

IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, August 2011



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I. Proceedings from the IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress, Toronto 2010

It is a pleasure and privilege to be able to announce that the Proceedings from the XXth IAHR Quinquennial World Congress in Toronto are almost already here!

Thanks to the focused and concerted efforts and ambitions of Congress Director, Professor Donald Wiebe, and his staff, not least Sydney Yeung, the Proceedings from the XXth IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, 15-21 August, 2011 in Toronto, Canada, will be available in an electronic web version within a few days, - at the Congress website as well as at the IAHR website.

Consequently, please take a look at the Congress website or the IAHR website within the next few days! For the moment, however, enjoy the cover and the table of contents!

A print version, i.e. a book, will be out in September. As was the case with the most recent Proceedings, a limited number of the book will be distributed by regular mail to a selection of libraries around the world.

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Prof. 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 now also after the Congress.

Sincerely,

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary, August 17, 2011.

II. IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress 2015 to take place in Erfurt, Germany, August 23-29, 2015

According to the decisions taken and announced during the IAHR XX Quinquennial World Congress in Toronto, Canada, in August 2010, the IAHR Executive Committee issued a call for bids for hosting the IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress in 2015. The call was issued on the 26th of October 2010, with an April 1st, 2011, deadline for submissions. The call was sent to all members and affiliates and uploaded at the IAHR website at <http://www.iahr.dk/>

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.

*

The IAHR Executive Committee 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' (see <http://www.iahr.dk/congress.html>) 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 IAHR Executive Committee, at its annual business meeting in Thimphu, Bhutan, July 3rd, 2011, unanimously agreed to gratefully accept the bid from the German Association for the Study of Religions (DVRW) and its local partners in Erfurt, Germany.

Consequently, it is my pleasure and privilege, on behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, to announce that the IAHR XXI Quinquennial World Congress will take place in Erfurt, Germany, August 23 – 29, 2015.

The IAHR Executive Committee takes the opportunity to extend heartfelt thanks to each of the three member associations and their local partners, and to each and everyone involved in the preparation for the bids. We thank each national member association

and all the involved partners for their engagement in the IAHR and their willingness to serve the IAHR by offering to host its prestigious Quinquennial World Congress.

Sincerely,

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary, August 15, 2011

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 xx 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 Abraham 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 Zbiral; 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 Boehner & 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 Religions (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. Bochsinger 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: Abraham 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 "those 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 historical: 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. Minutes of the General Assembly of the IAHR, Toronto, Canada, Saturday, August 21, 2010

Minutes of the Meeting

[To be adopted at the next General Assembly in 2015]

[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee, January 31, 2011]

Welcome by the President of the IAHR

Prof. Hackett welcomed the participants to the General Assembly and the closing of the IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress in Toronto 2010. She explained that though everybody was more than welcome to attend, voting rights were restricted to paid-up individual members of paid-up IAHR member associations, and she asked attendees to kindly write their name and indicate their national or regional member association on a sheet of paper that was then sent around.

Welcome by the General Secretary of the IAHR

Prof. Jensen likewise welcomed the participants to the last of many business meetings taking place in conjunction with the World Congress. He thanked those present who – in their capacity as delegates to the IAHR International Committee – had helped make the International Committee Meeting on Wednesday, August 18 a highly constructive, effective, and memorable event.

Prof. Jensen continued saying a few words about the structure and various 'layers' within the IAHR.

The basis, he said, is constituted by the individual scholars and members of the IAHR member associations, and it is these members and this basis that constitute the General Assembly meeting once every five year in conjunction with a quinquennial World Congress. Without the individual members and this basis, there would be no IAHR.

Next we have the constituent national and regional IAHR member associations and the International Committee. The International Committee, apart from the Executive Committee, is composed of two delegates from each member association. The International Committee, also meeting once in between two consecutive World Congresses, elects (following a nominations procedure also allowing the member associations to nominate candidates) the IAHR Executive Committee and reports the

outcome of the election to the General Assembly. Likewise the International Committee confers, on the recommendation of an Advisory committee, Honorary Life Membership on a number of members. Each association (except for the two Canadian associations), no matter its size, has two votes, one per delegate present at the International Committee Meeting.

The General Assembly is composed of all members of the IAHR member associations present at the congress in question. The General Assembly may take action only on matters referred to it from the International Committee, but it may also refer any matter to the International or Executive Committee for consideration and report. It is the privilege of the General Assembly to make amendments to the Constitution and to adopt new members and affiliates but it does so only on the recommendation of the International Committee.

