

Minutes of the International Committee Meeting

IAHR International Committee Meeting
Erfurt, Germany
Wednesday August 26, 2015

[To be adopted at the next International Committee Meeting in 2018]
[Preliminarily adopted by the IAHR Executive Committee January 30, 2016]

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

Prof. Hackett welcomed the delegates of the International Committee and asked the General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, to ascertain that the meeting had been announced and called in accordance with the IAHR Rules of Procedure. With reference to the General Secretary's report in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, p. 52, Prof. Jensen confirmed that the meeting had been announced several times and in accordance with the IAHR Rules of Procedure Rule 3d, by way of the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, the IAHR website, and specific emails sent to IAHR officers. The first call was published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp. 40 – 41.

1 Adoption of the Agenda

With reference to a need arising from the anticipated transfer of the IAHR bank accounts (from Ireland to Switzerland), the Treasurer and the General Secretary asked that an extra item ('Proposed Changes to the Constitution Caused by Transfer of Bank Account') be added as item 12 to the agenda, thus making "Any other business" item 13.

With this amendment, 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.

Prof. Jensen added that the IAHR at the moment had no individual members but that Rule 6 allowed for the International Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to adopt observers and/or consultants to participate in its sessions without voting rights.

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

2.1 Ascertainment of Membership

The following members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR were present: President Rosalind I.J. Hackett; Vice-president Ingvild S. Gilhus; Vice-president Abdulkader Tayob; General Secretary Tim Jensen; Deputy General Secretary Mar Marcos; Treasurer Brian Bocking; Deputy Treasurer Marianna Shakhnovich; Membership Secretary Abraham H. Khan; Publications Officer Morny Joy; Members without Portfolio Satoko Fujiwara and Amarjiva Lochan.

Apologies from: Internet Officer Silas Guerriero.

The following representatives of the IAHR national and regional member societies and associations were present:

Africa (AASR): Afe Adogame & Elias Bongmba
 Australia (AASR): Carole Cusack
 Austria (ÖGRW): Rüdiger Lohlker & Franz Winter
 Belgium (BABEL): Jos Verheyden & Daniel Praet
 Brazil (ABHR/BAHR): none
 Canada (CSSR/ SCÉR) [one vote only]: none
 **Canada (Québec) (SQÉR) [one vote only]: none
 China (CARS): Zheng Xiaoyun
 Czech Republic (CASR): Tomáš Bubík & David Zbiral
 Denmark (DASR): Jørn Borup & Laura Feldt
 Eastern Africa (EAASR): none
 Europe (EASR): Einar Thomassen & Marco Pasi
 Estonia (EAUS/ESSR): Jaan Lahe & Ülo Valk
 Finland (SUS): Peter Nynäs & Anna Haapalainen
 France: Charles Guittard & Régine Guittard

Germany (DVRW): Christoph Boehinger & Christoph Kleine
 Greece (GSSCR): Panayotis Pachis & Olympia Panagiotidou
 Hungary (MVT): Abraham Kovács & Bulcsu Hoppál
 India (IASR): none
 Ireland (ISASR): James Kapalo & Alexandra Grieser
 Italy (SISR): Giovanni Casadio & Alessandro Saggiore
 Japan (JASR): Takeshi Kimura & Yoshitsugu Sawai
 Latin America (ALER): none
 Latvia (LRPB): none
 Lithuania (LSSR): Milda Ališauskienė
 Mercosur/South America (ACSRM): none
 Mexico (SMER): Yolotl González Torres
 Netherlands (NGG): Markus Altena Davidsen
 New Zealand (NZASR) Geoff Troughton & Douglas Pratt
 North America (NAASR): Luther M. Martin & Donald Wiebe
 Norway (NRF): Knut A. Jacobsen
 *Poland (PTR): [see below]
 Romania (RAHR): none
 Russia: Ekaterina Teryukova & Elena Stepanova
 Slovakia (SSŠN/SASR): none
 South Korea (KAHR): Chae Young Kim
 Southern Africa (ASRSA): none
 South and Southeast Asia (SSEASR): Sophana Srichampa & Le Hang Nga
 Spain (SECR): Francisco Diez de Velasco & Santiago Montero
 Sweden (SSRF): Jenny Berglund & David Thurffjell
 Switzerland (SGR/SSSR): Jens Schlieter & Anja Kirsch
 Turkey (TAHR): none
 Ukraine (UARR): Anatolij Kolodnyy & Liudmyla Fylypovych
 United Kingdom (BASR): Bettina Schmidt & Graham Harvey
 United States (AAR): Amy Allocco & Robert Puckett

(*) The association or society was (at the time of the meeting of the International Committee) not paid up to the latest completed financial year (2014), and thus not entitled to vote, neither at the International Committee Meeting nor at the General Assembly.

(**) The Executive Committee has declared the membership lapsed but had not yet struck the name of the association from the list of member associations. The association in question thus had no voting rights. According to the IAHR Rules of Procedure 15a and 15b “The General Secretary, in consultation with members of the Executive Committee, shall alone determine whether a constituent society or association is fully paid up at the time of any vote to be taken ...”

Ascertaining the membership and the right to vote of those present, some colleagues present claiming to be members of the Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions were kindly asked to leave the room since the membership of the named association had been declared lapsed. Besides, no representatives or delegates from the named association had been announced. Two confirmed representatives of the Polish association were allowed to be present but with no voting rights, since the Polish association was not paid up to the latest completed financial year (2014).

(During the ascertainment of membership an error was discovered: the listing in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 8–14 of the national member associations and societies, with an indication of whether they were paid up or not, incorrectly indicated that the CSSR/SCÉR (Canada) was not fully paid up to the latest completed financial year (2014).)

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

2.2. Ascertainment of Affiliation

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

European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism (ESSWE): Henrik Bogdan
International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR): Dimitris Xygalatas

International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe Association (ISO-RECEA): Eileen Barker

International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture (ISSRNC): Sarah M. Pike

Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions (SAMR): Jeffrey Brodd

2.3 Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee

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

sion”, the General Secretary reported that presently there were no individual members.

With reference to Rule 6, allowing the International Committee, on the recommendation of the Executive Committee, to adopt observers and/or consultants to participate in its sessions without voting rights, the General Secretary reported that the IAHR Executive Committee recommended that a representative of the applicant Philippine association, Prof. Esmeralda Sanchez, be allowed to participate. The Executive Committee also recommended that Prof. Michael Pye be allowed to participate in order for him to function as ‘returning officer’ during the elections. The International Committee unanimously agreed to adopt the mentioned colleagues as observers without voting rights.

Moreover, it was recommended that nominees for the 2015–2020 Executive Committee who were in Erfurt but not already participating as delegates from member associations be allowed to be present not only in order for them to deliver an oral statement of candidacy but also to understand better the workings of the Committee in advance of the election. Consequently, Profs. Peter Beyer, Anne Kubai, Ann Taves, and Katja Triplett were by unanimous agreement allowed to be present without voting rights.

Last but not least, it was proposed by the Executive Committee that Prof. Armin W. Geertz, serving as chair of the IAHR 2010–2015 Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee be admitted to the meeting in order for him to present the suggestions from that committee to the International Committee. The International Committee unanimously agreed to this proposal.

3 Minutes of the International Committee Meeting, Liverpool 2013

The Minutes (*IAHR BULLETIN Number 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 17–36), preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee July 29, 2014 and first published in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp. 14–39 and thus circulated to the members of the IAHR International Committee in accordance with the relevant rule(s), were unanimously adopted by the International Committee.

