

# IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement, Brno Edition (August 2008)



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## **I. IAHR International Committee Meeting 2008**

**Wednesday September 10, 2008, 4.00 pm**

**Faculty of Social Studies, P31**

**Brno, Czech Republic**

### ***Provisional Agenda***

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Membership: 2.1. Ascertainment of Membership; 2.2. Co-Option as Recommended by the Executive Committee
3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting (Tokyo 2005)
4. Report by the General Secretary
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7. Recommendations of new Members and Affiliates
8. Changes to the IAHR Rules of Procedure
9. Appointment of the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee
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11. Other IAHR Conferences
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Tim Jensen, IAHR General Secretary

## II. Minutes of the International Committee Meeting, Tokyo, March 27, 2005

### *Minutes of the Meeting*

[To be adopted at the next International Committee meeting in 2008]  
[Preliminarily adopted by the Executive Committee on September 18, 2006, in Bucharest]

Professor Peter Antes presiding.

Prof. Antes warmly welcomed the delegates of the International Committee and thanked the congress organizers for arranging the venue of this meeting. He also expressed his pleasure in meeting in Tokyo in the highly prestigious surroundings of one of the former imperial houses.

#### *1. Adoption of the Agenda*

The agenda was unanimously adopted.

#### *2. Membership*

##### *1. Ascertainment of Membership*

The following members of the Executive Committee of the IAHR were present: President: Peter Antes, Vice-President: Rosalind I. J. Hackett, General Secretary: Armin W. Geertz, Deputy General Secretary: Gerrie ter Haar, Treasurer: Gary Lease, Members-at-Large: Paul Morris, Jacob K. Olupona, Akio Tsukimoto and Alef Theria Wasim. [Apologies were received from Montserrat Abumalham Mas and Ingvild Sælid Gilhus. Mary Getui was absent without apologies].

The following representatives of the IAHR affiliates were present: Africa (AASR): Adam Chepkwony; Austria (ÖGRW): none; Belgium/Luxembourg: none; Brazil (ABHR/BAHR): none; Canada (CSSR/ SCÉR) [one vote only]: Darlene Juschka; Canada (Quebec) (SQÉR) [one vote only]: Morny Joy; China (CARS): Zhuo Xiping & Zhang Xinying; Cuba (ACER): Jorge Ramírez Calzadilla & Aníbal Argüelles Mederos; Czech Republic: none; Denmark (DAHR): Tim Jensen & Jesper Sørensen; Eastern Africa (EAASR): Grace N. Wamue & Philomena Mwaura; Europe (EASR): Kim Knott; Finland: Nils G. Holm & Veikko Anttonen; France: Charles Guittard & Mrs. Guittard; Germany (DVRG): Hubert Seiwert & Edith Franke; Hungary: none; India (IASR): M.L. Bhatia & Amarjiva Lochan; Indonesia: none; Israel: none; Italy: Giovanni Casadio & Marina Uma Vesce; Japan: Yoshiko Oda & Masaru Ikezawa; Latin America (ALER): none; Mexico: Yolotl González Torres; Netherlands (NGG): Wouter Hanegraaff; New Zealand (NZASR): Joseph Bulbulia; Nigeria (NASR): Musli Tayo Yahya & Danoye Oguntola-Laguda; Norway (NRF): Knut A. Jacobsen; Poland: none; Russia: none; Slovakia (SSŠN/SASR): none; South Korea (KAHR): Chongsuh Kim; Southern Africa (ASRSA): none; Spain (SECR): none; Sweden (SSRF): none; Switzerland (SGR/SSSR):

none; Ukraine (UARR): Anatoly Kolodny & Liudmyla Fylypovych; United Kingdom (BASR): James Cox & Graham Harvey; United States (NAASR): Gregory Alles & Russell McCutcheon.

The representatives of CARS subsequently left the room.

The following observers were present for various reasons: Ramazan Adibelli, Mehmet Aydin, Elise DeVido, Abraham H. Khan, Abdurrahman Küçük, Panayotis Pachis, Yen-zen Tsai and Yuan-lin Tsai. It was proposed, and agreed, that speaking rights should be extended to these observers.

### *2. Co-option as Recommended by the Executive Committee*

The following were unanimously co-opted: the two managing editors of NUMEN: Einar Thomassen & Gustavo Benavides; one of the managing editors of the Numen Book Series: Pratap Kumar; the editor of Science of Religion Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles: Katja Triplett.

Prof. Antes concluded that the International Committee had a quorum.

### *3. Minutes of Previous Meeting (published in the IAHR Bulletin 38, 2005, pp. 14-20)*

The minutes were unanimously adopted.

### *4. Report by the General Secretary (published in the IAHR Bulletin 38, 2005, pp. 30-44)*

Prof. Geertz referred the participants to his report on pp. 30-44. Since most of the matters reported will be dealt with in separate points on the agenda, he restricted his oral report to a few matters. One of them concerns corrections in his written report: page 39: "approximately \$400" should read "\$400"; page 42: "(7% of each affiliate's budget, in our case \$400)" should read "(\$400)". He also mentioned that the list of conference locations on page 37 was done in haste and was incomplete. The complete and correct list is on the IAHR website.

Prof. Geertz said that the reorganization of the Indian Association (IASR) had occurred not least because of the unstinting efforts of Pratap Kumar and Abraham Khan. Both Peter Antes and Rosalind Hackett were present at the conference, he added. He thanked the out-going officers of the Indian association for their willingness to transform the association, and he congratulated all involved parties with their success.