A meeting of the General Assembly thus is an important meeting, and Prof. Jensen once again welcomed the attendees.

Wanting to ascertain that the meeting had been called in accordance with the relevant Rules of Procedure, and with reference to these as well as to several announcements and calls for the meeting (e.g. in the November 2009 e-Bulletin and in a formal notification emailed to all officers May 7, 2010), Prof. Jensen confirmed that the prescribed procedures had been followed.

Prof. Hackett then moved on to the first item on the provisional agenda, printed in the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010 p. 15, and displayed at the meeting by means of a Power Point presentation.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was adopted by general consent.

2. Minutes of General Assembly Tokyo 2005

The minutes, printed in the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, pp. 30-37, were adopted by general consent.

3. Brief report by the outgoing General Secretary

Prof. Jensen referred to his detailed written report published in the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010 pp. 38-54, available in a web version on the IAHR website and, due to the cost of printing, in a limited print edition. With reference also to his oral report to the International Committee on Wednesday, August 18, he reduced his oral report to the General Assembly to the following:

Prof. Jensen first paid his deep respect to the memory of the IAHR Treasurer, Gary Lease, who passed away January 4, 2008, as well as to the memory 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.

Prof. Jensen then reported that the Executive Committee, following the loss of elected Treasurer, Prof. Lease, suffered yet another loss when elected Deputy Treasurer, Prof. Pratap Kumar, in December 2008 resigned from the IAHR Executive Committee. Prof. Jensen on behalf of the Executive Committee extended his gratitude to Prof. Kumar for his many valuable contributions to the IAHR.

Following Prof. Kumar's resignation, the General Secretary had functioned as Acting Treasurer.

With reference to the IAHR principle that meetings of the Executive Committee, the International Committee, and the General Assembly are located in accordance with a principle of rotation between the various regions of the IAHR, Prof. Jensen acknowledged that neither the 2000-2005 nor the 2005-2010 Executive Committee had proved capable of living up to that principle. Most of the annual meetings of the Executive Committee and all of the meetings of the International Committee in between consecutive quinquennial congresses had been held within the confines of (the 'extended') Europe, lately most often in conjunction with an EASR annual conference.

Though there were many good reasons for this, not least the certainty that an annual EASR conference was taking place and thus could serve as locus for a meeting in the Executive and that a quorum (an attendance of ten members from no less than seven national associations) could be had at a meeting in the International Committee, Prof. Jensen strongly advised the incoming Executive Committee to try its best to realize the principle of rotation. He also encouraged non-European associations to host IAHR Special or Regional Conferences and thus also host meetings of the Executive and International Committee, and he strongly advised members to approach the IAHR General Secretary at the earliest possible stages of consideration and planning. This would also enable the Executive Committee to apply in time (normally one or two years ahead) to the CIPSH for subventions.

On behalf of the IAHR Executive Committee, Prof. Jensen expressed his gratitude to all those colleagues whose engagement and hard work had made the many (nine since 2005) IAHR Special and Regional Conferences possible and successful, and he referred the members to the *IAHR Bulletin*, Toronto Congress Edition 39, 2010, p. 40 as well as to the IAHR website at <http://www.iahr.dk/proceedings.html> for a list of the conferences as well as for an overview of related Proceedings and Spin-Off publications.

With special regard to the recent publication of the Proceedings from Durban 2000 and Tokyo 2005, both available at the IAHR website, Prof. Jensen extended his

thanks to those most heavily involved in the editorial work, namely Profs. Brian Bocking, Rosalind I.J. Hackett, and Michael Pye.

A call for bids for hosting the IAHR 2015 World Congress had been issued in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, November 2009*, but no bids had come in. Another call for bids, Prof. Jensen, would therefore be issued.

Prof. Jensen then moved on to say a few words about the noticeable improvement, since Tokyo 2005, of the IAHR finances, adding comments on the increase in payment of membership fees, the CIPSH, the IAHR African Trust fund, and the IAHR Endowment Fund. He added that what he said in this regard would not be repeated in his report as Acting Treasurer.

With reference to his predecessor, Prof. Armin W. Geertz, who in 2005 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,..." (*IAHR Bulletin, Tokyo Congress Edition, 38, 2005, p. 38*), Prof. Jensen noticed that the financial situation had been prioritized by the 2005-2010 Executive Committee, and that he was happy to be able to report that the situation had improved considerably.

Consequently, it had been possible to assist colleagues in need of travel and conference grants for them in order to participate in the Toronto 2010 World Congress: 25.000 USD had been granted for that purpose from the IAHR general funds, and on top of that the IAHR had secured 7.000 USD for the same purpose from CIPSH. CIPSH grants as well as grants from the IAHR general funds had also been given to a number of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences in 2005-2010.