4 Report by the General Secretary

The General Secretary initially honored the memory of the following IAHR Honorary Life Members who had passed away since the World Congress in Toronto 2010:

Professor Jean Leclant († September 16, 2011)

Professor Julien Ries († February 23, 2013)

Professor Noriyoshi Tamaru († December 12, 2014)

Professor Jacques Waardenburg († April 8, 2015)

Professor R.J. Zwi Werblowsky († July 9, 2015)

He extended condolences to their families. Obituaries have been or will be published, he added.

With reference to his full and detailed written report, published in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 49–77, Prof. Jensen expressed his wish to restrict the oral report to a minimum in order to provide more time for other items on the agenda.

Prof. Jensen consequently focused on the following:

4.1 Executive Committee and International Committee: Meetings and Meeting Locations

Prof. Jensen extended thanks to all the hosting member associations (the SSEASR, the SSRF, the BASR, the EASR, the AASR, and the DVRW) and their various local partners and university departments for facilitating the meetings of the Executive and International Committee since 2011. With reference to his written report as well as to his report to the International Committee in Liverpool 2013 on the same issue, he deemed it fair to say that the outgoing Executive Committee had been fairly successful with its efforts to implement the IAHR principle of rotation, i. e., to move the Executive as well as International Committee meetings around the world. The principle of rotation and its implementation has been and remains, Prof. Jensen said, highly important for our continued efforts to enhance and extend the IAHR as a global association and thus to promote the academic, non-religious study of religions globally, the key aim of the IAHR.

4.2 Communications

The *IAHR Bulletin* and the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, together with the IAHR website and occasional email letters with important pieces of information sent to the officers and members at large of the IAHR member associations and affiliates, constitute the main means of communication from and about the IAHR. Consequently, it is of the utmost importance to the well-being and functioning of the IAHR that the officers of the IAHR member associations and affiliated societies forward the digital version of the *IAHR Bulletin* and the digital *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* to their membership, and Prof. Jensen therefore urged the officers to do everything in their power to share these and other news items from the IAHR with their membership at large. The IAHR Executive Committee and its General Secretary have no other means to contact the IAHR members directly, neither by regular mail nor by email.

With its information about the more permanent ‘fundamentals’ of the IAHR (the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure, the IAHR membership and leadership, past congresses and conferences, proceedings, publications and proceedings, *NVMEN*, and the Women Scholars Network) as well as about most of the news and information from the IAHR General Secretary’s desk, the IAHR website together with the IAHR Bulletin and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement functions as the public face of the IAHR. Prof. Jensen mentioned that the website had been revamped in 2013, inter alia to better accommodate the needs and wishes of the Executive Committee. The General Secretary – in continuous contact over the past 7–8 years with the IAHR webmaster, Jeremy Hughes (Knoxville, USA), extended his heartfelt thanks to the webmaster for his almost daily work with the IAHR website, updating information, posting of news, etc.

Though the IAHR Facebook Group, in contrast to the IAHR website, is not meant to serve as an official vehicle or platform for news from the IAHR Executive, it nevertheless serves an important purpose which the website does not, namely communication among individual IAHR members and information about IAHR related events and matters. Prof. Jensen thanked the President, Prof. Hackett and the colleagues assisting her, Justin Lane and Sarah Gallant, for the work with the IAHR Facebook Group.

Likewise, he extended thanks to Prof. Hackett and Publications Officer Prof. M. Joy for their untiring efforts developing the IAHR Women Scholars Network, also by way of the 2015 revamped website, and the General Secretary also took the opportunity to extend thanks to all the scholars actively participating in and supporting the IAHR Women Scholars Network, thereby helping the IAHR pursue its efforts to practice a responsible strategy and implementation of globalization, as well as to work continually towards gender equality and empowerment of

women scholars, and, by extension, IAHR-related scholarship around the world.

4.3 IAHR Congresses and Conferences

With reference to his extensive written report listing the 2010 – 2015 IAHR Special and Regional Conferences (as well as the IAHR Co-Sponsored Conference in Macau 2015) and his extensive report on the bids for and decision regarding the hosting of the 2015 World Congress, Prof. Jensen extended thanks to all the colleagues whose engagement and hard work had made these IAHR conferences and the World Congresses in Toronto and Erfurt possible.

Special thanks were extended to the BASR (UK) and the CASR (Czech Republic) and their local partners; the two member associations that had joined the DVRW in preparing and sending detailed and impressive bids for hosting the 2015 World Congress.

Prof. Jensen briefly summarized his report on the many meetings that since 2011 had taken place between the IAHR leadership and the German Congress hosts. He himself, the Deputy General Secretary, the President, and the Treasurer, had been in continuous email and telephone contact with the German hosts on all relevant matters, e. g. the overall planning of meetings, sessions and social events, problems arising in spite of the meticulous work executed by the Academic Program Committee, and the distribution of travel grants made possible, inter alia, by an IAHR total grant of approx. 18.000 EUR. Indeed, all members of the Executive Committee had been involved in various aspects of the planning of the Congress as well as in discussions leading to distributions of grants.

With the grants provided by the German hosts and various German institutions the total amount used for subsidies amounts to 32.275 EUR, and some 52 scholars have been assisted. Some 1.600 panels and papers had been submitted, of which some 1.500 were included in the final program. The number of registered participants passed 1.000, thus putting extra pressure on the German hosts for everything to be in place in order to accommodate this relatively large number of participants.

Prof. Jensen on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee extended heartfelt thanks to the Congress directors, Profs. Rüpke and Bochinger as well as to Congress Coordinator Dr. Begemann, to the members of the (local) Organizing Committee, and to each member of the Academic Program Committee, including, of course, the two co-chairs, Profs. Bochinger and Marcos, for their meticulous and hard work, including their constant efforts to help align the academic standard of the IAHR World Congress academic program with the general aims of the

IAHR and the IAHR's ongoing efforts constantly to improve, secure and tighten up its academic profile. Congress directors Bochsinger and Rüpke have contributed to the special *NVMEN* 60th Anniversary celebratory publication (see ahead) with an article unfolding their reflections in regard to the congress theme and the dynamics of the academic study of religions.

Prof. Jensen also extended thanks to the IAHR Honorary Life Members who kindly accepted to serve as members of the Congress Advisory Committee, and he extended special thanks to Dorothea Ditchfield who had generously sponsored the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture and whose support was highly important with regard to making the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture an established feature of IAHR World Congresses. Gary Lease, who passed away in 2008 while serving as the IAHR Treasurer, was a staunch supporter of the IAHR and its aim: to promote and strengthen the academic and non-religious study of religions worldwide. To have, the General Secretary added, Prof. Hubert Seiwert deliver the 2015 Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture in the shape of the Opening Lecture bodes well for the future of the IAHR and the Gary Lease IAHR Memorial Lecture.

Before finishing his report on IAHR conferences and congresses, Prof. Jensen directed the attention of the members of the International Committee to the revised rules for hosting an IAHR conference, rules now stressing that the member associations hosting an IAHR sponsored conference had an obligation 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 was now 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. 1.000 words) report on the conference suitable to be reproduced in an IAHR Bulletin or an IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement.

4.4 Membership Development

With reference to item 10 on the Agenda ("Recommendation of new members and affiliates"), Prof. Jensen limited his oral report to the following:

During 2010–2015, the IAHR has continued the process of globalization as regards the adoption of member associations from various parts of the globe, having furthermore strengthened its position as the pre-eminent global forum for the academic study of religions by way of affiliation to the IAHR of international associations dedicated to the study “of particular areas within the academic study of religions”.

However, he also noted that the Executive Committee in the same period, in accordance with the 2010 revised rules (IAHR Rules of Procedure, Rule 1.c.), had also declared lapsed the membership of some member associations which over several years had not complied with the IAHR requirements as regards the payment of annual fees and/or had not communicated with the IAHR leadership in order to maybe reach an agreement as regards the payment of fees.

