

REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF IAHS LTD, 2014--2015

IAHS Ltd was established in January 1992, as a means of regularising the financial management of IAHS commercial activities in the UK, and more particularly the publishing activities of IAHS Press. Advice received at that time from both legal and financial advisors indicated that the formation of a limited company was the best means of avoiding potential tax liabilities. Although at that time the company accounts regularly showed a trading loss, in 1997 a decision was taken to also seek charitable status for the company, in order to ensure that any profits would not be taxed. The application for charitable status was finally accepted by the Charity Commissioners on December 16th 1999, and IAHS Ltd is formally registered as a charity, with the Board members and the Secretary serving as the Trustees. The Board of Directors of the company currently comprises a Chairman and three other Board members, namely the President, Secretary General and Treasurer of IAHS, and a Secretary. A representative of the Co-editors of HSJ and the Manager of IAHS Press serve as Advisors. The chairman of the Board is also a member of the IAHS Bureau. The activities and responsibilities of the Board are therefore very closely linked to those of the IAHS Bureau. Although originally established to regularise potential tax liabilities, IAHS Ltd and its Board play an important role in overseeing the commercial operations of IAHS Press, and ensuring that they meet current UK legal requirements.

There have been a number of important developments relating to IAHS Ltd over the past year: These include:

- (1) **Finalising arrangements for Copernicus to take over production of the red book series:** The red books have now become an online open access series published by Copernicus. This series is entitled Proceedings of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (PIAHS). The contract with Copernicus was signed in September 2014 and the decision was made to transfer red book production in its entirety to Copernicus as soon as possible. Originally a transition period of several years, during which IAHS Press would produce the final copy required for online publication, had been envisaged, but staffing changes meant that it was preferable to complete the change at this point in time. The new arrangement with Copernicus had important implications for IAHS Press in terms of both staffing and its commercial activities. IAHS Press would no longer be publishing red books itself and the staff input associated with producing these books would cease. Equally, the marketing of newly produced red books would cease, although marketing of the existing red books and other IAHS publications would continue. This again reduced the staff input. In the future, the cost of producing PIAHS volumes would in most cases be met by charges levied on authors either directly or through conference registration fees and this would significantly reduce the annual costs and the uncertainties associated with the IAHS Press budget. In the past, production costs needed to be covered by sales and uncertainties associated with the number of red books to be published in a given year and any financial support for their publication necessarily introduced problems for the budget, since staff costs were essentially fixed. After transfer of red book production to Copernicus, the primary income stream for IAHS would be that associated with the contract with Taylor and Francis for publishing *Hydrological Sciences Journal* (HSJ) and this was expected to remain stable from year to year.
- (2) **Staff reduction:** We have been very fortunate that it has proved possible to make the reduction in staffing necessitated by the transfer of red book production to Copernicus through staff resignations and retirements. Penny Perrins resigned in July 2014 and was not replaced. Freelance temporary staff were employed to cover gaps in staffing. Cate Gardner reduced her hours towards the end of 2014 and finalised the date for her retirement as June 30th, 2015.
- (3) **The upcoming retirement of Cate Gardner in late June 2015:** This necessitated a review of future staffing requirements for IAHS Press and the decision was made to appoint a part-time (20 h per week) Executive Secretary who would take over the management of the IAHS Office, manage the IAHS Website and provide support for the Association and its Officers, particularly the Secretary General. As Editorial Manager of HSJ, Frances Watkins is responsible for HSJ. The post was advertised and interviews for the post were held on April 27th, 2015 at CEH, Wallingford. We were fortunate to find a very suitable person in Dr Claire Lupton. She has a professional background in Geophysics Research and the Oil and Gas industry and further recent experience in both accountancy and website

management. She had previously worked for IAHS Press on a temporary basis and therefore already had some experience of its work. Claire took up her appointment in early June, 2015.

- (4) **Restructuring of the Board:** The reduced commercial activities of IAHS Press provided an opportunity to streamline the operation of IAHS Ltd and more particularly to review the size and structure of the Board. John Rodda had already signalled his wish to retire from the Board and President Savenije undertook a review of the size and composition of the Board and proposed to reduce this to four members plus the Secretary to the Board. As of February 2015, the Board now comprises the Chair, the President of IAHS, the Treasurer of IAHS, and the Secretary General of IAHS, plus the Secretary to the Board. These five persons also serve as the trustees required by the charitable status of IAHS Ltd. One of the Editors and the Manager of IAHS Press (to be succeeded by the Executive Secretary) serve as ex-officio advisors. Des Walling signalled his intention to stand down as Chair of the Board in February 2016 and it has been proposed that Dr Cate Gardner should succeed him.

