter from the CIPSH President, Adama Samassékou, sent to all the Presidents and Secretary Generals of the CIPSH member organisations in April 2012 (see Appendix II, *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 68-69).

This development meant that we received no response to applications for grants for conferences in 2011 and 2012, and that the Treasurer in a draft budget for 2010-2020 did not count on any money at all from the CIPSH.

The IAHR Executive Committee discussed the situation at its meeting of September 1-2, 2013 in Cork, Ireland, and it decided to not pay any annual fees to the CIPSH unless CIPSH was revived. As stated by the Treasurer, Prof. Bocking in his 2010-2015 report: "From the Treasurer's point of view, CIPSH is now an item of expenditure only".

In 2014 news about efforts to rescue or revive CIPSH arrived on the desk of the General Secretary: First a letter came from the President of the CIPSH, and, soon after, a response to the President's letter from the CIPSH Secretary General arrived. There was no doubt: the financial crisis was also an institutional crisis and a crisis within the CIPSH leadership. After several weeks of communication back and forth, it was decided to issue calls for a General Assembly, with the aim of revitalizing the CIPSH and elect a new Executive Committee, in Paris October 14-15 2014.

At the IAHR Executive Committee Meeting in Cape Town July 29-30, 2014, the Executive agreed to support the efforts by way of asking the President,

Prof. Hackett to represent the IAHR at the meetings in Paris. At the same time, upon the recommendation of the General Secretary, it was decided that the General Secretary nominate Prof. Hackett for a position as Vice-President in the new CIPSH executive committee, acknowledging that in the event that she was elected she could no longer represent the IAHR. Besides, it was decided to pay the CIPSH fee for 2014 but not for 2013, and to leave a decision about any payment of fee for 2015 and the IAHR's future relationship with CIPSH to the incoming Executive Committee. This includes representation or not of the IAHR in an announced CIPSH General Assembly to take place December 8-9, 2015 in Beijing, China.

On an additional note it must be remarked that the IAHR Treasurer, President and General Secretary, following some discussion upon the recent receipt of a letter from CIPSH urging the IAHR to pay the fee for 2013, agreed to pay the arrears for 2013 since at that point the IAHR had not clearly signalled that it did not want to pay a fee on the grounds that the CIPSH obviously was not well functioning.

Last but not least: it is pleasure to announce that Prof. Hackett was elected one of two CIPSH vice-presidents, and greetings to Prof. Hackett are extended from the entire outgoing Executive Committee. Resolutions of the CIPSH General Assembly meeting in Paris October 2015, including the list of the new officers, is included here as Appendix 2.

5.3. IAHR African Trust Fund

As reported in 2010, the improved financial situation and the steady income over the coming years made it possible for the Executive Committee to implement a revised scheme for the IAHR African Trust Fund (IAHR ATF). As for the history of the IAHR ATF, and information in general about the IAHR ATF, please see the information rendered at the IAHR website where the [IAHR African Trust Fund](#) has its own icon and page, and please also see the quote inserted below.

An overview of applications and grants awarded reads:

2011: 11 applications received, six grants awarded (4.000 USD + transfer fees).

The recipients were:

- Damaris Parsitau (Egerton University, Kenya)
- Lateef Adetona (Lagos State University, Ojoo, Nigeria)
- Phuti Mogase (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Genevieve Nrenzah (University of Ghana, Legon)
- Victoria Adeniyi (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)
- Tapiwa Mapuranga (University of Zimbabwe, Harare)

2012: 7 applications received, four grants awarded (3.000 USD + transfer fees).

The recipients were:

- Rose Mary Amenga-Etego (University of Ghana, Legon)
- Lovemore Ndlovu (Midlands State University, Gweru, Zimbabwe)
- Eliot Tofa (University of Swaziland)
- Benson Igboin (Adekunle Ajasin University, Akungba-Akoko Nigeria)

2013: No applications received, no grants awarded

2014: 10 applications received, two grants awarded (2.000 USD + transfer fees).

The recipients were:

- Serawit Bekele (Ethiopia/University of Bayreuth, Germany)
- Ngozi Emeka-Nwobia (Ebonyi State University, Nigeria)

2015: Five applications received, three grants awarded (3.000 USD + transfer fees)
The recipients were:

- Henrietta Nyamnjoh (University of Cape Town, South Africa)
- Mobolaji Ajibade (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)
- Bolaji Bateye (Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria)

All applications received have been vetted by the members of the Board of Trustees, constituted by representatives from African national and regional associations and the IAHR General Secretary and Treasurer. The members of the board have been: AASR: Dr. Afe Adogame; ASRSA: Dr. Denzil Chetty; EAASR: Prof. Philomena Mwaura; NASR: Dr. Pius Oyeniran Abioje.

The Board of Trustees, as well as its Secretary, Dr. Afe Adogame, has no explanation for the total lack of applications in 2013. The call for applications had been announced via the same, varied channels as in the previous years, and Prof. Adogame himself had carried print copies with him to distribute during two trips to Africa. Having discussed the possibility of sending out a renewed call for applications for 2013, the Board of Trustees agreed to make sure that the call for applications for 2014 was announced as early as September 2013.

During the IAHR Executive Committee Meeting in Cape Town in July 2014, in the context of the AASR conference, the Executive Committee discussed issues related to the IAHR ATF at some length, taking into account a number of documents and information from the IAHR General Secretary and Treasurer (who serve *ex officio* on the IAHR African Trust Fund Board of Trustees) and from the Secretary to the IAHR ATF Board of Trustees, Dr. Afe Adogame. The discussion and decision of the Executive Committee, communicated to Secretary to the IAHR ATF Board of Trustees may be summarized as follows:

When the IAHR Executive Committee in 2009 decided to activate the until then dormant fund of just under \$12,000 arising from the Durban 2000 Congress in order to put the money to its intended use, it not only 'rounded up' the ATF fund to \$12,000 but also resolved to make available \$8,000 from the IAHR general funds to provide a 'sinking fund' of \$20,000 to be disbursed over five years at \$4,000 per year from 2010 to 2014, fully expecting this amount would be taken up in awards each year. The first grants were not in fact awarded until the financial year 2011, so the projected period of 5 years became 2011-2015. Records of grants awarded (see above) show that only in the first year was the full \$4,000 disbursed.

A report received in 2014 from the secretary of the ATF Board of Trustees, Dr. Afe Adogame, identified a 'surplus' in the fund in the form of the cumulative difference between the amount available to the Board of Trustees each year and the amount actually disbursed, and Dr. Adogame suggested a number of ways in which this surplus might be used, including extending the fund beyond 2015 and/or allocating a larger amount than \$4,000 in 2015 perhaps also to subsidize the travel of scholars from Africa to the IAHR World Congress in Erfurt, 2015.

The Executive Committee noted that if \$4,000 were disbursed as hoped in 2015, the total expenditure over 5 years would already be over \$13,000, i.e. more than the funds available in the IAHR ATF from 2010. The Executive Committee also noted that the term of 5 years had been agreed in 2009 as a reasonable period in which to operate the fund precisely in order to avoid tying the hands of the 2015 incoming Executive Committee, which would no doubt wish to review its financial priorities at an early stage, including deciding how to use, during its coming term of office, any accumulated 'savings' against budget accumulated under various headings between 2010-2015.

In regard to the suggestion of spending more than \$4,000 in 2015 and/or allocating funds to the purpose of supporting travel to the World Congress rather than targeting research projects, the Executive Committee noted that it had agreed a limit of \$4,000 each year, which in most years had turned to be more than the IAHR African Trust Fund Board of Trustees required, and that the IAHR is already making a very substantial contribution to the Congress travel subsidy fund to support scholars from weaker economies. Besides, the allocation of travel support against published criteria was a matter for the Erfurt Congress organizing committee.

The Executive Committee further noted that the cycle of advertising, adjudicating and awarding the IAHR ATF grants typically ran between Sept-March and there was thus ample time for the incoming Executive Committee at Erfurt to make any arrangements it might deem suitable beyond 2015.

In light of these considerations the Executive Committee meeting in Cape Town last year unanimously agreed:

- 1) that the IAHR ATF would continue to run as at present; that is, there would be a final tranche of \$4,000 from the current fund made available to the IAHR ATF Board of Trustees in 2015, to support research by scholars in line with the IAHR ATF criteria.
- 2) that efforts should be made, as also suggested by the IAHR ATF Board of Trustees Secretary, Dr. Adogame, to publicise the fund to promising candidates at the imminent AASR conference in Cape Town, so that the full allocation could hopefully be disbursed to projects of eligible scope and quality.
- 3) in briefing the incoming Executive Committee in Erfurt, the outgoing General Secretary would briefly remind members of the history and purpose of the fund and its activation by the 2005-10 Executive Committee and implementation by the 2010-15 Executive Committee, as well as of the amount actually spent over the 5 years to 2015.

Allow me to end my report on the IAHR African Trust Fund by way of extending thanks to all the members of the Board of Trustees, and special thanks to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Afe Adogame, also for providing a list of the recipients.

6. IASR Recommendations and IAHR Executive Response

On August 8, 2012, the President and the General Secretary received by email from Prof. Donald Wiebe, the 'Recommendations of the IASR (Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Toronto) Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions', the result of a meeting held at Aarhus University July 1-12, 2012. Donald Wiebe, director of the IASR, the local host for the IAHR XXth World Congress held in Toronto 2010, hosted the meeting with the following specially invited participants: IAHR Honorary Life Members Profs. Luther H. Martin, Michael Pye, Armin W. Geertz, the Erfurt 2015 co-director Prof. Christoph Bochinger, and Prof. Panayotis Pachis from the Greek Association for the Study of Religion.

The IAHR Executive Committee had a first preliminary discussion about the recommendations during its meeting in Södertörn, Sweden, August 22-23, and again during its meeting in Cork, Ireland, September 1-2, 2013. The IASR recommendations and the response from the Executive Committee were, furthermore, on the agenda at the IAHR International Committee Meeting held in Liverpool, September 4, 2013.

Since the full text of the 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions' as well as the responses from the Executive Committee have been published several times (first printed in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*, pp. 12-20 & 21-35, then reprinted in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 42-50 & 51-65), and since the matter, furthermore, was referred to in my report 2010-2013 (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 40) as well as in the preliminary Minutes from the International Committee Meeting Liverpool September 4, 2015 (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp. 31-32), I refer readers to the named publications, all easily accessible at the IAHR website.

7. The IASR Proposal to change the name of the IAHR

One of the most important recommendations submitted by the IASR, maybe the most important, was a proposal to change the name of the IAHR.

Consequently, the IAHR Executive Committee decided to suggest to the International Committee, meeting in Liverpool September 4, 2015, that this matter figure as a separate item (item 10), on the agenda in Liverpool. As can be seen from the provisional Minutes, published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp. 32-35, the following proposal from the General Secretary was unanimously agreed upon: that the discussion be continued until 2015 within the member associations and that the matter be put on the agenda of the International Committee meeting in Erfurt 2015 in order for it to bring its conclusions or recommendations before the General Assembly, and for the General Assembly then to take the final decision for a change or not, and--if for a change--for the new name.

Following up on this decision, the General Secretary, in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, p. 3-4, urged the IAHR officers and member associations to encourage and help foster discussion on the issue and proposal among all their members by any appropriate means. In that way, the delegates to the International Committee Meeting in Erfurt (Wednesday, August 26, 2015) may be fully briefed and prepared to decide what should be brought forward to the General Assembly, which will be held on Saturday August 29, on the final day of the IAHR World Congress 2015.

The same *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, included the formal proposal and argument ("A Rationale for a Change of Name for the International Association for the History of Religions") for a change of name for the IAHR. The proposal and argument were submitted on behalf of the IASR by IAHR Honorary Life Members Profs. Donald Wiebe and Luther H. Martin. The proposal and argument (in its entirety, with its original title, "A Rationale for a Change of Name for the International Association for the History of Religions", and the font in which they was submitted August 28, 2014) were inserted as Section IV in the named *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*. The proposal from Profs. Wiebe and Martin on behalf of the IASR is that the current *International Association for the History of Religions* (IAHR) be changed to *International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion* (IAHSSR). Please find the formal proposal and argument enclosed also in this *IAHR Bulletin*, section 12 'Proposal for a Change of Name for the IAHR'.

Having stated this, allow me to reiterate what I wrote in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, p. 7:

Other possible *new* names, apart from the one now proposed, mentioned and *briefly* debated during the discussion of the IASR proposal at the

International Committee Meeting in Liverpool (see 'Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, UK, September 4, 2013', Section V, pp. 31-33), was the one originally proposed by the IASR Consultation, namely the *International Association for the Scientific Study of Religions* (IASSR), plus the Following names: the *International Association for the Study of Religions* (IASR), and the *International Association for the Academic Study of Religions* (IAASR).

Retaining the current name, the *International Association for the History of Religions* (IAHR), was, as evidenced by the same 'Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, UK, September 4, 2013', also the favored option of some members of the IAHR International Committee.

However, as for other *new* names rather than the one now proposed by the IASR, namely the *International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion* (IAHSSR), no specific or formal proposals have come forward, neither during the meeting in Liverpool nor afterwards.

If a member of the IAHR International Committee, i.e. a representative of a constituent IAHR member society or association, is in favor of a change of name but not in favor of the one proposed by the IASR consultation, then this member must bring to the floor a specific and formal proposal to that effect. Also, there is of course a possibility of proposing an amendment to the proposal from the IASR consultation. As for the IAHR rules in this regard, see the IAHR Rules of Procedure, Rules 17, 18, and 19 (<http://www.iahr.dk/procedures.php>)

8. The AASR 2010 Proposal 'Restructuring the IAHR Executive'. Following Up.

As some members will recall, especially members of the IAHR International Committee present at the meeting on Wednesday August 18, 2010 in Toronto, the abovementioned proposal (sent to all members of the International Committee and uploaded for their use also on the IAHR website together with other proposals for changes to the IAHR Constitution) was discussed thoroughly during the meeting. As can be seen from the Minutes of that meeting, adopted by the International Committee in Liverpool on September 4, 2013 (see *IAHR-eBulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 14-16), the AASR proposal was rejected.

As for the suggestion from the Executive Committee, based on the experiences with the new (as of 2005) delegation of duties, especially the offices of Membership Secretary and the Internet Officer, to do away with the two named offices and thus, with the nominations and elections 2015-2020, have four members without a portfolio ('four further members'), the proposed changes were, with an overwhelming majority show of hands, adopted by the International Committee, and later adopted also by the General Assembly.