The improved financial situation, linked to the aim of the IAHR to help promote the academic study of religion all around the world, had made it possible for the Executive Committee, in consultation with the AASR and other regional and national African member associations, to decide to transfer 8.000 USD from the general funds to the IAHR African Trust Fund, thus, over a period of five years, bringing the total amount of money in that fund up to the stipulated 20.000 USD. At the same time the IAHR African Trust Fund would be transformed from an 'endowment' to a 'sinking' fund: beginning in 2010, the fund would grant 4.000 USD each year for five years. A Board of Trustees had been set up, and the first announcement for applications 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.

As regards the IAHR Endowment Fund, Prof. Jensen briefly mentioned that he had transferred the amounts donated to that fund from the IAHR general funds to a

separate bank account named the 'IAHR Endowment Fund'. It must now, he said, be up to the incoming Executive Committee to take further decisions on this fund. .

Adding a few words on the reasons for the improved finances, Prof. Jensen said that the most important reason was the income generated by the new contract with Brill in regard to *NUMEN*, and he once again thanked Prof. Bocking, the outgoing IAHR Publications Officer, for his work and cooperation in this regard.

However, Prof. Jensen said, mention ought to be made also of the steps taken to implement a more strict dues policy, and of the will of the member associations to actually try to pay their dues and to pay hitherto unpaid dues. Prof. Jensen therefore expressed his gratitude, not only to the many member associations that had paid annual fees without interruption, but also to those that, despite financial hardship, had managed to pay up or made arrangements to do so before the end of 2010.

Prof. Jensen noticed that the Acting Treasurer's report proved that active participation in the meetings of the CIPSH, 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 had been well placed. The membership to CIPSH had, at least in this period, paid off in terms of money.

Though not wanting to end this part of the report on a pessimistic note, Prof. Jensen added a word of warning, directing attention to the fact that the improved financial situation was based also on an indirect and 'hidden' income constituted by the money (up to some 10.000 USD per year) contributed by the members of the Executive Committee as they themselves cover almost all of the costs related to traveling to and from IAHR business meetings. The day most of the members of the Executive Committee, including the President and the General Secretary, can no longer find the money to finance most of their expenses related to the execution of their duties at their own universities or bank accounts, the IAHR Executive Committee and thus the IAHR may face a serious problem. The IAHR Executive, Prof. Jensen wanted to also stress, now as before, thus, were not 'swanning around the world' on members' money .

Moving from the report on the significantly improved financial situation - so central to the furthering of the aims of the IAHR, namely to promote the academic study of religions and the activities of all scholars who contribute to the historical, social, and comparative study of religions – Prof. Jensen concentrated on what he considered an equally important achievement, namely the tightening up of the academic profile of the IAHR.

Referring to criticisms and recommendations brought forward in Tokyo 2005, to his own welcome to the Congress participants in the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, pp. 5-6, as well as to his welcome talk at the Opening Ceremony, the

General Secretary expressed his satisfaction with the fact that one of the first tasks completed by the 2005-2010 Executive Committee was a revision of the IAHR policy statement (also published in the *IAHR Bulletin 39, 2010, Toronto Congress Edition*, p. 4) with special regard to the tightening up of the academic profile.

The proposed amendment to Article 1 in the IAHR Constitution, Prof. Jensen continued, was meant to tighten up the Constitution accordingly, and he added (with reference to statements by Profs. J. Zwi Werblowsky and Michael Pye, quoted in his written report) that he and the Executive considered the profile now highlighted in perfect line with the dominant tradition within the IAHR, a tradition, however, from time to time in need of reinvigoration and reinforcement.

Prof. Jensen also saw the efforts of the Toronto hosts in regard to the academic program as being in line with this revised policy statement, and he expressed his hope that the new statement might also make it easier for other hosts of IAHR conferences to make it clear for possible donors as well as for participants that the “IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.”

The IAHR membership, the General Secretary pointed out, 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), and if the associations currently applying for membership were adopted, the total number of member associations would be 46.

Prof. Jensen added that the IAHR leadership, in some cases in collaboration with the EASR leadership, had been of assistance to nascent national associations, but he also said that the IAHR leadership was careful not to try to force an establishment of an association upon scholars. The establishment of a regular national association was not necessarily the one and only way to help promote the academic study of religions. Also in that regard there might be good reasons for exercising restraint, and the same was the case also in regard to some of the dormant, malfunctioning or totally defunct IAHR member associations.

