IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement
Liverpool Edition
August 2013

Contents

http://www.iahr.dk

I. Preface

Dear Colleagues
Officers and Individual Members of
IAHR Member Societies and Affiliates

This *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013* is primarily meant to serve as a 'folder' for core reference materials to be used by the members of the IAHR International Committee, i.e. the appointed delegates of members and affiliates to the International Committee Meeting 2013, Liverpool, UK, Wednesday, September 4, 15:00-17:30.

For this reason, several important documents already sent to you, respectively in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011*, and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*, are reproduced and included in this ***IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013***. You are thus saved the trouble of retrieving these documents from your own files or from the redesigned IAHR website where the mentioned previous issues of the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* are, though, also available.

All references, consequently, to these documents, be it in the Provisional Agenda for the International Committee Meeting or in the General Secretary's Report, are to the documents as reproduced in this ***IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013***.

Though this *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013* serves this special function, I urge you to forward it as soon as possible to the members of your association or society. Without the IAHR membership at large being continuously well informed about the activities of the IAHR, including the work and business of the IAHR Executive and International committees, the IAHR cannot function effectively and may eventually face serious problems.

If you have any questions, regarding the IAHR International Committee Meeting in Liverpool, Wednesday, September 4, 15:00 - 17:30, or any other matter related to the IAHR, please do not hesitate to contact me (t.jensen@sdu.dk).

Respectfully yours

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen, August 1, 2013

II. Final Call and Provisional Agenda: IAHR International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, 2013

Final Call: IAHR International Committee Meeting, Wednesday, September 4, Liverpool, UK, 15:00 – 17.30, at the Liverpool Hope University, EDEN Conference Centre, Hope Park Campus. Exact location/meeting room to be announced later.

According to the IAHR By-Laws, Rule 4b, "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."

According to the IAHR Constitution, Article 4(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

According to Rule 3.d,

> [t]he General Secretary shall notify the officers of the constituent societies/and or members of the Executive Comittee concerning the date, place and provisional agenda of each session at the latest one month in advance.

A first call and later a reminder have been sent to the officers of the IAHR member and affiliate associations and societies, and this call therefore serves as the final call.

The IAHR By-Laws, Rule 5.c reads:

> 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.

Please remember that the General Secretary of the IAHR shall be notified about the names of the designated representatives (By-Laws, Rule 5e), and also (Rule 5d) that "Members of the Executive Committee […] may not serve as representatives for their constituent societies or associations at the International Committee meetings."

I have received notifications from some member associations and affiliates as to their appointed representatives, but I still need to hear from quite a few associations and officers.

I, therefore sincerely ask you to appoint your delegate(s) to the 2013 IAHR International Committee and to email me the name(s) as soon as at all possible.

Provisional Agenda:

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Membership: 2.1. Ascertainment of Membership; 2.2. Ascertainment of Affiliation; 2.3 Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee
3. Minutes of the International Committee Meeting Toronto 2010 (5-22)
4. Report by the General Secretary (23-40)
5. Report by the Treasurer (41)
6. Additional Matters of Report by the Executive Committee
7. Recommendation of New Members and Affiliates (31)
8. Recommendation of Honorary Life Members
9. The IASR Consultation Recommendations, and the Response from the IAHR Executive Committee (42-50; 51-65)
10. The IASR Consultation Proposal to Change the Name of the IAHR (44; 48-49)
11. Special Report on Reflections on Proposals by the AASR and the IASR Consultation as regards Communication and Executive Government (15-16; 45; 47; 61)
12. IAHR XXI World Congress, Erfurt 2015
13. Any Other Business

NB: All references in the Provisional Agenda (as well as in the General Secretary's Report) are to the ***IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013***.

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary
Copenhagen August 1, 2013

III. Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Toronto, Canada, Wednesday, August 18, 2010

Minutes of the Meeting

[To be adopted at the next International Committee Meeting in Liverpool, September 4, 2013]
[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee, January 31, 2011]

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 By-Laws, Rule 3d. With reference to the General Secretary's report, *IAHR Bulletin*, *Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, p. 40, Prof. Jensen ascertained that the meeting had been announced first in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2009*, and then in a formal notification with attachments and provisional agendas e-mailed on May 7, 2010 to all officers of constituent and applicant member societies.

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:
(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.

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."

2.1. Ascertainment of Membership
The following members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR were present: President Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Vice-President Akio Tsukimoto, General Secretary Tim Jensen, Deputy General Secretary Ingvild Sælid Gilhus, Membership Secretary Abrahim H. Khan, Publications Officer Brian Bocking, and Member without portfolio Morny Joy.
Apologies from: Vice-President Gerrie ter Haar, Internet Officer Francisco Diez de Velasco, and Member without portfolio Alef Theria Wasim.

The following representatives of the IAHR member societies and associations were present: Africa (AASR): Afe Adogame & Jan G. Platvoet; Austria (ÖGRW): Karl Baier; Belgium/Luxembourg: none; Brazil (ABHR/BAHR): none; Canada (CSSR/ SCÉR) [one vote only]: Darlene Juschka; Canada (Québec) (SQÉR) [one vote only]: Patrice Brodeur; China (CARS): Zhuo Xinping; Cuba (ACER): Ofelia Perez; Czech Republic: David Zbíral; Denmark (DASR): Jeppe Sinding Jensen & Jesper Sørensen; Eastern Africa (EAASR): none; Europe (EASR): Kim Knott; Finland: Tuula Sakaranaho & Veikko Anttonen; France: Charles Guittard & Regine Guittard; Germany (DVRW): Christoph Bochinger & Katja Triplett; Greece (GSSCR): Panayotis Pachis; Hungary: Mihály Hoppál; India (IASR): H.S. Prasad; Indonesia: none; Israel: none; Italy: Giovanni Casadio & Marco Pasi; Japan: Susumu Shimazono & Yoshitsugu Sawai; Latin America (ALER): none; Mexico: Yolotl Gonzales; Netherlands (NGG): Kocku von Stuckrad; New Zealand (NZASR): Will Sweetman; Nigeria (NASR): none; Norway (NRF): Knut A. Jacobsen; Poland: none; Romania (RAHR): none; Russia: none; Slovakia (SSŠN/SASR): none; South Korea (KAHR): Chae Young Kim; Southern Africa (ASRSA): Johan Strijdom; South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR): Sophana Srichampa & Amarjiva Lochan; Spain (SECR): Mar Marcos Santos; Sweden (SSRF): Susanne Olsson & Jenny Berglund; Switzerland (SGR/SSSR): Maya Burger & Christoph Uehlinger; Turkey (TAHR): Ali Rafet Ozkan; Ukraine (UARR): Anatoliy Kolodnyy & Liudmyla Fylypovych; United Kingdom (BASR): Bettina Schmidt & James Cox; United States (NAASR): Willi Braun & Robert Yelle.

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 Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee

The General Secretary informed the International Committee that the Executive Committee had no recommendations for co-option.

With reference to the IAHR By-Laws, Rule 6, according to which the International Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, may allow observers (without voting rights) to participate in its sessions, the General Secretary, Prof. Jensen, said that the Executive Committee recommended that representatives from applicant societies and associations, the chairs of the of Nominating Committee and the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, the Congress Director, the Academic Program Co-Chair, the managing editors of *NUMEN*, and the candidates for the Executive Committee 2010-2015 be admitted as observers with speaking rights.

The IAHR International Committee unanimously agreed to allow the following named persons to be present as observers with speaking rights:

Ann Taves & Jack Fitzmier (AAR: American Academy of Religion); Ülo Valk (ESSR: Estonian Society for the Study of Religions); Wouter J. Hanegraaf (ESSWE: European Society of the Study of Western Esotericism); Armin W. Geertz **(**IACSR: International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion & Chair of Nominating Committee); Janis Priede (*LRPB: Latvian*

*Society for the Study of Religions); Michael Pye (Chair of Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee); Donald Wiebe (Congress Director); Luther H. Martin (*IACSR: International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion & IAHR Congress *Academic Program Co-Chair); Gregory Alles (NUMEN Managing Editor); Gustavo Benavides ((NUMEN Managing Editor); Satoko Fujiwara (candidate IAHR Executive Committee 2010-2015).*

3. Minutes of the International Committee Meeting Brno 2008

The General Secretary, Prof. Jensen, informed the members that the minutes (see *IAHR Bulletin*, *Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, pp. 16-29) had been sent to all officers the first time on July 1, 2009 as an attachment to an e-mail, and thus in accordance with the IAHR By-Laws Rule 20b.

The minutes were unanimously adopted.

4. Report by the General Secretary

Prof. Jensen initially honored the memory of the IAHR Treasurer, Gary Lease, who passed away January 4, 2008, as well as that 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.

Having referred to his detailed written report (printed in the *IAHR Bulletin*, *Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, pp. 16-29), the General Secretary in his oral report focused on the following:

4.1. Executive Committee: Location of Meetings, Changes, and Communications

The location within (the enlarged) Europe of most of the annual meetings of the 2000-2005 as well as of the 2005-2010 Executive Committee and of all the intermediary meetings of the International Committee (Marburg 1988, Paris 1993, Hildesheim 1998, Bergen 2003, Brno 2008) stressed the need, Prof. Jensen said, for the incoming Executive Committee to consider how to best implement the IAHR principle of rotation, i.e. moving its Executive and International Committee meetings around the world. Even if there certainly had been very good reasons for locating the meetings in conjunction with IAHR Special and Regional Conferences hosted by European and EASR member associations.

The passing away of elected Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, early January 2008 was a deep personal loss to the General Secretary and to all other members of the Executive Committee; it was, of course, also a serious blow to the smooth functioning of the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen continued, suffered another loss when Prof. Pratap Kumar, in December 2008 resigned with immediate effect.

Following Prof. Kumar's resignation, it was decided that the General Secretary function as Acting Treasurer.

Referring to an earlier communication (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement August 2008, Brno Edition*, p. 30) regarding the decision to expand the use of electronic communication and limit the publication of a print *IAHR Bulletin* to the quinquennial publication of a World Congress edition, Prof. Jensen briefly reported on his communication to the member associations.

4.2. IAHR Conferences and Congresses

Proceedings from Durban as well as from Tokyo have been published, both available in web versions at the IAHR website. Prof. Jensen extended thanks to the organizers of both congresses as well as to Profs. Brian Bocking, Rosalind I.J. Hackett, and Michael Pye for their editorial work.

On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude to all colleagues involved in the many IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, and he directed the members to http://www.iahr.dk/proceedings.html for an overview of Proceedings and Spin-Off Publications from the conferences.

Planning of SSEASR/IAHR Regional Conference in Bhutan in June 2011 was well underway, and the Executive Committee had awarded a conference in Trondheim, Norway (December 2011 or spring 2012), arranged in cooperation with the Norwegian association, the status of an IAHR Special Conference.

Prof. Jensen encouraged member societies and associations to consider hosting an IAHR Special or Regional conference in the period 2011-2014, strongly advising members to approach the IAHR General Secretary at the earliest possible stages of consideration and planning. Early submissions would also permit the Executive Committee to apply in due time for subventions from the CIPSH.

4.3. Finances: Fees, the CIPSH, the IAHR African Trust Fund, and the IAHR Endowment Fund

Prof. Jensen said that he wanted to report in greater detail on the finances. This was partly because he considered the improvement in the financial situation one of the most important developments over the past five years, and partly because he could then make his report as Acting Treasurer that much shorter.

Prof. Jensen reminded the members about the dire financial situation when the current Executive Committee took office in 2005 and he referred to the words of then General Secretary, Prof. Geertz, who feared that if the situation did not improve, then 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* 38, p. 38)

Fortunately, Prof. Jensen continued, the situation had improved considerably, and the IAHR, inter alia, had been able to support the Toronto World Congress, i.e. members in need of support, with 25.000 USD taken from the IAHR general funds, in addition to the 7.000 USD the IAHR had received from the CIPSH.

Besides, in 2005-2010, CIPSH grants as well as from the IAHR general funds, had been given to a number of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences.

Though the single most important contribution to the financial improvement no doubt was the income generated by the new *NUMEN* agreement with Brill, an increase in payment of membership fees also mattered. While the number of member associations in bad standing was very high in 2005, the 2010 list showed that almost each and every member

association had paid up or made arrangements to pay up, either in Toronto or before the end of 2010.

A proactive dues policy, in combination with the 2005 change to the Constitution making voting rights dependent on the payment of dues, no doubt had played an important role. However, Prof. Jensen said, the improvement certainly had come about also because members realized the seriousness of situation. He expressed his gratitude to member associations that had paid their annual fees without interruption but also those who, despite financial hardship, had managed to pay up.

Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude to late Prof. Lease for his tireless efforts to keep track of dues paid and unpaid, and he thanked the Publications Officer, Prof. Brian Bocking, for his work in the negotiations with Brill.

Prof. Jensen was certain that the active participation in meetings and affairs of the CIPSH, including the CIPSH journal *Diogenes*, 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 certainly had paid off in terms of money.

Moving on to another consequence of the improved financial situation, Prof. Jensen turned his attention to the IAHR African Trust Fund. In 2009 the IAHR Executive Committee decided to use some of the money now at hand to help further the academic study of religions in Africa, and it decided to do so via the IAHR African Trust Fund. The specific measurements taken were several (cf. the written report, pp. 43-44), but the main points were these: over the next five years 8.000 USD will be transferred from the general IAHR funds to the IAHR African Trust Fund, thus bringing the amount of money in the fund up to the stipulated 20.000. At the same time, the fund will be transformed from an 'endowment' into a 'sinking' fund, and over a period of five years, beginning in 2010, it would grant 4.000 USD each year. A Board of Trustees had been set up, and the first announcement 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.

Finally, a special account for the IAHR Endowment Fund had been set up and the amount of money that had been donated the IAHR and earmarked this fund had been transferred from the IAHR general funds. It must be up to the incoming Executive, Prof. Jensen added, to make further arrangements regarding the IAHR Endowment Fund.

Though not wanting to end his report on the significant improvements in finances on a pessimistic note, Prof. Jensen added a word of warning: the improved financial situation was not solely based on an increase in income. It was based, of course, also on a very strict policy in regard to expenses related to the performance of the work of the members of the Executive Committee, i.e. costs related to traveling to and from IAHR conferences and business meetings. But, the day when members of the Executive Committee, including the President and the General Secretary, can no longer find money within their own university or from their private accounts to finance almost all of their expenses related to the execution of

their duties, might not be that far away. In that case, the IAHR Executive Committee might very well face a serious problem.