This meant that the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee has made nominations for eight designated offices and four further members, and that the 2015-2020 incoming Executive Committee will have to do the same as the outgoing (cf. the remarks in the *IAHR-eBulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p.18): it has to figure out how best to deal with the duties formerly allocated to the Membership Secretary and Internet Officer, and they have to engage the four further members actively in the ongoing work of the Executive Committee.

At the meeting in Toronto, the discussion about the AASR proposal concluded (*Ibid.* p. 16) that the proposal, though rejected, be referred to the incoming (2010-2015) Executive Committee for consideration and that the

Executive Committee should report on its related discussions at the next International Committee Meeting.

The Executive Committee discussed the matter at meetings in Cork 2013 and Cape Town 2014 but it has not come to a point where it has any recommendations beyond what was implicit in its recommendations in Toronto 2010.

It has not moved beyond what was reported already in 2010 (*Ibid.* p. 17): the General Secretary does have a lot on his desk, but the new delegation of duties (as of 2005), especially the offices of Membership Secretary and Internet Officer, despite the excellent job performed by the persons executing these functions, had not proven to be the right way to relieve the General Secretary of some of his tasks, and it had not resulted in greater effectiveness. At the end of the day, it is the General Secretary who is responsible for the website (and the continuous updates of all kinds, including names of officers in member associations, and thus also a mailing list), and for the communication to and from with the IAHR International Committee members and the IAHR membership at large (via the officers of member associations and affiliates). To the best of the knowledge of the current General Secretary no time was won by distributing these activities among different officers, and much time was spent on coordination and making sure there was no confusion of responsibilities.

Furthermore: the outgoing Executive Committee has agreed that it would not be appropriate nor very helpful to come up with a set of recommendations to be discussed and maybe voted on in Erfurt 2015. It must be up to the incoming Executive Committee, constituted on the basis of the changes made to the constitution in 2010, to take up the discussion and consider if it wants to work towards a restructuring of the IAHR Executive Committee and maybe come forward in due time with a proposal to be discussed and voted upon in 2018 and 2020.

9. IAHR Related Publications

9.1. *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*

The IAHR Executive Committee appoints, and normally constitutes, the *NVMEN* Editorial Board. It also recommends to the publisher, Brill, the appointment of Managing and Reviews Editor(s). Current Managing Editors are Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Olav Hammer. Reviews Editor is Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus. The IAHR General Secretary and Publications Officer are in continuous email contact with the publisher Brill, normally represented by an Acquisitions Editor, currently Ingrid Heijckers-Velt, as well as with the Managing Editors. As of 2011, each annual volume of *NVMEN* has been published in six issues, and as of 2013 the IAHR logo figured in each issue.

As stated in the “[Procedures Concerning *NVMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*](#)”, the IAHR Executive Committee considers *NVMEN* the flagship journal of the IAHR, with “a proud tradition of quality and international coverage, and the editorial board is very keen on improving it in tune with current developments in the subject and in the IAHR organization.” Consequently, the IAHR Executive Committee discusses *NVMEN* and its future during annual *NVMEN* Editorial Board meetings, normally held in conjunction with the annual business meeting of the Executive Committee. Since the new 2008 agreement with Brill, Brill as the owner of the journal, has been responsible for calling the meetings, for the drafting of the agenda, and for chairing the meetings.

When discussing our response to the ‘Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions’ as regards *NVMEN* (cf. *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 50), we could thus ‘lean on’ previous and continuous discussions with the publisher Brill and the Managing Editors. The Executive Committee responded (*Ibid.* p.57) that, in the opinion of the Executive Committee, “*NVMEN* strikes a fairly good balance between a more classical historical-philological IAHR profile and a more innovative IAHR profile”, and that the Executive Committee wanted “to strike that balance, not least because we think this is the hallmark of the IAHR and the way for the IAHR journal to have its own special identity”.

Allow me to express thanks to the Managing Editors, Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Olav Hammer, for their meticulous work on behalf of the IAHR and Brill, to the benefit of all IAHR members and affiliates, and all scholars dedicated to the academic study of religions. A special thank you is extended to the equally dedicated and hardworking Reviews Editor, IAHR Vice-President Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus, who will be stepping down with the end of this year.

Last but not least, I want to extend thanks to the present (and past) Brill acquisitions editors for a fruitful and effective collaboration in regard to *NVMEN*.

9.2. *NVMEN* 60th Anniversary Publication

NVMEN, Volume LX, 2013 marked the 60th Anniversary of *NVMEN*, the IAHR flagship journal. Brill and the IAHR Executive Committee decided to celebrate this with a special publication. For various reasons it has not been possible to edit and publish the planned publication in 2013, but Brill as well as the IAHR Executive Committee is happy to be able to present the special publication (provisional title: *NVMEN, the IAHR, and the Academic Study of Religions - Past, Present and Prospects*) during the IAHR World Congress in Erfurt August 23-29, 2015. Asked to act, together with former General Secretary Prof. Armin W. Geertz, as one of two managing editors of this publication, I found two quotes from the IAHR World Congress Durban 2000 ‘Opening Address’ by then IAHR President Prof. Michael Pye well suited to indicate the rationale behind the contents of the publication:

For our discipline, and for the IAHR, the construction of the future requires taking informed selective decisions about the nature of the past. It is not a question of constructing an artificial past which in its simplicity might stand in tension with a historian’s critical account of the same events or period. Rather it is a construction of the past which, while historically serious and reliable, at the same time is consciously intended to feed the future.

[...]

Memories of the IAHR are part of the history of our discipline, and so I conclude by expressing the hope that these memories, selected, contested, and always reflected, will turn out to be not only memories of the past but also constituents of the future. (Pye M. & R.I.J. Hackett (eds.), *IAHR World Congress Proceedings, Durban 2000: The History of Religions: Origins & Visions* 2009, pp. 284-285; p. 297)

The special *NVMEN* publication is based on the past and present close connection between *NVMEN* and the IAHR, and thus on the history and development of the study of religions reflected in both of them. The contents, thus, are constituted by a mixture of, on the one hand, reprints of past key contributions to *NVMEN* as well as to the IAHR, and on the other hand, new contributions, contributions that – in line with the reprints selected – look forward at the same time as they look backward.

There will be reprints of contributions by C. J. Bleeker, R.J. Zwi Werblowsky, A. Schimmel, U. Bianchi, E. J. Sharpe, M. Pye, A.W. Geertz & R.T. McCutcheon, T. Jensen, and new contributions by D. Accorinti, G. Alles, C. Boehner & J. Ruepke, G. Casadio, S. Fujiwara, R.I.J. Hackett, O. Hammer, M. Joy, M. Pye, and D. Wiebe.

Warm thanks are extended to Brill past and present acquisition editors as well as to Brill editor Maarten Frijswick for suggesting this publication and for their support during the editorial process. It bears witness to the excellent working relationship between the IAHR and Brill, a relationship going back to the very beginnings of the IAHR and *NVMEN* (and described by Prof. Giovanni Casadio in his contribution to the celebratory publication).

9.3. New IAHR Book Series with Equinox

As reported in 2010 and before, *NVMEN Book Series* (as well as *Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent*) as of July 31, 2008 was no longer an IAHR-related book series.

Soon after though, then Publications Officer, Prof. Brian Bocking, together with the General Secretary, met in London with Janet Joyce, Equinox Publishing, to discuss a possible scheme for an IAHR book series. In July 2013, following several years of preparations and discussions in the IAHR Executive, the General Secretary could finalize and sign an agreement with Equinox regarding a new IAHR book series with the title *The Study of Religions in a Global Context*.

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

The IAHR, represented by the IAHR Executive and the signatory, the General Secretary, is the *Series Editor*. The Series Editor appoints a *Managing Series Editor* to work with the Publisher to develop the series. The Managing Series Editor appointed may be, but need not be, the elected IAHR Publications Officer, and the period of office therefore normally will be five years. In the first instance the Managing Series Editor is Prof. Morny Joy, the current IAHR Publications Officer.

The Managing Series Editor, in consultation with the IAHR Executive Committee, will suggest to Equinox a *Managing Editor*. The Managing Editor must be a member of the IAHR, i.e. through membership of one of the IAHR constituent member associations, and s/he must be a qualified study of religions scholar. The term of the Managing Editor normally follows the term of the Managing Series Editor, i.e. five years. In the first instance, the Managing Editor is Prof. Katja Triplett.

The Series Editor in consultation with Equinox appoints a minimum of eight and a maximum of twelve scholars of religion to function as the Editorial Board for a five-year term. This board shall be comprised by a balanced mix of junior and senior scholars, both male and female, reflecting the global character of the IAHR. The members of the IAHR Executive Committee constitute an Advisory Board.

Separate contracts are drawn up between Equinox, the Managing Editor and the Author(s), and royalties (of 2%, 3%, and 7.5%) are shared by, respectively, the Series Editor, the Managing Editor, and the Author(s).

The members of the first Editorial Board are as follows:

- Morny Joy, University of Calgary, Canada, Managing Series Editor
- Katja Triplett, University of Göttingen, Germany, Managing Editor
- Maya Burger, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

- Denzil Chetty, University of South Africa, Pretoria, South Africa
- Jakob De Roover, University of Ghent, Belgium
- Florence Pasche Guignard, University of Toronto, Canada
- Peter Jackson, University of Stockholm, Sweden
- Jay Johnston, University of Sydney, Australia
- Sylvia Marcos, Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico
- Steven Sutcliffe, Edinburgh University, Scotland
- Terhi Utriainen, University of Helsinki, Finland

The series and the first publication in the series (*Philosophy and the End of Sacrifice - Disengaging Ritual in Ancient India, Greece and Beyond*, edited by Peter Jackson and Anna Pya-Sjödén) will be officially launched during the IAHR World Congress in Erfurt.

It is the hope of the IAHR Executive Committee that the new IAHR/Equinox book series will assist the IAHR in furthering the aims of the latter, namely to promote the scientific, academic study of religion, and we encourage scholars, including, of course, junior scholars, from around the world and the total range of the IAHR constituency, to use this new venue for the publication of their work.

Allow me to extend thanks to Profs. Bocking and Joy for their contribution to the coming into being of this series, to Equinox editors Janet Joyce and Valerie Hall for their cooperation, to the Managing Editor Prof. Triplett as well as to the members of the editorial board.

9.4. IAHR and IAHR-Related Proceedings

9.4.1. The IAHR Toronto 2010 World Congress Proceedings

The [*IAHR World Congress Proceedings, Toronto 2010. Religion: A Human Phenomenon*](#) was published and a digital version uploaded at the IAHR website already a year after the event. Thanks also to Congress Director Prof. Wiebe and his staff for generously distributing 100 print copies to libraries around the world.

9.4.2. The IAHR Toronto 2010 World Congress Spin-off Publications

Neither the General Secretary nor the Publications Officer has received information about spin-off publications. Possible editors and/or contributors to books and journals with articles related to papers delivered at the Toronto World Congress are kindly asked to provide any relevant information. Please see the IAHR [By-Laws](#) for rules in this regard.

9.4.3. Other Proceedings and Spin-Off Publications from IAHR Special or Regional Conferences

As for proceedings and spin-off publications from IAHR conferences, published between 2010-2015 (and known to the General Secretary and Publications Officer) mention must be made first of the impressive two volume publication from the Messina 2009 IAHR Special Conference: *Religion in the History of European Culture. Proceedings of the 9th EASR Conference and IAHR Special Conference, 14-17 September 2009, Messina*, edited by Sfameni Gasparro, G., A. Cosentino & M. Monaca, Biblioteca dell'Officina di Studi Medievali 16. 1/2, Palermo 2013.

Thanks are extended to the Italian Association as well as to IAHR Honorary Life Member Prof. G. Sfameni Gasparro and her two co-editors for their hard work with this publication.

Keynotes from the same conference in Messina 2009 have been published in a separate volume in 2010, namely in *Historia Religionum. An International*

Journal, 2, Pisa-Roma, Fabrizio Serra Editore, 2010.

Some keynotes from the 2012 IAHR Special Conference on "Ends and Beginnings" in Södertörn, Sweden, have been published in *Temenos* 2, 2014, and some in the publication *Religion, Politics and Nation-Building in Post-Communist Countries*, edited by Greg Simons & David Westerlund, Farnham, Ashgate 2015.

Neither the General Secretary nor the Publications Officer has received information about other spin-off publications and articles based on papers delivered at other IAHR Special and Regional Conferences held between 2010-2015. The host association and/or local hosts, editors and/or contributors to books and journals with articles related to papers delivered at these conferences are kindly asked to provide any relevant information. Please see the IAHR [By-Laws](#) for rules in this regard.

9.4.4. IAHR Bulletin & IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement

The *IAHR Bulletin*, with the first issue being published in 1986, and the most recent one (no. 40) being this Erfurt 2015 World Congress issue, the *IAHR Bulletin Supplement* and its successor, the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, also must be counted amongst the IAHR publications. Their importance as regards news about and from the IAHR has already been stressed, but their importance as publications dealing with and manifesting the past and present history of the IAHR and the study of religions promoted by and reflected upon by the IAHR and its members and affiliates can hardly be overestimated.

When coming into being in 1954, the IAHR flagship journal *NVMEN* provided scholars dedicated to the IAHR and its academic aims with a forum to 'meet' also in-between the quinquennial world congresses. It did so, and still does so, of course, because it became a preeminent and prestigious international journal and forum for scholars of religion to publish articles on the international, academic and scientific study of (the history of) religions.

But it did serve as a forum for the IAHR leadership and membership also in another way: *NVMEN*, with the (IAHR) *Bulletin* included, served as the mouthpiece of the IAHR as an organization. With the *Bulletin*, news from and about the IAHR leadership and membership was for decades part and parcel of *NVMEN*. A separate *IAHR Bulletin*, to supplement what was published in *NVMEN* from and about the IAHR, appeared in 1986 when Michael Pye, then Secretary-General, decided to produce and publish a supplement to what he called the more 'formal notices' which were intended to appear in *NVMEN*, "the official published organ of the IAHR." (*IAHR Bulletin* February 1986:1).