Prof. Jensen recounted his efforts to assist associations in Cuba, Israel, and Russia, adding that recent contacts with scholars from Israel had given him new hope that the Israel association may be revitalized. As regards Belgium-Luxembourg, Prof. Jensen said that he and the President had been in contact with a group of younger Belgian scholars trying to found a new Belgian association. Considering that there had been no payment of dues and no communication over the last few years, and the clear email message in 2009 from the Treasurer of the *Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire des Religions* saying “Our society is nearly completely dead. Consequently, consider that we are no longer members of any supra-national association”, the IAHR

Executive Committee considered the membership of the afore-mentioned society lapsed.

Looking briefly at the various regions of the world, Prof. Jensen noticed that membership development in Eastern and Central Europe continued, and as for Africa and the African associations, he expressed his satisfaction about renewed contacts to the Nigerian and the Eastern African associations, extending special thanks to Dr. Danoye Laguda and Dr. Afe Adogame for their assistance.

As for Latin and South America, Prof. Jensen thanked Prof. Michael Pye for his report regarding the ACSR, the Asociacion de Cientistas Sociales de la Religion del Mercosur (Associacao de Cientistas Sociais da Religiao do Mercosul). He reported that he had taken contact to the ACSR, and that the incoming Executive Committee would follow up his contact. Likewise, the Executive Committee would renew its efforts to get in closer cooperation with the Brazilian association and with ALER, and the efforts to assist a restructuring or revitalization of the Cuban association would be continued.

Looking at South and Southeast Asia, Prof. Jensen noticed the admirable activities of the SSEASR, the positive signals in regard to payment of dues from the Indonesian as well as from the Korean association, and he thanked Prof. Chae Young Kim, now *KAHR* Vice-President, for his assistance.

Finally Prof. Jensen mentioned the ongoing efforts to find a solution in regard to Taiwan and Australia.

As for North America and the USA, he said, there could be no doubt that the application from the AAR for membership to the IAHR, and the recommendation of this by the NAASR, the Executive and now also by the International Committee was a major and highly significant development.

Another significant development was the (re-) discovery of 'affiliates' as a category in the IAHR Constitution (Article 3AB) clearly distinct from 'members' and the decision by the Executive and the International Committee to try to make the IAHR benefit from this possibility to have different kinds of relations to different kinds of associations. With reference to the upcoming item 5, Prof. Jensen expressed satisfaction that the IAHR had already received applications for affiliation from no less than four potential affiliates. The Executive Committee, he said, was certain that the affiliation of these and similar learned societies would prove beneficial to the IAHR.

Finally, in regard to membership, Prof. Jensen reported that he had received a few requests for individual membership but that all applicants, except for one, in accordance with the IAHR Constitution Article 3B, had been referred to seek membership in an already existing national or regional association.

The General Secretary then said a few words about the important role of the IAHR website and about the recent effort to redesign the site and to take advantage of

new possibilities for communication with members. Prof. Jensen extended his thanks to Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, the first elected (in 2005) Internet Officer, for all the work done, and he also extended thanks to Jeremy B. Hughes, a webmaster at the University of Tennessee, who had accepted to do the restructuring and to maintain the website--all for a very reasonable fee.

The major challenge, however, remained, Prof. Jensen added that, in spite of the use of new electronic facilities, it remained challenging to ensure that communication from the IAHR General Secretary reached the individual members of the member associations? For this to happen, Prof. Jensen, said, he still had to rely on the officers of the various associations to forward communication from the IAHR. The IAHR Executive Committee does not have lists of the individual members of the member associations.

Before saying a few words on IAHR publications, Prof. Jensen thanked Morny Joy and her students who maintained the site for the IAHR Women Scholars Network, and he also extended thanks to all those otherwise engaged in the network and all of those who had joined the meeting of the network in Toronto.

As could be read from the written reports by the General Secretary, first to the International Committee in Brno 2008, then to the International Committee and the General Assembly in Toronto 2010, the agreements between Brill and IAHR on *Numen Book Series (NBS)* and *Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles (SoR)* had come to an end in 2008.

At the same time, however, the IAHR had entered into a new agreement with Brill on *NUMEN*. *NUMEN* had been and still was the flagship journal of the IAHR, and the Executive Committee as well as Brill was very happy about the new agreement, and about *NUMEN*.