According to his information the total sum of the costs covered by the officers and members of the outgoing Executive during 2005-2010 was close to 50.000 USD. The Executive thus indirectly contributed to the finances of the IAHR with no less than 10.000 USD per year. This , he added, was most certainly not particular to this Executive Committee.. Now as before, the General Secretary stressed, the IAHR Executive Committee members most certainly were *not* 'swanning' around the world, living off the dues paid by the members.

4.4. Tightening up the IAHR Academic Profile

The General Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the fact that one of the first tasks completed by the Executive Committee as it took office in 2005 was to revise the IAHR policy statement (printed in the *IAHR Bulletin*, *Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, p. 4)--not least to tighten up the academic profile and thus also accommodate the expressed wish of several members, also International Committee members.

The proposed amendment to Article 1 in the IAHR Constitution, Prof. Jensen continued, was meant to tighten up the Constitution accordingly, and Prof. Jensen, with reference to his written report (pp. 45-46) in which he referred to relevant statements by former General Secretaries and Presidents, saw the efforts of the Executive Committee as in perfect line with the dominant tradition within the IAHR. A tradition, however, that from time seemed to be in need of reinvigoration and reinforcement in word as well as in deed, in mission statements and in programs and practices at IAHR conferences and congresses.

4.5. Membership Development

The IAHR membership, Prof. Jensen said, 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). If the current applicant associations were adopted, the total number of member associations would be 46.

However, Prof. Jensen added, account must be taken of the fact that some of the associations currently listed as members are either defunct or dormant (Belgium-Luxembourg, Cuba, Israel, and Russia), and in a few cases the membership might actually be considered lapsed. Recent contacts had given new hope that the Israeli association might be revitalized, and Prof. Jensen also expressed hope that solutions to challenges facing the Cuban and Russian associations might be found. As for Belgium-Luxembourg, however, the mail received from the Treasurer clearly indicated that that membership must be considered lapsed. Prof. Jensen and the President therefore had been in contact with a group of younger Belgian scholars trying to found a new Belgian association.

Looking at the various regions of the world, Prof. Jensen noticed that membership development in Eastern and Central Europe continued. Besides what had already been indicated about Russia, he mentioned his contacts with scholars in Bulgaria, and noted the applications for membership and affiliation from Estonia, Latvia, and the *International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association.*

As for North America, Prof. Jensen said, the most important development of course was the application for membership from the AAR, the American Academy of Religion, the unreserved recommendation of the adoption of the AAR by the *North American Association for the Study of Religion* (*NAASR*), including the readiness of the NAASR to change status from a national to a regional member association.

In regard to Africa and African associations, Prof. Jensen expressed his satisfaction about renewed contacts with representatives from the *Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions* (*NASR*) and the *Eastern African Association for the Study of Religions*, and he extended special thanks to Dr. Danoye Laguda from NASR, and to the AASR Secretary, Prof. Afe Adogame for their assistance.

As regards 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*), located, as indicated by the name, in the countries of the Mercosur/Mercosul. Prof. Jensen had made contact with the ACSRM, and the reply from the then Secretary opened up further talks and contacts.

Prof. Jensen also expressed his wish that the Brazilian association, maybe in cooperation with ALER, in the not too distant future, might host an IAHR Special or Regional Conference, and having mentioned his visit to Cuba and the ongoing efforts to find a solution to the problems facing the Cuban colleagues, Prof. Jensen expressed his hope that contacts with ALER be intensified and improved in the years ahead.

Moving to South and Southeast Asia, Prof. Jensen noticed the impressive activities of the SSEASR, the positive signals in regard to payment of dues from both the *Indonesian Association for the Study and Research of Religion* and the *Korean Association for the History of Religion*, and he thanked Prof. Chae Young Kim, now KAHR Vice-President for his assistance in regard to the KAHR.

Finally, Prof. Jensen mentioned some of the ongoing efforts to find a solution as regards Taiwan and Australia.

4.6. Affiliation of 'Affiliates'

As can be seen from the IAHR Constitution, Article 3AB, Prof. Jensen said, the IAHR had for a long time operated with a distinction between, on the one hand, 'members', i.e. national and regional learned societies, and, on the other hand, 'affiliates', i.e. international associations for the study of particular areas within the history or study of religions. However, for a long time the terminology (e.g. members mostly being named 'affiliates') as well as the actual state of affairs had not reflected what must have been the intention of the Constitution, namely to differentiate between and incorporate both *member* societies and *affiliates*.

The Executive Committee had agreed to try to implement the wording of the Constitution, and Prof. Jensen expressed his great satisfaction that the IAHR had received applications for affiliation from no less than four potential affiliates (cf. item 9). The Executive Committee was certain that the affiliation of these and similar learned societies would prove beneficial to the IAHR as well as to the associations in question.

Contacts with Prof. James Lewis, President of the recently established *International Society for the Study of New Religion**s*** *(ISSNR)*, as well as contacts with Executive Director, Kent Richards, and then President, Prof. J. Z. Smith, of the *Society of Biblical Literature (SBL)* regarding possible ways of cooperation or affiliation so far had not lead to anything more concrete.

Finally, Prof. Jensen mentioned that he had received a few requests for individual membership. In all but one case, the one of an Australian scholar, the scholar in question had, in accordance with the IAHR Constitution Article 3B, been asked to seek membership with an already existing national or regional association.

4.7. The IAHR Website and Women Scholars Network

The IAHR website, Prof. Jensen said, serves as one of the most important means of communications to the IAHR membership. Consequently, it has to be continuously updated in order to allow for the optimal use of new technologies and web facilities. Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, the first elected Internet Officer in the history of the IAHR, had been well aware of this, yet recommended that the IAHR use a professional to redesign and update the website.

Jeremy B. Hughes, a webmaster at the University of Tennessee, who worked with Prof. Hackett, had agreed to serve in this capacity, and for a very reasonable fee. It was the hope of the Executive Committee that the use of new facilities, e.g. of 'folders' restricted to members and web versions of publications, would make communication with members not just less expensive but also more effective. The major challenge however remained: how to make sure that communication reaches the individual members of the member associations. For this to happen, Prof Jensen said, he still had to rely on the officers of the member associations. It is so far only the officers who can reach the individual members by way of forwarding communication from the IAHR. The IAHR Executive Committee does not have lists of the individual members of the member associations.

Prof. Jensen took the opportunity to thank Prof. Diez de Velasco for his work as Internet Officer. It had been a pleasure to work with Prof. Diez de Velasco.

The IAHR Women Scholars Network (cf. http://www.iahr.dk/wsn/) launched in 2007 aims at providing "a forum for women in Religious Studies throughout the world to be in contact with one another". Prof. Jensen extended thanks to everybody involved in setting up and maintaining the network, and he added that the Executive Committee had discussed an idea of also establishing a Young Scholars Network.

4.8. IAHR Publications

Agreements between Brill and IAHR on *Numen Book Series* (*NBS*) and *Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles* (*SoR*) came to an end in 2008 at the same time as the IAHR Executive signed a new contract with Brill on *NUMEN*. The outgoing Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen added, would however hand over to the incoming Executive a proposal for an IAHR book series.

Prof. Jensen extended thanks to those colleagues who for years had served the IAHR as editors of *NBS* and *SoR*, and he also thanked Prof. Einar Thomassen and Prof. Maya Burger

for their respective services to the IAHR as managing and reviews editors of *NUMEN*. Likewise he welcomed Profs. Olav Hammer and Gregory Alles who had entered the current team of managing editors, and finally thanks were extended to Prof. Ingvild S. Gilhus who succeeded Prof. Burger as Reviews Editor.

Prof. Jensen once again mentioned that Proceedings from the World Congresses in Durban 2000 and Tokyo 2005 had been published, and he directed the attention of the members to the IAHR website at http://www.iahr.dk/proceedings.html where a list of Adjunct Proceedings and Spin-off publications could be found. The General Secretary thanked all colleagues involved in these publications, and he asked all the members to remember to notify him or the Publications Officer of IAHR related publications not listed at the website.

He also reminded everybody planning publications, including thematic issues of journals, linked to the IAHR World Congress as well as to past or upcoming IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, that such publications must acknowledge that they stem from an IAHR Congress or conference, and that a minimum of three (copies) must be made available to the Executive Committee of all Spin-Off volumes.

The General Secretary ended his oral report giving thanks to Vice-Presidents Profs. Gerrie ter Haar and Akio Tsukimoto, to Internet Officer Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, and to member without portfolio Prof. Alef T. Wasim for their many years of service to the IAHR.

Thanks were also extended to the member associations hosting the Toronto World Congress, to 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, opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report. Several members wanted to comment on the report on membership development and a few wanted to ask about publications:

Prof. Benavides commented on the situation in Latin and South America. He agreed with the General Secretary that there was a need for better contact and communication with and within that region, and he also agreed with several of the points made by Prof. Pye (points referred to in the General Secretary's written report, pp. 46-47).

Prof. Casadio offered suggestions about whom to contact in Belgium. Prof. Jensen thanked him and provided the information that he actually was in contact with the mentioned colleagues. Prof. Pasi mentioned the risk that a Belgian association might face a problem of a Flemish/French division. Prof. Hackett though, allayed such fears, saying that the intention of the scholars engaged in the establishment of a new association intended it to be a national association encompassing both French and Flemish speaking scholars.

Prof. Cox who had recently spent a longer period of time in Australia said that it was his impression that the possibility of the Australian association reentering the IAHR was something that the Australians would discuss in the not too distant future.

In regard to the Russian association, Prof. Fylypovych provided the information that co-operations between Ukrainian and Russian scholars about regional studies were in

existence.

Upon a question from the General Secretary as to whether an East–Asian association had been established, Prof. Shimazono answered that it had not but that negotiations were ongoing. Prof. Shimazono promised to keep the General Secretary informed about this.

In regard to the report on publications, especially the Proceedings from Durban and Tokyo, Prof. Casadio asked why no hard copies were for sale? The Publications Officer, Prof. Bocking answered that hard copies were for libraries, electronic publications for everybody else. To publish and send out hard copies unfortunately was much too expensive. Prof. Pasi offered suggestions for downloading and for making hard copies, and Prof. Jensen promised to pass the comments on to the incoming Executive Committee.

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 Acting Treasurer

Acting Treasurer, Prof. Jensen, having already reported on the improved financial situation, asked the members of the International Committee to look at the Acting Treasurers Report, *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition,* 39, 2010, pp. 55-59. Prof. Jensen added a few comments to a few of the items listed, and then asked if there were questions or comments.

Since this was not the case, the President, Prof. Hackett, thanked Prof. Jensen for taking upon himself the work also of Acting Treasurer and for his report, and she proposed that the report be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

6. Additional matters of report by the Executive Committee

The President, Prof. Hackett, asked the General Secretary if there was any additional matter of report. Prof. Jensen informed the International Committee that there was no additional matter to report.

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

The President, Prof. Hackett, asked the General Secretary to suggest a procedure for the deliberations related to the item.

Prof. Jensen initially stated that while the “Constitution may be modified only by the General Assembly on the recommendation of the International Committee” (Article 8), Rules of Procedure may be “amended and/or suspended by the International Committee on recommendation of the Executive Committee, except where they reproduce provisions of the Constitution […], by a decision taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting.” (Rule 22).

Prof. Jensen related that he had sent an email to all officers and to the Executive Committee (and to applicant societies too) on June 21, 2010. Attached were several documents related to this item: 1) proposals (and the rationale for those proposals) from the Executive Committee for amendments to the IAHR Constitution and By-Laws, 2) a document

with a separate proposal from *the African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR)* regarding a restructuring of the IAHR Executive Committee and an amendment to the IAHR Constitution Article 4c.

In the same email Prof. Jensen had inserted a link to a restricted area on the IAHR website as well as the password to enter that area where the documents for use at this meeting, especially the mentioned documents related to amendments, were also uploaded.

Prof. Jensen continued suggesting that the floor be given first to Prof. Jan G. Platvoet, one of the two signatories to the AASR proposal, in order for Prof. Platvoet to present the proposal.

Since the AASR proposal, like the proposal for amendments to the Constitution from the IAHR Executive Committee, included a proposal for a change to Article 4c of the Constitution, Prof. Jensen, however, wanted to clarify procedures and the timetable:

The AASR proposal for changes to Article 4c (the AASR, p. 9 in the proposal, recommend that the Executive is constituted by "a President and two Vice Presidents; a General Secretary and two Deputy General Secretaries; a Treasurer and two Deputy Treasurers; and a Communications Unit consisting of a Publications Officer, an Internet Officer and a Webmaster. It is organised in four functional triads: the Presidency, the Secretariat, the Treasury and the Communications Unit") just like the proposal from the Executive Committee regarding the same article, could not, if recommended by the Executive and International Committees and later adopted by the General Assembly, be given effect until the invitation for nominations to the *next* Executive Committee starting in 2015.

The election of Executive Committee officers for the period 2010-2015 must run its course in accordance with the *current* Constitution and Rules. The nominees for election 2010 and for the Executive Committee 2010-2015 had all been nominated and all accepted nomination in accordance with the current Constitution and delegation of duties for the officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee.

For this same reason, the suggestion by the AASR (p. 9 in the proposal) that an alternative to a change of the current Constitution Article 4c might be "that the changes proposed are adopted for a trial period of five years, are reviewed in 2015, and if found to be helpful are given a constitutional basis in 2015", likewise could not be effectuated in the form proposed. There was no provision within the Constitution for setting aside for up to five years a major clause or clauses within the same Constitution. Indeed, Prof. Jensen added, it would undermine the very idea of a Constitution to introduce such a provision. The Constitution and the Rules for Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR might of course be changed by decision of the General Assembly (and the Executive Committee proposes several changes), but changes in regard to the composition, nomination and election of the Executive Committee could not be given effect until the next nominations process in 2015.

Following the clarification of procedure and timetable, Prof. Hackett gave the floor to Prof. Platvoet. Prof. Platvoet, referring to the detailed proposal, gave a brief summary of the key points of the AASR proposal for restructuring the IAHR Executive into four functional triads: Presidency, Secretariat, Treasury, and Communications Unit, a restructuring aiming,

inter alia, at actively involving all members of the Executive in the work of the Executive and thus in the government of the IAHR.

Having thanked Prof. Platvoet and the AASR for the proposal and the presentation, Prof. Hackett opened the floor for discussion of this proposal.