Prof. Pye, IAHR Secretary General 1985-1995, and IAHR President, 1995-2000, has served the IAHR in a most remarkable way, and Prof. Pye no doubt will be remembered as one of the most influential of the IAHR general secretaries. One of Prof. Pye's outstanding feats was the launching and editing, and of course often contributing to the contents himself, of the *IAHR Bulletin* in 1986, and during his two terms as Secretary General, the publishing of no less than 33 issues of the *IAHR Bulletin*.

These 33 issues constitute and contribute to a highly important part and period of the IAHR's history and identity, *inter alia* the concerted and strategic efforts of Prof. Pye to build and expand a global and strong IAHR organisation. Consequently, an offer from another former IAHR General Secretary, succeeding Prof. Pye in 1995 and serving also the two permitted terms until 2005, Prof. Armin W. Geertz, to have the 33 1986-1995 issues scanned so that they could enter the digital archive of the IAHR provided by the IAHR website was accepted with great gratitude. The current General Secretary, standing on the shoulders of these two

predecessors, considers it of paramount importance to the IAHR that the *IAHR Bulletin* Nos 1-40 can now be accessed by all IAHR members and the public at large, and I extend many thanks to Prof. Pye for launching and producing the IAHR Bulletin 1-33 and to Prof. Geertz for facilitating the digitalization of earlier bulletins. As previously stated, the 33 issues bear witness to a very important decade in the history of the IAHR, with the concerted efforts of globalization and corresponding organisational improvements driven not least by Prof. Pye and with consequences for the time from then up to now, a time during which Prof. Pye's successors have tried their best to continue the work initiated by him.

Please take a moment to visit the website in order to enjoy and learn from the 33 newly uploaded issues of the *IAHR Bulletin* at <http://www.iahr.dk/bulletins.php>.

Concluding Remarks

Looking back, and including some of the achievements and developments pertaining also to the first term (2005-2010) during which I served as IAHR General Secretary, I find it safe to say that the IAHR leadership, i.e. the Executive and International Committee, as well as the General Assembly, has continued to fulfill its mandate, namely (Constitution § 1), promoting " [...] the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject", and thus also trying its best to make of the IAHR what it proudly claims to be (cf. the website [policy statement](#)), namely the "preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present".

The IAHR leadership has done so by way of:

- assisting the establishment of new associations for the academic study of religion(s)
- adopting as national or regional members such new associations as well as associations hitherto not members to the IAHR
- adopting (in accordance with the Constitution § 3B) *affiliates*, i.e. international associations for the study of particular areas within the academic study of religion, and thus linking them to and including them in the work of the IAHR
- framing the 2010 Toronto thorough amendments to the Constitution, with, *inter alia*, introduction of terms that signal that 'history of religions', also within the IAHR, is different from what it was in the 1950s
- several other innovations to the Constitution and By-Laws meant to further geographic representation, gender balance and cultural diversity (e.g. revised Rules for the Nominating Committee) as well as to
- clarifying and tightening the academic profile of the IAHR (see also below).

As regards developments and improvements specifically pertaining to gender, it may be noticed that

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

The 2015-20 nominations, most certainly, also reflect not only the global character of the IAHR membership and leadership but also the (successful) efforts to help strike a gender balance.

Moreover, during this period, the IAHR Women Scholars Network has been established and continuously developed, and the new Equinox/IAHR book series *The Study of Religion in a Global Context* has been introduced, with the aim of being a venue for more traditional historical-comparative studies and scholars of religion but also a venue for innovative approaches and other kinds of scholars, scholars from all over the world, and, hopefully, also *younger* scholars.

In terms of the 'globalization' of the IAHR, the outgoing Executive committee has thus worked hard to continue the efforts towards globalization that can be seen as ongoing from the 1950s and speeded up and strategically developed in the decades when Prof. Michael Pye (1985-1995) and then Prof. Armin W. Geertz (1995-2005) served as general secretaries to the IAHR.

Taking over in 2005, the outgoing General Secretary (functioning as Acting Treasurer 2008-2010), and the then Treasurer, late Prof. Gary Lease, worked hard together with the Executive Committee to help improve the financial situation. With the help also of the then Publications Officer, now outgoing Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, the situation has been improved considerably as is evident from what has been said above and from the Treasurer's report below.

Due to this positive change in the financial situation over the past 10 years, the IAHR has been better able to face some of the challenges pertaining to the continuous efforts to become more global. Allow me to refer (once again) to the Tokyo 2005 reflections of the then outgoing IAHR General Secretary, Prof. Armin W. Geertz: having mentioned how the IAHR has succeeded in helping colleagues around the world to improve upon and encourage the study of religions in new nations and recently re-organized nations, and how the IAHR has become more and more global in its outreach and implementation, Prof. Geertz (*IAHR Bulletin* 38, p. 38), in light of the then gloomy financial situation, stated that if the situation did not improve, then the IAHR would become more virtual than real, most IAHR events will most likely happen only in economically strong countries, and "once again, we would be back to the routines and power structures of yesteryears, ...".

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

Last but not least, the outgoing Executive Committee, continuing the work of the 2005-2010 Executive, has worked assiduously to guard the academic respectability of the IAHR by clarifying the commitment to academic objectives, in line, too, with my own statement for candidacy for the position of General Secretary in 2005: "'global' in the language of the IAHR," I maintained, "is not the same as 'ecumenical'."

Lasting traces of these efforts can be found in the 2010 addition to the first article of the IAHR Constitution, now stressing that the IAHR, is not a forum "for confessional, apologetical or other similar concerns". The tightening up of the academic profile, though, can also be seen from the revised rules as regards the obligation to see to it that the academic programs of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences are in line with the stated aims of the IAHR.

The outgoing Executive Committee has thus, as I see it, done its best to expand the IAHR while at the same time trying to secure that the 'identity' of the

IAHR continues to reflect what was arguably first formulated more explicitly by another former General Secretary, Zwi Werblowsky in his famous Marburg 1960 statement:

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

I quote these words because I, with many others, consider the Marburg 1960 Congress and Werblowsky's statement a cornerstone in the building of an institutional consensus as to the perspective and ethos of the IAHR. Despite all disagreements and different cultural contexts.

I quote them also because it has been a privilege and honour - standing on the shoulders of great(er) scholars and former general secretaries like, to mention but a few of the more recent ones, Zwi Werblowsky, Michael Pye and Armin W. Geertz - to serve the IAHR, trying my best to further develop the IAHR along the lines staked out by the Werblowsky statement, for example.

Stepping down as General Secretary I want to thank all my colleagues in the outgoing Executive Committee for their hard work, commitment, and support. A special thank you is extended to the outgoing President, Prof. Hackett as well as to the outgoing Treasurer, Prof. Bocking. It has been a privilege and pleasure handling the IAHR daily business in close cooperation with the two of you.

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen, July 7, 2015

9. IAHR 2010-2015 Treasurer's Report Erfurt August 23-29, 2015

Introduction

The IAHR's finances are in a healthy state, with a balance of approximately US\$85,000 available to the incoming Executive Committee *after* 2015 Congress year expenses, and a predicted end-of-year balance of \$90,000 for 2015. This is an improvement on the balance of approx. \$68,000 inherited by the current committee in 2010 and it confirms the steady 10-year improvement in IAHR's finances since the critical situation reported at the Tokyo Congress in 2005. At that time the Association's assets stood at only \$43,000, having declined from the \$56,000 reported at Durban five years earlier.

Note: The IAHR's financial year is now the calendar year (1/1 to 31/12). The 5-year period to which this report refers runs from 01/01/2010 to 31/12/2014 and thus includes all of 2010, the year of the Toronto Congress. The table at the end of this report also includes a brief update on the current year's income/outgoings to 31 May 2015.

Income

Average annual income in the period 2010-2014 was approx. \$24,000. There are now two reliable income streams; income from Brill for *NVMEN* (currently €10,295 p.a., paid in euro and equivalent to \$11000-14,000 USD p.a. depending on exchange rate) and member and affiliate associations' annual dues (now ca. \$10,000 p.a. following the modest rise in dues from 2014, and paid in either euro or dollars). CIPSH no longer offers any financial support.

Expenditure

Average annual expenditure during the period 2010-2014, including expenditure on the 2010 Toronto Congress, has averaged \$17,000. The largest item of expenditure, apart from quinquennial Congress subventions, has been for travel and subsistence for the Executive Committee (12 persons), principally to enable attendance at the annual EC meeting and also for some of the travel on IAHR business undertaken mainly by the President and General Secretary. Expenditure in this category has averaged only \$451 per EC member per year during 2010-2014. Since the real cost of EC members' travel and subsistence is around \$1,500 per person per year, this low figure reveals the continuing 'hidden subsidy' to IAHR from EC members' own resources. Other expenditure items are discussed further below.

Bank accounts and exchange rates

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

The following notes make more detailed reference to the income and expenditure headings, in the order in which they appear in the table at the end of this report.

Income

1. *NVMEN*

Payments from Brill in respect of each issue of the IAHR journal *NVMEN* constitute the major guaranteed source of income for IAHR, with \$65,058 provided since 2010. Payments are adjusted upwards annually according to the annual Netherlands euro inflation rate, so that the income maintains its value, in euro at least. The payment started in 2008 at €1504 (euro) per issue and is now €715 per issue, and for six issues per annum rather than five.

2. Annual dues to the IAHR

Annual dues fulfil two main functions. One is symbolic, namely to renew the membership of each constituent member and affiliate association each year. (Failure to pay dues over several years, and despite reminders, means an association may eventually be declared lapsed). The other function is to augment IAHR funds through a small levy on the worldwide membership. In general, member associations pay annual dues promptly, to the great happiness of your treasurer, although a few still need reminders.

The annual levy was set at \$1 per individual member several decades ago and had lost perhaps 80% in value over the years. Consequently in 2013 the Executive raised the annual dues for associations of between 34 and 499 members to \$3 per member and the dues for associations with 500+ members (there are currently only two; Japan and USA) to \$2,000. Smaller associations of fewer than 34 members pay the unchanged minimum rate of \$100. The EC additionally agreed to review the rate at least every five years, i.e. by 2018.

The new dues rates have made a significant difference to dues income. \$11,139 (including some arrears) was collected in 2014 compared with an average of \$4,800 in each of the four previous years. The incoming EC may expect to count on annual dues income of around \$10,000. The following table shows the paid-up status of each association and its size, according to the most recent level (1-3) of dues paid.

Member association dues 2011-2015

(Updated to 5 June 2015)

Categories: 1 = fewer than 34 members/concessions; 2 = 34-499 members; 3 = 500 or more members

Association	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Category (according to latest payment)
Australia		2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Austria	2011	2012	2013	2014		1
Belgium				2014	2015	2
Brazil	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Canada (CSSR)	2011	2012	2013	2014		2
Canada (SQER)						

China	2011	2012	2013	2014		1
Czech Republic	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Denmark	2011	2012	2013	2014		1
Estonia	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Finland	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
France	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Germany	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Greece	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Hungary	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
India	2011	2012	2013	2014		1
Ireland	n/a	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Italy	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Japan	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	3
Latvia	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Lithuania	n/a	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Mexico	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Netherlands	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
New Zealand	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Norway	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Poland	2011					1
Romania	2011	2012	2013	2014		1
Russia	n/a	n/a	2013	2014	2015	2
Slovakia	2011					1
Southern Africa	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
South Korea	2011	2012	2013	2014		1
Spain	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Sweden	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
Switzerland	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
Turkey	2011	2012	2013	2014		1
Ukraine	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	1
United Kingdom	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2
United States AAR	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	3

Affiliate member organisations

ESSWE	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion
IACSR	n/a	2012				International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion
ISORECEA	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Int'l Study of Religion in Eastern & Central Europe Association
ISSRNC	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture
SAMR					(new)	Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions

3. CIPSH

The General Secretary discusses the situation of CIPSH in his report above. From the Treasurer's point of view, CIPSH is now an item of expenditure only; the last grants to IAHR for conference support were received in 2011. In the past, IAHR has paid €600 (euro) per annum dues to CIPSH. It seems likely that in order to balance its books CIPSH may have to ask member associations to increase their annual dues.

4. Donations

As the records show, donations are very welcome but do not figure frequently in the accounts.

5. IAHR Endowment Fund

This fund of \$8,695 had remained unused for a decade and in 2013 the IAHR International Committee meeting in Liverpool agreed that it would be in accordance with the original purpose to use the fund to help deserving scholars to attend the Erfurt Congress. Accordingly, the amount was added to the IAHR's agreed subvention to the Erfurt Congress and has been distributed by the Congress organising committee in line with the agreed criteria for all travel grants.

6. IAHR African Trust Fund

Again, the General Secretary has addressed this topic in his report. From the accounting point of view African Trust Fund payments have been 'in/out' transactions with the exception of \$958 transferred to the fund in 2010 so that it would begin at a 'round' figure of \$12,000. The Executive Committee additionally agreed that awards of up to \$4,000 each year for five years (2011-2015) could be made; potentially a commitment of \$20,000 including a further \$8,000 as needed from general funds. In practice the average awarded was significantly lower than this, at \$1,931 per year. At the time of writing, assessment of 2015 applications is still ongoing but the \$2,346 remaining from the original \$12,000 is expected to be used up this year.

Expenditure

7. Conference support

Since 2010, and initially with support from CIPSH, IAHR has provided financial support to IAHR conferences including \$30,000 to the Toronto World Congress as well as sums of \$1,000-\$2,000 to AASR Conferences in Kenya (2012) and Cape Town (2014) and SSEASR conferences in Bhutan (2011) and Manila (2013). Conference support in the reporting period 2010-14 has averaged \$8,000 p.a., including the IAHR subvention to the Toronto Congress in 2010. In non-Congress years conference support has averaged \$1,700.

Regarding the 2015 Erfurt Congress, the Executive Committee agreed in 2013 to make a subvention in euro to the Erfurt Congress equivalent to \$15,000 plus the IAHR Endowment amount of \$8,695, a total of \$23,695 or €17,297 at the prevailing exchange rate of €0.73 - \$1. The Erfurt conference is budgeted entirely in euro so this subvention within the eurozone has not lost its value despite changing foreign exchange rates. €16,120 of this amount had been paid to the Congress organisers by May 2015 and thus appears (as \$18,112 at the current far higher \$-€exchange rate) in the 2015 part-year accounts.