Thus the membership of the Asociación Cubana de Estudios sobre la Religión, Israel Society for the History of Religion, the Nigerian Association for the Study of Religions, the Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo das Religiões, and the Indonesian Association for the Study of Research of Religion have all eventually been declared lapsed.

In view of this policy the Executive Committee had agreed on a re-admission policy, and Prof. Jensen with reference to his written report pp. 62–63 asked the members and the member associations to make themselves familiar therewith.

Last but not least, Prof. Jensen mentioned that there was a well-founded hope that an Israel society may spring to life, and that the Nigerian association may be re-admitted in accordance with the re-admission policy by the incoming Executive Committee.

He also mentioned that several colleagues, within and without the IAHR Executive Committee, had been trying to stimulate a process towards the establishment of a new and functioning Indonesian association, and that the IAHR leadership had been in continuous contact in order to offer assistance in case the Cuban colleagues find it suitable to try to establish a new Cuban association.

4.5 Finances, CIPSH, and the IAHR African Trust Fund

With reference to the full report by the Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, the General Secretary stated his satisfaction with the fact that the financial situation in 2015, as well as in 2013 and 2010 (cf. *IAHR Bulletin 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010*, 42–45; 55–62), was significantly better than in Tokyo 2005 when he first took office. He added that though the major reason for the improvement was the agreement made with Brill in 2008 as regards *NVMEN*, a strict scheme in regard to the soliciting of annual dues and the rise in the rate of dues as of 2014,

had also contributed to the much healthier state of affairs. However, as spelled out in previous reports by the General Secretary and then acting Treasurer Prof. Jensen as well as by the now outgoing Treasurer Prof. Bocking the situation is not quite as healthy as it looks because it still depends to a significant degree on the capability of most officers and members of the Executive Committee to finance most (at times all) of their IAHR-related expenses themselves. As stated by Prof. Bocking in his report, “[p]roviding EC members with full funding for attendance at EC meetings would have required a significant additional commitment (perhaps 12,000 USD annually) from the IAHR budget.”

Prof. Jensen then took the opportunity to express his gratitude for the way in which the outgoing IAHR Treasurer had managed the IAHR finances 2010–2015 as well as for his highly important participation and close cooperation with the General Secretary in the 2006–2008 negotiations with Brill when he served (2005–2010) as Publications Officer.

Last but not least, Prof. Jensen extended special thanks to Honorary Life Member, Prof. Akio Tsukimoto for his generous donation to the IAHR. The IAHR rarely receives so generous a gift.

In regard to CIPSH, the *Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines*, under UNESCO, the General Secretary initially referred to his earlier reports stating that the IAHR membership to the CIPSH, in terms of fees paid and grants received, had paid off. However, since 2010, this situation had changed dramatically, and in 2013 the IAHR Executive Committee decided to not pay any annual fees to CIPSH unless CIPSH was revived. In 2014 efforts to rescue or revive CIPSH resulted in a call for a General Assembly to be held in Paris, October 14–15, 2014, and it was decided to have the President, Prof. Hackett represent the IAHR in Paris.

It was also decided that the General Secretary should nominate Prof. Hackett for a position as Vice-President in the new CIPSH executive committee, and that the IAHR should pay the fee for 2014, but not for 2013 when CIPSH had appeared to be non-functioning. On an additional note it must be remarked that it was later agreed to pay the arrears for 2013, and that Prof. Hackett in Paris was elected one of two CIPSH vice-presidents.

A decision, Prof. Jensen added, about any payment of fee for 2015 and about the IAHR’s future relationship with CIPSH has been referred to the incoming 2015–2020 IAHR Executive Committee.

As regarded the IAHR African Trust Fund, Prof. Jensen referred to his written report pp. 65–66 for an overview of applications and grants awarded over the five years 2011–2015. Having summarized the discussion reported on in more length

in his written report pp. 66–67, the General Secretary reported on the concluding considerations and unanimous decision taken by the IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Cape Town, SA, in 2014 as regards a suggestion to extend the fund beyond 2015 and/or allocating a larger amount than 4,000 USD in 2015 (perhaps to subsidize the travel of scholars from Africa to the IAHR World Congress in Erfurt):

The Executive Committee had agreed on a limit of 4,000 USD each year, an amount of money, moreover, which in most years had turned out to be more than the IAHR African Trust Fund Board of Trustees required. Furthermore, the IAHR had already made a substantial contribution to the Congress travel subsidy fund to support scholars from weaker economies, and the allocation of travel support against published criteria was a matter for the Erfurt Congress Organizing Committee.

The Executive Committee, moreover, noted that the cycle of advertising, adjudicating and awarding the IAHR ATF grants typically ran between Sept-March. Thus, there would be ample time for the incoming Executive Committee meeting in Erfurt to make any arrangements it might deem suitable beyond 2015.

In light of this the Executive Committee at its meeting in Cape Town 2014 agreed:

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

Prof. Jensen ended his report on the IAHR African Trust Fund by extending thanks to all the members of the Board of Trustees and special thanks to the Secretary to the Board of Trustees, Prof. Afe Adogame.

4.6 IASR Recommendations and IAHR Executive Response

Since the full text of the ‘Recommendations of the IASR Consultation on The Future of the International Association for the History of Religions’ as well as the responses from the Executive Committee had been published several times (first in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, March 2013*, pp. 12–20 & 21–35, then in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, pp. 42–50 & 51–65), and since the matter, furthermore, was referred to in the General Secretary’s report 2010–2013 (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 40) as well as in the preliminary Minutes from the International Committee Meeting, Liverpool, September 4, 2015 (*IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, September 2014*, pp. 31–32), Prof. Jensen refrained from further reporting on this matter, referring the members to the named publications, all easily accessible on the IAHR website.

Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude to the members of the IASR Consultation for their steadfast dedication to the IAHR and their continuous concern for its future well-being.

4.7 The IASR Proposal to Change the Name of the IAHR

Prof. Jensen, with reference to item 8 (“Proposal for a Change of Name of the IAHR”) and his written report pp. 68–69 refrained from further comments on this matter.

4.8 The AASR 2010 Proposal ‘Restructuring the IAHR Executive’, Follow-Up

With reference to his detailed written 2015 report (pp. 69–70), to the *IAHR Bulletin, 39, Toronto Congress Edition, August 2010*, and to the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, Prof. Jensen summarized the situation as follows: the IAHR International Committee at its meeting in Toronto 2010 concluded its discussion about the AASR proposal by rejecting the proposal. Nevertheless, it asked the 2010–2015 Executive Committee to consider the proposal and the delegations and duties of members of the Executive Committee and to report on its discussions at the International Committee Meeting in 2013. The Executive Committee discussed the matter at meetings in Cork 2013 and reported to the International Committee in Liverpool in 2013, and it also continued discussions at its meeting in Cape Town 2014. However, it did not come to a point

where it had any recommendations beyond what was implicit in its recommendations in Toronto 2010: based on the experiences with the new (as of 2005) delegation of duties, especially the offices of Membership Secretary and the Internet Officer, it was recommended to do away with the two named offices and thus, as of the nominations and elections 2015–2020, to have four members without a portfolio ('four further members'), a recommendation and a change to the IAHR Constitution later unanimously decided upon by the International Committee and General Assembly in Toronto 2010. This means, Prof. Jensen added, that the 2015–2020 incoming Executive Committee will have to do the same as the outgoing (cf. the remarks in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p.18): it has to figure out how best to deal with the duties formerly allocated to the Membership Secretary and Internet Officer, and it has to do what has been done already by the outgoing Executive Committee, namely engage the four further members actively in the ongoing work and discussions of the Executive Committee, work and discussions going on not just during the annual business meetings but throughout the year by way of electronic communication and meetings in the context of various IAHR conferences.