Prof. Cox asked if the proposed 'secretariat' would not be in need of funding in order to function. Prof. Platvoet replied that the proposal was based on the possibility of the use of electronic communication between center and periphery. Prof. Gilhus said that the proposal had interesting ideas, but that it was not very practical – and she did not think that to rely on electronic communication with such a heavy structure was to be recommended. Prof. Bochinger made the suggestion that the proposal should be discussed in a small committee with former general secretaries. Prof. Pye stressed that the proposal touched upon important concerns, but added that the IAHR was not that Eurocentric anymore and that each Executive Committee had so far found its own way. Cooperation, he said, depended on the persons involved. He saw it as valuable to hand over the proposal to the incoming Executive Committee for inspiration, but he did not recommend the setting up of a whole new organizational structure and he recommended to drop the part of the proposal that pertained to such changes to the Constitution. Prof. Wiebe said that the proposal was a recipe for disaster and would make the organizational structure heavier than that pertaining to the President of the US. If you take the periphery into the center, he said, then you take the center into the periphery and it becomes difficult to see what is in the center. Prof. Bocking said that the proposal complicated the structure of the organization too much, but that its ideas could be used as an inspiration. Prof. Pasi thought it wise to use the proposal as an inspiration for a definition of the functions of officers and members of the Executive Committee. Prof. Brodeur suggested that the proposal was handed over to the incoming Executive Committee to be used it as a basis for further reflections. Prof. Jensen, referring to the preliminary response (in the mentioned rationale for amendments), as well as to related discussions at the most recent meeting in the Executive, said that the outgoing Executive Committee was grateful to the AASR and to Profs. G. ter Haar and J.G. Platvoet for their engagement in the IAHR and that the proposal was a welcome contribution to the historiography of the IAHR Executive Committee since 1950. It also ought to serve as food for further thought, and Prof. Jensen said that it might be an inspiration for the incoming Executive Committee in its discussions about the functions of the officers and the members-at-large.

Prof. Brodeur, seconded by B. Bocking, then formally proposed that the proposal from the AASR be referred to the incoming Executive Committee and that the Executive Committee be asked to report on its related discussions on the next International Committee Meeting. This proposal was unanimously adopted.

The International Committee then turned to the proposals from the Executive Committee for amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws. A Power Point presentation with the proposals assisted the International Committee: each slide displayed two rows, the one to the left showed the current text (with a strikethrough of text to be amended), the one to the right the

proposed amended text (with amendments displayed in red). Prof. Jensen accompanied each slide with comments on the rationale for the proposals, and mention thus was made in due time of the wish to tighten up the academic profile of the IAHR, to allow for the vocabulary 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 on 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 quinquennial congresses. As for the Rules, mention was made of the wish to increase the number of possible nominations of Honorary Life Members during a five year term, and of the wish to add another two members to the Nominating Committee, in order, inter alia, to better meet the demands of the global character of the IAHR.

In light of the proposal from the AASR and the discussion that had followed it, Prof. Jensen took a little more time to explain the rationale for the proposal regarding the composition of the Executive Committee (Article 4c), i.e. the proposal not to have a designated Internet Officer and Membership Secretary but instead have, as in the period before 2005, four members-at-large. The proposal, Prof. Jensen said, partly reflected his evaluation of the new delegation of duties that came into effect in 2005.

During his now five years of daily work as General Secretary, he had had a wonderful and fine cooperation with the current Internet Officer and Membership Secretary, and they have both done an excellent job. Consequently, the proposal had, Prof. Jensen stressed, absolutely nothing to do with the current two officers and their work.

As regards the website, the matter was that the technicalities and skills involved in maintaining and developing a website were demanding, and the Executive Committee deemed that the advantages of having a professional webmaster rather than a colleague with some interest in such matters would outweigh potential disadvantages. It was also the opinion of the Executive Committee that it might prove hard to find a colleague willing to undertake the job as Internet Officer.

As for the Membership Secretary, Prof. Jensen said that it had been helpful to have somebody who could assist him updating the list of officers and e-mail addresses. Nevertheless, at the end of the day, it was the General Secretary who was responsible not just for the website but also for mailing lists and addresses. It was, furthermore, the General Secretary who would send out the letters, e-Bulletins etc. and thus the General Secretary who was the one in need of updated lists. Besides: the General Secretary and the Membership Secretary had too often found themselves doing the same job, twice or even thrice, sometimes thus making things not simpler but more complicated.

As much as the General Secretary might need to be relieved of some of his tasks and work, Prof. Jensen said, the new delegation of these two specific duties had not proven to be the right way. If the General Secretary should be relieved and the daily smooth functioning of the IAHR improved, then the General Secretary ought to have, as was the case, for instance, of former General Secretary Bleeker, his or her personal secretary.

As for the coming five-year term, Prof. Jensen added, irrespective of the voting on the proposals, there will still be an elected Internet Officer and Membership Secretary. It would therefore be necessary not just for future Executives but also for the 2010-2015 Executive to discuss how to make the optimal use of *all* the elected officers and members.

The International Committee voted by a show of hands on each of the proposed amendments as these were shown in the mentioned Power Point presentation. The International Committee, with the one exception mentioned below, by an overwhelming majority of show of hands recommended *all* the proposed amendments to the Constitution and adopted all the proposed amendments to the Rules of Procedure, the rules regarding Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee, and the rules regarding Proposals for Honorary Life Membership included.

In regard to the proposal regarding the composition of the Executive Committee and thus the Constitution Article 4 (and all Rules reproducing this article), the International Committee had a brief discussion:

Prof. Platvoet said that if this proposal was accepted as it was now, the AASR proposal could not be implemented until 2020. Prof. Jensen stressed that in the past five-year term, the rule was that each and everybody in the Executive Committee was participating and 'put' to work. The outgoing Executive Committee had worked as an integrated whole, in and between meetings, and no doubt the proposed 'members without portfolio' would have tasks to perform. Prof. Pye pointed out that an Internet Officer and webmaster need not be same, and that there might be important tasks for an elected Internet Officer to perform even if the Executive Committee also made use of an external webmaster.

Prof. Lochan was not happy with the designation 'members without portfolio' and he also proposed that 'General Secretary' be changed into (or back into) 'Secretary General'. Prof. Pye proposed that "four members without portfolio" be changed to "four further members". His motion was seconded and then passed unanimously. The proposal to change 'General Secretary' to 'Secretary General' was voted down.

The President could conclude that – with the mentioned small change from 'four members without portfolio' to 'four further members' - all proposals as regarded the Constitution and the By-Laws had been recommended and adopted by the International Committee.

8. Election of the new Executive Committee

With reference to previous information sent to all officers in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement November 2009* (http://www.iahr.dk/newsletter/nominations.html) as well as to the *IAHR Bulletin Toronto Congress Edition,* 39, 2010, p. 63, Prof. Jensen explained that the Nominating Committee, composed of Profs. Giulia S. Gasparro, Jan G. Platvoet, and Armin W. Geertz, in a letter dated October 20, 2009 had submitted its nominations. The candidates nominated by the committee were the following:

- President: Rosalind I.J. Hackett (United States)
- Vice-President: Ingvild S. Gilhus (Norway)

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

Several of the candidates were present. Prof. Jensen extended greetings to the International Committee from the candidates who, for various reasons, were prevented from participating. Prof. Jensen also referred to the statements of candidacy in the *IAHR Bulletin*, *Toronto Congress Edition,* 39, 2010, pp. 64-70.

Prof. Casadio asked if the fact that the Russian association had not paid its fees ought to have consequences with regard to the candidacy of Prof. Shakhnovich.

Prof. Jensen said that the members of the Executive Committee, contrary to the (other) members of the International Committee, do not represent 'their' national or regional associations. They shall, according to the Constitution, Article 4, " be chosen in such a way as reasonably to reflect various parts of the world where the academic study of religion is pursued in its various disciplines." The Nominating Committee, according to the relevant rules, should also strive towards a gender balance among the nominees.

Prof. Jensen continued, saying that according to the Constitution Article 4c "[m]embers of the International Committee may propose alternative nominations not less than one month prior to each international congress. The International Committee at its meeting just preceding the General Assembly, shall elect the Executive Committee and shall report this to the General Assembly." When informing about the candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee, Prof. Jensen had asked the member associations and societies that wanted to propose alternative nominations to do so no later than July 14, 2010.

Prof. Jensen informed the International Committee that he had received no alternative nominations, that the candidates mentioned (and listed on a Power Point slide) were thus the only candidates, and that, according to Rule 16g, those candidates "hose candidacy is unopposed shall be declared 'elected unopposed'".

The International Committee, with applause, declared the named candidates elected.

Prof. Jensen thanked the named members of the Nominating Committee for their work and service to the IAHR. The President, Prof. Hackett, warmly welcomed the new members to the Executive Committee.

9. Recommendation of new members and affiliates

The General Secretary, Prof. Jensen, displaying the names of the applicants on a Power Point slide, informed the International Committee that he had received applications for *membership* from the following associations/societies:

- *Eesti Akadeemiline Usundiloo Selts/The Estonian Society for the Study of Religions* (*ESSR*)
- *Associacao Portugues 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*)

The ESSR had applied for IAHR membership in an e-mail dated July 26, 2006, the APER in an e-mail dated September 19, 2007, the AAR in a letter dated August 12, 2008 sent by e-mail August 18, 2008, and the LRPB in an e-mail dated January 15, 2010. All applicants had sent their statutes and a list of officers along with the applications. Prof. Jensen asked the representatives from the applicant associations to stand up.

Prof. Jensen informed that the International Committee in Brno 2008, following a recommendation of the Executive Committee, had already recommended that the EESR and the APER be adopted members by the General Assembly. He continued saying that the Executive Committee recommended the adoption of the AAR as well as that of the LRPB, and that it was now up to the International Committee to decide whether to recommend the adoption of the AAR and the LRPB to the General Assembly.

With regard to the AAR some of the members of the International Committee asked a few questions and others contributed with a few comments. Prof. Schmidt asked what would be the answer from the AAR to a question whether they would comply with the IAHR Constitution and change their own. Prof. Zbiral likewise asked about the AAR with regard to their constitution and that of the IAHR. AAR Executive Director, J. Fitzmier, responded that the AAR would adhere to the IAHR Constitution but that the AAR had not thought of changing its own constitution for that reason. Prof. Wiebe remarked that other IAHR member associations had constitutions similar to that of the AAR. Prof. Bocking said that the AAR, just like other member associations, has to comply with the IAHR Constitution.

Prof. Pye said that the application from the AAR was indeed remarkable and that the situation was historic: he had no doubt that the IAHR should welcome the AAR.

Prof. Casadio said that he would have voted against a recommendation of the AAR as a member in 2008 in Brno. Now, however, he would vote for it.

In regard to the question about the status of the NAASR if the AAR become a member to the IAHR, Prof. Braun confirmed that the NAASR would turn into a North American *regional* association. Prof. Gonzales added that NAASR also covers or includes Mexico.

Following this discussion, the International Committee with an overwhelming majority show of hands, and with applause, recommended the adoption of the AAR.

The International Committee likewise and with applause recommended the adoption of the LRPB.

Prof. Jensen, displaying the names of the applicants on a Power Point slide, informed the International Committee that he had received applications for *affiliation* from the following:

- *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).*

The IACSR applied for affiliation in an e-mail dated October 7, 2007, the ISSRNC did so in e-mail as of December 12, 2009, the ISORECEA in e-mail as of May 5, 2010, and the ESSWE in e-mail as of June 29, 2010. All applicants had sent their statutes and a list of officers along with the applications. Prof. Jensen asked the representatives from the applicant associations to stand up.

Prof. Jensen informed everyone that the International Committee in Brno 2008, following a recommendation of the Executive Committee, had recommended that the IACSR be adopted member by the General Assembly, and that the Executive Committee also recommended the adoption of the ISSRNC, the ISORECEA, and the ESSWE. The above-mentioned three associations thus awaited the recommendation of the International Committee.

The International Committee unanimously and with applause recommended the adoption of the ISSRNC, the ISORECEA, and the ESSWE as affiliates to the IAHR.

Prof. Jensen, displaying the name of the applicant, Prof. Helen Farley, University of Queensland, on a Power Point slide, informed the International Committee that he had received one more application for affiliation to the IAHR, namely from the named Australian scholar. The Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen added, recommended the adoption of this individual due to the fact that the Australian association at the moment is not a member to the IAHR.

The International unanimously and with applause recommended the adoption of Prof. Farley as an affiliate individual member to the IAHR.

10. Recommendation of Honorary Life Members

Prof. Jensen, having informed about the procedure for the recommendation and conferment of IAHR Honorary Life Membership, stated that the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, appointed by the International Committee in Brno 2008, consisting of the three Honorary Life Members Profs. Yolotl Gonzales, Peter Antes and Michael Pye had submitted a letter of recommendation to the end that Honorary Life Membership be conferred on the following five persons all of whom had, in accordance with the related IAHR rules, "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. 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 International Committee accompanied and endorsed the recommendation of each of the mentioned scholars with applause.

Prof. Jensen congratulated the named new Honorary Life Members and thanked the named members of the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee for their work and service to the IAHR.

11. Future IAHR Conferences

Prof. Jensen referred to what he had already said about this in his report, repeating though, that the Executive Committee would issue a call for bids for hosting the IAHR World Congress in 2015.

12. Any other business

There was no other business.

(Minutes prepared by General Secretary, Tim Jensen, with the assistance of Ingvild S. Gilhus as regards comments and questions to various items)

IV. IAHR General Secretary's Report 2010-2013

Initially, it is my sad duty to announce that IAHR Honorary Life Member, Professor Emeritus Julien Ries, passed away February 23, 2013. An obituary will be published in *NVMEN*.

1. Executive Committee and International Committee: Meetings, Plans for Meetings, and Communications

1.1. Meetings

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, and (up-coming) in Cork, Ireland, September 1-2, 2013. The meetings, apart from the one in Cork, took place in connection with an IAHR Regional or Special Conference.

1.2. Meeting Locations

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 aware of the need to consider how best to implement the IAHR principle of rotation, thus trying to move the Executive as well as International Committee meetings around the world.

It is, however, not as easily done as said. In spite of continuous efforts, beginning at the Executive Committee meeting in Bhutan in 2011, to locate the 2013 Executive as well as International Committee meetings outside of Europe, the Executive Committee at its meeting in Södertörn, Sweden August 2012 decided to ask the BASR/EASR and the local Liverpool organisers to host the IAHR International Committee meeting in conjunction with the conference planned there for September 2013.

Before taking that decision, the possibility of locating the International Committee meeting in, respectively, Brazil, Cuba, Mexico City, and finally, Quito, Ecuador, had been investigated thoroughly, and with the kind assistance of Executive Committee members Silas Guerriero, Mar Marcos, Abrahim Khan, and, not least, IAHR Honorary Life Member, Prof. Yolotl Gonzales. Allow me to also extend thanks to colleagues in Cuba and in the NAASR for considering all these matters, as well as to anthropologist, Prof. Enrique Aguilar Montalvo for his willingness to offer to host an IAHR Co-Sponsored Conference in Quito that might serve as the venue for the International Committee meeting 2013 as well as a point of departure for the creation of an 'Andean' regional IAHR member association for the study of religions.