8. Executive Committee expenses

Crucial to the IAHR's effectiveness is the annual Executive Committee meeting which generally spans two days and is held in a different part of the world each year, adjacent to an IAHR conference which, in most cases, EC members also attend. In practice, most of the costs of EC meetings in the period 2010-2014 have been met by members from their own resources or their university travel funds. For example, in 2013 eleven members met in Cork at a total cost of US\$3,535 (average per person subsidy \$320) while in 2014 IAHR contributed less than \$5,000 in total towards EC members' travel and accommodation for the meeting in Cape Town. Providing EC members with full funding for attendance at EC meetings would have required a significant additional commitment (perhaps \$12,000 annually) from the IAHR budget.

9. IAHR African Trust Fund (see 6 above)

10. IAHR Endowment Fund (see 5 above)

11. CIPSH (see 3 above)

12. Publications and web expenses

Payments include the costs during 2010 of producing printed Congress proceedings from both Durban (2000) and Tokyo (2005). Other payments are largely for webmaster assistance with the iahr.dk website.

13. Bank charges

These are a minor but significant charge on the IAHR's general finances and reflect the scale of bank charges applied to non-personal accounts in Ireland, where the accounts are currently held. They include for example a €15 per month charge for online banking, essential for managing the accounts.

14. Other observations.

The IAHR accounts as currently set up are straightforward current accounts, not interest-bearing accounts. Interest-bearing accounts have not been opened because using IAHR funds to earn interest would automatically render IAHR liable to taxation, which in turn would require IAHR to be legally established (as a charity, business, foundation or similar legal entity) in the country where its accounts happen to be held. Charity law is complex and varies according to national jurisdiction. For example, for IAHR to register as a charity in Ireland would be impossible since the officers of IAHR reside in different countries; nor can IAHR claim charitable exemption from Irish tax on the basis that it has charitable status in another country, because it does not. If registered as a business, IAHR would have to meet tax registration and other requirements connected with operating any business.

It may be that my successor as treasurer will find that IAHR can be registered without much difficulty for tax purposes in another jurisdiction and that interest-bearing accounts can be opened, but I would also observe that the Treasurer's role is sufficiently complicated (at least for an amateur like myself) even without the further layers of complexity, time and expense that would follow from an engagement with the tax authorities.

My thanks are extended to all those treasurers and other officers of IAHR member associations who have over the last five years ensured payment of annual dues in the right amount, at the right time, and to the right IAHR account. Not always easy, I know!

Finally, I would like to thank the President, General Secretary and all of my colleagues on the 2010-2015 Executive Committee for their support, encouragement and patience with regard to my efforts as Treasurer during the period.

Brian Bocking
2 June 2015

IAHR accounts 01/01/2010 - 31/12/2014

	Exchange rate (£/\$) at 31 Dec		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	Totals	Average p.a.	5 months
			\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	2010-14	2010-14	to 31/5/2015
			0.80	0.77	0.76	0.73	0.83			0.89
Opening balance at 1/1 brought fwd			63,529	47,334	67,635	68,217	87,942	63529		94,261
Foreign Exchange gain/loss				1,282	728	2,324	-8,967	-4,633		-5,419
INCOME										
NUMEN			11,350	14,866	8,512	18,049	12,281	65,058	13,012	1,928
Dues			5,159	5,332	4,921	3,787	11,139	30,338	6,068	9,540
CIPSH			11,795	2,079	0	0	0	13,874	2,775	0
Donations			0	121	0	0	2,986	3,107	621	0
IAHR Endowment Fund			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,695
IAHR African Trust Fund			0	4,000	3,535	0	2,119	9,654	1,931	0
Other			0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Total Income (€)			28,304	26,399	16,968	21,836	28,525	122,032	24,406	20,163
EXPENSES										
Conference support			33,395	1,299	3,000	366	2,000	40,060	8,012	18,112
Committee Expenses			5,651	1,229	9,205	3,433	7,570	27,088	5,418	5,107
IAHR African Trust Fund			958	4,000	3,535	0	2,119	10,612	2,122	0
IAHR Endowment Fund			0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CIPSH			0	0	789	0	723	1,512	302	0
Publications & Web			3,020	776	0	311	283	4,390	878	0
Bank charges			0	41	260	325	544	1,170	234	166
Other			1,475	35	325	0	0	1,835	367	0
Total expenses (€)			44,499	7,380	17,114	4,435	13,239	86,667	17,333	23,385
Surplus/deficit			-16,195	19,019	-146	17,401	15,286	35,365		-3,222
Closing balance at 31/12 carried fwd			47,334	67,635	68,217	87,942	94,261	94,261		85,620 (31 May)
IAHR African Trust Fund			12,000	8,000	4,465	4,465	2,346	2,346		2,345
IAHR Endowment Fund			8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695	8,695		0
TOTAL ASSETS at 31 Dec			68,029	84,330	81,377	101,103	105,302	105,302		87,965

Roger Whelan
8 Forester Road, Bath,
Bath & N E Somerset, BA2 6QF
Home 01225 464286, Mobile 07798 500725
r.whelan2007@btinternet.com

Prof Brian Bocking
IAHR Treasurer
Study of Religions Department
UCC
Cork, Ireland

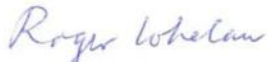
31st May 2015

Dear Prof Bocking,

As requested, I have reviewed the accounts of the International Association for the History of Religions.

I am satisfied that the accounts present a true and fair view of the income and expenditure for the five year period ended 31st December 2014 and of the financial position of the Association as at 31st December 2014.

Sincerely,



Roger Whelan
(former Director of Finance and Administration of NCR Corporation, ME/A Region)

10. Nominations & Candidates for the IAHR Executive Committee 2015-2020

- 1. Nominations from the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee*
- 2. Alternative Nominations submitted by members of the IAHR International Committee*
- 3. List of Total & Final Nominations 2015*
- 4. Elections requiring a vote*

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1. Nominations from the IAHR 2015 Nominating Committee

In the document submitted and in the email sent to the General Secretary, November 4, 2014, Prof. Peter Antes, Chair, stated that the Nominating Committee had taken "into account requirements for geographical and gender balances", and that all the nominees had accepted the nomination.

The nominees for the 12 positions were:

President (one position)

In alphabetical order:

Peter Beyer

Tim Jensen

Vice-Presidents (two positions)

In alphabetical order:

Anne Kubai

Mar Marcos

General Secretary

Afe Adogame

Deputy General Secretary

Ann Taves

Treasurer

Philippe Bornet

Deputy Treasurer

Marion Maddox

Publications Officer

Satoko Fujiwara

Further Members (four positions)

In alphabetical order:

Amarjiva Lochan

Marianna Shakhnovich

Katja Triplett

Frank Usarski

2. Alternative Nominations submitted by members of the IAHR International Committee

The General Secretary had, in due time (deadline May 23, 2015), received the following alternative nominations from member associations of the IAHR International Committee. All nominees have sent letters confirming that they have accepted the nominations.

Vice-President

Veikko Anttonen, Finland. Nominated by the Svenska Samfundet för Religionshistorisk Forskning /Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion

General Secretary

Jenny Berglund, Sweden. Nominated by the Società italiana di storia delle religioni/ Italian Association for the History of Religions

Further Members

In alphabetical order:

Milda Alisauskiene, Lithuania, Nominated by the Ukrayins'ka Asotsiatsiya Religiyeznavtsiv/Ukrainian Association of Religion Researchers

Chae Young Kim, Korea, Nominated by the Magyar Vallástudományi Társaság/Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religions

David Thurfjell, Sweden. Nominated by the Svenska Samfundet för Religionshistorisk Forskning /Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion

3. List of Total & Final Nominations 2015

(names in alphabetical order with names nominated by the IAHR Nominating Committee in italic)

President (one position)

Peter Beyer, Canada

Tim Jensen, Denmark

Vice-Presidents (two positions)

Veikko Anttonen, Finland

Anne Kubai, Sweden

Mar Marcos, Spain

General Secretary (one position)

Afe Adogame, United Kingdom

Jenny Berglund, Sweden

Deputy General Secretary

Ann Taves, USA

Treasurer

Philippe Bornet, Switzerland

Deputy Treasurer

Marion Maddox, Australia

Publications Officer

Satoko Fujiwara, Japan

Further Members (four positions)

Milda Alisauskiene, Lithuania

Chae Young Kim, South Korea

Amarjiva Lochan, India

Marianna Shakhnovich, Russia

David Thurfjell, Sweden

Katja Triplett, Germany

Frank Usarski, Brazil

4. Elections requiring a vote

Since the IAHR Nominating Committee could, as is evident from the nominations submitted, not reach unanimous consensus as regards their nominee for the position as President, and since the named members of the IAHR International Committee have submitted alternative nominations for the posts of Vice Presidents, General Secretary and Further Members, election of the IAHR Executive Committee by the International Committee at its meeting on August 26, 2015 in Erfurt during the IAHR World Congress, consequently must be by a vote as regards the following positions (names in alphabetical order):

President (one position)

Peter Beyer, Canada

Tim Jensen, Denmark

Vice-Presidents (two positions)

Veikko Anttonen, Finland

Anne Kubai, Sweden

Mar Marcos, Spain

General Secretary (one position)

Afe Adogame, United Kingdom

Jenny Berglund, Sweden

Further Members (four positions)

Milda Alisauskiene, Lithuania

Chae Young Kim, Korea

Amarjiva Lochan, India

Marianna Shakhnovich, Russia

David Thurfjell, Sweden

Katja Triplett, Germany

Frank Usarski, Brazil

11. Nominees to the Executive Committee 2015-2020

Statements of Candidacy

According to the “Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR”, point 3.d: “The candidates will be invited to give a brief statement of candidacy in the IAHR Bulletin”. Below, please find the statements from the candidates for the IAHR Executive Committee 2015-2020.

In the case of the following positions, which are contested, a secret ballot of the International Committee will be held:

President
Vice Presidents (2 positions)
General Secretary
Further Members (4 positions).

Candidates for all other positions will be declared elected unopposed (see IAHR “Rules of Procedure” 16g)

Brian Bocking, IAHR Treasurer, 25 June 2015

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Nominees for the position of **PRESIDENT**
(in alphabetical order)

Peter Beyer

Peter Beyer is professor of religious studies and sociology of religion at the University of Ottawa in Ottawa, Canada. Active in the IAHR since 2000, he would bring to the association’s presidency extensive experience serving as president and on the executive councils of numerous academic societies. Between 1995 and 1998, he served in various capacities on the executive of the Association for the Sociology of Religion, and then as its president in 2010-2011. He has acted in similar capacities for other learned societies, including the Religious Research Association and the Society of the Scientific Study of Religion.

He has been on the executive council of the International Society for the Sociology of Religion since 2001, served as vice-president between 2007 and 2011 and as its current president (2011-2015). He has also been vice-president and president of the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion (2000-2006) and president of the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (2006-2008), the latter a constituent member of the IAHR. His primary research interests are in sociological theory of religion, religion and globalization, religion in Canada, and religion in the context of global migration. Publications include *Religion and Globalization* (Sage, 1994), *Religions in Global Society* (Routledge, 2006), *Religion, Globalization and Culture* (co-edited, Brill, 2007), *Religious Diversity in Canada* (co-edited,



Brill, 2008), and *The World's Religions* (co-edited, Routledge, 2009), *Religion in the Context of Globalization* (Routledge, 2013), and *Growing Up Canadian: Muslims, Hindus Buddhists* (co-edited, McGill-Queen's, 2013). He has published over 70 articles and chapters in various journals, including *NVMEN*, and collected volumes. He is currently conducting a 20-year research program featuring qualitative and quantitative studies of the religious expression of immigrant and second generation Muslim, Buddhist, Sikh, Christian, Hindu and non-religious young adults in Canada.

Tim Jensen

Much of my career (for CV and publications, see [link](#)) has been devoted to serving national, regional and international learned societies in order to promote the academic, historical and comparative study of religion(s) worldwide: President of DASR (1997-2005), General Secretary of EASR (2000-2004), and (2005-2015) General Secretary of the IAHR.



IAHR achievements and developments 2005-2015 are documented in extensive reports and minutes in the [IAHR Bulletin](#) 39 & 40, and the [IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement](#). In brief:

The IAHR leadership has continued to do what it is supposed to: making of the IAHR what it boasts to be, namely the "preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present".

The IAHR has developed in terms of membership, geographic representation, cultural diversity, and gender equality. It has greatly improved its finances and can thus put 'globalization' to work, granting substantial funds to secure participation by scholars from all over the world in IAHR business meetings and congresses.

Equally important: it has tightened up its academic profile, making it clear that the IAHR is *not* a forum "for confessional, apologetic or other similar concerns", that, as stated in my 2005 statement of candidacy, 'global', in the language of the IAHR, is not identical to 'ecumenical'.

The task of the General Secretary is to function as the *primus motor* of the IAHR leadership. Though the office of the President is largely honorary and tasks mainly representative, s/he has other important functions: well versed in the history and workings of the IAHR, s/he functions as a source of advice and support to the General Secretary, provides a sense of continuity in the Executive Committee, and helps the IAHR bridge past, present and future.

I'd be honored to serve the IAHR for a final term as President.

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Nominees for the positions of **VICE-PRESIDENT** (2 positions)
(in alphabetical order)

Veikko Anttonen

I am an appointed professor to the chair of Comparative Religion at the School of History, Culture and Arts Studies at the University of Turku, Finland since June 1998. My main area of research is anthropology of religion. For my academic profile, please see <https://veikkoanttonen.wordpress.com/>



Why I should be voted? 1) I am an experienced scholar and have participated actively in the work of learned societies over the past 25 years. I have represented the Finnish Society for the Study of Religion at the International Committee of the IAHR in Quinquennial World Congresses in Mexico, Durban, Tokyo and Toronto. At Erfurt, I have given my services as a member of the programme committee. I am familiar with the changes that has taken place in the IAHR during the past twenty years; especially the expanding of our organisation when new national associations were founded after the collapse of Soviet Union in 1991. 2) I share the aims and goals of the IAHR. I strongly feel that there should be no theological (Christian, Islamic or any other ideological) strings attached whatsoever to ways of marking the place for the study of religion in the academia. I feel that it is a matter of great importance to work for the maintenance of our academic heritage as an empirical, critical, cross-disciplinary field of study and for advancing connections between scholars coming from the humanities, social and natural sciences. 3) I am happy to join forces in making the IAHR even more influential and powerful as a guardian of interests of scholars in the academic study of religion.