Prof. Jensen extended thanks to those colleagues (Profs. Kim Knott, Steven Engler, Pratap Kumar, and Katja Triplett) who to the very end served the IAHR as editors of *NBS* and *SoR*, and he also thanked Prof. Einar Thomassen and Prof. Maya Burger for their services to the IAHR as managing and reviews editor respectively of *NUMEN*. Likewise he welcomed Profs. Olav Hammer and Gregory Alles to the team of managing editors. Finally he extended thanks to Prof. Ingvild S. Gilhus for her willingness to succeed Prof. Burger as *NUMEN* Review Editor.

Prof. Jensen mentioned that Proceedings from the World Congresses in Durban 2000 and Tokyo 2005 had been published and uploaded at the IAHR website at <http://www.iahr.dk/proceedings.html>.

The General Secretary thanked all colleagues involved in the editorial process, IAHR Publications Officer Prof. Bocking, Prof. Hackett, and Prof. Pye.

The General Secretary ended his oral report giving thanks to Vice-Presidents Profs. Gerrie ter Haar and Akio Tsukimoto, Internet Officer Prof. Francisco Diez de

Velasco, and member-at-large Prof. Alef T. Wasim for their many years of service to the IAHR.

Thanks were also extended to the Toronto hosting member associations, to the 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, then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Replying to a comment on the need for assistance to scholars in Bangladesh, Prof. Jensen said that the IAHR so far had directed one scholar from Bangladesh to seek membership in the SSEASR but the IAHR Executive most certainly was willing to assist scholars in Bangladesh (as well as in India).

Prof. Platvoet wanted to—for the record—express his dissatisfaction with the distinction made between members and affiliates. There should be only one category. All associations should be member associations. Prof. Jensen replied that the current Executive Committee had not invented the distinction. It had, for many years, been a part of the IAHR Constitution.

Prof. Hackett then thanked Prof. Jensen for his report and proposed that it be formally adopted. The report was adopted with applause.

4. Brief report by the outgoing Acting Treasurer

The outgoing Acting Treasurer, Prof. Jensen, referring to what he had written and said in the General Secretary's report on finances, displayed the audited financial statement in a Power Point presentation and also referred the General Assembly to his written report, *IAHR Bulletin 39, 2010, Toronto Congress Edition*, pp. 55-60.

Having added a few words in explanation to a few items, Prof. Jensen asked if the General Assembly had any questions to the financial statement.

This not being the case, Prof. Hackett asked the General Assembly to formally adopt the report by the outgoing Acting Treasurer. The report was adopted by a show of hands and with applause.

5. Adoption of new members and affiliates

Having referred to the most relevant articles and rules in the IAHR Constitution and By-Laws, Prof. Jensen displayed a) the names of associations and societies applying for *membership*, and b) the names of associations and individuals applying for *affiliation*, saying that the adoption of each of the named applicants had been recommended first

by the Executive Committee and then by the International Committee, at its meetings in Brno 2008 or at its meeting in Toronto.

Each of the following applicants was then adopted as a member association by an overwhelming majority show of hands, and with applause:

- *Eesti Akadeemiline Usundiloo Selts/The Estonian Society for the Study of Religions (ESSR)*
- *Associação Portuguesa para o Estudo Das Religiões/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)*

Each of the following applicants was then adopted as an *affiliate* by an overwhelming majority show of hands, and with applause:

- *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).*

Finally, Prof. Helen Farley, Queensland University, was affiliated as an individual member to the IAHR by an overwhelming majority show of hands, and with applause.

Prof. Hackett welcomed the new members and affiliates to the IAHR family.

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

Having referred to the relevant articles of the Constitution, Prof. Jensen displayed in a Power Point presentation the changes to the IAHR Constitution as recommended by the IAHR International Committee on the recommendation also of the IAHR Executive Committee. Prof. Jensen also mentioned that in so far as the changed articles were reproduced in the By-Laws, the By-Laws were also changed. He added that the International Committee at its meeting in Toronto had made other changes to the By-Laws, and to procedures regarding the nomination of candidates to the Executive Committee and to IAHR Honorary Life Membership. These changes, though, were the responsibility of the International Committee only. They would, he added, just like possible changes to the Constitution, be made public at the IAHR website. The current Constitution and By-Laws were copied in the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, pp. 71-80.

Displaying the proposed changes to the Constitution, Prof. Jensen showed the current text in a left row and the proposed changes in the right row. Going through the

articles in question, Prof. Jensen, ever so briefly, explained key points in the rationale behind the recommended changes: the wish to tighten up the academic profile of the IAHR also in the Constitution, to allow for the vocabulary ('academic study of religions', 'history of religions', 'cross-cultural study of religion', 'comparative study of religions') 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 as regards 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 consecutive quinquennial congresses.