The final decision to eventually 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.

Allow me to take the opportunity to thank the BASR and the EASR for their readiness to host the IAHR International Committee Meeting 2013. The Executive is well aware of the extra planning and efforts it takes to accommodate such a meeting.

1.3. Communications: Newsletters, Email letters of information, and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement

Following Toronto 2010, email letters of information, newsletters and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* have been sent to the officers of the IAHR member societies and affiliates, and several postings have also been uploaded at the IAHR website:

- October 27, 2010 the invitation for bids for hosting the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress in 2015 was emailed to all officers, and the invitation was also posted at the IAHR website.
- November 17, 2010 an email message and summary from the IAHR President regarding the survey results from the Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress was e-mailed to all officers, and the survey results posted at the IAHR website.
- December 22, 2011, an email message with the (good) news that the Australian Association for the Study of Religions rejoins the IAHR and that the IAHR had created an IAHR Facebook page.
- The *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011*. Sent by email to all key officers in all IAHR member associations and societies as well as to affiliates, to honorary life members and to the members of the IAHR Executive Committee, and uploaded at the IAHR website.

  In this *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, announcements and information about
  - the decision to gratefully accept the bid from the Deutsche Vereinigung für Religionswissenschaft (DVRW), and its local partners in Erfurt (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), to host the IAHR 2015 World Congress in Erfurt, Germany
  - the speedy publication of the Toronto 2010 Proceedings
  - the declaration of the lapsed membership of the Belgian association
  - the restructuring and renaming of the Russian association
  - the establishment of the *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions (ISASR),* (with the unanimous decision of the Executive to recommend the adoption of the *ISASR* as a member to the IAHR)

were published, as were the provisional Minutes from the IAHR International Committee Meeting, as well as from the IAHR General Assembly, Toronto, 2010.

- The *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*. Sent by email to all key officers in all IAHR member associations and societies as well as to affiliates, to the honorary life members and to the members of the IAHR Executive Committee, and uploaded at the IAHR website. In this *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, *March 2013*, announcements and information about
  - the passing away of IAHR Honorary Life Member, Professor Emeritus Julien Ries
  - the first circular on the IAHR 2015 XXI World Congress in Erfurt, Germany,
  - the BASR, EASR, and IAHR Special Conference in Liverpool, UK, September 3-6, 2013
  - the SSEASR Bi-Annual and IAHR Regional Conference in Manila, the Philippines, May 16-19, 2013
  - the IAHR International Committee Meeting 2013 in Liverpool, September 4,
  - 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'
  - the revised rules regarding IAHR Special and Regional Conferences
  - the developments in IAHR membership: a) the recommendation of the IAHR Executive Committee to adopt as members a new Belgian association (*BABEL*, *Association belge pour l'étude des religions/ Belgische Associatie voor de Studie van Religies*) and the *LSSR*, the *Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions*, b) the decision of the IAHR Executive Committee to declare the membership of the *Asociación Cubana de Estudios sobre la Religión,* the *Israel Society for the History of Religion,* the *Nigerian Association for the Study of Religion,* and the *Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo das Religiões/Portuguese Association for the Study of Religions* lapsed
  - a re-admission policy following lapsed membership
  - an extended deadline for recommendations for IAHR Honorary Life Membership

- May 15, 2013, an email message with an attached reminder about the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, Wednesday, September 4, as well as with information about the travel grants set aside by the IAHR Executive Committee to help fund travel expenses for a limited number of delegates to the International Committee Meeting.

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

2. IAHR Congresses and Conferences

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

Thanks to the focused vision and concerted efforts of Congress Director, Professor Donald Wiebe, and his staff, not least Sydney Yeung, the *IAHR World Congress Proceedings, Toronto 2010. Religion: A Human Phenomenon* was available in an electronic web version as well as a print version about one year after the Congress took place in Toronto. A limited number of print copies were sent to a selection of libraries around the world.

Since the *Toronto Proceedi*ngs, with its 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 Congress participants, is thus easily available to all, I judge it sufficient to refer to this publication as regards the Toronto World Congress.

Equally available to all IAHR members on the IAHR website, is the *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010,* a print edition of which was distributed to participants during the Toronto Congress.

The Minutes from the meetings of the IAHR International Committee and General Assembly in Toronto has been sent to all IAHR officers with the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011*, and it has also been made available at the IAHR website.

Furthermore, a Congress survey was conducted by the IAHR Executive Committee on the initiative of the President, Prof. Rosalind R.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.

Allow me to once again extend heartfelt thanks to Congress Director, Prof. Donald Wiebe and his devoted staff for their efforts and hard work. The IAHR Executive Committee is most grateful for the service offered the IAHR, in the years before the 2010 Congress, during the Congress, and after the Congress.

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

Having said goodbye and thank you to Toronto, and with the aforementioned *Toronto Proceedings* in place in libraries and on our website, it is time to look forward to the IAHR 2015 World Congress scheduled to take place in Erfurt, Germany, August 23-29.

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 had been received in due time, it was decided to repeat the call during the Toronto World Congress and to issue another formal call for bids. This call was issued October 26, with an April 1st, 2011 deadline for submissions. The call was sent to all members and affiliates and uploaded at the IAHR website.

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 religion 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 Bochinger, 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 two-day meeting in Thimpu, Bhutan, July 2-3, 2011, the IAHR Executive Committee had a thorough discussion of the bids. The Executive was in complete agreement: each of the three bids received was of a remarkably high quality. However, having carefully studied each of the three bids with reference to the IAHR 'Basic Framework for Running an IAHR World Congress', and thus to criteria or parameters pertaining to the plans for the financing of the Congress and the Proceedings, the organizational framework and scheme, the venue, its accessibility and attraction, and the proposed dates, the Executive unanimously agreed to gratefully accept the bid from the German Association for the Study of Religions (DVRW) and its local partners in Erfurt, Germany.

The IAHR General Secretary consequently notified each of the three member associations about the decision, and extended heartfelt 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 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, and 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 during its business meeting.

The IAHR General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, as a member of the Local Organizing Committee, and the IAHR Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos as Academic Program Co-Chair, have been in continuous contact with the German hosts on relevant matters, and the IAHR President too is continuously engaged in the planning process. During the AAR Annual in Chicago, November 2012, Prof. Jensen once again met with Congress Coordinator, Dr. Begemann, and in June 2013, Prof. Jensen did a site visit to Erfurt where he met with the other members of the Local Organizing Committee and was introduced to the venue. The visit to Erfurt left no doubt: the university and the city of Erfurt are going to be a wonderful location for the IAHR World Congress 2015.

A 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 no member visiting the revamped IAHR website can miss the link to the 2015 World Congress and its special website. The officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliates are kindly requested to make sure that all individual members receive information about the Congress now and in the coming years leading up to the event.

2.3. IAHR Regional and Special Conferences 2010-2013

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.

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.

- *Swedish Association for Research in Comparative Religion* (SSRF), European Association for the Study of Religions (EASR) & The Study of Religions at Södertörn University, Sweden: “Ends

and Beginnings", August 23- 26, 2012, Södertörn University, Sweden.
See www.sh.se/EASR2012

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 Vice-Presidents, Ingvild Sælid Gilhus and Abdulkader Tayob each delivered a keynote lecture.

IAHR Regional Conferences

- *African Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR) in collaboration with PANAFSTRAG: "Sports, Leisure, Religion and Spirituality in Africa and the African Diaspora", July 18- 23, 2012, 5th AASR Regional Conference, 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", May 16-19, 2013, 5th SSEASR Conference, 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. The SSEASR General Secretary, Prof. Dr. Sophana Shrichampa, has, in accordance with the new rules for IAHR Special and Regional Conferences (see ahead) prepared a report of the conference. Please see Appendix I.

The IAHR Executive Committee thanks all colleagues whose engagement and hard work have made these conferences possible and successful.

As for proceedings and spin-off publications from previous conferences, mention must already here be made of the impressive two-volume publication from the Messina 2009, SISR, EASR and IAHR Special Conference that appeared July 2013.

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

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

The revised set of Rules and Procedures for IAHR Special and IAHR Regional Conferences, the full text of which has been uploaded at the IAHR website and communicated to the members in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013* (pp. 36-38), stresses 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."

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*.

2.5. Future IAHR Special and Regional Conferences

At the moment, the IAHR Executive Committee has awarded the *Dutch Association for the Study of Religion* (NGG) Conference on "Religion and Pluralities of Knowledge", Groningen 11-15 May 2014, the status of an IAHR Special Conference. The conference is also an EASR Annual Conference. For more information see the NGG conference website.

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.

2.6. IAHR Special and Regional Conferences 2015, and the World Congress in Erfurt 2015

National and regional member societies and associations that are considering the possibility of hosting an IAHR Special or Regional Conference in the years ahead are thus encouraged to approach the IAHR General Secretary at the earliest possible stages of consideration and planning.

As regards 2015, though, I sincerely ask the members and affiliates to consider that their conference planning and activities do not interfere unnecessarily with the IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress in Erfurt, August 23-29, 2015.

Not only are members and affiliates kindly requested to avoid that their Annual or Bi-Annual meetings and conferences conflict with the timing of the IAHR World Congress. They are also kindly encouraged to consider 'following in the footsteps' of the European Association for the Study of Religions: the EASR does not hold its Annual Conference in the year of an IAHR World Congress, thus trying to make sure that individual members are not pressed to try to find time and money for two important conferences within the same year.

As regards the IAHR World Congress 2015 in Erfurt, the IAHR and the local German host will try their best to accommodate possible wishes for finding time and space for business meetings that need to be arranged within the framework of the IAHR World Congress.

3. Membership Developments

3.1. Admission of Members and Affiliates, and Applications and Recommendations for Membership 2010-2013

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 from 2010-2015 seems to be no exception to the rule either.

Furthermore, in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011*, the IAHR General Secretary was able to report that the newly established *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions* (ISASR) had applied for membership, and that the IAHR Executive Committee had decided to recommend the adoption of *ISASR* as a member to the IAHR. Moreover, the long 'dormant' or dysfunctioning Russian association finally has been not only renamed ('*Association of Russian Centers for Study of Religions*'), but also restructured and revitalized.

And, this is not all: in the aforementioned December 22, 2011 email message to all officers, I could report the (very) good news that the *Australian Association for the Study of Religions* (AASR) had rejoined the IAHR, and in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*, it was reported that the Executive Committee at its meeting in Södertörn, August 2013, had agreed to recommend the adoption of the *LSSR*, *Lithuanian Society for the Study of Religions*, and that it had likewise unanimously agreed to recommend the adoption of a new Belgian association, *Association belge pour l'étude des religions/ Belgische Associatie voor de Studie van Religies* (BABEL) as a member to the IAHR. Last but not least, the *Asociation de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur* (ACSRM) has applied for regional membership to the IAHR. The Executive Committee will discuss this application in order to put forward a recommendation to the International Committee.

At the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool, September 4, 2013, the IAHR Executive Committee will thus recommend that the IAHR International Committee recommends to the IAHR General Assembly that it adopts the Irish, the Lithuanian, and Belgian societies and associations as national members to the IAHR at its meeting in Erfurt in 2015, and it will also put forward its recommendation as regards the application for regional membership from the ACSRM, the *Asociation de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur.*

3.2. Membership Declared Lapsed

Having thus duly noted that the IAHR in the period in question has continued to adopt more and more member associations and since 2010 also started the adoption of affiliates, it must also be noted, see also *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013* (p. 39), that the Executive Committee in the same period, in accordance with the 2010 revised rules (IAHR By-Laws, Rule 1.c.), has declared lapsed 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 existense), 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), the *Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions* (dues missing for several years, in spite of consecutive notifications), and 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).

Finally, mention may be made of the fact that the affiliation of Prof. Helen Farley, Queensland University, as an individual member to the IAHR in Toronto in 2010 when the Australian association had not yet rejoined the IAHR, has been annulled as of the same time as the IAHR Executive Committee readmitted the Australian association.

3.3. 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.

3.4. Cuba and the American Academy of Religion (AAR)

Cuba: Having reported about the lapsed membership of the former Cuban association, it is a pleasure to be able to add that the IAHR leadership has been in continuous contact with Cuban scholars since Toronto 2010 in order to offer our assistance in case the Cuban colleagues think it worthwhile to establish a new Cuban association.

AAR: With reference to the 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions', as well as to the
the 'Response by the IAHR Executive Committee to the IASR Recommendations'
especially the recommendation

> That the Executive Committee offer to work together with the AAR on helping them to develop the vision for their "global connections" project. Serious consideration of this matter by the Executive Committee may not only quiet fears some IAHR members have of the AAR's membership in the IAHR but have positive benefits for the IAHR (p. 49)

I find it appropriate, to not just refer to the full response (pp.59-60) but also to reiterate as well as update it:

The Executive Committee, not least the IAHR President and General Secretary, have been very actively engaged in trying our best to do exactly that, i.e. "offer to work together with the AAR on helping them to develop the vision for their "global connections" project". We have done so in writing and in meetings with the AAR leadership ever since the 2010 admittance of AAR to membership of the IAHR where the future was discussed, *inter alia*, with the incoming AAR President Ann Taves and the AAR Executive Director, Jack Fitzmier.

The General Secretary as well as the President met again with the AAR leadership at the AAR Annual Meeting in Atlanta in November 2010, among other things discussing a new plan for the scheme and work of the AAR International Committee. These discussions were followed up at a meeting between the General Secretary and AAR Executive Director at the AAR Annual Meeting in San Francisco in 2011. In Chicago November 2012, the President and the General Secretary had a meeting with the incoming AAR President, John Esposito, and the General Secretary also met with AAR Executive Director, Jack Fitzmier. Furthermore, at the breakfast meeting for the AAR International members, the General Secretary was given the

opportunity to say a few words about the IAHR and he, together with other IAHR Executive Committee members present, had talks afterwards with several international AAR members.

With special regard to the AAR plans for a new scheme for their international outreach, the following may be noted: In 2010, as well as in 2011, the General Secretary has had a seat in the AAR International Committee, and he has thus been engaged in the annual discussions about a restructuring of the work of the AAR International Committee. He was though, not in the AAR International Committee in his capacity as IAHR General Secretary, but in his capacity as an AAR international member. In spite of this, though, he has of course not been able to hide the fact that he was the General Secretary, and he can also underscore that that the new membership of the AAR to the IAHR has been a key element in the discussions over the last few years.