Anne Kubai

I hold a PhD of the University of London (1995), Master of Arts, (1988) and Bachelor of Education from the University of Nairobi (1984). My main research interests are, religion and mass violence/ genocide; peace and reconciliation; religion and development; religion and migration; and interreligious relations. I am currently associate professor of World Christianity and Interreligious Studies at the Faculty of Theology, Uppsala University. In the last few years, I have also served as senior researcher at Hugo Valentin Centre for Holocaust and genocide studies, Uppsala University.



I have a long university teaching and research career which started in 1989 at Kenyatta University, Nairobi where I was in charge of Islamic studies. At Kigali Institute of Education in Rwanda, I served as the head of the Department of Religion and Philosophy; and as an expert for the Rwanda Ministry of Education. In 2004, I moved to Sweden to work as Research Director for Life & Peace Institute, an International Ecumenical Center for Peace Research and Action. After that, I worked as Senior Social Scientist at the Department of Public Health Sciences, Karolinska Institute in Stockholm.

At the global level, I have extensive experience with the ecumenical fraternity: for more than a decade, I served as a member of the advisory and reference group for the World Council of Churches Interfaith Desk; and as Vice President of the Program for Christian-Muslim

Relations in Africa (PROCUMURA). I have extensive international and local experience in the academy, ecumenical institutions and communities in Africa, Europe, Middle East and Latin America. I believe that a focus on the role of religion in the current global trends would be an important issue to consider in the future direction/development of IAHR. If elected vice president, I will bring a wealth of diverse international experience and skills accrued over nearly three decades to the IAHR Executive Committee.

Mar Marcos

Mar Marcos has a PhD in History (1990) and is currently Associate Professor in Ancient History/History of Religions in Antiquity at the University of Cantabria (Spain). She has done postdoctoral research at the University of Oxford (1990-1992), and has been Visiting Scholar in Wolfson College Oxford (in 1998), the Université Paris 13 Villataneuse (in 2007), Real Colegio Complutense in Harvard (in 2009) and Corpus Christi College Oxford (in 2014 and 2015). Her research interests



include the History of Religions in Greece and Rome, Early Christianity and Judaism, and Women and Religion in Antiquity. She is currently the Director of a research project on “Strategies for resolving religious conflict in Late Antiquity”. She has written several books and articles on Religious Freedom, Religious Conflict, and Heresy in Late Antiquity (see the most recent titles, as well as a full CV, on academia.edu).

She has been Membership Secretary of the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) 2005-2010, and is currently Deputy General Secretary of the IAHR and a Member of the Steering Committee of the IAHR Women Scholars Network. She is at present the President of the Spanish Association for the Study of Religions (SECR).

Over the past five years, she has served the IAHR at the Executive Committee working closely to the General Secretary. Among her tasks as Deputy General Secretary, she has chaired (with Christoph Bochsinger) the Academic Programme of the XXI World Congress at Erfurt. She has a deep knowledge of the day-to-day work of the IAHR, and her candidacy represents continuity in the hard task of running it. Her knowledge of several languages would be of much help in representing the IAHR, and particularly her mother tongue (Spanish) may help to strength and develop the IAHR relations with the Latin American region.

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Nominees for the position of **GENERAL SECRETARY**
(in alphabetical order)

Afe Adogame

I hold a PhD in History of Religions (1998) from University of Bayreuth, Germany. Currently, I am Associate Professor of Religious Studies/World Christianity; and Director International, New College, University of Edinburgh, UK. I will assume in September 2015 the Upson Professorial Chair of Christianity and Society at Princeton Theological Seminary, USA. My broad teaching/research interests include interrogating new dynamics of religious experiences, expressions in Africa and the African Diaspora, with focus on African Christianity and New Indigenous Religious Movements; the interconnectedness between religion and migration, globalization, politics, economy, media and the civil society. I have published two book monographs; edited/co-edited 14 books; and over 90 essays in peer-reviewed journals and book chapters.



I serve as Secretary, Board of Trustees, IAHR African Trust Fund (2010-2015); General Secretary, African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR) - IAHR member organization (2005-2015); served as Secretary/Treasurer, RC22 Sociology of Religion, International Sociological Association (2010-14); Member of (5) Steering Committees, American Academy of Religion-IAHR member (2008-2015) inter alia. I felt highly honored in accepting the Nominations Committee's unanimous nomination to serve as General Secretary, a role that gives the opportunity to bring my experience to serve the IAHR in a fuller capacity. I demitted roles in AASR and ISA/RC22 to pave way for this more exigent task.

If elected as General Secretary, I promise to discharge my constitutional duties faithfully and to the best of my ability. I shall work, in conjunction with the Executive Committee, to further internationalize IAHR through its modus operandi, publications, and demography; to forge international collaboration and intercultural exchange between scholars; to propose a bi-annual electronic newsletter that complements the website in disseminating activities; to explore new mentoring strategies for early-career scholars/postdoctoral fellows/graduate researchers in contributing to the academic study of religion globally, and in their participation/contribution to IAHR programmes.

Jenny Berglund

I am an Associate Professor at the department for the [Study of Religions at Södertörn University](#) where I served as Head of Department 2010-2013. I am currently also a Visiting Associate Professor at the University of Warwick. I received my M.A. (1999) and PhD (2009) from Uppsala University. My research concerns Islamic Education, Islam in Europe as well as religious education (RE) in general, particularly focusing on minority religious education ([list of publications](#)).



The manifold and growing significance of religion in both public and private spheres, underlines the importance of IAHR as a forum for rigorous scholarly exchange and debate and as a promoter of informed public understanding of religious traditions. As IAHR's

General Secretary, I will continue the hard work of my predecessors in supporting the “critical, analytical and cross cultural study of religion, past and present” anywhere in the world, help organize and contribute to high quality conferences, extend our scholarly networks, and support collaborations with countries and areas where the History of Religions/Study of Religions is new or emerging. I have a strong track record in working with colleagues to forge scholarly collaborations and sharing knowledge and perspectives across national, institutional, and disciplinary boundaries. The rewarding nature of these tasks have been brought home to me through the experiences of co-organizing two IAHR special conferences, and other international scholarly symposia and exchange programs. I see as another key task of the new General Secretary finding new funding for scholars with little or no resources to participate in our international conferences and events.

I have been an active and long-standing member of our sister associations and societies. At present, I am General Secretary of the Swedish Association for the History of Religions ([SSRF](#)), Membership Secretary of the European Association for the Study of Religion ([EASR](#)) where I am also involved in the working group on religious education. I am a member of the Steering Committee of the IAHR Women’s Scholars Network and the co-chair of the Religion and Public School group at the American Academy of Religion (AAR).

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Nominee for the position of **DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY**
To be declared elected

Ann Taves

Ann Taves (BA Pomona College, 1974; MA, PhD University of Chicago, 1983) is Professor of Religious Studies at the University of California at Santa Barbara. Until July 2005, she held faculty appointments at the Claremont School of Theology and Claremont Graduate University. She is a past president of the American Academy of Religion (2010), served on the Council of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (2011-14), and is the president elect of the International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion. She held a fellowship at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford in 2008-2009 and was



elected a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2011. Her academic interests include the historical and scientific study of unusual experiences particularly as they have shaped the Christian tradition and the formation of new religious movements. She has published several books and numerous articles on these topics including *Fits, Trances, and Visions* (1999), *Religious Experience Reconsidered* (2009), and *Revelatory Events* (forthcoming). She supervises the interdisciplinary Religion, Experience, and Mind Lab Group at UCSB, which includes faculty and graduate students from psychology and various subfields within religious studies. More information see:

<http://www.religion.ucsb.edu/people/faculty/ann-taves/>

As Deputy Secretary, I would work closely with the General Secretary, taking on responsibilities as requested and, if involved with the programming of the next world congress, work to ensure a congress of the high quality.

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Nominee for the position of **TREASURER**
To be declared elected

Philippe Bornet

Philippe Bornet (MA, PhD Lausanne, Switzerland) is researching and teaching as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations of the University of Lausanne.

Specialized in the comparative history of religions and south Asian traditions, he studied in Lausanne, Tübingen and at the University of Chicago. His doctoral work is a comparative study of hospitality rituals in Indian and Jewish prescriptive literatures. His current research deals with interactions between India and Europe and more specifically, Swiss missionaries in South India in the beginning of the 20th century. He has been teaching on methods and theories in the study of religion, the history of relations between India and Europe and the history of orientalism. His recent publications include *Rites et pratiques de l'hospitalité*, 2010, *Religions in Play*, 2012 (ed. with M. Burger) and *L'orientalisme des marges* (ed. with S. Gorshenina), 2014.



After an experience of 6 years as General Secretary of the Swiss Society for the Study of Religions (SGR-SSSR), I learned that such associations – despite their limits – can indeed have an important impact on the way the discipline is conducted locally. As for the IAHR, I find all activities encouraging a more global pursuit of the academic study of religions of the highest importance – for example concerning the representation of different academic cultures in conferences or committees, the location of academic venues or the access of scholars to academic publications (both as authors and readers). It is the responsibility of the treasurer to make sure that finances are in good standing, so the IAHR can work efficiently towards these important goals and pursue the whole range of its current activities. Further, it is also the mission of the treasurer to look for additional sources of funding in order to make the development of new activities possible.

Academia.edu page of Philippe Bornet: <http://unil.academia.edu/PhilippeBornet/>

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Nominee for the position of **DEPUTY TREASURER**
To be declared elected

Marion Maddox

BA Hons, PhD (Theology, Flinders, 1992), PhD (Political Philosophy, UNSW, 2000)

Professor of Politics, Macquarie University; Australian Research Council Future Fellow (2011-2015)

http://www.mq.edu.au/about_us/faculties_and_departments/faculty_of_arts/mhpir/staff/staff-politics_and_international_relations/professor_marion_maddox/
<https://mq.academia.edu/MarionMaddox>



I am honoured to be nominated as Assistant Treasurer of IAHR, and apologise that immediate family and health considerations prevent me joining you in Erfurt.

I've written three books on religion and politics in Australia, and co-authored a report on political participation of Australian Muslims. I'm currently completing a four-year, three-country comparative study of religion-state relations, concentrating on religion in schools.

I taught Religious Studies at the University of South Australia (1991-96) and Victoria University Wellington (2000-2008), and Politics at the University of Adelaide (1997-8) and now Macquarie University, where I was Director, Centre for Research on Social Inclusion (2008-2011). Visiting fellowships have included the Australian National University (Politics), the University of Adelaide (Politics), the University of Newcastle (Religion) and Sciences-Po Aix en Provence (Religion). I am a member of the College of Experts for the Australian Research Council, was for several years a grant assessor for the Australian Federation of University Women, and sit on the editorial boards of *Journal for the Academic Study of Religion* and *International Journal of Public Theology*.

In the early 2000s, I served as Treasurer of the New Zealand Association for the Study of Religion and as Vice-President and then President of the Australian Association for the Study of Religions. I am currently the AASR's contact person for the IAHR Women Scholars Network, and convene the AASR's mentoring program for women scholars.

I hope to strengthen the Australian and New Zealand associations' links with IAHR, and work with the Treasurer to continue stabilising and strengthening the association's financial position

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Nominee for the position of **PUBLICATIONS OFFICER**
To be declared elected

Satoko Fujiwara

Associate Professor/Chair, Department of the Study of Religions,
University of Tokyo
Member of the Science Council of Japan

Education:

Ph. D. in History of Religions, The Divinity School, University of Chicago (2001)

M. A. in Study of Religions, University of Tokyo (1988)

Specialization:

theories of religious studies, comparative study of religious education



I have been serving on the IAHR executive committee as a member without portfolio since 2010. I have attended every meeting of the committee and learned about the IAHR's continuous efforts to enhance both the diversity and the quality of the study of religions. As an active participant, I was able to develop my thoughts on this major challenge of the IAHR, which seems to have become even more serious in this century, and was given a chance to contribute a chapter to the *NVMEN*'s 60th anniversary publication (T. Jensen & A. W. Geertz eds). I am now ready to take a more specific role to help tackle the challenge with (re)elected committee members and feel grateful to have been nominated as Publications Officer. Back in the 1980s, when I was initiated into the study of religions at the University of Tokyo, N. Tamaru (then chair of the department and former honorary life member of the IAHR)

introduced me and other students to essential works in the field: above all, *NVMEN*, the NVMEN Book Series and the Religion and Reason Series, along with the names of some IAHR scholars. Reflecting on this illustrious tradition, I realize the amount of responsibility attached to the position of Publications Officer. My primary objective will be to keep the new IAHR book series project moving on the right track. I also intend to help the General Secretary update the IAHR website with useful information, including all IAHR conference related publications.

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Nominees for the positions of **FURTHER MEMBER** (4 positions)
(in alphabetical order)

Milda Alisauskiene

I am grateful to the Ukrainian Society for the Study of Religions for nominating my candidacy for the IAHR Executive committee.

I hold a Ph.D. in Sociology from Vytautas Magnus University (VMU), Kaunas, Lithuania. Since 2011 I work as an associate professor at VMU, where teach courses on Sociology of Religion, Religion and Politics and New Religious Movements. Since 2012 I am Head of Dept. of Sociology at VMU.



My research interests are religion in contemporary post-socialist society, religious diversity and fundamentalism, new religious and spiritual movements, social exclusion of religious minorities.

In 2011 together with Ingo W. Schroder I co-edited a book “Religious Diversity in Post-Soviet Society” published by Ashgate. I am a member of the editorial boards of *International Journal for the Study of New Religions (IJSNR)* and *Religion and Society in Central and Eastern Europe (RASCEE)*.

I am a member of the International Study of Religions in Central and Eastern Europe Association (ISORECEA), International Society for the Study of New Religions (ISSNR) and International Sociological Association. In 2011 together with colleagues we reestablished the Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions where I serve as the head of organization until now. Since 2011 LSSR is a member of EASR and IAHR, since 2013 I am member of the IAHR Women Scholars Network.

My participation in the IAHR Executive Board firstly I see as a means for developing and strengthening of religious studies in Lithuania and other countries of Central and Eastern Europe, i.e. the region that more than fifty years was covered with Iron Curtain without much space in the academies for these studies. Being a member of the IAHR Executive Board I have an aim to initiate the establishment associations of religious studies in the CEE countries where there are no such associations and to strengthen cooperation between the existing associations for religious studies, to organize joint conferences and other academic events. I hope that my experience in the field of religious studies, both academic and organizational will serve for the future development of IAHR.