Following a substitution of the term 'members without portfolio' with 'further members', a substitution recommended by the International Committee but by a mistake not substituted in the text displayed, the General Assembly adopted all of the recommended changes by such an overwhelming majority show of hands that the presiding officer without a doubt could state that the required two thirds of the General Assembly voted for.

7. Other recommendations of the International Committee requiring a vote by the General Assembly

There were no other recommendations requiring a vote by the General Assembly

8. Report on the conferment of Honorary Life Membership

The General Secretary, having informed about the procedure for the recommendation and conferment of IAHR Honorary Life Membership, reported that the International Committee, following the recommendations from the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, at its meeting Wednesday August 18, 2010 in Toronto had conferred Honorary Life Membership on five members, all of whom had, in accordance with the relevant criteria "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. Jensen announced the names of each new Honorary Life Member as follows:

- 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 General Assembly applauded the conferment of Honorary Life Membership to each of the named by applause, and Prof. Jensen congratulated the new Honorary Life

Members and thanked Profs. Yolotl Gonzales, Peter Antes and Michael Pye for serving the IAHR once again as members to the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee.

9. Report on the election of the incoming Executive Committee

The General Secretary, having informed about the prescribed procedure for the nomination and election of the Executive Committee (Article 4c in the Constitution, and the 'Nomination Procedure for the Executive', cf. the *IAHR Bulletin, Toronto Congress Edition*, 39, 2010, p. 72, and pp.78-79) and having informed also about the submission of nominations (*ibid.* p. 63), reported that the International Committee at its meeting Wednesday August 18, 2010 in Toronto had elected the following officers and members of the IAHR Executive Committee 2010-2015:

- 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: Abraham H. Khan (Canada)
- Internet Officer: Silas Guerriero (Brazil)
- Member without portfolio: Satoko Fujiwara (Japan)
- Member without portfolio: Amarjiva Lochan (India)

The General Assembly accompanied the display and election of each of the names and persons with applause, and Prof. Hackett congratulated all the members of the incoming Executive Committee on the election.

Prof. Jensen extended thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee, Profs. Giulia S. Gasparro, Jan G. Platvoet, and Armin W. Geertz, for their service to the IAHR.

10. Public transfer of office to the incoming Executive Committee

Profs. Hackett and Jensen left the stage. Shortly after they returned, joined by Prof. Bocking, elected Treasurer, thus signifying the transfer of office.

11. Brief statement by the incoming President

Prof. Hackett expressed how pleased and honored she was to have been reelected for another five-year term, thus getting the chance to continue projects and undertake new ones in the service of the IAHR.

She extended thanks to the members of the outgoing Executive Committee adding that it had been a pleasure to work together with all of them. She looked forward to the work ahead and to the cooperation with the new members of the incoming Executive Committee.

12. Brief statement by the incoming General Secretary

Prof. Jensen said that it had been an honor and pleasure to serve the IAHR in 2005-2010 and that he was grateful to have been elected to serve for another five-year term.

Prof. Jensen said that the overall aim of his work, now as before, would be to help the IAHR promote its stated aims, and thus, as stated in his statement of candidacy, “help carve out more and more space for the academic study of religion all around the world.” He was proud, he said, referring to the same statement of candidacy, to serve as General Secretary to what was the “preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical and cross-cultural study of religion...”, and “not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns”.

Prof. Jensen then mentioned some of the decisions taken by the incoming Executive Committee at its first meeting in Toronto, August 19, 2010:

- The IAHR finances, though in a much better shape today than for long, must be stabilized and further improved. The income from fees and the contract with Brill must be supplemented by income stemming from some kind of targeted fundraising.
- Membership development is to be continued, now as before, with the help of various members of the Executive Committee in touch with various countries and regions. A special effort in regard to South and Latin America, and the ongoing efforts to stimulate and assist colleagues and associations in Africa, Belgium, Cuba, India, Indonesia, Israel, Korea, Poland, and Russia to be continued.
- Linked to this it was decided to chart, describe, analyze and compare the various IAHR regional member associations.
- The International Committee had asked the incoming Executive to discuss the possible inspiration from the AASR proposal (signed by Profs. G. ter Haar and J. G. Platvoet) of a restructuring of the IAHR Executive Committee. The Executive Committee was due to report on its discussions at the next International Committee Meeting in 2013.