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

4.9 IAHR Related Publications

NVMEN, International Review for the History of Religions – as of 2011 published in six issues per annual volume, with Profs. Gregory D. Alles and Olav Hammer as current Managing Editors and Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus as Reviews Editor – remains, Prof. Jensen said, the IAHR flagship journal, striking, in the opinion of the outgoing Executive Committee that “balance between a more classical historical-philological IAHR profile and a more innovative IAHR profile” which is “the hallmark of the IAHR and the way for the IAHR journal to have its own special identity”(cf. *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Liverpool Edition, August 2013*, p. 57).

Consequently, the General Secretary was happy and proud to be able to show to the members of the International Committee a ‘dummy’ of the *NVMEN* 60th anniversary publication, edited by Profs. Armin W. Geertz & Tim

Jensen on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee. Though it had been the intention of Brill to have it published and ready for the Erfurt World Congress, Brill now had scheduled the publication for November 2015, but Congress participants could pre-order the book for the extraordinary price of 25 EUR.

The publication, entitled *NVMEN, the Academic Study of Religion, and the IAHR – Past, Present and Prospects*, Prof. Jensen continued, was 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 were constituted by a mixture of, on the one hand, reprints of past key contributions to *NVMEN* as well as to the IAHR, and on the other hand, new contributions that – in line with the reprints selected – look forward at the same time as they look back. The book has 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, and T. Jensen, and new contributions by D. Accorinti, G. Alles, C. Bochinger & J. Rüpke, G. Casadio, S. Fujiwara, R.I.J. Hackett, O. Hammer, M. Joy, M. Pye, and D. Wiebe.

The General Secretary extended thanks to past and present Brill acquisition editors as well as to Brill editor Maarten Frijswick for suggesting the publication and for their support during the editorial process, a process bearing witness to the excellent working relationship between the IAHR and Brill, a relationship going back to the very beginnings of the IAHR and *NVMEN* (and described by Prof. Giovanni Casadio in his contribution to the celebratory publication). Prof. Jensen also extended thanks to the *NVMEN* Managing Editors, Profs. Alles and Hammer and to Reviews Editor, Prof. Gilhus for their gigantic work and service to *NVMEN* and the IAHR.

It was a pleasure, Prof. Jensen continued, to be able also to announce the publication of *Philosophy and the End of Sacrifice – Disengaging Ritual in Ancient India, Greece and Beyond* (ed. by Peter Jackson and Anna Pya-Sjödin), the first publication in the new Equinox/IAHR book series ‘The Study of Religions in a Global Context’.

The new IAHR book series strongly supports the continued development of historical and comparative studies, as well as encouraging work that is also in other ways innovative within the academic study of religions. Prof. Jensen thanked former and current IAHR Publication Officers, Profs. Brian Bocking and Morny Joy, Equinox editors Janet Joyce and Valerie Hall, the Managing Editor Prof. Triplett, and the editorial board for their efforts, cooperation and contributions to the new IAHR book series.

It is the hope of the IAHR Executive Committee that the new IAHR/Equinox book series will assist the IAHR in furthering its aims and scholars, including of course junior scholars, from around the world and the total range of the IAHR

constituency, are encouraged to use this new venue for the publication of their work.

Mentioning IAHR and IAHR-related proceedings, Prof. Jensen took the opportunity to thank Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress Director Prof. Wiebe and his staff for preparing and publishing a digital version (uploaded at the IAHR website) already within a year after the event, and for finding the means for distributing 100 print copies to libraries around the world.

As for spin-off publications from the Toronto 2010 World Congress, Prof. Jensen said that neither he nor the Publications Officer had received information about spin-off publications, and he kindly asked the members to provide whatever relevant information they had in this regard and to consult the By-Laws for rules.

Having mentioned those proceedings and spin-off publications from IAHR conferences, published between 2010–2015, of which he and the Publications Officer were actually aware, and having thanked the colleagues responsible for these publications, Prof. Jensen ended his report on IAHR publications by directing the attention of members to the fact that Nos. 1–40 of the *IAHR Bulletin* can now be accessed by all IAHR members and the public at large at the IAHR website.

The (IAHR) *Bulletin*, for years part and parcel of *NVMEN*, served as the mouthpiece of the IAHR as an organization. A separate IAHR Bulletin, to supplement what was published in *NVMEN* from and about the IAHR, appeared in 1986 when Michael Pye, then Secretary-General, decided to produce and publish a supplement to what he called the more “formal notices” which were intended to appear in *NVMEN*, “the official published organ of the IAHR” (*IAHR Bulletin* February 1986, p. 1).

During his two terms as General Secretary (1985–1995) Prof. Pye managed to publish 33 issues of the IAHR Bulletin, and these 33 issues constitute and contribute to a highly important part and period of the IAHR’s history and identity, inter alia the concerted and strategic efforts of Prof. Pye and colleagues to build and expand a global and strong IAHR organization. Consequently, an offer from another former IAHR General Secretary, succeeding Prof. Pye in 1995 and serving also the two permitted terms until 2005, Prof. Armin W. Geertz, to have the 33 1986–1995 issues scanned so that they could enter the digital archive of the IAHR provided by the IAHR website had been accepted with great gratitude by the now outgoing General Secretary who extended thanks to Profs. Pye and Geertz, and encouraged all IAHR members to enjoy the 33 newly uploaded issues of the IAHR Bulletin at <http://www.iahr.dk/bulletins.php>.

4.10 Concluding Remarks

Stepping down as General Secretary, having served the IAHR for two terms, 2005–2015, Prof. Jensen looked back (and forward) as had many of his predecessors when exiting. Looking back Prof. Jensen found it safe to say that the IAHR leadership, i.e., the Executive and International Committee, as well as the General Assembly, during the two terms had continued to fulfil its mandate, namely (Constitution § 1), promoting “[...] the academic study of religions through the international collaboration of all scholars whose research has a bearing on the subject”, and thus also doing its best to make of the IAHR what it proudly claims to be (cf. the website policy statement), namely the “preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical, and cross-cultural study of religions, past and present”.

The IAHR leadership had done so by way of:

- assisting the establishment and adoption of new national and regional associations and societies for the academic study of religion(s);
- adopting (in accordance with the Constitution § 3b) affiliates, i.e., international associations for the study of particular areas within the academic study of religion, and thus linking them to and including them in the IAHR;
- framing the thorough amendments to the Constitution ratified during the 2010 Toronto Congress, with, inter alia, introduction of terms that signal that ‘history of religions’, also within the IAHR, is different from what it was in the 1950s;
- making other innovations to the Constitution and By-Laws meant to further geographic representation, gender balance and cultural diversity (e.g. revised Rules for the Nominating Committee);
- clarifying and tightening the academic profile of the IAHR.

As regards developments and improvements specifically pertaining to gender, Prof. Jensen noted that

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

The 2015–2020 nominations, Prof. Jensen added, most certainly also reflect the global character of the IAHR membership and leadership as well as the (successful) efforts to help strike a gender balance.

Moreover, during this period, the IAHR Women Scholars Network was established and developed, and the new Equinox/IAHR book series ‘The Study of Religion in a Global Context’ had been introduced, with the aim of being a venue not least for younger scholars worldwide.

In terms of the ‘globalization’ of the IAHR, the outgoing Executive committee had thus continued the efforts towards globalization that can be seen as ongoing from the 1950s and speeded up and strategically developed by Profs. Michael Pye (1985–1995) and Armin W. Geertz (1995–2005).

Taking over in 2005, the outgoing General Secretary (functioning as Acting Treasurer 2008–2010), and the then-Treasurer, late Prof. Gary Lease, together with the Executive Committee initiated steps to help improve the financial situation. With the great help of the then-Publications Officer, now outgoing Treasurer, Prof. Boeking, the situation has been improved considerably.