Chae Young Kim

I am currently the Professor and Chair of Religious Studies at Sogang University and the President of the Korean Association for Religious Studies. My degrees are from Seoul National University in Korea (1986, M.A.), Madras Christian College, University of Madras in India (1988, M.A.), and University of Ottawa in Canada (1992 Ph.D.). I am also serving as an editorial board member in international journal, *Religion*, and as an international advisory board member in *British Journal of Religious Education*

My fields of research and teaching are Theory of Religion and Methodology of Religious Studies, Philosophy of Religion, Psychology of Religion, Religious Education, and Thanatology. I have published books and articles on Philosophy of Religion, Religious Education, and Korean Christianity. I am also the translator of William James's *The Varieties of Religious Experience* and Ernest Becker's *The Denial of Death* into Korean. Some of my articles in English are: 'William James and Bernard Lonergan on Religious Conversion' (*The Heythrop Journal*, 2010), 'Bernard Lonergan's Approach to Religious Value in a Pluralistic Age' (*Gregorianum*, 2012), and 'Bernard Lonergan and Raymond Panikkar on Faith' (*Journal of Dharma*, 2013).

I have been participating in IAHR international conferences to present my papers in several sections. I also attended several regional IAHR related conferences held in Asia. Through this attendance, I have thought that IAHR should be more connected to the regional association for the academic study of religion in Asia, especially East Asia and also South Asia. Actually there is no a single association for the study but more diverse associations across Asia. So IAHR should be reached to the diverse academic associations. In this sense, if possible, with various experiences with my fellow Asian scholars of matters of religion, I would like to play a role to let diverse associations be linked online and offline in the occasion of the diverse religion related conferences and workshops. Furthermore, I would like to invite academic associations for religious studies in our globe to pay attention to the academic study of the religious situation in secluded regions such as North Korea



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Born in Gaya, the city associated with the Enlightenment of Buddha, I graduated from the University of Delhi, India and teach History and Religions of India with special reference to the Indic elements in Southeast Asia. I am the Editor of two international journals (the SSEASR Journal and the Sanskrit Studies Journal, Bangkok), and keep writing on the syncretic nature of the religions in Southeast Asia, the role of the Brahmin priests in Thailand (for which I received **Ford scholarship**), Hindu-Buddhist art and the changing faces of Buddhism. My publications include five books/monographs and 54 research articles. I have widely travelled for academic reasons both in the region and all over

the globe. I am Visiting Professor at five places outside India besides being Board members of several religious studies centres in India and abroad. I was awarded for **the Best Research on South East Asia** in 2006. In 2014, **International Award for Academic Excellence** was given to me in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

In my first term, I have worked intentionally to expand the academic network of IAHR in the regions of Asia. A new association in Philippines has been launched under my supervision and constant guidance which is known as **Philippines Association for the Study of Culture, History and Religion(PASCHR; <http://paschr.blogspot.in/>)** and it is going to seek status of national affiliation at Erfurt. Similar effort is taking shape in Malaysia and Bangladesh. **I am committed to take up any challenge entrusted by IAHR** to see larger academic cooperation between the national associations and young scholars. At present, I am the President of the SSEASR (South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion).

Marianna Shakhnovich

Professor Marianna Shakhnovich

Saint-Petersburg State University, Russia

Institute of Philosophy

Department of Philosophy of Religion and Religious Studies, Chair

Dr.Habil. in the History of Philosophy and Philosophy of Religion,
State Saint-Petersburg University, Russia (2000).

2011– Secretary of the Governing Council of the Association for Russian Centers for Study of Religions; Head of Organizing Committee of the I and the II Congresses of the Association for Russian Centers for Study of Religions (2012, 2014 – Saint-Petersburg).

2010– Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association for the History of Religions

2011–2014 Member of an international panel of experts convened by the Council of Europe and the European Wergeland Centre (the head – Prof. R. Jackson) preparing “Signposts - Policy and practice for teaching about religions and non-religious world views in intercultural education” (2014)

More than 150 articles and books, among them:

Religion in Contemporary Public Education in Russia//Crossing and Crosses. Borders, Education, and Religious in Northern Europe. Ed. By Jenny Berglund, Thomas Lunden and Peter Strandbrink. Berlin/Boston: De Gruyter, 2015. P. 123-138.

The Religious Dimension of Intercultural Education and the Search for Identity//

H.Hofmeister, I. Mikirtumov (Hrsg.) *Krise der lokalen Kulturen und die philosophische Suche nach Identität*. Peter Lang: 2014. S.212-224.

The Academy of Sciences' Museum of the History of Religion and Study of Religion in Russia (1932-1961). (with T. Chumakova). St.-Petersburg, Nauka, 2014.

The Process of Transformations of Religions. (Ed.). Saint-Petersburg: St.Petersburg Univ.Publ., 2013.

Religion in the Changing World (Ed.). Saint-Petersburg: St.Petersburg Univ.Publ., 2012

The Religious Studies: History, Phenomenology, Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology of Religion. Manual for Students. (Ed.). Saint-Petersburg: Piter, 2012 (2nd revised ed.).



Member of the Editorial Board of the Journals: “The Study of Religion” (In Russian) (2001); “State, Religion and Church in Russia and Worldwide” (In Russian) (2008); “NVMEN” (2012).

David Thurfjell

I am a professor in the study of Religions at Södertörn University in Stockholm, Sweden. I received my doctoral degree in History of Religions from Uppsala University (2003) and have since published widely within the fields of Islamic and Romani studies. My academic interests include secularization and religious change, religion among Romani people, Iranian and Shi’ite studies, Pentecostal studies, ritual and postcolonial theory. I am the author of the monographs *Living Shi’ism* (Brill 2006), *Faith and revivalism in a Nordic Romani Community* (I.B. Tauris 2013) and *The godless people: the post-Christian swedes and religion* (Molin & Sorgenfrei 2015).



I have a wide interest for international scholarly collaborations, particularly with Middle Eastern countries. Together with a group of Arab scholars I co-authored the *UNESCO guidebook for history textbook authors writing on Europe and the Arabo-Islamic world* (UNESCO/ISESCO 2011). I have a wide network of scholarly contacts in the Middle East, especially in Iran, I am a board member of the Swedish research institute in Istanbul and in 2015 I organized a symposium about religion and jurisprudence bringing together scholars from Europe and Iraq.

I am the sitting president of the Swedish association for the history of religions (SSRF) and I have been an active part in the struggle to revitalize the Swedish engagement in the international organizations, not least through the organization of two larger IAHR special conferences, *Religion on the borders* (2007) and *Ends and beginnings* (2012) each attracting more than 400 participants from across the globe.

Katja Triplett

University of Göttingen, Germany

Currently professor of the Study of Religions with a focus on East Asian religions, religion & medicine, and visual religious culture. After graduating from the University of Marburg, Germany in the Study of Religions, Japanese Studies and Anthropology she obtained her PhD in Marburg and held post-doc positions at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, at University of Marburg and LMU Munich. She also spent some years in Kyoto, Japan. For a list of publications and more info see: <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/417062.html>



After taking over as Editor of the (formerly) IAHR bibliography *Science of Religion. Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles* in 2004 she was affiliated to the EC for some time which gave her direct insights into the work of the IAHR.

Katja has been engaged in both the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) and the German Association (DVRW) in various capacities: Internet Officer (2008-

2013), supporting the EASR in managing its electronic platforms. Her present office is EASR Deputy General Secretary. In 2013, she was re-elected Vice Chair of the German Association for a second four-year term. She primarily supports its international relations, being engaged for instance, together with the DVRW Chair and other members, in the local organizing committee of the Erfurt Congress. She also coordinated the selection process of the DVRW dissertation award this term.

Katja would like to support the IAHR especially as to the growth of its newly launched book series *The Study of Religion in a Global Context*. Since 2013 she has been its Managing Editor and assisted in the communication between the Editors and Equinox Publishing. She sees it as an important task of the IAHR to encourage innovative academic research in the Study of Religions by facilitating an international publication platform.

Frank Usarski

Pontificia Universidade Católica de São Paulo

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The election of a candidate associated with a Brazilian University would contribute to the recognition of the richness and originality of Studies of Religion in Latin America often neglected by the international scientific community.



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12. PROPOSAL FOR A CHANGE OF NAME OF THE IAHR

[The below text is the original proposal and argument for a change of name written and signed by Profs. Donald Wiebe and Luther H. Martin and submitted to the IAHR General Secretary on August 28, 2014]

A RATIONALE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME FOR THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE HISTORY OF RELIGIONS

A History of the Discussion

Issues with the name of the “International Association for the History of Religions” have been with the IAHR from the beginning. The original name for the Association at the founding meeting in 1950 was the “International Association for the Study of the History of Religions (IASHR). In 1955 this was changed to the Association’s current name – The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR).

A further change of name was contemplated in 1960 suggesting the name “International Association for the Science of Religion” (IASR). This discussion was generated by the participation of a number of scholars at the Marburg International Congress of the IAHR whose academic work was largely theological and metaphysical. The proposed new name was rejected, however, because it was thought that it might permit “the entry of philosophy into the field.”

The same issue was raised again at the 1965 International Congress of the IAHR held in Claremont, California. The plenary addresses by C. J. Bleeker and Wilfred Cantwell Smith amounted to a public clash of commitments as to what was to be considered an appropriate approach to the study of religions within the IAHR. This conflict in methodologies revealed a profound dissatisfaction with the IAHR on several levels, but especially with respect to the name of the Association. The Americans maintained that the emphasis on history was a flat refusal to incorporate the social-scientific approaches they considered important. A sub-committee was set up by the Executive of the IAHR to look into these matters; the sub-committee decided that a change of name was not necessary.

The question regarding the name of the Association was raised again by a member of the Executive Committee in 1986 (IAHR Bulletin, 3; September, 1986), but the issue was not taken up seriously until the meeting of the Executive Committee in Burlington Vermont in 1991 which referred the issue of a motion for a change of name to the International Committee in Paris in 1993. Professors Peter Antes and Donald Wiebe were asked to prepare a statement on the problem in preparation for the 1993 discussion. This is the first time in the several decades that this divisive issue which had negatively impacted the IAHR was aired publicly. As the Antes/Wiebe statement put it: “Little of the discussion and debate of this topic has ever appeared in print, but that is not a true indication of the importance of the issue, both at the meetings of national member associations and at the various meetings of congresses of the International Association.” (An account of this subterranean dispute from 1960 to the present is provided by Wiebe in “Memory, Text, and Interpretation: A Critical Appreciation of IAHR International Congresses – 1975-2010” in Tim Jensen (ed.), *Looking Back and Looking Forward: Past, Present, and Prospects of NVMEN and the IAHR*, Brill; forthcoming.)

The International Committee discussed the question of a change of name for the Association at its 1993 meeting in Paris. After lengthy debate and compromise, a

recommendation was made to change the name of the Association to the International Association for the Study of Religion (IASR). The motion for the change of name was presented to the General Assembly at the 1995 International Congress of the IAHR in Mexico City but was defeated.

This synopsis of the history of the discussion of the name of the Association shows that there has never been a clear consensus about "International Association for the History of Religions" (IAHR) which has caused serious friction and contention for more than fifty years.

Summary of the Antes-Wiebe Statement

1. Practical Reasons for the Change of Name:

- a. Many member associations do not use the "History of Religions" locution; nor is that locution found to name very many university departments committed to the study of religions;
- b. The name does not reflect the breadth of scholarship found in departments;
- c. The name is too restrictive to account for the types of scholarship and research in societies and associations committed to the study of religions;
- d. A change of name might assist in the raising of funds to support this kind of research.

2. Theoretical Reasons for the Change of Name:

- a. The name was inappropriate at its adoption because the group of scholars it defined was committed only to the historical and phenomenological study of religions;
- b. A strict interpretation of the name was too restrictive in that it excluded the social sciences; Used as a technical term, the name suggested that the enterprise was an autonomous intellectual exercise unrelated to the broad field of scientific and scholarly study of religion;
- c. That the name suggested openness to religio-theological research;
- d. That the name had Eurocentric overtones and related only to philological and historical research.

3. Practical Reasons for Retention of the Name:

- a. A change of name could lead to a loss of identity of the Association;
- b. A loss of that recognisability could negatively affect fund raising for the Association;
- c. A change of name could make relating to member associations more difficult;

4. Theoretical Reasons for Retention of the Name:

- a. "Religious Studies" in the name would fail to represent accurately the character of the scholarship of the Association's members – that is, the Association is not a general rubric for a field of studies but rather a specific discipline;
- b. A change of name that is too inclusivist could "water down" the scientific character of the Association and a decline of academic standards.

Renewing the Proposal for a Change of Name of the Association

Introduction.

In July of 2012 the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion (IASR) invited several Honorary Life Members of the IAHR (Luther H. Martin, Michael Pye, Donald Wiebe, and Armin Geertz), and two members of the Association at large (Panayotis Pachis and Christoph Bochinger) to "A Discussion on the Future of The International Association for the History of Religions." Five major topics (among others) were discussed:

- i) The purpose of the IAHR
- ii) "Political Objectives" of the IAHR
- iii) The structure and operation of the IAHR
- iv) The financial viability of the IAHR
- v) The Quinquennial Congresses of the IAHR

A report of our deliberations was sent for consideration to the Executive Committee of the IAHR.

The first two questions considered under the rubric "The purpose of the IAHR" were:

- i) *Does the IAHR need to make clearer to its national and regional associations and affiliates that the IAHR is not a forum for confessional or political concerns?* and
- ii) *Would a change of name of the Association to more clearly reflect our scientific objectives make a difference in this regard?*

After lengthy discussion and debate of possible objections to a change in the Association's name of the kind referred to in the Antes-Wiebe statement, this group included the following friendly advice to the Executive Committee of the IAHR in the report on its deliberations:

"That the Executive Committee of the IAHR recommend to the International Committee a change from "The International Association for the History of Religions," IAHR, to "The International Association for the Scientific Study of Religions (IASSR), to be taken to the General Assembly of the IAHR at its 2015 quinquennial world congress...."

The Executive Committee discussed this suggestion and brought the matter before the International Committee at its meeting in Liverpool in 2013.