One meeting of the Board was held during the year. This was held at CEH Wallingford on Tuesday February 10th. This was attended by Hubert Savenije (President IAHS and Director), Christophe Cudennec (Secretary General IAHS and Director), Chuck Onstad (Treasurer IAHS and Director), John Rodda (Director), Gwyn Rees (Director), Des Walling (Chairman and Director) and Mike Acreman (Secretary to the Board). Cate Gardner (Manager, IAHS Press), Zbyszek Kundzewicz and Demetris Koutsoyannis (Co-editors HSJ) participated as Advisors. Xenia van Edig (Copernicus) participated by Skype for the discussions relating to the links with Copernicus and Lydia Webb (Taylor & Francis) and Frances Watkins (IAHS Press) attended for the discussions related to HSJ. Key points from the agenda are expanded below.

a) The Activities of IAHS Press

Cate Gardner presented her comprehensive Report for 2014. This indicated that the work of IAHS Press had proceeded very satisfactorily over the year. Key developments included the move to a smaller Office, in order to reduce rental charges, staffing changes due to the resignation of Jill Gash and Penny Perrins, and the signing of the agreement with Copernicus. Five red books had been published and HSJ had been expanded to 12 issues per year. The switch to online open access publication of red books meant that sales of these publications would be much reduced and it was agreed that the existing arrangements for marketing the volumes in North America would need to be reviewed and wound down.

b) Finances

Cate Gardner presented the Provisional Year-end Accounts for IAHS Press for 2014. These indicated that there should be a surplus (ca. £9000). This was seen as a very satisfactory outcome after the sizeable deficit that had accrued in 2013. The budget for 2015 was discussed and approved. Chuck Onstad provided an overview of the IAHS financial position.

c) Future Staffing

Issues related to future staffing and relating to (2) and (3) above were discussed.

d) Board Structure and Membership

Hubert Savenije presented proposals for the future composition of the Board, as outlined in (4) above. These were accepted.

e) Links with Copernicus

A short Skype conference with Xenia van Edig from Copernicus provided an opportunity to review the links with Copernicus. These were proceeding smoothly.

f) HSJ and Links with Taylor and Francis

Lydia Webb and a colleague attended this part of the meeting provided an overview of the current status of HSJ, including subscriptions and planned marketing initiatives. Strategies for dealing with the backlog of

accepted papers were discussed. The Board expressed its satisfaction regarding the relationship with Taylor and Francis.

g) *Health and Safety Issues*

H&S procedures and risk assessments had been reviewed during the year by Gwyn Rees (Director) and Cate Gardner (Manager) and had been found to be satisfactory.

Other points covered by discussions included IAHS membership, the investment strategy for the reserve and the pay strategy for 2015.

John Rodda and Gwyn Rees, who were stepping down from the Board were warmly thanked for their valuable service and their support for IAHS Press and IAHS Ltd. John Rodda had served as a member of the Board since 1992 and had been heavily involved in the establishment of IAHS Ltd.

Thanks are extended to Cate Gardner for her valuable support to the Board and for her very professional management of IAHS Press over the past year, and to Mike Acreman, who, as Secretary to the Board and a resident of the CEH Wallingford site, plays a key role in ensuring the smooth running of the Board and in providing ongoing personal contact with the staff of IAHS Press.

Cate Gardner first worked for IAHS Press in 1998 and became Manager in 2003. As Manager she has played a key role in ensuring the smooth operation of IAHS Press over the past 13 years, successfully steering it through a challenging period of rapid change in the publishing world. Her legacy includes the very important move from the traditional publishing of red books in hard copy to their current publication as open access online publications. This will undoubtedly greatly increase their circulation and impact. She has also made an outstanding contribution to the Association more generally. With her retirement imminent, she is warmly thanked for her excellent work for the Association over the past 17 years and the Board sends her their best wishes for a long and enjoyable retirement.

The Board of Directors of IAHS Ltd currently comprises:

Des Walling (Chairman)	Hubert Savenije
Christophe Cudennec	Chuck Onstad

Mike Acreman serves as Secretary to the Board

Des Walling
(Chairman of IAHS Ltd)
June 10th, 2015