Due to the positive change in the financial situation over the past 10 years, the IAHR had been better able to face some of the challenges pertaining to the continuous efforts to become more global. In Tokyo 2005 outgoing General Secretary Geertz (*IAHR Bulletin* 38, p. 38), in light of the then gloomy financial situation, stated that if the situation did not improve, the IAHR would become more virtual than real, most IAHR events would most likely happen only in economically strong countries, and “once again, we would be back to the routines and power structures of yesteryears”.

Prof. Jensen agreed: financial strength or weakness is crucial to IAHR’s capacity for global outreach, and the importance of the improvement of the financial situation cannot be overestimated. Thanks to the improved finances the IAHR Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen said, had been able to put ‘globalization’ to work, e. g. by way of giving considerable travel grants to help scholars from around the world participate in the IAHR business meetings, congresses, and conferences.

Last but not least Prof. Jensen wanted to stress that the outgoing Executive Committee, continuing the work of the 2005–2010 Executive, had worked assiduously to guard the academic respectability of the IAHR by clarifying the commitment to academic objectives. As he himself had stated in his statement for candidacy for the position of General Secretary in 2005: “‘global’ in the language of the IAHR, is not the same as ‘ecumenical’.”

Lasting traces of these efforts are found in the 2010 addition to the first article of the IAHR Constitution, but the tightening up of the academic profile can also be seen from the revised rules as to the obligation to see to it that the aca-

demic programs of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences are in line with the stated aims of the IAHR.

The outgoing Executive Committee had thus, in the opinion of Prof. Jensen, done its best to expand the IAHR while at the same time trying to secure that the ‘identity’ of the IAHR continued to reflect what was arguably first formulated more explicitly by General Secretary Zwi Werblowsky in his famous Marburg 1960 statement:

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

Prof. Jensen stressed that he wanted to quote these words because he, as is evident e. g. from the coming *NVMEN* 60th anniversary publication, with many others consider the Marburg 1960 Congress and the late Zwi Werblowsky’s statement a cornerstone in the building of an institutional consensus as to the perspective and ethos of the IAHR.

But, he added, he also quoted these words to signal that it had been a privilege and honor – standing on the shoulders of great(er) scholars and former general secretaries like, to mention but a few of the more recent ones, Zwi Werblowsky, Michael Pye and Armin W. Geertz – to serve the IAHR, trying to further develop the IAHR along the lines staked out by the Werblowsky statement.

Stepping down as General Secretary, Prof. Jensen wanted to thank all his colleagues in the outgoing Executive Committee for their hard work, commitment, and support. A special thank you was extended to the outgoing President, Prof. Hackett, as well as to the outgoing Treasurer, Prof. Bocking.

The President, Prof. Hackett thanked the General Secretary for his report and opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report. There were no questions nor comments. The President then expressed her gratitude to the General Secretary for his devotion and dedicated work for the IAHR and asked that the report be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

5 Report by the Treasurer

With reference to his full and written report in the *IAHR BULLETIN Number 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 78–85, the Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking displayed the overview rendered below (cf. p. 84 in the detailed written report) of the IAHR accounts and briefly commented as follows:

Income: there are two reliable sources of income: 1) from Brill for *NVMEN* (currently 10,295 EUR p.a.), and 2) member and affiliate associations' annual dues (now c. 10,000 USD p.a.). CIPSH no longer offers any financial support.

The Treasurer added a few notes to the above. 1) *Payments from Brill* in respect of each issue of the IAHR journal *NVMEN* constitute the major guaranteed source of income for the IAHR, with 65,058 EUR provided since 2010. Payments are adjusted upwards annually according to the annual Netherlands Euro inflation rate. 2) *Annual dues* fulfil two main and important functions. One is symbolic, namely to renew the membership of each constituent member and affiliate association each year. (Failure to pay dues over several years, and despite reminders, means an association may eventually be declared lapsed.) The other function is to augment IAHR funds through a small levy on the worldwide membership. In general, member associations pay annual dues promptly, to the great happiness of your treasurer, although a few still need reminders. The annual levy was set at 1 USD per individual member several decades ago and had lost perhaps 80% in value over the years. Consequently in 2013 the Executive raised the annual dues for associations of between 34 and 499 members to 3 USD per member and the dues for associations with 500+ members (there are currently only two; Japan and USA) to 2,000 USD. Smaller associations of fewer than 34 members pay the unchanged minimum rate of 100 USD. The EC additionally agreed to review the rate at least every five years, i.e., by 2018.

The new dues rates have made a significant difference to dues income. 11,139 USD (including some arrears) were collected in 2014 compared with an average of 4,800 USD in each of the four previous years.

As for the CIPSH, the IAHR Endowment Fund and the IAHR African Trust Fund, he referred to what had already been reported by the General Secretary and to the details provided by his written report.

Expenditure: Average annual expenditure during the period 2010 – 2014, including expenditure on the 2010 Toronto Congress, has averaged 17,000 USD.

The Treasurer added a few words on major expenditures: *a) Conference support:* Since 2010, the IAHR has provided financial support to IAHR conferences including 30,000 USD to the Toronto World Congress as well as sums of 1,000 – 2,000 USD to AASR Conferences in Kenya (2012) and Cape Town (2014) and SSEASR conferences in Bhutan (2011) and Manila (2013). Conference support in the reporting period 2010 – 2014 has thus averaged 8,000 USD p.a., including the IAHR subvention to the Toronto Congress in 2010. In non-Congress years conference support has averaged 1,700 USD. Regarding the 2015 Erfurt Congress, the Executive Committee agreed in 2013 to make a subvention in Euro to the Erfurt Congress equivalent to 15,000 USD plus the IAHR Endowment amount of

8,695 USD, a total of 23,695 USD. *b) Executive Committee expenses:* Crucial to the IAHR's effectiveness is the annual Executive Committee meeting which generally lasts two days and is held in a different part of the world each year, in connection with an IAHR conference which, in most cases, EC members also attend. In practice, most of the costs of EC meetings in the period 2010–2014 have been met by members from their own resources or their university travel funds. For example, in 2013 eleven members met in Cork at a total cost of 3,535 USD (average per person subsidy 320 USD) while in 2014 the IAHR contributed less than 5,000 USD in total towards EC members' travel and accommodation for the meeting in Cape Town. Providing EC members with full funding for attendance at EC meetings would have required a significant additional commitment (perhaps 12,000 USD annually) from the IAHR budget. Since the real cost of EC members' travel and subsistence is thus much more than the IAHR subsidies, the low figure thus hides/reveals the continuing 'hidden subsidy' to IAHR from EC members' own resources. *c) Publications and web expenses:* Payments include the costs during 2010 of producing printed Congress proceedings from both Durban (2000) and Tokyo (2005). Other payments are largely for webmaster assistance with the iaahr.dk website.

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

Prof. Bocking in ending his report extended thanks to all those treasurers and other officers of IAHR member associations who have over the last five years ensured payment of annual dues in the right amount, at the right time, and to the right IAHR account. Finally, Prof. Bocking thanked the President, General Secretary and all of his colleagues on the 2010–2015 Executive Committee for their support, encouragement and patience with regard to his efforts as Treasurer during the period.

The President, Prof. Hackett thanked the Treasurer for his clear report and opened the floor for questions and comments, to the oral as well as written report. There were no questions nor comments. The President then thanked the Treasurer for his excellent and dedicated work for the IAHR and asked that the report be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

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

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

6 Additional Matters of Report by the Executive Committee

The General Secretary, with reference to the meeting of Sunday, August 23, 2015 in Erfurt of the outgoing Executive Committee, reported that the Executive Committee, in line with an earlier decision taken, did not want to bind the hands of the incoming 2015–2020 Executive Committee in financial affairs and matters of principle. Consequently, it had decided to hand over several matters for discussion and decision to the incoming Executive, inter alia, a proposal to discuss whether the IAHR ought to adopt a policy on diversity, a request for readmission by the Nigerian association, and the future relationship to CIPSH.