The IASR proposal presented to the International Committee in Liverpool in 2013 was that the current name of the Association be replaced with: **the International Association for the Scientific Study of Religions (IASSR)**. The reasons for the name proposed was to signal to "the academy" that the Association involved not only philological and historical research but also natural and social scientific approaches in the study of religions. Inclusion of the adjective "scientific" was motivated by the concern over the possibility that the Association might be seen as willing to include religious, theological, and metaphysical agendas. There was no interest in changing the name to the Association for "the study of religions" because of its indiscriminate inclusivism, or for "the academic study of religions" because religio-theological and metaphysical studies of religion are included in many college and university departments.

The IASR Consultation Revised Recommendation

The change of name proposed by and discussed in Liverpool persuaded the members of the IASR consultation present at the meeting that changing the name to International Association for the Scientific Study of Religion could endanger the traditional historical focus of the IAHR. Whereas some members of the Association might consider history to be a scientific enterprise many others regard history as one of the humanities in contrast to science. Consequently, we now propose for consideration the following change of name for the Association: **the International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religions (IAHSSR)**. This name pays respect to our tradition of philological and historical studies of religions, points clearly to our stated scientific agenda in our Statutes, and excludes – without causing offense – religious, theological, metaphysical, mystical, and other such agendas from our annual and quinquennial meetings. The proposed name for the Association not only retains an important element of the IAHR brand, it enhances the brand by acknowledging in the Association's name the other scientific approaches to the study of religions it supports.

This proposal is made with the recognition that a change of the name of the Association simply for the sake of change is unwarranted. We believe that the change of name being proposed will improve upon the present name in that it will better represent the aims, goals, and intentions of the Association first established by the group of scholars responsible for the first international congress in Paris in 1900. It will improve upon the current name in reducing the methodological ambiguity implicit in the phrase "History of Religions" while still retaining the traditional name and focus of the IAHR (i.e., history). And, given the concerns over what many have considered the Eurocentric character of the IAHR, the name being proposed will better represent forty-nine societies, associations, and affiliates of the IAHR (of which only eight use the designation "History of Religions").

There can be no doubt that too inclusivist a name for the Association like the "International Association for the Study of Religion" (IASR) could well be seen as an invitation to philosophers, theologians, and others of similar bent to join the Association. A name like the "International Association for the Academic Study of Religion" (IAASR) would fare no better since there are theologians and philosophers who study religion and do so in the academy – that is, in colleges and universities around the world.

The current name of the Association has served it well for much of its history and in part still points to essential aspects of the Association's goals. However, the Association's current name does not fully reflect the scientific developments in the study of religions over the past few decades, nor "recognize" its members who are responsible for the expansion of the scientific objectives of the Association or those engaged in both the social and natural sciences which complement the work of the philologists and historians. Therefore we ask for your support for the motion to change the name of the Association to **the International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religions (IAHSSR)**.

Donald Wiebe, Trinity College in the University of Toronto
Luther H. Martin, University of Vermont

13. Proposal for changing 'General Secretary' to 'Secretary General'

Proposal, from the IAHR Executive Committee 2010-2015, for Changing [IAHR] 'General Secretary' to 'Secretary General'

The IAHR Executive Committee 2010-2015 herewith proposes that 'General Secretary' be changed to 'Secretary General' wherever it figures in the IAHR Constitution and By-Laws.

In some parts of the world, including maybe some French speaking parts of the world, 'Secretary General' carries more weight, i.e. signals, better than does 'General Secretary', the importance and dignity of the office and officer in question.

14. The IAHR Constitution and By-Laws

IAHR Constitution

As accepted and confirmed by the General Assembly of the IAHR at its XIIth World Congress held in Stockholm on August 22nd 1970 and amended by the General Assembly at the XIIIth World Congress held in Lancaster on August 22nd 1975, at the XVIth World Congress held in Rome on September 3rd 1990, at the XVIIIth World Congress held in Durban on August 12th 2000, at the XIXth World Congress held in Tokyo on March 30th 2005, and at the XXth World Congress held in Toronto on August 21, 2010.

Article 1

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

Article 2

The IAHR seeks to achieve this object:

- (a) by holding quinquennial congresses, IAHR sponsored special and regional conferences, and occasional symposia and colloquia;
- (b) by encouraging the publication of the Proceedings of such congresses, conferences and meetings;
- (c) by assisting the formation of national and regional associations of scholars of religions;
- (d) by encouraging and sponsoring publications of general interest to the academic study of religions: e.g. an international journal, bibliographical bulletins, monograph series
- (e) by taking all appropriate steps to encourage and further the cross-cultural, academic study of religions.

Article 3A

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

Article 3B

To the IAHR may be affiliated:

- (a) International associations for the study of particular areas within the academic study of religions
- (b) Individual scholars for whom there is no appropriate national or regional society.

Provisional affiliation is effected by application to the Executive and International Committees and full affiliation by approval of the General Assembly on the recommendation of the Executive and International Committees.

Article 4

The work of the IAHR is carried out through (a) the General Assembly; (b) the International Committee; and (c) the Executive Committee.

(a) The General Assembly of the Association meets at each quinquennial congress and is composed of all members of constituent societies and associations present at that congress. The General Assembly may take action only on matters referred to it from the International Committee, and it may refer any matter to the International or Executive Committees for consideration and support.

(b) The International Committee is composed of:

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

(c) 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 the academic study of religions is pursued in its various disciplines.

A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, shall submit nominations for the next Executive Committee to the members of the International Committee by mail not more than twelve months and not less than nine months prior to each international congress. Members of the International Committee may propose alternative nominations not less than three months prior to each quinquennial 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.

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 for more than two terms and no one member shall serve for more than four terms in total. In the event of the death or resignation of any serving officer of the Association, a suitable replacement may be nominated after consultation among the remaining officials, and shall serve, subject to the written approval of a majority of members of the Executive Committee, until the next quinquennial congress.

Article 5

The Executive Committee shall normally meet once a year. The General Secretary shall circulate the minutes of such meetings to all members of the Executive Committee. A meeting of the Executive Committee requires a minimum attendance of five of its members.

Article 6

The International Committee shall meet once on the occasion of each quinquennial congress between the meeting of the Executive Committee and that of the General Assembly, and once between consecutive quinquennial congresses. It reports to the General Assembly. A meeting of the International Committee requires a minimum attendance of ten members from a minimum of seven constituent national or regional societies or associations.

Article 7A

The resources of the IAHR consist of: annual contributions paid by the constituent societies, affiliated societies and individual members, the amount of which is assessed by the Executive Committee; and grants, donations and other sources of revenue. An audited report will be submitted to the International Committee at every quinquennial congress.

Article 7B

One of the most important rights and privileges of constituent national and regional member societies and associations 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 IAHR membership dues.

Article 8

The Constitution may be modified only by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the International Committee.

IAHR Constitution and By-Laws

IAHR Rules of Procedure

(Adopted by the International Committee of the IAHR on August 9, 2000 in Durban, South Africa; revised to accommodate constitutional changes adopted by the General Assembly of the IAHR on August 12, 2000; revised by the International Committee of the IAHR on May 10, 2003 in Bergen, Norway; revised to accommodate a new agreement with Brill on *NVMEN* by the International Committee of the IAHR on September 10, 2008 in Brno, Czech Republic; revised by the International Committee of the IAHR on August 18, 2010 in Toronto and, as regards constitutional changes, adopted by the General Assembly of the IAHR following the adoption of a revised constitution on August 21, 2010 in Toronto.)

I. Membership

Rule 1.

1.a. Constituent member societies and associations are national and regional bodies with provisional or full membership of the IAHR (Article 3A of the Constitution) and whose membership has not lapsed.

1.b. Affiliates are international associations or individuals with provisional or full affiliation to the IAHR and whose affiliation has not lapsed.

1.c. IAHR membership or affiliation will be declared lapsed by the Executive Committee, or the International Committee, or the General Assembly, if any dues remain unpaid after six consecutive notifications within a period of 18 months. Where any dues remain unpaid for three years, the society's name will be struck from the list.

1.d. The General Assembly of the IAHR is composed of "all members of constituent societies and associations present at the congress" [Article 4.a of the Constitution].

1.e. The International Committee is composed of "(i) two representatives from each of the constituent national and regional societies and associations; (ii) the Executive Committee (see below); and (iii) up to four individual members co-opted by the International Committee on the recommendation of the Executive Committee" [Article 4.b of the Constitution].

1.f. "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." [Article 4.c of the Constitution].

1.g. Members of the Editorial Board of *NVMEN* are appointed by the IAHR Executive Committee. As a rule the Editorial Board consists of the IAHR Executive Committee.

The Managing and Reviews Editors are appointed by the Publisher on the recommendation of the IAHR Executive Committee, and the Publisher draws up separate contracts with these editors in conformity with the overall contract between the Publisher and the IAHR.

The duration of the appointment of the Editor(s) will be stipulated in the contracts, but as a rule the period is five years.

The legal relationship between the IAHR and Brill Publishers is stipulated in a contract signed by the parties on December 7, 2007. The contract will be in force for a period of ten years from this date, i.e. until December 6, 2017.

The contract will then be renewed automatically for ten years, unless notice in writing is given by either party at least twelve (12) months before the date of termination of the contract.

II. Sessions

Rule 2. Frequency of Sessions

2.a. The General Assembly shall meet at each quinquennial international congress.

2.b. The International Committee "shall meet once on the occasion of each quinquennial congress between the meeting of the Executive Committee and that of the General Assembly, and once between consecutive quinquennial congresses." [Article 6 of the Constitution].

2.c. "The Executive Committee shall meet normally once a year. [Article 5 of the Constitution]. Decisions made in consultation with Executive Committee members in the interim must be confirmed at the next formal meeting.

2.d. The Editorial Board of NVMEN normally meets in conjunction with the Executive Committee meetings.

Rule 3. Convocation

3a. All sessions shall be convened by the President of the IAHR.

3.b. If for any reason the President is unable to convene a session, one of the Vice-Presidents of the IAHR shall convene it.

3.c. If for any reason the Vice-Presidents are unable to convene a session, the General Secretary or Deputy General Secretary shall convene it.

3.d. The General Secretary shall notify the officers of the constituent societies and/or the members of the Executive Committee concerning the date, place and provisional agenda of each session at the latest one month in advance.

3.e. It is the duty of the officers of the constituent societies to communicate such notification to their members concerning the General Assembly.

3.f. It is the duty of the officers of the constituent societies to communicate such notification to their respective delegates concerning the International Committee meetings.

Rule 4. Date and Place

4.a. The General Assembly meets at the location and time of the quinquennial congress.

4.b. The International Committee meets at the location and time of the quinquennial congress. In addition, the session between consecutive quinquennial congresses shall be held at the location and time of an IAHR conference.

4.c. The Executive Committee will normally meet at the location and time of an IAHR conference.

III. Participants

Rule 5. Delegations

5.a. The General Assembly consists of all individual members of fully paid-up constituent societies and associations of the IAHR present at the quinquennial congress.

5.b. Each constituent national or regional society and association shall provide the General Secretary of the IAHR with a list of paid-up individual members who shall thus be recognized as voting members of the General

Assembly. Members of affiliated societies of the IAHR may attend a General Assembly but do not have the right to vote.

5.c. The executive committee of each constituent national or regional society and association appoints no more than two representatives to each International Committee meeting. These are normally, but not necessarily, the president and secretary of the constituent society or association. In addition, each affiliated association may appoint no more than one (non-voting) representative to attend each International Committee meeting.

5.d. Members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR are members of the International Committee but may not serve as representatives for their constituent societies or associations at the International Committee meetings.

5.e. It is the duty of the officers of each constituent or affiliated society and association to notify the General Secretary of the IAHR of the name(s) of the designated representative(s).

5.f. On 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.

Rule 6. Observers and Consultants

On the recommendation of the Executive Committee, the International Committee may allow observers and/or consultants to participate in its sessions. They shall not have the right to vote.

IV. Agenda

Rule 7. Provisional Agenda

The provisional agenda of each session shall be prepared by the General Secretary.

Rule 8. Adoption of the Agenda

The Executive and International Committees and the General Assembly shall adopt their agendas at the beginning of each session.

Rule 9. Amendments, Deletions and New Items

The Executive and International Committees and the General Assembly may amend, delete or add items to the agenda so adopted if so decided by a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting.

V. Conduct of Business

Rule 10. Quorum

10.a. "A meeting of the International Committee requires a minimum attendance of ten members from a minimum of seven national or regional societies and associations" [Article 6 of the Constitution].

10.b. "A meeting of the Executive Committee requires a minimum attendance of five of its members" [Article 5 of the Constitution].

10.c. A meeting of the Editorial Board of NVMEN requires a minimum attendance of five of its members.

Rule 11. Consultative Bodies

11.a. The Executive and International Committees and the General Assembly may create such consultative bodies as deemed necessary for the performance of the Committees or General Assembly.

11.b. The Executive and International Committees and the General Assembly shall define the composition and terms of reference of such consultative bodies at the time of their creation, or the Executive and International Committees and the General Assembly may decide to ask the General Secretary to define such composition and terms of reference within a specified period of time.

11.c. The afore-mentioned rule (11.b) does not include the Nominating Committee of the Executive Committee elections (see Rule 16).

11.d. Each consultative body shall elect its Chairman and, if necessary, its Rapporteur.

Rule 12. Order and Time-limit of Speeches

12.a. The presiding officer shall call upon speakers in the order in which they signify their wish to speak.

12.b. The presiding officer may limit the time allowed to each speaker if the circumstances make this desirable.

12.c. Consultants and observers referred to in Rule 6 may address the meeting with the prior consent of the presiding officer.

Rule 13. Points of Order

13.a. During a discussion, any member may raise a point of order. Such point of order shall be immediately decided upon by the presiding officer.

13.b. An appeal may be made against the ruling of the presiding officer. Such appeal shall be put to the vote immediately, and the presiding officer's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 14. Closure of Debate

14.a. The presiding officer may decide the closure of debate when the important pros and cons have been duly introduced or if there are pressures of time.

14.b. An appeal may be made against the ruling of the presiding officer. Such appeal shall be put to the vote immediately and the presiding officer's ruling shall stand unless overruled by a majority of the members present and voting.

Rule 15. Voting

15.a. Voting rights at the General Assembly are the privilege of those who are confirmed as members of a fully paid-up constituent member society or association. The General Secretary, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, shall alone determine whether a constituent society or association is fully paid up at the time of a vote to be taken by the General Assembly. Individual affiliates and members of affiliated associations may be present at the General Assembly, but may not vote.