During the most recent meeting in Chicago, November 2012 in the AAR International Committee, this discussion included the elected Vice-President, later to become AAR President, Tom Tweed, and one of the key issues was how best to secure a permanent link between the AAR and its International Committee and activities and the IAHR. At the moment of writing, the IAHR General Secretary as well as the IAHR President, both have been asked their opinion about a draft written by the head of the AAR International Committee, Amy Allocco, for the part of the new scheme that regards 'Collaborative International Research Grants', and the President as well as the General Secretary both have stressed the absolute importance and need of allotting a permanent seat in the International Committee and grants jury to the IAHR Executive Committee, normally the IAHR General Secretary.

During a meeting with Amy Allocco during the 5th SSEASR Conference in Manila in May 2013, the President (and the Publications Officer, Prof. Morny Joy) met in person with Dr. Allocco, and once again the IAHR leadership expressed its will to collaborate as well as the importance of the aforementioned permanent seat in the AAR International Committee.

At the time of writing, I have no news about this issue but I have no reason to doubt the good will of the AAR, and I trust that we will find a way to ensure that the IAHR be closely linked to any future international scheme and activity of the AAR. The President and I have had nothing but promising meetings with the AAR leadership, be it the current President, John Esposito, the incoming President, Tom Tweed, the Executive Director, Jack Fitzmier, or the head of the AAR International Committee, Amy Allocco.

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

4.1. Financial Situation

With reference to my extensive 2010 report (I*AHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition,* August 2010, 42-45; 55-62) – as General Secretary as well as Acting Treasurer - and to the Treasurer's Report for 2010-2013, I am happy to state as a matter of fact that the financial situation as of 2013, just like as of 2010, in comparison to earlier years, is healthy, or – in the words (p. 41) of the Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking: "the IAHR accounts […] remain safely in credit."

However, as spelled out in my report (*ibid*. 44-45) and stated also in the Treasurer's Report (p. 41), this situation is not quite as healthy as it looks. Not only does it depend on a strict policy in regard to expenses related to the performance of the work of the Executive Committee, its officers and members-at-large. The healthy situation, as well as the strict policy, also depends on the capability of most officers and members of the Executive Committee to finance almost *all* of their IAHR expenses themselves. As said by the Treasurer: it depends on "substantial contributions from […] personal and institutional resources" of the members of the IAHR Executive towards travel and attendance at IAHR conferences and meetings.

I shall refrain from once again spelling out the possible implications and possible future consequences of this 'arrangement', and neither do I want to once again specify the actual amount of money involved. But, I do believe it is of importance to remember and reiterate this fact, and to constantly discuss and look for possible solutions.

4.2. CIPSH

In my 2010 report, I had no problems stating that the IAHR 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 punctual applications for grants, had proved fruitful. The IAHR *expenses*, the annual fee to the CIPSH and a bi-annual expense to cover part of travel costs for the IAHR participant(s) to the CIPSH General Assembly, had been very well placed 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 remained convinced that the IAHR also have an interest in actively supporting the humanities via our engagement in and support to the CIPSH.

Very regrettably, the situation has changed dramatically since my 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 perfectly clear that CIPSH was in deep trouble: the money coming from UNESCO had become 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 is 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 the UNESCO on 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. Please see the letter, reproduced in Appendix II.

This development means that we have received no response to our application for grants for conferences in 2011 and 2012, and that the Treasurer in the draft budget for 2010-2020 does not count on any money at all from the CIPSH. It thus looks as if future grants, like

the grants given in the two previous years, to the IAHR member associations hosting IAHR Special and Regional Conferences can come from but one source: the IAHR general funds.

I have asked the CIPSH leadership to provide me with an update of the situation, and the IAHR Executive Committee will discuss the situation once again at its meeting September 1-2, 2013 in Cork, Ireland.

4.3. 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. As for the history of the IAHR African Trust, the current composition of the Board of Trustees, and information in general about the IAHR African Trust Fund, please see the IAHR website where the IAHR African Trust Fund has its own icon and page.

In 2011 as well as in 2012 the amount of money allocated for grants was 4.000 USD. All applications received have been vetted by members of the Board of Trustees.

The recipients of the IAHR African Trust Fund 2011 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)

The recipients of the IAHR African Trust Fund 2012 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)

At the March 15, 2013 deadline for applications for grants for 2013, the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Afe Adogame, informed the Board of Trustees that he had not received any applications at all. The Board of Trustees as well as its Secretary has no explanation for this fact. The call for applications had been announced via the same, varied channels as in the previous years, and the Secretary 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 not do so but to save the money for 2014, and to make sure that the call for applications for 2014 was announced as early as September 2013.

Thanks are extended to all the members of the Board of Trustees, and special thanks extended to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Dr. Afe Adogame.

5. IAHR Related Publications

5.1. 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 is published in six issues, and as of 2013 the IAHR logo figures 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 the annual NVMEN Editorial Board meetings, normally held in conjunction with the annual business meeting of the Executive Committee, and at the meeting in Södertörn, Sweden in August 2012, we also had an extended discussion about the 'image' of NVMEN.

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 (p. 50), we could thus 'lean on' previous and continuous discussions with the publisher Brill and the Managing Editors. The Executive Committee thinks, a 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".

5.2. NVMEN 60th Anniversary Publication

NVMEN, Volume LX, 2013 marks the 60th Anniversary of *NVMEN*, the IAHR flagship journal. Brill and the IAHR Executive Committee will celebrate this with a special publication.

Acting on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee as managing editor of this publication, I have found a quote from the 'Opening Address' at the IAHR World Congress in Durban 2000, a congress celebrating the "100th Anniversary of the IAHR as a congress tradition and its 50th as a formal organisation with statutes", 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.

(Pye M. & R.I.J. Hackett (eds.), *IAHR World Congress Proceedings, Durban 2000: The History of Religions: Origins & Visions* 2009, pp. 284-285).

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. (*Ibid*, 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 will be constituted by a mixture of, on the one hand, reprints of past key contributions to NVMEN as well as to the IAHR and the debates within 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.

Presumably, this edited special publication on NVMEN and the IAHR thus happens to also realize some of the ideas expressed (p. 46) in the 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions'.

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 R.I.J. Hackett, D. Wiebe, J. Platvoet & A. Adogame, C. Bochinger, J. Ruepke & H. Seiwert, G. Casadio, M. Joy & S. Marcos, S. Fujiwara, and G. Alles & O. Hammer.

5.3. New IAHR Book Series with Equinox

As reported in 2010 and before, *Numen 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, in order to discuss a possible scheme for an IAHR book series. This 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 working 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 encourages 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 the now Publications Officer, Prof. Morny Joy.

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. of one of the IAHR 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 will be 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 (respectively 2%, 3%, and 7.5%) are shared by, respectively, the Series Editor, the Managing Editor, and the Author(s).

The first Editorial Board has been appointed. The members 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, 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

The IAHR and Equinox will make more specific announcements regarding the new IAHR book series in the not too distant future as well as invite contributions.

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, as well as to Equinox, Janet Joyce and Valerie Hall, for their cooperation.

5.4. IAHR and IAHR Related Proceedings, Bulletins, and e-Bulletin Supplements

The *IAHR World Congress Proceedings, Toronto 2010. Religion: A Human Phenomenon* was, as reported earlier, published and uploaded at the IAHR website already a year after the event. Please remember to send information to members about this, if not already done.

More recently, an aforementioned two-volume publication from the Messina 2009, SISR, EASR and IAHR Special Conference is now available. Thanks are extended to the Italian

association as well as to Prof. G. Sfameni Gasparro and her two co-editors, A. Cosentino, and M. Monaca, for their hard work.

Keynotes from the same Messina 2009 SISR, EASR and IAHR Special Conference have already been published in a separate volume in 2010, namely in *Historia Religionum. An International Journal*, 2, 2010, Pisa- Roma, Fabrizio Serra Editore.

Apart from the mentioned IAHR and IAHR-related publications, mention must be made again, of course, also of the published *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition*, and the two issues of the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* published respectively in August 2011 and March 2013, now easily available together with former more recent issues of the *IAHR Bulletin*, *IAHR Bulletin Supplement*, and *IAHR-e-Bulletin Supplement* at the redesigned IAHR website at http://www.iahr.dk/bulletins.php .

6. IAHR Website Redesigned

Though I have spent quite some time, in collaboration with the IAHR President and web-master Jeremy Hughes, preparing the new IAHR website design, the report on this can be brief: It is now here, and I am happy with the result. It accommodates most of the needs and wishes of the General Secretary, and it is my hope that it also satisfies at least most of the needs of IAHR members. It is, furthermore, my hope that it satisfies the wishes for a revised website as expressed (pp. 45; 49) in the 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions'.

7. IASR Recommendations and IAHR Executive Response

This leads, last but not least, to another important matter to report, namely the report on the 'Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions', and the 'Response by the IAHR Executive Committee to the IASR Recommendations'.

Since the two documents have been published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013* and now again in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, I find it superfluous to add further remarks on this matter.

Furthermore, the recommendations, especially the one on the change of the name of the IAHR, as well as the responses, figure on the International Committee agenda as separate and important items.

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary, Copenhagen, August 1, 2013

V. IAHR Treasurer's Report 2010-2013: A Summary

IAHR Accounts are now presented by calendar year. Since 2010, the bank balance at end of each financial year for all IAHR funds has been as follows (all amounts in US$ at €1 = $1.28):

	US$
2010	69,042
2011	83,959
2012	77,465
Average:	76,822*
Most recent balance	
July 7 2013	79,992

*Fluctuations are largely due to the timing of the NUMEN payments within a given year.

The IAHR accounts thus remain safely in credit, however the financial stability of IAHR continues to depend on members of IAHR Executive making substantial contributions from their personal or institutional resources towards travel and attendance at IAHR meetings, so that annual expenditure does not exceed income.

Income and Expenditure

The IAHR has two main sources of income: NUMEN payments from Brill Publishers of about US$13,000 per annum (inflation-linked) 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.

In the latest calendar year (1 Jan 2012 – 31 Dec 2012):

- income was $15,353 and expenditure $17,646.
- the IAHR Endowment fund stands at $8,695
- the IAHR African Trust Fund ($4,000 per annum until 2015) disbursed $3,535 in awards.

Brian Bocking
IAHR Treasurer
UCC, Cork, Ireland
7 July 2013

VI. Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions

To the Executive Committee of
The International Association for the History of Religions

Held at Aarhus University
1-2 July, 2012

Introduction

The Directors of the Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion (A. Khan, M. Hewitt, and D. Wiebe) accepted the responsibility for the organization and staging of the twentieth world congress of the IAHR in Toronto. In undertaking this task we encountered a wide range of questions and concerns not only about the Congress itself but also about the IAHR. We noted that similar questions and concerns about the IAHR and its significance to the establishment and growth of the scientific study of religion in the context of the modern university had been raised at previous regional and international meetings of the Association. In reviewing the concerns raised, we thought that it could be helpful to the IAHR if the Institute (IASR) were to invite scholars who have been heavily involved in IAHR affairs over the years to a conversation on the *raison d'être* and future of the IAHR - to evaluate its fundamental purpose and to assess whether it can sustain the contribution it has made to the field in the past, into the future.

We thought it best to limit the number of participants in order to ensure focused and sustained discussion of issues that might produce helpful suggestions for the Executive Committee of the IAHR to consider. We also thought that the participants, for the most part, should be thoroughly familiar with the history of the IAHR and have experience in the operations of the Executive Committee of the Association. Since three Honorary Life Members of the IAHR were going to be in Aarhus for a conference, we decided to hold the meeting at the University of Aarhus and invite a fourth Honorary Life Member and several other scholars who have been actively involved in the IAHR and have raised specific concerns about the IAHR and its various affiliations and sponsorships.

The four Honorary Life Members present were: Luther H. Martin (also Program Chair of the XXth IAHR Congress), Michael Pye, Armin Geertz, and Donald Wiebe. Given the centrality of the quinquennial congresses in the affairs of the IAHR, Christoph Bochinger, one of the co-directors of the next congress, was invited to participate. Two colleagues "at large," were invited to participate because of important concerns raised by them at recent EASR conferences. Hubert Seiwert, representing the German Association for the Study of Religion unfortunately, had to withdraw at the last moment because of urgent family matters. Panayotis Pachis (representing the Greek Association for the Study of Religion, however, was able to attend and participate in the conversation. We are grateful to Armin Geertz for

making the local arrangements necessary for this meeting, as well as to Mr. Marc Andersen for providing us with a transcript of our deliberations.

Participants were provided with several publications that have dealt with critical issues about the IAHR and its role in supporting the scientific study of religion on an international level. The booklet was entitled "A Discussion on the Future of The International Association for the History of Religions: An IASR Consultation." In addition to the background reading material, questions of interest were suggested, and participants were invited to contribute to that list, from which an agenda was created and sent to the participants two weeks in advance of the meeting. The agenda agreed to in Aarhus included five major items:

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

vi) Other Issues

Report

The report provided here is a summary account of the discussion by participants. The conversations were frank but collegial, our objective being to make suggestions and recommendations to the Executive Committee of the IAHR on each of the items in the agenda that we think will make the Association stronger in and more influential on the field of the study of religion. *The report concludes with a summary of definite recommendations, matters for urgent consideration, and matters for further consideration.* We hope the Executive Committee find these to be of value and give them serious consideration.

1. The Purpose of the IAHR

The title of this section of the agenda was originally stated as "The Mission of the IAHR," but was quickly changed as we were reminded that the word "mission" may have negative connotations for many of our members. We also agreed that the phrase "religious studies" – used on the IAHR Women Scholars Network page – is not the most appropriate given the ambiguity of this use of the adjective "religious."

It is clear from the general discussion concerning the purpose of the IAHR that all participants believe that it is an important international forum of discussion for scholars of religion and that it deserves our strongest support. The IAHR has a proud heritage in this regard, having supported associations, societies, and individuals committed to the scientific (broadly interpreted) study of religion.

First Question: *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?*

There was considerable discussion of this issue, especially given the recent affiliation of the American Academy of Religion to the IAHR. Everyone recognized that it is not only the AAR among member associations that still "harbours" a significant number of members whose primary interests are religious and/or theological. It was therefore agreed that the IAHR may wish to keep its member organizations well informed about the primary purpose of the IAHR in supporting the scientific study of religion.

There was considerable discussion about whether the IAHR might be more effective as an organization in this respect if it moved to individual membership rather than being an association of national member associations. Everyone recognized that this had negative implications with respect to the IAHR's membership in CIPSH, and that even if membership in CIPSH might be given up (given that financial support from that body is minimal and is likely to decline further in the future) the IAHR does not have the organizational infrastructure to be able to look after such a large membership efficiently. After lengthy discussion the matter was deferred to the following day's discussion on the structure and operation of the IAHR.