He also reported that while in Erfurt he had received the good news that the (re-)establishment of an Israeli association for the study of religion was now planned to happen during a meeting to be held in October 2015. Prof. Jensen was very pleased with this, adding that the Israel society had been one of the oldest IAHR member societies, and that it would have been a loss to the IAHR if there were no Israel society. He thanked Shai Feraro and other Israel colleagues for taking this initiative, a most apt way to honor the now late Zwi Werblowsky.

Prof. Jensen, also while in Erfurt, had received a draft proposal for a constitution for a new Cuban association, and he expressed his hope that a Cuban association might be (re-)established in connection with a conference in Havana, Cuba, July 2016.

The President, Prof. Hackett opened the floor for questions and comments. There were no questions nor comments.

7 Election of the 2015 – 2020 Executive Committee

With reference to his email message of May 26, 2015 to members and officers of the IAHR International Committee and member associations and affiliates, as well as to the 2015 – 2020 nominees and nominating committee, in which the General Secretary announced that he had decided, in view of the fact the he was himself up for election, to hand over all further handling of the elections, including the soliciting of statements of candidacy (to be published on the IAHR website and in the *IAHR Bulletin*) from the named nominees, to the IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, Prof. Jensen handed responsibility of this matter over to the President and the Treasurer to conduct the election of the 2015 – 2020 Executive Committee.

Prof. Hackett, presiding, with reference to the General Secretary's 2010 – 2015 written report (*IAHR BULLETIN Number 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 52–53) and the series of email announcements sent to the International Committee and member associations and affiliates, as well as to the 2015 – 2020 nominees and to the 2015 – 2020 nominating committee chaired by Prof. Peter Antes, ascertained that all the IAHR rules and procedures for nominations (including alternative nominations) and elections of the Executive Committee, including the announcements of nominations and the deadline for alternative nominations, had been attended to. On May 26, 2015, the final and total nominations had been announced in an email to the same recipients and thus (hopefully) also to the IAHR membership at large.

Having thus ascertained that the relevant rules and procedures had been followed, she asked the Treasurer, Prof. Bocking to execute the elections. Prof. Bocking noted that in an election not all candidates could be successful and he congratulated, on behalf of the delegates present and the whole IAHR membership, all of the nominees; being nominated was already an acknowledgment within the IAHR of a candidate's capability, scholarly standing and commitment to the work of the IAHR.

With the help of a PowerPoint presentation Prof. Bocking explained the steps of the procedure and the details of the elections proper. Voting would start with the election of officers with designated duties, in the order listed in the Constitution, beginning with the Presidency. This would be followed by the election of the four further members. Voting would take place sequentially by secret ballot in the case of contested posts, while candidates for non-contested posts would be declared 'elected unopposed'. Each voting representative would be provided with a set of ballot papers in different colors, the first for voting for (one) President, then for voting for (two) Vice-Presidents, then voting for (one) General Secretary, and finally voting for the four further members (all other posts being uncontested). Prof. Bocking also explained the procedures in case of tied votes, and the role of the President, who would not vote except in the case of a tie, where the President would exercise her casting vote as necessary. He also explained the function and assistance of Prof. Michael Pye as 'returning officer' and of the two outgoing Vice-Presidents (neither standing for election), Profs. Gilhus and Tayob, as tellers.

Before the act of voting, the nominees for contested posts present were given the opportunity to deliver a three-minute oral statement, while candidates for non-contested posts took a minute briefly to introduce themselves to the electorate. At the same time the candidate's name and the position she or he had been nominated for was displayed by way of a PowerPoint presentation. Absent nominees for contested posts had been invited to send a video presentation although that offer was not taken up; in the case of an absent candidate, the PowerPoint also showed a photograph of the candidate. Thus each nominee present, with the exception of Prof. Peter Beyer who refrained from giving an oral statement, delivered a brief statement. Following this, the Treasurer announced a coffee break during which the members with a voting right could collect and sign for their voting papers.

After the break the voting procedure was set in motion as announced, and following each round of voting for each position, Prof. Michael Pye reported the result to the President and then formally announced the result on behalf of the IAHR. The outcome of the elections was as follows:

President (one position)

Peter Beyer, Canada (8 votes)

Tim Jensen, Denmark (58)

(spoiled/incomplete ballot papers: 1)

Vice-Presidents (two positions)

Veikko Anttonen, Finland (38)

Anne Kubai, Sweden (33)
Mar Marcos, Spain (61)

General Secretary (one position)

Afe Adogame, United Kingdom (35)
Jenny Berglund, Sweden (32)

Deputy General Secretary

Ann Taves, USA (elected unopposed)

Treasurer

Philippe Bornet, Switzerland (elected unopposed)

Deputy Treasurer

Marion Maddox, Australia (elected unopposed)

Publications Officer

Satoko Fujiwara, Japan (elected unopposed)

Further Members (four positions)

Milda Alisauskiene, Lithuania (43)
Chae Young Kim, South Korea (39)
Amarjiva Lochan, India (48)
Marianna Shakhnovich, Russia (24)
David Thurfjell, Sweden (42)
Katja Triplett, Germany (53)
Frank Usarski, Brazil (18)

The following were thus duly elected to the IAHR Executive Committee 2015–2020:

President: Tim Jensen

Vice-Presidents: Veikko Anttonen, Mar Marcos

General Secretary*: Afe Adogame

Deputy General Secretary: Ann Taves

Treasurer: Philippe Bornet

Deputy Treasurer: Marion Maddox

Publications Officer: Satoko Fujiwara

Four Further Members: Milda Alisauskiene, Amarjiva Lochan, David Thurfjell,
Katja Triplett

*From 2015 onwards 'Secretary General'; see (9) below

The President, Prof. Hackett congratulated all the elected nominees, and thanked all the nominees not elected for their willingness to serve the IAHR.

Prof. Jensen, resuming his duty as General Secretary, thanked the two Vice-Presidents, Profs. Gilhus and Tayob, the elections officer, Prof. Pye, the Treasurer Prof. Bocking as well as the members of the Nominating Committee, Profs. Maya Burger, Gerrie ter Haar, Sylvia Marcos, Peter Antes (chair), and Luther H. Martin for their service to the IAHR.

8 Proposal for a Change of Name for the IAHR

With reference to

a) the proposal for a change of name discussed by the International Committee in Liverpool 2013 (cf. the relevant section of the Minutes from the International Committee Meeting in Liverpool 2013, *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, pp. 30–33),

b) the IAHR Executive Committee's effort to encourage the IAHR members to discuss the revised proposal from Profs. Martin and Wiebe (see the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2013*, p. 3),

c) the decision to thus have a (in regard to this proposal) decisive discussion by the International Committee in Erfurt in order for it (in case of a recommendation for a change of name) to bring the matter before the General Assembly, and

d) the fact that the General Secretary had not received any other proposals for a change of name from any member association

the General Secretary invited Profs. Martin and Wiebe to ever so briefly state the case for the revised proposal to change the name for the Association to **the International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)**.

When Profs. Wiebe and Martin had done so, Prof. Jensen thanked them and opened the floor for questions and comments. He also reminded the committee members that a proposal for another name than the one proposed by Profs. Martin and Wiebe had not been filed to him and the Executive Committee, and that it was thus only the name proposed by Profs. Martin and Wiebe and not any other possible name that was up for discussion and voting.

Prof. Giovanni Casadio (Italy) read aloud a written statement which he afterwards has been kind enough to hand over to the General Secretary for him to include it in the minutes. The statement read:

CHANGE OF NAME? No, thanks.