15.b. Each member of the International Committee shall have one vote. Voting rights at the International Committee are the privilege of representatives of fully paid-up constituent national or regional member societies and associations. The General Secretary, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, shall alone determine whether a constituent society or association is fully paid up at the time of any vote to be taken by the International Committee. One appointed representative of an affiliate member association may be present at the International Committee, but may not vote.

15.c. Decisions of the committee or General Assembly on matters covered by the provisions of the Constitution of the IAHR shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds of its members present and voting.

15.d. Decisions of the General Assembly to modify the Constitution of the IAHR (on the recommendation of the International Committee as specified in article 8 the constitution) shall be taken by a majority of two-thirds of its members present and voting.

15.e. All other decisions of the committee or the General Assembly shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting.

15.f. Decisions as to whether a particular matter is covered by the provisions of the Constitution and decisions on any other matters not covered by the present Rules shall be taken by a majority of the members present and voting.

15.g. Voting shall normally be by a show of hands with the exception of electoral procedures (see Rules 16.g & 16.h).

15.h. When the result of a vote by a show of hands is in doubt, the presiding officer may take a second vote by a roll-call. A vote by a roll-call shall also be taken if it is requested by not less than two members before the voting takes place.

15.i. The results of the vote can be noted by the presiding officer as "an overwhelming majority show of hands" unless the situation warrants specification or unless two or more members request specification.

Rule 16. Electoral Procedures for the Executive Committee

16.a. "A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, shall submit nominations for the next Executive Committee to the members of the International Committee by mail not more than twelve months and not less than nine months prior to each international congress" [Article 4.c of the Constitution].

16.b. "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].

16.c. The rules and regulations concerning the nominating process are found in *Nominating Procedure for Members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR*, dated May 24, 1998, revised to accommodate constitutional changes adopted by the General Assembly of the IAHR on August 12, 2000, and by the General Assembly of the IAHR on August 21, 2010.

16.d. "The International Committee, at its meeting just preceding the General Assembly, shall elect the Executive Committee and shall report this to the General Assembly" [Article 4.c of the Constitution].

16.e. The election shall take place in two rounds.

16.f. The first round concerns the election of the eight officers: President, two Vice-Presidents, General Secretary, Deputy General Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, and Publications Officer.

16.g. Those whose candidacy is unopposed shall be declared "elected unopposed". All others are elected by secret ballot.

16.h. The second round concerns the election of the four further members. Election is by secret ballot. In case of a tie for the second place, a second round of ballots shall be cast concerning those candidates with the tie number of votes.

Rule 17. Voting on Amendments

17.a. When an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the committee or General Assembly shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the presiding officer to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote.

17.b. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon as a whole.

17.c. A motion is considered an amendment to a proposal if it merely adds to, deletes from or revises part of that proposal.

Rule 18. Voting on Proposals

If two or more proposals relate to the same question, the committee or General Assembly shall, unless it decides otherwise, vote on the proposals in the order in which they have been submitted. The committee or General Assembly may, after each vote on a proposal, decide whether to vote on the next proposal.

Rule 19. Withdrawal of Proposals

A proposal may be withdrawn by its proposer at any time before voting on it has begun, provided that the

proposal has not been amended. A proposal withdrawn may be reintroduced by any member of the committee or General Assembly.

Rule 20. Decisions and Records

20.a. The Executive and International Committees or the General Assembly shall adopt such decisions and recommendations as it may deem appropriate.

20.b. Following the closure of each session, the General Secretary shall prepare the minutes of the International Committee and the General Assembly for publication in the IAHR Bulletin or other means of communication to the officers of the member societies and associations and affiliates no later than 12 months after the session. The minutes shall be adopted at the next convocation.

20.c. The minutes of the Executive Committee shall be circulated only to the members of the Executive Committee.

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

VI. Adoption, Amendment and Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

Rule 21. Adoption

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

Rule 22. Amendment and/or Suspension

The Rules of Procedure, except where they reproduce provisions of the Constitution of the IAHR, may be amended and/or suspended by the International Committee on recommendation by the Executive Committee, by a decision taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting

IAHR Constitution and By-Laws

Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee

(Adopted by the International Committee of the IAHR on May 24, 1998 in Hildesheim, Germany; revised to accommodate constitutional changes adopted by the General Assembly of the IAHR on August 12, 2000 in Durban; revised by the International Committee of the IAHR on August 18, 2010 and adopted by the General Assembly of the IAHR, following the adoption of a revised constitution, on August 21, 2010 in Toronto.)

1. Nominating Procedure

The nominating procedure is set up in Article 4.c of the Constitution of the International Association for the History of Religions.

2. Nominating Committee

2.a. A Nominating Committee is appointed by the Executive Committee as stipulated by Article 4.c of the Constitution.

2.b. The Nominating Committee is composed of five senior colleagues who no longer seek office. The members of the committee are chosen in view of their close knowledge of the IAHR and their wider knowledge of international scholarship. The members of the committee are also chosen in terms of gender and regional representation.

2.c. The members of the Nominating Committee shall appoint one of its members as the Chairperson of the committee. The Chairperson has the responsibility of guiding the work of the committee and of communicating its nominations to the International Committee.

3. Nominations

3.a. "A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, shall submit nominations for the next Executive Committee to the members of the International Committee by mail not more than twelve months and not less than nine months prior to each quinquennial congress." [Article 4.c of the Constitution].

3.b. The nominations may be accompanied by a brief recommendation for the nominations.

3.c. The nominations shall be made public by the General Secretary in the IAHR Bulletin or by direct mail to the officers of the constituent societies of the IAHR.

3.d. The candidates will be invited to give a brief statement of candidacy in the IAHR Bulletin, in an IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement or other electronic communication and the IAHR website.

4. Constraints

4.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].

4.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.

4.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.

4.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

5.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].

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

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

IAHR Constitution and By-Laws

Proposals for Honorary Life Membership

The International Committee of the IAHR decided at its meeting in Mexico City on August 9, 1995 that 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. Such memberships would help to designate the range of interests current in the IAHR and would provide a wide circle of consultants in relation to IAHR-related activities. Honorary life members would be listed on the editorial cover of *Numen* and receive the *IAHR Bulletin* free of charge.

The International Committee of the IAHR decided at its meeting in Durban on August 9, 2000 that recommendations for honorary life membership should be presented to the International Committee at its meeting during quinquennial congresses. The International Committee of the IAHR decided at its meeting in Toronto on August 18, 2010 that recommendations for honorary life membership should be presented to the International Committee at its meetings during quinquennial congresses and in between two consecutive congresses.

The procedure is as follows:

The International Committee, at its meeting during a quinquennial congress, appoints by recommendation of the Executive Committee an Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members. The Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee is appointed for a term of five years.

The General Secretary of the IAHR shall, one year before each meeting in the International Committee, request the IAHR constituent member societies and associations to suggest one or two names and the Executive Committee to suggest up to three names. These names will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee which will choose up to three names.

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 conferment of Honorary Life Membership by the International Committee shall be reported to the General Assembly.

15. IAHR Executive Committee Members 2010-2015

The Executive Committee for the period 2010-2015 was elected by the International Committee at the XXth World Congress held in Toronto in 2010

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16. Honorary Life Members of the IAHR

The International Committee of the IAHR decided during its meeting in Mexico City on August 9, 1995 to honor colleagues who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions. The status of "Honorary Life Member of the IAHR" is conferred in recognition of their scholarship and service to our discipline. Their contributions to the study of religion have brought enlightenment and inspiration, and the International Committee hopes that this small gesture of recognition will serve to encourage them in their future activities. The following is the list of persons currently appearing in this roll of honour.

Current Honorary Life Members

Professor Dr. Peter Antes

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Appendix 1

Conference Report “Pluralities of Knowledge”

Joint conference of the Dutch Association for the Study of Religion (NGG) and the European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR), also ranked as special conference of the International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR).

University of Groningen, 11-15 May 2014

The joint meeting of the NGG, EASR, and IAHR, on occasion of the 400th anniversary of the University of Groningen, drew a lot of attention, both academically and from the media. With more than 400 participants (from Europe and abroad) and ca. 100 sessions, this conference was the largest annual meeting in the history of the EASR. The sessions explored the theme of “pluralities of knowledge” in many interdisciplinary ways, both in contemporary contexts and in historical perspective. The four keynote addresses by distinguished speakers successfully framed the discussion. The keynote lecture by Bruno Latour, which was open to the public, drew more than 800 guests.

Many contributions have already been prepared for publication in academic journals or as edited volumes in book series. With these publications, the conference will have a lasting impact on scholarly discussion and a better understanding of the dynamics of pluralism and diversity in religious discourses in Europe.

Prof. Kocku von Stuckrad
Conference Director



CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE LA PHILOSOPHIE ET DES SCIENCES HUMAINES
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PHILOSOPHY AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Président : Chao Gejin
Secrétaire général : Luiz Oosterbeek

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Resolutions of the General Assembly of CIPSH (Paris, Unesco, 14th-15th October 2014)

The General Assembly of the International Council of Philosophy and Human Sciences met the 14th and 15th October in Paris, at UNESCO.

Council had an in-depth discussion concerning the current state of international research and the need to re-think the scope and role of human sciences in contemporary society, based on the efforts undertaken after the last General Assembly held in Nagoya, in 2010.

The need for such an agenda is twofold. On one hand, there has been no global re-thinking on the role and scope of humanities following the major global changes that were accelerated in the past few decades. On the other hand, there is a growing need to re-introduce in the daily agenda of society a mid and long term perspective, that is required in face of the future uncertainty and which finds no answer within the limits of a purely immediate problem-solving approach.

Indeed, the humanities provide unique skills and resources for individuals and societies to meet the growing need for sustainable living, civilized democracy, and peaceful coexistence. Empowered by historical knowledge, critical thinking, and nuanced analysis of human ideas, values, and imagination, the human sciences provide understanding of the new salience of cultural capital in our contemporary world. Humanistic thinking offers a broader, deeper and more creative perspective than conventional problem-solving approaches to societal challenges. It contends that human flourishing can only be realized through renewed awareness of the human condition—past, present, and future—in relation to other sentient beings, our natural environment, and scientific and technological developments. Moreover, the humanities emphasize the potential of artistic expression to provide meaning in increasingly diverse societies.

It is within this framework that the General Assembly of CIPSH approved the following main resolutions:

1. Major energies will be devoted to the World **Conference on Human Sciences** to be organized by CIPSH with the collaboration of UNESCO and in Liège, in 2017, and with the support of a local organizing committee. For its preparation, a first public call, signed by a large number of scholars from all disciplines, and not only human sciences, will be presented on the occasion of CIPSH 66th anniversary, in January 2015. The conference will be a major project resuming the collaboration with UNESCO.
2. While the conference should set a new framework for the human sciences within the framework of scientific research as well as that of the arts, CIPSH must also envisage to



study and **report on the monitoring of cultural responses to local and global challenges**, this being a task that will help in bridging gaps among human groups and building a strategy for the **understanding of cultural differences and the capacity to imagine different avenues as a unique human strength**, paving the way for peace, global sustainability, intercultural understanding and appreciation, as well as for improved quality of life. Preparing regular **global reports** in this direction (as done by the International Social Science Council every three years)_should become a second major project to undertake with UNESCO.

3. CIPSH esteems that a **widespread decrease of attention to the humanities**, whether manifested in educational curricula or funding support, diminishes the potential of societies to build mid and long term agendas that can offer sustainable, peaceful and enlightened futures to human communities. In this respect, CIPSH confirms **its full endorsement of all initiatives** that will counter this trend.
4. A better future for humankind requires a mid and long term web of convergent visions, that needs to engage people and, hence, to be rooted in daily needs and perceptions. In this context, CIPSH confirms its full commitment to the proposal to organize an **International Year of Global Understanding**, which has already been endorsed by UNESCO and is currently being discussed at the United Nations.
5. CIPSH recognizes the need to adapt itself to changing contexts. In this sense, the **new board** will have the following immediate major responsibilities:
 - a. **Governance**: the new board will act as a permanent governing body, linked through e-communication, with individual tasks to be assigned to its members. A website will be resumed and a new communication procedure to speed up information among member organizations will be established.
 - b. **Special task-forces** will be constituted to propose to an extraordinary General Assembly, within one year:
 - i. A strategic approach to outreach, including the future of the CIPSH journal, *Diogenes*;
 - ii. A new framework of scientific collaboration with the International Social Science Council (ISSC), the International Council for Science (ICSU) and other scholarly institutions;
 - iii. An overview of financial difficulties and opportunities for a funding strategy;
 - iv. A revised version of the statutes, including statements of the mission and vision of CIPSH.
 - c. A specific team will begin preparations for the **World Conference in 2017**, developing a detailed work plan and its implementation.



- d. **An Extraordinary General Assembly** will be organized within one year. This can be organized in parallel with a first scientific meeting/workshop/symposium for the preparation of the World Conference in 2017
6. When opening a new cycle in the already long existence of CIPSH, the General Assembly expressed its thanks to the Past President, Adama Samassekou, for having been able to secure its initial mandate objectives, despite all difficulties. It also expressed its thanks to the former Secretary General, Prof. Maurice Aymard, for his long dedication to CIPSH, and to the former Deputy Secretary-General, Dr. Luca Scarantino, for his role in the council's journal *Diogenes*. The council also expressed its thanks to the University and the Municipality of Liège for their proposal to host the ***First Conference on Human Sciences for a planet in transition; current challenges and responsibilities of Humanities in the XXIst century.***

Approved in Paris, October 15th, 2014, at 12h36



CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE LA PHILOSOPHIE ET DES SCIENCES HUMAINES
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PHILOSOPHY AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Newly elected Bureau of CIPSH

A new board of CIPSH was elected unanimously on October 15th, 2014, during the General Assembly meeting in Paris, at UNESCO. The new board is composed by:

President: Chao Gejin

Vice-President: Rosalind Hacket

Vice-President: François Djindjian

Secretary-General: Luiz Oosterbeek

Treasurer: Franco Montanari

Past President: Adama Samassekou

Member: Meenakshi Bharat

Member: Ulrich Grossman

Member: Xiaochun Sun

Member: Isenbike Togan

Member: William L. McBride

Member: Laurent Tissot