Second Question: *Would a change of name of the Association to more clearly reflect our scientific objectives make a difference in this regard?*

There was unanimous agreement that a change of name for the Association is necessary. 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 Associations objectives or its membership internationally. There was not immediate agreement, however, on a new name for the Association. 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 it 2015 quinquennial world congress for approval.

Question three: *Are there ways in which the IAHR can make a strong and attractive case for the scientific study of religion?*

Given the long deliberation over the change of name for the IAHR it is clear that we think such a change of name would significantly improve its chances of making a strong case for the scientific study of religion. As with question one above, not using terminology like "mission" or "religious studies" on the website and its publications (digital or otherwise) would also help "clean up" the IAHR's scientific image. Another small but still significant issue in this respect would be deleting the religious pictures from the webpage of the IAHR, the use of which make it hard to differentiate the IAHR page from that of the AAR and other associations that wish to deliver a somewhat ambiguous image of themselves.

It is suggested that the IAHR consider appointing an international press officer who should be in charge of press releases on the website, and who should work at getting IAHR research news into more mainstream media (e.g. the recent attention given to the research of Dimitris Xygalatas and colleagues on firewalking ceremonies around the world).

It is also suggested that the IAHR consider re-branding the IAHR journal and other publications. This would be especially important were there to be a change in name of the Association.

Question four: *Should we be "commissioning" papers and monographs on the development of the scientific studies of religion?*

Several suggestions emerged in this conversation: i) that we encourage scholars (or possibly commission scholars) to explore different aspects of the history of the IAHR (perhaps for publication in NUMEN or in an edited volume); ii) that we offer a prize to younger scholars for historical work on the history of the Association. (There was some scepticism surrounding these notions.)

2. "Political Objectives" of the IAHR

The basic ideas discussed here concerned the Association's relationship to other organizations – both to its own national member associations and societies and to external political bodies such as CIPSH.

Question One: *Does our connection to CIPSH and UNESCO still benefit the IAHR or does it impose obligations that the IAHR cannot properly discharge?*

Considerable discussion was generated by this question. The IAHR is a member of CIPSH because it is an association of national member associations and this will have some bearing, therefore, on the issue of whether the IAHR might reasonably move to individual membership (discussed in more detail under section 3 below). Most of the discussion, however, related to costs and benefits of membership: financial support from CIPSH is waning and likely to decline even more in the future, yet the costs of IAHR representatives attending CIPSH meetings will continue to rise.

There was considerable reluctance to consider pulling out of this relationship, but the participants thought it would be well for the Executive Committee to review this matter carefully, including the number of IAHR representatives attending CIPSH meetings.

Question Two: *Given the present resources of the IAHR can it realistically presume to assist and support national and regional associations around the world?*

An important issue raised here was the question as to whether the IAHR has been, or might be seen, as a missionizing (colonial) organization given that it has been actively engaged in trying to establish the scientific study of religion in national, cultural and educational contexts that are dominated by religious structures (in India, for example, and in Muslim countries). Question was also raised as to whether some of the associations are simply too small to constitute "national" bodies and suggestion was made that in such cases it might be better not to affiliate such units but encourage individual membership. On the whole, however, the participants in this discussion could not come to a general agreement and what the IAHR might best do about these issues.

Question Three: *Now that the AAR has joined the IAHR, how can the IAHR best 'make use' of that relationship?*

We are well aware of the fears among some members of the IAHR generated by the new association with the American Academy of Religion. Hubert Seiwert eloquently presented these at the meeting of the International Committee in 2007. It is unfortunate that he was unable to be present at this meeting to further elaborate his concerns on this matter. All participants had read and appreciated the press release by the AAR regarding its membership in the IAHR. That press release ended with the following statement: "This new way of underscoring our global connections is still in the vision stage and a number of details are still to be worked out. But I [Jack Fitzmeier, President of the AAR) think it will take shape soon, and I believe that we will have more concrete plans in a few months. If you have any ideas or thoughts on this matter, please feel free to drop me an email."

We suggest that the Executive Committee take this statement seriously and to respond to the AAR in a fashion that will lead to a constructive cooperation between the IAHR and its objectives and the AAR.

3. Structure and Operation of the IAHR

Questions raised here included issues of the size of member associations eligible for membership; whether the statements of purpose of associations asking for membership are vetted, and whether the financial viability of these associations is reviewed. Members of this consultation who served either as president or secretary general (or both) answered these questions in the affirmative and discussion moved on.

Questions were raised here about the possibility of listing membership in the IAHR, continuing the discussion of this topic on the previous day. Several alternative proposals were discussed, including a hybrid form of membership where the IAHR would still remain an association of associations but only represent those members of national member associations who are specifically concerned with the study of religion as a scientific undertaking – listing them according to scholarly expertise. No religio-theological discipline, of course, would be included and this would clearly indicate the character of the IAHR as a scientific association of associations.

The participants in this discussion agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee of the IAHR that it give serious consideration to registering those members of national association members who are focused on scientific studies of religion upon vetting their academic profiles.

Question: *"Given the new technologies that make possible group meetings without travel, should the Executive Committee meet more often that it is currently?*

The participants agreed to recommend that the Executive Committee of the IAHR meet more than it currently does through use of the internet, but that these meetings be complemented by some face-to-face meetings as finances permit.

The participants suggest to the Executive Committee that they undertake a thorough review of its structure and the distribution of responsibilities among its members.

4. Financial Viability of the IAHR

Although aware that the IAHR has always operated on a shoe-string budget, there was no serious concern that the IAHR is about to close its doors, so to speak. Nevertheless, it is true that the IAHR does not have sufficient funds to carry out its responsibilities efficiently or fully. It is in with this in mind that the following questions were discussed.

Question One: *Should the IAHR consider seeking "charity status" as an aid to the fund raising task?*

It was suggested that the Executive Committee look into the question of the benefits of charity status (providing some tax benefits to donors) in raising funds.

Question Two: The following question was raised as a kind of thought experiment in which the Executive Committee itself may wish to engage; *If sufficient funds were available, what projects should the IAHR undertake that would make a major difference to the field?*

Suggestions included: book donations for the academic institutions (many of them without strong collections in this field) in which scholars of national member associations function; translation projects – for major English works in the field that have not been made available as yet to scholars in non-english-speaking countries, and vice versa; possible funding of a

history of the IAHR; to provide funds to support a thorough review of IAHR publications so as to provide a complete list on line for members of the IAHR.

5. Quinquennial IAHR Congresses

The quinquennial congresses have been, and still are, the major publicly visible contribution to scholarship made by the IAHR. All agreed that the publications related to the congresses have had a significant impact on the visibility of this field of study.

Concern was raised about the IAHR's sponsorship of regional conferences that are not focused primarily on scientific research on religion and particularly on conferences that have a primarily (or even secondary) religio-theological agenda. This can seriously damage the reputation, purpose and perceptions of the IAHR. The participants suggested that the Executive Committee reassess, vet, and strictly apply the criteria for sponsoring regional and special conferences.

Question was raised as to whether the world congresses ought to meet more often than every five years. After reviewing the number of other organizations sponsoring conferences (nationally and internationally) which our members attend and participate in, it seemed to us that the spacing of the IAHR world congresses is wholly appropriate.

There was agreement – with some question – that the IAHR consider sponsoring conferences with specific issues in mind such as the methodology conferences sponsored in the 1970s and 1980s.

Christoph Bochinger informed the participants of the consultation that the organizers of the next IAHR world congress had developed a title and theme for the event. His report was discussed and met with enthusiasm by all members of this consultation.

6. Other Issues

No other issues were raised and the consultation was brought to a conclusion.

<u>Summary of Recommendations and Matters for Consideration</u>

Definite recommendations will appear in bold print; matters for urgent consideration in italics, and matters for further consideration in plain type.

1. <u>Purpose of the IAHR</u>

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) be to be taken to the General Assembly of the IAHR at its 2015 quinquennial world congress for approval. (If

the Executive Committee agrees, it should be made clear that "scientific" is used here in the broad sense in which we all use the notion of Religionswissenschaft)**.**

That the IAHR revise its webpage and remove images and terminology that does not clearly express its objectives (e.g., remove images of religious groups and symbols that fail to differentiate the page from other "religious studies" sites.)

That the IAHR give serious consideration to re-branding (updating) its journal.

That the IAHR find ways of keeping national member associations well informed about the primary purpose of the IAHR as an organization committed to supporting the scientific study of religions.

That the Executive Committee give thought to the value of appointing an international press officer in an attempt to bring our field and Association into broader recognition.

That the Executive Committee give thought to sponsoring the publication of a history of the IAHR, or articles on various aspects of the IAHR which will draw greater attention to the work of the IAHR.

2. "Political Objective" of the IAHR

That the Executive Committee review the costs/benefits of membership in CIPSH and come to a decision regarding continued membership in that body.

That the Executive Committee offer to work together with the AAR on helping them to develop the vision for their "global connections" project. Serious consideration of this matter by the Executive Committee may not only quiet fears some IAHR members have of the AAR's membership in the IAHR but have positive benefits for the IAHR.

That the Executive Committee take time to review and revise (as necessary) IAHR policies for national association memberships especially with respect to i) contextual support (academic and political) for the scientific study of religion; ii) size of the organization; iii) financial viability of the organization; iv) costs to the IAHR in providing support of the organization; and iv) any other matters deemed important by the Executive Committee.

3. Structure and Operation of the IAHR

That the Executive Committee undertake closer scrutiny of all new national and regional associations and societies (re: intellectual ethos and financial viability) requesting membership in the IAHR.

That the Executive Committee meet more often than it currently does through the use of the internet, but that these meetings be complemented with some face-to-face meetings as finances permit.

That the Executive Committee give serious consideration to registering those individual members of national association members of the IAHR who are focused on scientific studies of religion on vetting their academic profiles.

4. Financial Viability of the IAHR

That the Executive Committee look into the benefits, if any, of gaining charity status, especially re: the possibility of providing tax receipts for donations to the Association.

There was a suggestion that the Executive Committee might consider undertaking a thought experiment in which they consider what they would do should they have a sizable *ongoing* income from a generous donation to the IAHR. Such an exercise might disclose what members consider of first and lasting importance in the activities of the IAHR.

5. Quinquennial IAHR Congresses

That the Executive Committee find a way to alleviate the organizers of the 2015 Congress of the burden of raising and distributing financial support to those requesting aid in order to attend the Congress.

VII. Response by the IAHR Executive Committee to the IASR Recommendations

IASR Consultation Recommendations

on

The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions.

A Response by the IAHR Executive Committee

To the members of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions:
Luther H. Martin
Michael Pye,
Armin Geertz,
Donald Wiebe
Christoph Bochinger
Panayotis Pachis
Att. IASR Director and IAHR Honorary Life Member, Professor Donald Wiebe

Dear Colleagues:
The IASR Consultation Recommendations on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions was discussed by the IAHR Executive Committee at its annual business meeting, August 22-23, Södertörn University, Sweden.

Due to the many other items on the agenda, as well as to the importance of the matter, the Executive Committee agreed to return to the report and recommendations in 2013, allowing more time to consider the matter. It was also agreed to put the recommendations and the first and immediate response by the Executive Committee on the agenda of the IAHR International Committee Meeting in Liverpool in September 2013.

Please find below, nevertheless, the immediate reflections and preliminary responses to your

report and recommendations. The responses are mainly given in relation to the stated questions, and the responses to the final recommendations thus will mostly refer to responses given earlier in this document.

First of all, however, the Executive Committee wants to express its sincere gratitude and appreciation that the IASR took this initiative and that the invited IAHR members took the time and effort to participate. The fact that this group of distinguished, devoted, and experienced IAHR members (four IAHR Honorary Life Members, all of whom have served the IAHR for several decennia, some as key officers on the IAHR Executive Committee, some as director and academic program chair during the recent IAHR World Congress in Toronto 2010, and two IAHR members at large, the one serving for years as a Greek delegate to the International Committee, the other serving as President of the German association and co-director of the IAHR World Congress 2015 in Erfurt) got together to have a two-day discussion about the IAHR, and its future, is indeed encouraging. It goes without saying that the IAHR Executive Committee is equally devoted to continuously discussing the *raison d'être* of the IAHR and to sustaining and strengthening the contribution made by the IAHR to the field of the academic or scientific study of religions. The IAHR Executive Committee thus wholeheartedly shares the ambitions and aims of the report and the recommendations: to make the Association stronger and more influential.

"1. The Purpose of the IAHR

First Question: *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?*"

The preliminary and very short reponse is this: Yes.

The IAHR must keep on communicating its policy and purpose to the member associations and to the individual members. And it is important that it does so effectively.

The current and the previous Executive, however, has actually done quite a lot in this regard: Immediately after the IAHR 2005 XIXth World Congress in Tokyo, where concern about the academic or scientific profile of the IAHR as reflected by some panels or papers at the World Congress was expressed, the Executive Committee drafted a revised policy statement, stressing that "the IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns".

Please compare the information on the IAHR as published in the *IAHR Bulletin*, 38, March 2005, p. 80, with the information p.4 in *IAHR Bulletin*, 39, August 2010. In Toronto, during the IAHR XXth World Congress 2010, this particular and highly important piece of information was, furthermore, integrated into the IAHR Constitution, Article 1.

IAHR member associations, not least those adopted after 2010 and those to be adopted in the future, by way of being and becoming an IAHR member association subscribe to this formulation and policy. They commit themselves to the stated vision and aims of the IAHR, and thus to cooperating with each other and the IAHR to implement the aims of the IAHR. With the unanimous adoption in Toronto 2010, by the International Committee and the General Assembly, of the proposed amendments to the Constitution, the IAHR Executive Committee expects all members, old and new, not just to subscribe to the aforementioned IAHR principles in principle but also in practice. If they do not, then they ought reconsider their membership.

The IAHR Executive, though, cannot 'go around the world' policing and controlling that each member association or each individual member 'play according to the rules', but it can do whatever possible to encourage that they do so, and it can do so especially in regard to members who have been awarded the hosting of an IAHR Special and Regional Conference, not to speak, of course, of those hosting an IAHR World Congress.