1. The only viable alternative name to *History of Religions* is *Study of Religion(s)*, which is the denomination (official or in English translation) of the majority (29 vs. 8) of the IAHR member associations and societies. The term “study” is, however, too generic and amorphous, as was already noted in Paris by the IAHR International Committee in 1992, and is now recognised even by the supporters of the name change. The alternative name proposed at that time, “academic study” (which is used in the denomination of two national associations), was also discarded later on for being too inclusive, as it comprises the various philosophies and theologies of religion(s), which are studied and taught in an academic milieu yet are not historic-empirical and critical disciplines. See Doc. 1.

2. The denomination *Historical and Scientific Studies of Religions* that is now proposed by two senior scholars (who do not represent any national or regional associations, but only themselves, and this is a notable deterioration with respect to Rome 1990 and Mexico 1995, where the motion to change the name was presented by the British Association), is odd and awkward. Odd, because history itself is a science, and there is no apparent opposition between history and science; awkward, because it is redundant and equivocal, with regard to the adoption of two plural (“studies” and “religions”) which violate both the rules of English usage and the traditional epistemology of the study of religions (= religious studies).

3. *Science* is appropriate in German (*Wissenschaft*) and – with a notable amount of ambiguity – in French, Spanish, and Italian. In English it is not appropriate to define a branch of humanistic and cultural studies.

4. Martin and Wiebe mean “Scientific” as a study which uses cognitive science, evolution theory, biology, neuroscience as methods or approaches, but the name of a scholars’ association should describe the field of study, rather than supply an arbitrary choice of methods or approach.

5. History (historical), instead, is not the definiens of a method. History (of religions) is a field (*res gestae*) and a discipline (*historia rerum gestarum*) which is the traditional rendering in French, Italian, Spanish, Swedish, Norwegian, Romanian, Turkish, Portuguese, and Korean of the (German) original name of the discipline, *Religionswissenschaft*, as formulated by the founding father of the field as an academic area, F. Max Müller: See Doc. 2. The preservation of the denominator HISTORY in the name of not only several South and North European societies but also in few – but very representative – Asiatic (Turkey and South Korea) and South American (Brazil: an immense country) associations is by itself very telling.

6. Like Religion, or Hinduism, the Scientific (a quite controversial definer from the emic point of view: see Doc. 3 b) Study of Religion is already there. It does not need to be invented. It has already its own tradition and its own association, the *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion* (SSSR), which was founded just one year before our association. See Doc. 3 a. The members come prevalently from the so-called social sciences (sociology, psychology, political science, economics) and have their flagship review, the *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, which is, by the way, quite different from NUMEN in its contents and its aims. See Doc. 3 a.

7. Both the Social Science of Religion and the Cognitive Science of Religion (notice, in this case, the usage of the singular for both the discipline and the field) have their own highly structured associations and organs, with a significant mutually enriching interplay with the IAHR and its national and regional affiliated societies. See Doc. 4. An interplay and a cooperation which – in the view of the Italian association that I represent, a view

shared by the French, the Romanian and the Swiss francophone societies – should not imply a loss of our identity, according to the explicit and implicit intentions of the founders of the association, the Dutch G. van der Leeuw and C. J. Bleeker, the Italian R. Pettazzoni, and the Romanian M. Eliade.

8. History can be practiced – in compliance with the basic rules of philology – utilising approaches based on methods developed within the field of the social (homo sapiens is essentially a *zoon politikon* according to Aristotle) and natural (homo sapiens is primarily an animal) sciences. But history is by itself a full-fledged multifaceted “science” (in the sense of a non-confessional empiric study) with its own widely articulated methodology (which is not limited to the study of written documents) and does not require further qualifications.

Prof. Casadio ended up stressing that he was speaking on behalf of the Italian association.

Prof. Ingvild Sælid Gilhus also commented on the proposal, saying that she was in favor of the proposed change and that she liked the insertion of ‘Historical’ in the revised proposal, adding that she found the acronym a bit problematic, though.

Prof. Takeshi Kimura, one of two delegates of the JARS, conveyed the concern of JARS board members: in case the proposal to change the name of the IAHR was adopted by the International Committee and thereafter put to the General Assembly for the final decision by way of a vote in favor or against a new name, the location of the World Congress and thus of the General Assembly might be decisive. The majority of participants in the General Assembly held this year in Erfurt most likely would be from Europe, not least from Germany. This might be seen as a rather parochial way for an international association to take such an important decision. The IAHR and the International Committee ought to consider this before taking a decision.

The General Secretary thanked the speakers for the comments and asked if anybody else wanted to comment on the proposal. Since this was not the case, he proposed that a vote by a show of hands be taken, not least because it was agreed upon in Liverpool 2013 that the discussion of the International Committee on the proposal for a change of name was undertaken with regard to a possible recommendation to the General Assembly to vote on a (possible) recommendation from the International Committee that the IAHR change its name and thus the constitution.

Prof. Hackett then asked for a vote by a show of hands. The vote had the following result:

- *In favor* of the proposal to change the name for the Association to the *International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)*: **15**
- *Against*: **40**

– *Abstentions*: 9

The proposal to change the name for the Association to the *International Association for Historical and Scientific Studies of Religion (IAHSSR)* was thus rejected by a majority of the members of the International Committee and thus would not be brought before the General Assembly.

9 Proposal for Changing [IAHR] ‘General Secretary’ to ‘Secretary General’

The proposal submitted by the Executive Committee (and to be taken to the General Assembly for a final decision if accepted by the International Committee because it implied a change to the Constitution) was, the General Secretary explained, caused by worries expressed by some members that ‘General Secretary’ in some contexts did not signal the same importance, weight or authority as did ‘Secretary General’. Prof. Jensen added that if the proposal submitted won the favor of the International Committee, the recommendation to the General Assembly ought to mention that a change of name to Secretary General entailed a change of name from ‘Deputy General Secretary’ to ‘Deputy Secretary General’.

Prof. Hackett opened the floor for questions and comments. There were no comments or questions, and she therefore asked for a show of hands. An overwhelming majority was in favor of the proposal.

The proposal was thus to be brought before the General Assembly for it to take the decision that implied a change to the constitution.

10 Recommendation of new members and affiliates

The General Secretary, with the help of a PowerPoint presentation, and with reference to his report in the *IAHR BULLETIN 40, Erfurt Congress Edition, August 2015*, p. 60, reported that the International Committee Meeting at its meeting in Liverpool, September 4, 2013, unanimously agreed, upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee to recommend to the IAHR General Assembly (meeting in Erfurt August 29, 2015) that it adopt as *members* (cf. the Constitution § 3 A) the following national associations:

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

as well as the following regional association:

- *Asociacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur (ACSRM)*, South America.

In addition to this, he reported that the Executive Committee had received (March 2, 2015) an application for membership from the *Philippine Association for the Study of Culture, History and Religion (PASCHR)*, and that the Executive Committee at its meeting in Erfurt, Sunday August 23, 2015, unanimously agreed to recommend to the International Committee that they recommend that the association become a new member of the IAHR at the General Assembly.

Prof. Hackett invited *PASCHR* President, Prof. Esmeralda Sanchez, to say a few words if she so wanted, and Prof. Sanchez rose and expressed the wish of the *PASCHR* to be adopted as a member of the IAHR.

Prof. Hackett then asked for a show of hands in favor of or against the recommendation of the adoption of each of the above mentioned applicants. In each case there was an overwhelming or unanimous majority in favor and the recommendation of the membership of each applicant was accompanied by applause.

The General Secretary, finally, reported that the IAHR Executive Committee had, upon the receipt (August 1, 2014) of an application with the relevant information attached, decided to recommend to the International Committee that it recommends to the General Assembly meeting in Erfurt to adopt as an *affiliate* (cf. the Constitution § 3B) the *Society for Ancient Mediterranean Religions (SAMR)*.