- The final decision regarding the establishment of an IAHR book series had been taken. The Publications Officer and the General Secretary would continue talks with Equinox. The intention was to have a book series that was attractive to IAHR members and scholars, a book series thus reflecting and assisting the global academic study of religions linked to the IAHR.
- The website was to be further developed, also in order to serve as a vehicle for more and improved interactive communication between members, be it the national and regional member associations, the IAHR affiliate associations or the individual members.
- Last but not least, the incoming Executive Committee was pleased to announce that Dorothea Ditchfield had graciously offered to establish a Gary Lease Memorial Lecture.

The General Secretary extended thanks to the members of the outgoing Executive Committee, to the members of the International Committee, to the Congress organizers, to the Congress Director Prof. Wiebe, to the Academic Program Chairs, to Congress Secretariat members Sydney Yeung and Professor Abraham Khan, to the Honorary Congress Chair Prof. Geertz, and to the Congress Chair, IAHR President, Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett.

13. Suggestions from the General Assembly to the incoming Executive Committee

Prof. Strenski congratulated the Congress organizers and thanked them for their great work. He also suggested that future organizers see to it that the plenary sessions were arranged so that there was time right afterwards for questions and discussions, and he expressed his hesitations in regard to the choice made to have a relatively high number of plenary speakers focus on cognitivist approaches. Prof. Strenski finally suggested that the IAHR consider establishing an IAHR Facebook group or network.

Prof. Casadio suggested that more time was allotted for questions and discussions following the report by the General Secretary.

Profs. Hackett and Jensen responded that the incoming Executive Committee would discuss the issues raised.

14. Any other business

There was no other business.

Prof. Hackett then closed the formal meeting.

*

Prof. Hackett thanked all of those who had worked so hard to make the Toronto 2010 IAHR World Congress such a great success. She finally asked Congress Director Prof. Donald Wiebe to enter the stage, and together with Prof. Jensen, the IAHR General Secretary, she handed over a present to Prof. Wiebe as a small token of gratitude.

Prof. Hackett then declared the 2010 XXth Quinquennial World Congress of the IAHR, the International Association for the History of Religions, in Toronto, Canada, officially closed.

(Minutes prepared by the General Secretary, Tim Jensen, with the assistance of notes taken by Deputy General Secretary, Maria del Mar Marcos Sanchez)

V. Membership Developments

Belgium – membership lapsed. Efforts to found a new inclusive Belgian association.

Following the changes to the Constitution as well as other decisions taken in Toronto, and with reference to the clear statement some years ago from the Société belgo-luxembourgeoise d'Histoire des Religions (that it was to be considered defunct in regard to international cooperation), the General Secretary in January 2011 notified the named society that its membership to the IAHR had lapsed.

The immediate response was very positive: The president of the named society expressed his understanding of this step, and, even more important, his support to a team of younger scholars from Ghent that the President and the General Secretary had encouraged to try to establish a new all inclusive Belgian association. Later, however, the efforts by the scholars from Ghent did also meet some resistance, and during a visit by the General Secretary in Ghent late May it became evident that more time was needed. At the time of reporting, another group of scholars seem to have taken up the initiative. Hopefully, they will succeed in creating an association that manages to include older as well as younger scholars, French as well as Flemish speaking scholars, etc.

Russia – a restructuring and renaming of the Russian association

In e-mails as of June 4 and 6, 2011 from the IAHR Deputy Treasurer, Prof. Marianna Shakhnovich to the President and the General Secretary, Prof. Shakhnovich has informed about the restructuring and renaming of the Russian association.

The new name, according to a resolution also sent by Prof. Shakhnovich, is the 'Association of Russian Centers for Study of Religions'. The association is intended to be more "appropriate to the current state of the study of religions in the large country of Russia with different local, regional, professional and youth associations of scholars in this field."

The coordinating body of the Association is a "Governing Council, comprising representatives of the most influential centers of religious studies of the country." The

association plans a conference for October 2012 in St. Petersburg at the State Museum of the History of Religion.

Ireland – the Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions

At a meeting at the University College Cork (UCC) on Saturday 19 February 2011, an Irish association, the *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions*, has been established, and the General Secretary has congratulated the Acting Secretary of the society, IAHR Treasurer Prof. Bocking and his colleagues in Ireland, with their successful initiative.

The association has applied for membership to the IAHR, and at its meeting in Bhutan July 1, 2011, the IAHR Executive Committee unanimously decided to recommend the adoption of the *Irish Society for the Academic Study of Religions (ISASR)* as a member to the IAHR.