Thus it is also a pleasure to be able to tell you that the IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Södertörn in Sweden in August 2012 adopted a set of revised guidelines and requirements for those hosting an IAHR Special or Regional Conference. The full text can be found at the IAHR website. Suffice it to quote this:

> The right to use the IAHR-designation involves a number of conditions depending on the applicant member association or affiliate association and the event in question. But for all IAHR conferences, it is required that the hosting association should 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.*"

As regards the discussion on whether the IAHR should move to individual membership: The IAHR Executive is not blind to the potential benefits of individual membership. We do, however, see good reasons for not moving to individual membership: 1) We cannot see how

we can find the resources to handle such a large individual membership efficiently, and 2) we do find it important to stimulate national and regional associations which can then serve the individual members as well as help serve and support local higher education departments for the scientific study of religions.

The problem as we see it is rather this: how do we ensure that the officers responsible actually forward the IAHR information sent to them to *all* their members in an efficient way, and to what extent do they feed back to IAHR fora the suggestions and concerns of individual members? So a key question to address in this regard is: How can the IAHR communicate more directly with the individual members of the various member associations?

"Second Question: *Would a change of name of the Association to more clearly reflect our scientific objectives make a difference in this regard?"*

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.

Due to the limited time available for an in-depth discussion of the proposal to change the name of the Association in order to assist in communicating this objective, the Executive Committee decided to restrict its response to the following:

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 an academic, scientific study of religion(s)! We do not think most members think otherwise.

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* 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. Thinking also about the Rome 1990 proposal to change the name, followed by intense discussions from 1990-1995, and then the Mexico Congress where the proposal was turned down by a majority, we think it might be more effective to focus attention - and use the limited resources we have - to pursue the aims of the IAHR and thus also implement the scientific agenda- in other ways than by way of a change of name and a long discussion *pro et contra*.

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.

”Question three: *Are there ways in which the IAHR can make a strong and attractive case for the scientific study of religion?”*

As regards the suggestions to ”clean up” the IAHR’s scientific image, also by way of ’cleaning up’ the IAHR *website*, the Executive can respond as follows:

The IAHR General Secretary and President, together with the other members of the Executive Committee, have taken the first steps to restructure and update the IAHR website. We are in agreement that the site ought be more simple and with easier access to the most important IAHR matters; basic information about the IAHR, and *ad hoc* information and effective communication about IAHR-related news.

As for the pictures constituting what might be called examples of various kinds of data for the scientific study of religion, then these pictures most likely will be substituted by some other IAHR-related pictures. We are working on this.

We have also created an IAHR Facebook site which is growing well and providing an additional communicative and informational medium on IAHR-related matters and general news pertaining to the academic study of religion.

As for your suggestion to have an international press officer: to have a paid (professional) press officer working on behalf of the IAHR is well beyond the IAHR's means; if we were to divert IAHR funds towards employment of staff, the first priority would surely be administrative support to the Executive Committee and the General Secretary. In principle, the IAHR does have at the present time an Internet Officer. Together with the IAHR General Secretary, and maybe also the Membership Secretary, this officer most likely was meant to perform something similar to what you propose.

It has proved to be less simple to have something like that function, and in view of the decision of the IAHR in Toronto 2010 *not* to have either an Internet Officer or a Membership Officer as of 2015, the current Internet Officer has not been asked to perform as an Internet Officer but rather as a member-at-large. The day to day updates of the website is thus (again) in the hands of the General Secretary, and due to his workload he normally does but ask the hired website administrator to execute updates of names of officers, announce news about IAHR publications, *inter alia* Proceedings, the *IAHR Bulletin*, and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*.

The Executive Committee, not least the General Secretary, thus fully acknowledges the need to improve the website given its increasing importance as a tool of representation, information, and communication. .

As regards the "re-branding" of the IAHR journal, *NVMEN*:

NVMEN is no longer'owned' by the IAHR but by Brill. Fortunately, the IAHR still has a say in regard to *NVMEN*, and fortunately Brill is willing to listen. At the meeting in Södertörn in 2012, it was decided that the IAHR logo be inserted into the issues of *NVMEN* and other image-related changes were discussed too.

However, as with the name 'IAHR': we think *NVMEN* is a 'brand', a good one, and we think *NVMEN* strikes a fairly good balance between a more classical historical-philological IAHR profile and a more innovative IAHR profile reflecting also the "developments in the multiplicity of scientific approaches" in the study of religions today. 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.

It might be added that the IAHR, in conjunction with Equinox Publishing, is about to launch a new IAHR book series (after the *NVMEN Book Series* is no longer related to the IAHR), and the intention for this series is also to strike a balance.

”Question four: *Should we be “commissioning” papers and monographs on the development of the scientific studies of religion?”*

During the meeting with Brill in Södertörn 2012, the Brill acquisitions editor told us that she was ready to make an effort to celebrate the 60th anniversary of *NVMEN*.

Following further talks with Brill and with the two managing editors of *NVMEN*, it has been decided that Brill will accommodate the publication of a special book meant to commemorate and celebrate this event.

The Executive Committee is setting up an editorial committee headed by the General Secretary and with former prominent IAHR officers included. The plan is to include already published articles, articles that can be considered milestones and/or highly informative as regards the history, policy making and historiography of the IAHR and then to add one or two new articles. The plan is thus to highlight and provide information about the most salient aspects of the history, vision and identity of the IAHR. This will provide both a retrospective and prospective, as well as a historical resource. We believe that this publication will meet the wishes of your report and recommendations.

”2. ”Political Objectives” of the IAHR

Question One: *Does our connection to CIPSH and UNESCO still benefit the IAHR or does it impose obligations that the IAHR cannot properly discharge?”*

As can be seen from the 2010 report by the General Secretary and Acting Treasurer, membership of CIPSH actually did benefit the IAHR finances in the period from 2005-2010, even when the annual fees and the (very limited) expenses related to particpation in CIPSH meetings are considered.

In 2012, however, we received sad news from CIPSH, news that means that we have to reconsider the membership. When discussing CIPSH and this item in your report, the Executive Committee decided to wait and see for another year at least what happens to CIPSH. We do think that CIPSH is an important international effort to help strengthen the

human and social sciences, and we believe the IAHR has an obligation to be part of the CIPSH network of international associations. We also know that the very label/imprimatur of CIPSH/UNESCO remains extremely helpful to some IAHR associations in certain parts of the world when they are raising funds for conferences and publications. But as said: we are carefully monitoring developments at CIPSH, and there is no financial outlay apart from the annual fee (500€).

Finally: for many years, before and after 2005, the IAHR sent but one representative to CIPSH meetings. Only once, with the Toronto 2010 XXth World Congress in view, and for other valid reasons, did we sent two delegates, namely the President and General Secretary. And, we are certain that that was a good investment, for many reasons, and the money spent (max 2000 USD) came back in manifold ways.

"Question Two: *Given the present resources of the IAHR can it realistically presume to assist and support national and regional associations around the world?"*

Following Tokyo 2005, the Executive Committee has worked intensively not just to tighten up the academic profile (see above) but also to straighten out and improve the financial situation.

As stated time and again in recent reports from the General Secretary and Acting Treasurer to the International Commitee as well as to the General Assembly, the financial situation of the IAHR has improved significantly since 2005.

At the meeting in Södertorn, August 2012, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Executive Committee presented a draft budget 2012-2020 (i.e. extending even beyond the remit of the current Executive Committee) according to which the IAHR would still have reserves of at least $50,000 by then.

However, the balancing of this budget depends, cf. also remarks by the General Secretary in this regard in the afore-mentioned reports, very much on the 'hidden subsidy' made up of Executive Committee members' contributions, made personally or by their universities, to the travel and subsistence costs of IAHR Executive Committee meetings.

In order to have a globally representative Executive Committee, required by the Constitution but also of importance for the Executive Committee in its efforts to be informed about and in contact with the various regions and member associations, it is essential to make sure that

election to the Executive Committee does not impose an impossible financial burden on the individual elected.

In addition, the IAHR increasingly needs to be able to support officers, especially the General Secretary and President, to meet their growing obligations to attend and support the work of member associations. Hence, a significant amount of IAHR's income needs to be set aside each year to fund the ordinary work of the Executive Committee.

Nevertheless, the draft budget does have room for subsidies to IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, and the draft budget mentioned here has allowed also for a substantial amount of money to help sponsor the World Congresses in 2015 and 2020.

To come back to the discussion actually reported in relation to this question: the IAHR Executive Committee is keenly aware that it does not serve the IAHR's aims to have officers travel around stimulating and assisting the establishment of potential IAHR member associations at any price. We have several examples of associations that seem to have been too weak – in terms of number of religion scholars, finances etc – from day one, and we do not want to establish associations whose members are not subscribing to the IAHR principles. Yet, the current Executive Committee does consider it part of its remit to promote the academic study of religions by way of assisting religion scholars in efforts to create and sustain platforms for the organized scientific study of religions. We consider this to be part of the aims of the IAHR as stated in Article 1 of the Constitution.

"Question Three: *Now that the AAR has joined the IAHR, how can the IAHR best 'make use' of that relationship?"*

The IAHR Executive Committee is also "well aware of the fears among some members of the IAHR generated by the new association with the American Academy of Religion." We have therefore been very actively engaged in following up, in various ways, in writing and in meetings with the AAR leadership ever since the 2010 admittance of AAR to membership of the IAHR where the future was discussd, *inter alia*, with the incoming AAR President Ann Taves and the AAR Executive Director, Jack Fitzmier.

The General Secretary as well as the President met again with the AAR leadership at the AAR Annual Meeting in Atlanta in November 2010, among other things discussing a new plan for the scheme and work of the AAR International Committee. These discussions were followed

up at a meeting between the General Secretary and AAR Executive Director at the AAR Annual Meeting in San Francisco in 2011.

In 2010, as well as in 2011, the General Secretary has had a seat in the AAR International Committee, and he has thus been engaged in the annual discussions about a restructuring of the work of the AAR International Committee. Though not in the International Committee in his capacity as General Secretary, but in his capacity as an AAR international member, the General Secretary can testify to the fact that membership of the IAHR has been a key element in the discussions. During the most recent meeting in Chicago November 2012 in the AAR International Committee, this discussion included the elected Vice-President, later to become AAR President, Tom Tweed, and one of the key issues was how best to secure a permanent link between the AAR and its International Committee and activities and the IAHR.

Also in Chicago November 2012, the President and the General Secretary had a meeting with the incoming AAR President, John Esposito, and the General Secretary also met with AAR Executive Director, Jack Fitzmier. The General Secretary took the opportunity during the annual meeting to encourage the AAR leadership to do as most of the other IAHR member associations do, namely mention on their website as well as in their program book membership of the IAHR.

Last but not least: at the breakfast meeting for the AAR International members, the General Secretary was given the opportunity to say a few words about the IAHR and he, together with other IAHR Executive Committee members present, afterwards had talks with several members.

”3. Structure and Operation of the IAHR”

”Questions raised here included issues of the size of member associations eligible for membership; whether the statements of purpose of associations asking for membership are vetted, and whether the financial viability of these associations is reviewed. ”

The IAHR Executive Committee confirms what the members of the consultation who served either as President or Secretary General (or both) answered.

”Questions were raised here about the possibility of listing membership in the IAHR, continuing the discussion of this topic on the previous day.”

As for the response to the recommendation in this regard, see ahead.

”Question: *“Given the new technologies that make possible group meetings without travel, should the Executive Committee meet more often that it is currently?”*

As for the response to the recommendation in this regard, see below.

As for the suggestion that the IAHR ”undertake a thorough review of its structure and the distribution of responsibilities among its members”, the Executive Committee can only say that it did so in the term 2005-2010, and that the first result was the (adopted) new distribution of offices, with the elimination of the Membership Secretary and Internet Officer. However, the Executive Committee continues these discussions, also in regard to the proposal from the AASR in 2010 to restructure the Executive Committee. One of the most urgent matters concerns the importance of finding a way to improve electronic communication to member associations AND to individual members.

”4. Financial Viability of the IAHR”

The Executive Committee first wants to direct attention to the most recent report by the General Secretary and Acting Treasurer (*IAHR Bulletin* 39, 42-45, 55-62), as well as to what has been said above in regard to item 2, question two.

”Question One: *Should the IAHR consider seeking “charity status” as an aid to the fund raising task?”*

The Executive Committee takes note of this, and it will be part of the ongoing discussions about possible means of raising new funds. The current Treasurer had however already investigated this particular matter in the context of transferring the IAHR bank accounts after 2010, and the answer is that in general charities have to be registered with the relevant tax or charity administration authorities in each tax jurisdiction (usually that means country) in which they spend or receive funds in order to reap any benefits of charitable status in those countries; moreover any changes in the names, addresses, nationalities etc. of the principal officers (such as after each quinquennial congress) would have to be amended in the registration system of each country involved. While this makes sense for large multinational bodies with a charitable purpose, it is beyond the means of the IAHR, whose Executive Committee is itself scattered in different countries, to maintain this level of engagement with tax jurisdictions worldwide.

”Question Two: The following question was raised as a kind of thought experiment in which the Executive Committee itself may wish to engage; *If sufficient funds were available, what projects should the IAHR undertake that would make a major difference to the field?”*

The response to the suggestions given in the report: the afore-mentioned plan for a special publication in honor of NVMEN and thus also of the IAHR may be in correspondence with some of the suggestions. The same goes for the planned IAHR book series. Apart from that, the Executive Committee will continue discussions about how best to use the money we actually have and to discuss also what kind of project we could undertake if we had more money. As suggested above, with sufficient funds the IAHR might well use this for administrative help which would free up Executive Committee officers, especially the General Secretary, to concentrate on improving communications in all directions among members and advancing the IAHR's profile worldwide.

”5. Quinquennial IAHR World Congresses”

As regards the suggestion to ”reassess, vet, and strictly apply the criteria for sponsoring regional and special conferences”, please see above. The new guidelines for hosting IAHR Special and Regional Conferences constitute the most obvious response to this suggestion.

As regards the IAHR ”sponsoring conferences with specific issues in mind such as the methodology conferences sponsored in the 1970s and 1980s”, the Executive Committee agrees that this is a good idea to be considered and handed over also to potential hosting associations.

Turning now to the report's final ”Summary of Recommendations and Matters for Consideration”:

As stated initially (p.2), full responses to several concluding recommendations have been given as responses to questions raised earlier in the report by the IASR consultation.

This will be indicated below, and the responses to several recommendations will therefore be brief.

In the report by the IASR consultation”definite recommendations” appear in bold print; matters for ”urgent consideration” in italics, and ”matters for further consideration” in plain type. The rendering below has retained that formatting. Alle responses appear in bold and red.

”1. <u>Purpose of the IAHR</u>

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) be to be taken to the General Assembly of the IAHR at its 2015 quinquennial world congress for approval. (If the Executive Committee agrees, it should be made clear that “scientific” is used here in the broad sense in which we all use the notion of Religionswissenschaft)**.”**

Response:
Please see above pp. 4-5.
The recommendation from the IASR consultation will be put forward to the International Committee meeting in 2013 in Liverpool.