Prof. Hackett asked for a show of hands in favor or against the recommendation of the adoption of the applicant as an affiliate to the IAHR. An overwhelming majority was in favor and the recommendation was accompanied by applause.

11 Recommendation of Honorary Life Members

The General Secretary, having referred to the rules in regard to the procedure for Proposals for Honorary Life Membership, asked Prof. Armin W. Geertz, the chair of the 2010–2015 Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee to present to the International Committee their proposals for Honorary Life Membership.

Prof. Geertz took the floor and read the letter of nominations that he – on behalf of the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, consisting of the three honorary life members of the IAHR, namely, Prof. Giulia S. Gasparro (Messina), Dr. Yolótl Gonzales Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus) – had submitted to the General Secretary in accordance with the relevant rules on July 20, 2015.

The Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee proposed that IAHR Honorary Life Membership be conferred on the following three senior scholars:

- Prof. Giovanni Casadio, Salerno, Italy;
- Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Knoxville, USA; and
- Prof. Susumu Shimazono, Tokyo, Japan.

The proposals were unanimously supported by the International Committee, and IAHR Honorary Life Membership conferred upon each of the mentioned senior scholars by applause.

The letter sent and read by Prof. Geertz is rendered in full below:

Nominations for Honorary Life Memberships of the IAHR (2015)

An Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members of the IAHR, namely, Prof. Giulia S. Gasparro (Messina), Dr. Yolótl Gonzales Torres (Mexico City) and Prof. Armin W. Geertz (Aarhus) was constituted in accordance with the procedural provisions, and we have the privilege of reporting as follows.

In accordance with the rules, two IAHR constituent member societies and one affiliate responded to the General Secretary Prof. Tim Jensen's call for proposals, suggesting one name each, and the Executive Committee suggesting three names. These names were then forwarded to the Advisory Committee, which was asked to choose up to three names. According to the rules, "honorary life memberships can be conferred on senior scholars who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers and/or other outstanding contributions." We were conscious of various criteria such as academic achievement and reputation, global balance and gender balance, contribution to the work of the IAHR, but found that it was not possible to take all relevant criteria into account simultaneously and equally. It was necessary to establish a shorter list from within the slightly larger pool of eminently suitable persons and after considerable thought, the committee reached unanimous agreement that the following three persons (alphabetical order) should be put forward to the International Committee for decision:

Prof. Giovanni Casadio, Salerno, Italy

Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, Knoxville, USA

Prof. Susumu Shimazono, Tokyo, Japan

Giovanni Casadio *is Professor of History of Religions at the University of Salerno, Italy. He has authored some 150 publications in Italian, English, French, German, Spanish, and Romanian related to Greek religion (Dionysus, Orphism, Plato, Plutarch), Near Eastern religions (Iran, Ugarit, Mesopotamia), ancient Christianity and syncretism (Gnosticism, Manichaeism), woman and gender studies, and to the history of the history of religions. Prof. Casadio is*

founder and editor of the series *Biblioteca di Studi Religiosi* and *Biblioteca di Storia delle Religioni and Humanitas*, and he is a member of the advisory board of several international journals. He has served for several years on the board of the *Società italiana di storia delle religioni (SISR)*, one of the most active member associations within the IAHR, past and present. Prof. Casadio likewise has served as a member and Publications Officer (2000–2007) on the Executive Committee of the EASR. He is currently serving the SISR as Secretary and the EASR as Vice-President. He has been and still is one of the most steadfast and active supporters of the IAHR and well versed in the history of the association.

Rosalind I. J. Hackett is Professor of Religious Studies at the Department of Religious Studies, University of Tennessee in Knoxville since 1986, and is an adjunct Professor in Anthropology and faculty associate at the Howard H. Baker, Jr. Center for Public Policy. She was a Distinguished Professor in the Humanities from 2003–2008. She taught in Nigerian universities from 1975–1983, while conducting fieldwork. As a specialist on the religions of Africa, she has published widely on new religious movements in Africa, religious pluralism, art, gender, the media, and religion in relation to human rights. She recently published on proselytization, religion and conflict, global Pentecostalism and Evangelicalism, and is currently working on sound in and as religion. Prof. Hackett has been very active organizationally. Within the IAHR, she has served as Deputy Secretary-General (1995–2000), Vice President (2000–2005) and two terms as President (2005–2015). She was Program Chair of the XVIIIth IAHR World Congress in Durban (2000) and active in coordinating panels at many IAHR conferences (1995–2015). She was Treasurer and founding member of the African Association for the Study of Religions (1993–1998) and Ex-officio member (1998–2005). Prof. Hackett currently serves as Vice President of the International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies under UNESCO (2014–2017). She has served as President of the North American Association for the Study of Religion (1993–1994), on the Executive Council of the American Society for the Study of Religion (1999–2002) and on a number of steering committees in the American Academy of Religion (1986–2009).

Susumu Shimazono is Emeritus Professor of the University of Tokyo Graduate School of Humanities and Sociology, Department of Religious Studies. His many research fields include religions in modern Japan, comparative study of contemporary religions, new religions, death and life studies, public philosophy and religion, and comparative study of civilizations. He has produced a large number of publications, some of which are available in English as well. He has served as President of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies (2002–2005 and 2008–2011). He served as Congress Director of the 2005 Tokyo Congress of the IAHR, the largest world congress in its history, the success of which owes to his initiative.

Armin W. Geertz (on behalf of the Advisory Committee)
July 20, 2015

12 Proposed Changes to the Constitution Caused by Transfer of Bank Account

The Treasurer, Prof. Bocking, took the floor and used a PowerPoint presentation to put forward the proposal and to provide the background for the proposal. The background, he explained, is the following:

Banks are subject to increasing restrictions on who may open a bank account, and where.

The IAHR bank accounts have to be transferred to the new Treasurer's location, Switzerland.

A basic requirement for opening a corporate (IAHR-type) bank account in Switzerland is that Switzerland must be the 'primary location' of the IAHR.

This condition is met if:

- (a) The IAHR Constitution does not state that the IAHR is located outside Switzerland;
- (b) the Constitution states that 'the primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the Treasurer'; and
- (c) the Treasurer is resident in Switzerland.

In order to comply with these requirements and thus facilitate a (hopefully) smooth transfer of the accounts, the Executive Committee proposed the following changes to the Constitution:

- A new sentence to be added at the end of Article 3 A of the IAHR Constitution to read as follows: "The primary location of the IAHR is the official address of the IAHR Treasurer"
- The clause in Article 1 of the IAHR Constitution which reads "and is legally registered in the Hague, the Netherlands" to be moved from the IAHR Constitution into a new section VI within the IAHR's Rules of Procedure and the current (final) section VI to be renumbered section VII.

Consequently, the Treasurer, on behalf of the Executive Committee, recommended that the Constitution §§ 1 and 3 be amended so that it reads as follows:

§ 1:

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

...

§ 3:

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

Furthermore, it was recommended that the Rules of Procedure were amended to read as follows following Rule 20d (under VII. the change is only of numbering; formerly 21, now 22):

VI. Legal Registration of the IAHR

Rule 21. Legal Registration

The IAHR is legally registered in the Hague, the Netherlands.

VII. Adoption, Amendment and Suspension of the Rules of Procedure

Rule 22. Adoption

The International Committee shall adopt the Rules of Procedure by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.

Each and all of the proposals were unanimously agreed upon by a show of hands and thus to be brought before the General Assembly for it to take the final decision.

13 Any other business

There was no other business.

Prof. Hackett closed the meeting, extending thanks to all the members of the International Committee for their active participation.

Minutes prepared by the then General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, assisted by notes taken by the then Deputy General Secretary, Prof. Mar Marcos, and by comments from former Treasurer, Prof. Brian Bocking