



# IWRA Update

Newsletter of the International Water Resources Association

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## NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This is the last opportunity where I shall have the privilege to address our members as the President of IWRA. I would like to share with all of you in general terms the path we have walked in the Association during the three years of my presidency, 2007-2009, and the achievements of the IWRA during this time. These achievements include, but are not limited to, financial stability of the Association; amendments of the Constitution addressing certain gaps that had become apparent over the years; re-election to the Board of Governors of the World Water Council; *Water International*, the Journal of our Association, published commercially by one of the largest and most reputable international publishing houses, Taylor & Francis, Routledge, from 2008, will publish six issues per year from 2010; increased linkages and partnerships with associations and individuals at the global level, etc.

The Association faced very challenging times in 2007 when McGill University decided to close both the Executive and the Editorial offices without any consultation or previous discussion with me as President of IWRA. Up to now, the Association has not received any detailed information as to how the funds of IWRA were spent during the time the office was at the McGill University, nor have we received an audited report that help us to understand how most of the funds of the Association were spent. Fortunately, the enormous challenges we had to face because of this decision have been basically solved by the Executive Board and partners which supported us from various institutions in different parts of the world to whom the Association owes a special debt of gratitude.

During these three years, the IWRA has increased its linkages and partnerships with associations and individuals from different parts of the world. Some examples include the Water Institute for Southern Africa (WISA), where the Executive Office of our Association has been hosted for the last two years, and the Asian Water and Resource Institute (AWARI), Japan Office, which hosts our Editorial Office. Communications, but mainly commitment and hard work from all involved, have enabled us to work efficiently within these arrangements. From IWRA, we recognise and appreciate the support WISA has given the Association during these difficult years.

The membership of our Association has changed from being mainly from North America in 2006 to having 55 percent of members from Asia at present. This has brought, and continues to bring, wider-ranging points of views, and great deal of knowledge, experience and richness to the Association which we should all welcome. This adds to the fact that the IWRA, which conceived the idea of World Water



Council and worked to make it a reality, has been now re-elected to the **Board of Governors of the World Water Council**. Increasing cooperation with WWC and its many partners in areas of mutual interest will give our Association many more opportunities to develop, and improve, partnerships at the global level.

I am very pleased to inform all of you that the Association has restored its **financial stability**. Thanks to the excellent work of Carl Bruch, Treasurer, whom I would like to thank on behalf of the Association, tax documents as well as the administration of the IWRA bank accounts (including new accounts which have been opened as necessary) are up-to-date. The revenue stream of the IWRA has been restored and the PayPal option on the IWRA web site has become the main means by which members pay their membership fees. IWRA has also secured a Letter of Determination from the US Internal Revenue Service; it has filed all past-due forms for tax declaration; it has completed the audit for 2008 and is preparing for the 2009 audit; and has engaged a law firm in Wisconsin to serve as registered agent. It is very important to note that when the present Executive Board took office in 2007, the funds of the Association were very limited. At present, the Association has 10-20 times as much in cash.

Our Constitution, first written in 1973, has been amended responding to the needs of the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I would like to acknowledge the hard work of our Secretary General, Lilian del Castillo-Laborde, who worked on these amendments with the support of the Task Force specially established with this objective. My appreciation also to our members, who participated with their views and recommendations and who made these positive changes possible. Please read the new text of our Constitution in the December 2009 issue of *Water International* so that you are aware of the new framework of the Association.

*Water International*, the Journal of our Association, has evolved from being published in-house with a limited distribution, to being published commercially by one of the largest and most reputable international publishing houses, Taylor & Francis, Routledge group, based in Oxford. This arrangement has brought manifold benefits to the Association, the Journal, our authors and our readership. Not only *Water International* has increased its reach from a few hundred libraries to several thousands at present, but its quality has improved substantially. It will also publish six issues per year from 2010. The extraordinary work of Prof. James Nickum, Editor-in-Chief of *Water International*, has been fundamental for the very positive transformation of our Journal.

The Journal has also changed its focus from being purely technical to a journal that has broadened its views in both technical matters and their policy implications. Water resources management, the niche and focus of our Association, requires not only technical knowledge and expertise, but also the consideration of policies and politics without which no technical decision can be ever implemented in the real world. We feel that our Journal now responds more realistically to the demands posed by the changing and challenging situations prevailing in the field of water management and those who have to face it.

The XIII IWRA World Water Congress organised in Montpellier, 1-4 September, was very specifically planned to ensure a high level of scientific content with the objective to promote debates on different global views, ideologies, paradigms, practices and solutions on a transdisciplinary and multisectoral basis, with the ultimate goal to find better solutions than those that are currently available. The results were

insightful contributions and very rich discussions, from the excellent plenary and special sessions, to the Ven Te Chow special lecture and the individual presentations, where the common denominators were the innovative ideas, open mind-sets, and free and frank discussions and debates between participants. On behalf of the Association, I would like to acknowledge once more the extraordinary effort of Dr. Pierre Chevallier, Director Languedoc, Research Institute for Water and Environment; Dr. Bernard Pouyaud, President of the Association VERSeau Développement; and Dr. Eric Servat, Director of Hydrosociences of the Montpellier Laboratory, as well as all the other members of the Team at Montpellier, for having made this Congress a reality. We express our most sincere appreciation to Dr. Olli Varis, Vice President of the IWRA and Chair of the International Scientific Committee for the XIII Congress, as well as to the other members of this Committee, for their hard work to ensure a high scientific level for this Congress. Last but not least, our thanks go to all the participants who contributed to the realisation of the Congress and without whom this event would not have been possible. Our next triennial Congress will be held in Recife, Brazil, in 2011, in collaboration with the Associação Brasileira de Recursos Hídricos (ABRH). We shall be looking forward to meeting many of our members there and continue with the dialogue that started in 1972, when our Association was first established.

During the last three years, the IWRA has thus managed to improve the quality of the Journal, its reach, broaden its focus and respond to the actual expectations in the field of water management. Another very important achievement is that within one more year, *Water International* will be self-sufficient financially speaking, and within another year, it will start generating increasing income to the Association. As is always the case, there is still room for improvement. However, we are confident that we are in the right track to achieve it. The Executive Board has worked very hard to have a stronger Association than the one we inherited in 2007. We have established stronger foundations from which the Association can grow further in the coming years.

It has been my privilege to serve as President of the International Water Resources Association since this has given me the opportunity to broaden and refine my views, my reaches and my own expectations. I would like to acknowledge the work of every member of the Executive Board for the 2007-2009 period, all of whom have contributed to make a stronger Association than the one we received in 2007 and which is on its feet once more. We are confident that the next Executive Board will continue working for the growth of the Association.

Finally, I would like to finalise by reminding you that your views and contributions are very important for the continuing improvement of the IWRA. We encourage you to become members and continue participating both in the activities of the Association and in the growth of our Journal. It is through its members that the Association will be able to achieve meaningful progress in the long term.

Let me wish all of you and your families Season's Greetings and a very happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

**Cecilia Tortajada**  
**President, IWRA**