”That the IAHR revise its webpage and remove images and terminology that does not clearly express its objectives (e.g., remove images of religious groups and symbols that fail to differentiate the page from other “religious studies” sites.)”

Response:
A revision is in progress. Please see above pp. 5-6.

”That the IAHR give serious consideration to re-branding (updating) its journal.”

Response:
In progress. Please see above pp. 6-7

”That the IAHR find ways of keeping national member associations well informed about the primary purpose of the IAHR as an organization committed to supporting the scientific study of religions.”

Response:
Done/In progress. Please see above pp. 2-5.

”That Executive Committee give thought to the value of appointing an international press officer in an attempt to bring our field and Association into broader recognition.”

Response:
In progress. Please see above p. 6.

”That the Executive Committee give thought to sponsoring the publication of a history of the IAHR, or articles on various aspects of the IAHR which will draw greater attention to the work of the IAHR.”

Response:
Done/In progress. Please see above, p. 7.

”2. <u>“Political Objective” of the IAHR”</u>

”That the Executive Committee review the costs/benefits of membership in CIPSH and come to a decision regarding continued membership in that body.”

Response:
Done/In progress. See above, pp. 7-8.

”That the Executive Committee offer to work together with the AAR on helping them to develop the vision for their “global connections” project. Serious consideration of this matter by the Executive Committee may not only quiet fears some IAHR members have of the AAR’s membership in the IAHR but have positive benefits for the IAHR.”

Response:
Done/In progress. See above, p. 10.

”That the Executive Committee take time to review and revise (as necessary) IAHR policies for national association memberships especially with respect to i) contextual support (academic and political) for the scientific study of religion; ii) size of the organization; iii) financial viability of the organization; iv) costs to the IAHR in providing support of the organization; and iv) any other matters deemed important by the Executive Committee.”

Response:
Done/In progress. See above pp. 2-4; 9.

”3. Structure and Operation of the IAHR”

”That the Executive Committee undertake closer scrutiny of all new national and regional associations and societies (re: intellectual ethos and financial viability) requesting membership in the IAHR.”

Response:
Done/In progress.

”That the Executive Committee meet more often than it currently does through the use of the internet, but that these meetings be complemented with some face-to-face meetings as finances permit.”

Response: The Executive Committee did not have time to discuss this proposal in Södertörn 2012, but it has done so on previous occasions. Two obvious problems in the use of the internet for meetings involving a global Executive Committee are (a) time differences and (b) quality of internet access. However, as of now, the Executive Committee meets two days per year, and the President and General Secretary plus quite a few other officers and members-at-large often meet in more informal ways at conferences during a year. The Executive Committee communicates about matters by email several times per year.

”That the Executive Committee give serious consideration to registering those individual members of national association members of the IAHR who are focused on scientific studies of religion and? on vetting their academic profiles.”

Response: The Executive Committee discussed this briefly but its immediate response was that this was not possible. As it is now we do not have lists of individual members of the member associations.

”4. <u>Financial Viability of the IAHR”</u>

”That the Executive Committee look into the benefits, if any, of gaining charity status, especially re: the possibility of providing tax receipts for donations to the Association.”

”There was a suggestion that the Executive Committee might consider undertaking a thought experiment in which they consider what they would do should they have a sizable *ongoing* income from a generous donation to the IAHR. Such an exercise might disclose what members consider of first and lasting importance in the activities of the IAHR.”

Response:
See above pp. 11-12, and 8-9.

”5. <u>Quinquennial IAHR World Congresses2</u>

”That the Executive Committee find a way to alleviate the organizers of the 2015 Congress of the burden of raising and distributing financial support to those requesting aid in order to attend the Congress.”

Response:
Money has been set aside for this purpose and experiences from Toronto 2010 will be shared with the German organizers and host.

Once again: Thanks to the IASR and the members of the consultation. Your initiative, concern, reflections, suggestions and recommendations are encouraging and stimulating.

If you do not have any objections, then your report and recommendations as well as this response will be published and sent to IAHR member associations in an *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* to be published February 2013.

On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee

Sincerely

Tim Jensen, IAHR Secretary General, Copenhagen, February 3, 2013

Appendix I: 5th SSEASR Conference, Manila 2013: Report for the IAHR

5th SSEASR Conference, Manila, 2013: A Report

*The 5th Conference of the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (**SSEASR**) was hosted in Manila by the Pontifical and Royal University of Santo Tomas (UST). With the IAHR extending it a status of Regional Conference, the 5th SSEASR brought together scholars on academic study of religions, writers, and artists from 24 countries for a four-day conference during May 16-19, 2013 at the UST Thomas Aquinas Research Complex Auditorium, Manila.*

Senator Edgardo J. Angara, Chair of the **Senate committee on Education, Arts and Culture**, and Chair of the committee on Science and Technology delivered the Keynote Address. During the Opening Ceremonies. **Rev. Fr. Herminio V. Dagohoy, OP,** Rector of UST, and **Dr. Amarjiva Lochan**, President of SSEASR, delivered the Welcome Remarks.

In the words of Fr. Dr. Dagohoy, "The current post-modern imaginary calls for the debunking of grand narratives and the loosening of categories which somehow leads to variegated forms of relativism and secularism. The close examination and interrogation of this present ideological template by nations, races, and institutions puts a temporary halt to various truth claims that characterize this great divide which involves those who strictly adhere to age-old ideals and spiritual aspirations and those who are bereft of any belief system. Today, there is a need to reconfigure these secularist concepts and transform them into a more meaningful framework in order to articulate differing views as well as to determine a point by which scholars can meet, agree, theorize, and to a certain extent, provide directions for future discussions."

Furthermore, he said that: "*The 5th SSEASR is a venue for an academic and cultural exchange to provide a unified voice for numerous platforms and cross-disciplinal approaches. The subjects for discussion categorically render the central or the interstitial, with an interesting interplay among personal, political, and universal truths breaking down all barriers and separatist ideas. This intellectual sojourn is an avenue to celebrate similarities and differences, explore the collective and the distinct, and to understand the universal and the unique*."

Dr. Lochan shared that "South and Southeast Asia have a unique blend of the continuity of the past in its present. With a great history, the interaction between the two regions dates back to the third millennium, B.C." He added that "*while the new religions contributed much to the cultures of Southeast Asia, the natives of these lands had their own cultures prior to the advent of these religions. What are the values and practices of these indigenous cultures? Were these cultures enriched or hampered by the advent of the new religions? Has there been an enculturation of these religions both in the South and Southeast Asia?* Traditional cultures have taken thousands of years to evolve and are worth preserving, since they are the carriers of the accumulated wisdom of the people since Antiquity. Culture gives man a sense of belonging, acceptance, and assurance. Culture enshrines values that define meaning as well as guide, motivate, and lead people to fulfillment. Thus, the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Religion and Culture Conference (SSEASR) has promoted the academic study of the richness of the past in both South and Southeast Asia. "

The region of the South and Southeast is a mixture of beliefs and practices that share the common belief that healing is related to spirituality and those religious practices can enable and (at times) impede it. Thus, the 5th SSEASR Conference through its several academic papers emphasized that the commonalities of ideas, thoughts and social response transcend the barriers of one particular religion.

Also discussed in the conference were topics on: Health, Healing and Healers in South and Southeast Asia; Healing in South and Southeast Asian Transnational Communities; Science and Traditional Healing Systems; Sacred Sounds of South and Southeast Asia; Traditional and Alternative Means of Healing; Suffering and Penance through the Bodily Practices; Plants, Peoples, and Sacred Practices; Belief Systems and Island Cultures; Folk Christianity in South and Southeast Asia; Pilgrimage and Spiritual Well-being; Rites, Rituals and Sacredness in South and Southeast Asia; Beliefs and Survival among South and Southeast Asian Diasporic Communities; Routes as Carriers of Cultures and Religions; Literature of Prayers and Invocations; Indigenous Religions of South and Southeast Asia; and Festivals of the Ethnic Groups of South and Southeast Asia.

Three women of influence delivered the Plenary Session lectures followed by four parallel sessions with four to six speakers for each session. On day 1, **Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett**, president of the International Association for the History of Religions delivered a lecture on "Healing through Sound and Music: From Ancient Theologies to (Pseudo)science". For day 2, **Dr. Lilian J. Sison**, dean of the UST Graduate School and head of the Women Committee of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace discussed "Religion and the Peace Project in Mindanao", while **Dr. Cristina Pantoja-Hidalgo**, a renowned writer and director of the UST Center for Creative Writing and Literary Studies, was the Plenary Speaker for day 3 on the topic "Women and Culture in Philippine Literature".

A special interactive session of ***Women Scholars Network*** under the auspices of the IAHR was organized **by Prof Morny Joy** on the third day.

The Conference ended with a General Assembly conducted by **Prof Sophana Srichampa**, SSEASR Secretary General which was chaired by the senior most Life Member , **Prof Chirapat Prapandvidya** (Thailand). The Assembly honoured two participants **Dr Niki Papageorgiou**(Greece) and **Prof Chutatip Umavijani**(Thailand) for coming to all past SSEASR Conferences without fail! Sri Lanka was declared to be the next host to organize the 6th SSEASR Conference!

On the social side, there was a hearty and entertaining welcome dinner on the first night after a guided tour through the campus, while a city tour in the afternoon of the third day through Manila highlighted the UST Museum, San Agustin Stone Church and Fort Santiago at Intramuros, Dr. Rizal Monument at Roxas Boulevard, and SMX Shopping Complex at Manila Bay, as well as a farewell dinner at Aristocrat, an old restaurant since the year 1936. The Conference did extend with its fabulous three-day post Conference tour of Cebu and Bohol islands! The SSEASR fellows bid goodbye to each other at Manila airport on May 22.

[THIS REPORT WAS SENT TO THE IAHR GENERAL SECRETARY BY THE SSEASR SECRETARY GENERAL, PROF. SOPHANA SRICHAMPA. THANK YOU TO PROF. SRICHAMPA FOR PREPARING AND SENDING THIS REPORT]

Appendix II: CIPSH April 2012 Letter to Presidents & Secretary-Generals

CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL DE LA PHILOSOPHIE ET DES SCIENCES HUMAINES
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR PHILOSOPHY AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Président : Adama Samassékou
Secrétaire général : Maurice Aymard

1 rue Miollis 75732 Paris Cedex 15 cipsh@unesco.org + 33. 1. 45 68 48 85

To Presidents and Secretary-Generals
of Cipsh Members Orgs

Bamako-Paris, April 27 2012.

Dear Colleagues,

As we have feared, the dramatic financial crisis that UNESCO is currently undergoing is having a direct and rather serious impact on Cipsh. As you may recall, this crisis stems from the US Government decision to freeze all its contributions to UNESCO budget following UNESCO General Conference decision to admit Palestine among its Member States.

Facing a reduction of resources of over 30% for 2012, Mrs Irina Bokova, Director General of UNESCO, decided last December to freeze all activities receiving either direct or indirect support from UNESCO. While we had started, last October, an important negotiation with the Sector of Social Sciences and Humanities in order to renew the contracts for Cipsh and Diogenes for 2012-2013, we were informed by our counterpart that all talks had to be suspended, as the Sector was not entitled anymore to take on any commitment for the current year.

We would like to hope that a solution to the current crises might be found, and that UNESCO will be able to resume its activities. However, it seems unlikely that such solution be found in the next several months. We therefore have to admit that UNESCO will provide no contribution whatsoever in 2012, and take all the necessary steps to ensure the continuity of Cipsh and Diogenes in such exceptional context. Ever since the creation of Cipsh in 1949, and of Diogenes in 1952, this situation is unprecedented. It was the main subject of discussion at the Cipsh Board meeting that the hospitality of Bosphorus University (Bogazici University) has allowed us to hold on the scheduled dates of March 15 and 16, 2012. This meeting has allowed us to establish the guidelines for short-term survival strategy. Let us herewith share them with you.

1. The financial situations of Cipsh and Diogenes are different. Cipsh budget includes Member Organisations fees (9,500 euros) and, for the remaining 85%, the UNESCO subsidy (87,500 USD). On the contrary, we have succeeded in the last three years to raise extra funds for Diogenes for a global amount of 69,000 euros in 2011 and 42,694 euros in 2012 : these funds have allowed us to cover the increased costs of translation of the journal, as well as part of the editorial costs which had been waived since our Assembly in Beijing in 2004. As a result, the 2011 balance sheet has shown a minor deficit in Cipsh's own budget, a considerable leftover in Diogenes budget, and a net cash flow of around 42,000 euros.

2. This cash flow, due to Diogenes surplus for 2011, has allowed us to fund the mandatory expenses of Cipsh and Diogenes for the first half of 2012 (salaries and remunerations, diverse expenses).

3. The Board has therefore decided to suspend all salaries and remuneration from June 30th, 2012, in compliance with the current legislation. This decision concerns mainly Mr Luca Maria Scarantino, deputy secretary-general of Cipsh, and Mrs Janet Arnulf, administrative assis- tant. It has equally decided to earmark the amount of Member Organisations fees for the func- tioning of Cipsh, and to assign the amount of external funds overtly intended for Diogenes to the proper operation of the journal itself. This means that, starting June 30th 2012, the financial ac- counts and managing of Cipsh and Diogenes will be strictly separate.

4. The Board has equally envisaged all possible external funds that might come to replace UNESCO subsidies.

5. Before this situation of extreme gravity, the Board has charged the President, in coop- eration with the Secretary-General and the Treasurer, to take any initiative that would allow the continuity of Cipsh, and to keep the Board as well as the Member Organisations regularly in- formed.

The year 2012 looks therefore particularly critical. However, we believe that everything should be done to save Cipsh and ensure that it continues on its intended route. It requires from us all more devotion and even more volunteer work. But this should not prevent us from reflect- ing on our future. It is essential that we reaffirm the increasingly central place of the humanities and philosophy in the contemporary world: such is the goal of the World Conference on the role of the humanities in the 21st century that we decided in Nagoya in Dec 2010 to organize and that we will most likely have to postpone to 2014-2015.

The help of our Member organizations is in this context of the highest importance. May we ask you to alert the National Commissions for UNESCO with which you are in touch, and to suggest to us what public (National Research Councils, Academies of Sciences) or private (Foun- dations) sources we might contact. We also consider it important that each Member organisation, association or scholar be able to reach UNESCO directly so as to make its governing bodies aware of how the international scholarly community cares for the survival of Cipsh and Diogenes. We are eager to receive all of your suggestions.

We thank you in advance,