

Report of the President over 6/2015-6/2016

Since the Last Bureau meeting in Prague, there have been substantial changes in the management of the proceedings and publications of IAHS. In 2015 we started the open access and on-line publication of our previous 'red book' series in the new journal PIAHS "Proceedings of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences": <http://www.proc-iahs.net/volumes.html>. The online version is a continuation of the 'red book' series, starting with Volume 364. Twenty volumes later, the most recent version is Vol. 373, which reports on the 7th International Water Resources Management Conference of IAHS-ICWRS in Bochum, 18-20 May 2016. Also the 12th Kovacs colloquium will, as always, generate a 'red book' volume in PIAHS. So the trend has been set and the policy is that all official IAHS conferences that generate proceedings do so in PIAHS through the arrangement we have with Copernicus.

As mentioned in my previous report, all IAHS meetings and workshops will be organised according to the new arrangement with Copernicus, where registration, abstract handling and open access publication of proceedings are part and parcel of a standard professional system. This is an important break with the traditional practice where every local organising committee has to re-invent the 'wheel' of convening sessions, selecting abstracts and publishing scientific proceedings. The Bochum conference of IAHS-ICWRS was the first major meeting that followed this new arrangement, and it is thanks to Prof. Andreas Schumann that this went so well, because there were numerous "child's diseases" in this new set-up that he had to tackle, together with his counterparts at Copernicus. The upcoming IAHS General Assembly in Port Elisabeth, organised by Prof. Denis Hughes and his team will also be done according to the new arrangement, and I am happy to say that the contract between the local organising committee and Copernicus for this major conference has been signed. So we look forward to our next IAHS Symposium in Port Elisabeth 09/07/2017 - 15/07/2017.

As I reported last year, as a consequence, the IAHS office in Wallingford has reduced substantially. The office is run by Claire Lupton as Executive Secretary, and the publications are handled by our Editorial Manager Frances Watkins. Cate Gardner retired from the Wallingford office, but she will fortunately remain with the IAHS family because she has accepted to take over the position of IAHS Treasurer from Chuck Onstad later this year. They have already started the process of handing over and familiarising with the details of IAHS' finances. Chuck has served our Association as Bureau member for 25 years, 19 years as Treasurer and before that 6 years as ICCE President. We are extremely grateful for his dedication to the cause of Hydrology and his invaluable contributions to the Association.

Because the Wallingford office has reduced so much in size, we also reduced the size of the IAHS Ltd Board. Des Walling chaired the board for about 20 years. During the last years we had the task to change the operation from the traditional hard copy printing to more and more on-line publication and this has had substantial consequences for the publication office, which Des handled very carefully and professionally, together with Mike Acreman who as Board member is responsible for personnel matters. At the February meeting in Wallingford Des resigned as Chairman of the Board and we were very happy that Cate Gardner accepted to take over as Chair, which will then consists of 4 members: Cate Gardner (Chair of the IAHS Board and Treasurer of IAHS), Hubert Savenije (President), Christophe Cudenec

(General Secretary), Mike Acreman (Secretary of the Board and representing the team of Editors).

The process of gradually shifting to on-line publication also has consequences for our banking system and formal registration. We are presently moving the entire operation to the UK, where we confirm IAHS as a charity. In due course all the US-based funds will move to the UK and the IAHS Inc. will be terminated.

An important issue that we have to discuss in the Bureau is to define the benefits and roles of individual members. In Prague the IUGG decided to change the IUGG constitution to allow individual membership, irrespective of whether the scientist is from an IUGG member country or not. At the Bureau we will discuss the changes that we shall have to make to the Statutes to formalise the individual membership and what it entails.

During the second biennium of Panta Rhei, Hilary McMillan has been very active. She used the opportunity of the EGU conference in Vienna to organise very fruitful sessions that were very well attended, particularly by early career scientists and she led a joint publication in HSJ to reflect the achievements during the second biennium.

Another noteworthy event is that we have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with WaterNet, the regional network for Water Education and Research in Southern Africa (http://iahs.info/news.do?news_id=164#.V1VsItdeFFU). The objective of the MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation, establishing scientific research and technology exchange, capacity building, outreach and exchange of experience and knowledge from various regions in the world within the field of water resources management. The annual WaterNet Symposium, which we have co-sponsored over the years, will from now on become a regular co-convened symposium, so the IAHS has a strong outreach to Southern Africa. This will provide IAHS with an important outreach to the water community in southern Africa. The next WaterNet symposium is in Gaborone, Botswana, 26 – 28 October 2016 (http://iahs.info/news.do?news_id=167)

During the past year I have given many lectures and presentations all over the world, representing IAHS and emphasising the importance and first achievements of Panta Rhei. These include the following events:

- July, Unesco Climate Change conference, Paris, France
- October, WaterNet Symposium, Mauritius
- November, Von Humboldt conference, Addis Abeba, Ethiopia
- February, IAHS Board meeting, Wallingford, UK
- May, 7th IWRM conference in Bochum, Germany
- June, 7th ICWRER conference in Kyoto, Japan

I look forward to seeing you in Paris during the Kovacs Colloquium, where we hope to congratulate our two new awardees of the International Hydrology Prize: Prof. Jeff McDonnell, who will receive the Dooge medal and Prof. Denis Hughes who will receive the Volker medal.

Hubert Savenije
President IAHS