VI. IAHR Special and Regional Conferences

Upon application, the IAHR Executive Committee has granted the status of an IAHR Special or Regional Conference (cf. <http://www.iahr.dk/special.html> & <http://www.iahr.dk/regional.html>) to the following conferences:

IAHR Special Conferences

- Norway/NTNT: "Religions, Science and Technology in Cultural Contexts: Dynamics of Change", March 1-13, 2012, NTNT, Trondheim. (See <http://www.ntnu.no/iar/konferanser/relsci>)
- EASR/Sweden: "Ends and Beginnings", August 23- 26, Södertörn University, Stockholm. (See www.sh.se/EASR2012).

IAHR Regional Conferences

- AASR/Kenya: "Sports, Leisure, Religion and Spirituality in Africa and the African Diaspora", July 18- 23, 2012 5th AASR Regional Conference (in collaboration with PANAFSTRAG) Egerton University, Njoro, Kenya. (Cf. <http://www.a-asr.org/>)
- SSEASR/Philippines 2013 (final dates still to be announced).

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.

The Executive Committee intends to ensure that the locations in which we have the Executive Committee meetings as well as the meeting of the International Committee that normally takes place in between two World Congresses (e.g. in Brno 2008, and thus again in 2013) also reflect the global character of the IAHR constituency.

We thus encourage national and regional member societies and associations that might

be contemplating hosting an IAHR Special or Regional Conference in 2013-2014 to approach the IAHR General Secretary at the earliest possible stages of consideration and planning. An early approach is also recommended in regard to the possibility of obtaining CIPSH grants, since the IAHR has to apply for such several years in advance.

As for the rules and regulations for IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, see the links inserted above, but please notice that these rules and regulations will be revised in the not too distant future.

Allow me to repeat that conferences, arranged by members and affiliates but not awarded the status of an IAHR Special or Regional Conference, may very well be announced at the IAHR website too. Please just tell the General Secretary to see to it and please send him the relevant information.

Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary, August 15, 2011.

VII. Miscellaneous

Updating of the IAHR Constitution and Rules of Procedure

The amendments to the IAHR Constitution and Rules decided upon by the General Assembly and International Committee in Toronto have been put into print and the revised Constitution and Rules of Procedure uploaded on the IAHR website.

IAHR Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee

According to the IAHR Rules of Procedure as revised by the IAHR International Committee at its meeting August 18, 2011 in Toronto, Canada (see http://www.iahr.dk/honorary_nominations.html), recommendations for honorary life membership should be presented to the International Committee at its meetings during quinquennial congresses and in between two consecutive congresses.

An Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members, according to the same revised Rules should be appointed for a term of five years on the recommendation of the Executive Committee by the International Committee at its meeting during a quinquennial congress.

Consequently, the International Committee at its meeting on August 18, 2010 in Toronto ought have appointed the three members on the recommendation of the Executive Committee.

This, unfortunately, did not happen. The Executive Committee at its meeting in Bhutan July 1, 2011, therefore discussed the matter and agreed that it must be the duty of the Executive Committee to help implement what it sees as the central aims of the revised Rules: to have recommendations of up to three new honorary life members ready for the International Committee Meeting in 2013 (and then again in 2015).

In order for this to be made possible, an Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee, consisting of three honorary life members, would have to be appointed, not in 2013 but now.

Consequently, the Executive Committee decided to ask the IAHR Honorary Life Members Professor Giulia S. Gasparro, Professor Yolotl Torres Gonzales, and Professor

Armin W. Geertz to become members of the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2010-2015.

It is a pleasure and privilege to announce that the mentioned distinguished colleagues and IAHR Honorary Life Members have all accepted to once again serve the IAHR as members of the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee 2010 – 2015. The continuous service to the IAHR offered by the three colleagues is highly appreciated. In about a year from now, or no later than one year before the next meeting in the International Committee in 2013, the General Secretary shall then, in accordance with the Rules, request the IAHR constituent member societies and associations to suggest one or two names and the Executive Committee to suggest up to three names. These names will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee, which will choose up to three names. The General Secretary will then present their recommendation to the International Committee.

Welcome to new members and affiliates

The General Secretary has sent letters of welcome to all the associations and societies, be it members or affiliates, adopted in Toronto in August 2010.

IAHR website restructured to accommodate the category 'affiliate'

The IAHR website has been rearranged in order to accommodate and integrate 'affiliates' and thus the associations and societies affiliated in Toronto.

Numen – six issues per year

On the recommendation of Brill, and following discussions in the Numen Editorial Board, i.e. the IAHR Executive Committee, as well as discussions with the Numen managing and reviews editors, Profs. Gregory Alles, Olav Hammer, and Ingvild S. Gilhus, it has been that each annual volume of Numen, as of 2011, will be published in six issues instead of five.