Concerning the Russian association, Prof. Geertz reported that reorganization efforts by Prof. Shakhnovich had not been realized before the Tokyo Congress as he had hoped, but that Prof. Shakhnovich has assured him that a national conference will be held in St. Petersburg where reorganization matters will be finalized.

Prof. Geertz concluded his oral report by thanking the out-going editors of the various IAHR journals for their dedication and hard work on behalf of the IAHR during the last terms: the Numen managing editors Einar Thomassen and Gustavo Benavides, the managing editor of the Numen Book Series Wouter Hanegraaff and the editor of Science of Religion Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles (SOR) Michael Pye. He then extended a warm welcome to the new reviews editor of Numen Maya Burger, the new

co-editor of Numen Book Series Pratap Kumar and the new editor of SOR Katja Triplett. These words of welcome and thanks were acknowledged by applause.

Prof. Geertz said that the discouraging financial situation would be discussed in more detail during the Treasurer's report, but he took the opportunity to emphasize that despite the highly dissatisfying situation concerning CIPSH, it is important that the IAHR maintains its membership and remains a part of the UNESCO network. In terms of international cooperation, it is necessary for the IAHR to continue its membership. Furthermore, it is perhaps even more important that the IAHR did its part, in cooperation with CIPSH-member organizations, in maintaining a bulwark to protect the interests of social and humanistic scholarship in the face of worldwide economic and political obstacles.

Prof. Olupona asked if there were any plans on how to generate more money for the African Fund. Prof. Geertz replied that no plans had been effectuated and that the Fund currently lies dormant.

Prof. Antes thanked the General Secretary for his efforts and for his report and proposed that it be formally adopted. The report was unanimously adopted.

#### *5. Report by the Treasurer (published in the IAHR Bulletin 38, 2005, pp. 45-49)*

Prof. Lease began by saying that Prof. Geertz's description in his written report of the current financial state of the IAHR (pp. 38-41) was a clear report on the situation. He said that the IAHR has only been able to generate income to cover 2/3 of its expenses. This needs to be changed during the next 5 year term. There is not enough money in the general account to generate viable interest. The IAHR is adrift for the moment in terms of finance.

He also said that there were no plans at the moment concerning the African Fund nor for the whole of IAHR finances. He reported that the description of the situation with CIPSH in Prof. Geertz's report indicates that things are becoming more and more difficult. He said, furthermore, that it is difficult to implement a budget without knowing the amounts that the IAHR might receive from CIPSH.

Prof. Lease said that there are four important points to note. First, how can the situation in relation to CIPSH be corrected? There is not much the IAHR can do. The question is whether the IAHR should calculate support from CIPSH in future budgets. He suggested that it would be best to leave CIPSH out of future budgets. If any amounts come in, these would be accepted in gratitude. But calculating on support is out of the question. Second, the dues payment situation. Only a few, approximately 1/3 of the associations, actually pay their dues on a regular basis. This clearly cannot continue. Third, there is a need for philanthropic assistance. But the problem is that you need money to get money, in other words, professional development costs money, and, furthermore, there is no certain timeline. It takes time to cultivate potential clients. He said that the Executive Committee has not as yet pursued a strategy. Fourth, the IAHR will have to reduce its activities in relation to its income. This means fewer regional conferences, fewer publications, and a more reticent profile whereby the IAHR becomes a purely coordinating office. Is this what the members want? he asked.

Prof. Morris asked if the IAHR has applied for funds. He agreed that it was very

difficult, but there are many possibilities. He called for a budgetary committee to explore this avenue systematically and said that he would be happy to be involved in it. Prof. Lease responded that this had not been done because it makes demands on time and energy. Furthermore, he said, the IAHR has not developed the textual material necessary to use in such applications. For instance the mission and goals of the IAHR and other strategic wording. He agreed that the IAHR needs a committee or sub-committee to develop a marketable form and use it.

Prof. Antes proposed that the Treasurer's report be formally adopted. The report was unanimously adopted.

#### *6. Additional Matters of Report by the Executive Committee*

No additional matters of report.

#### *7. Recommendation of Changes in the Constitution*

New Article 7B: "One of the most important rights and privileges of membership in the IAHR is the right to vote in the meetings of the International Committee and in the General Assembly. This voting right is dependent upon annual payment of the membership dues in advance of the membership period in question." Article 7 shall subsequently become Article 7A.

Prof. Geertz recalled that the International Committee can only *recommend* changes in the constitution since it is solely the General Assembly that has the power to adopt any changes. The General Assembly, on the other hand, cannot make its own recommendations. He then explained that the phrasing placed before the committee was not the same as the phrasing in the published bulletin. This is because the Executive Committee had changed the wording during its meeting on March 23<sup>rd</sup> and had formulated the recommendation in relation to Article 7 rather than to Article 3. The latter change was made because the Executive Committee felt upon closer reflection that the whole issue concerns membership dues. Prof. Geertz also expressed regret that it was necessary to introduce measures to coerce affiliates to pay their dues.

Prof. González said that some associations cannot pay their dues. Prof. Geertz replied that the situation has changed for many of the associations and that he had difficulty understanding why associations from wealthy countries have not paid for years. Furthermore, the Executive Committee has been very flexible through the years and has time and again invited associations from countries with weak currencies to contact the Treasurer and work out alternative contributions. But there has been no response whatsoever. Finally, he said, he finds it difficult to believe that regional associations cannot pay the minimum of \$100, including the Latin American Association and the African Association. There was general agreement among the participants that the situation had to change. Prof. Geertz also said that the special status of the New Zealand association should be changed in tune with the privileges and commitments of the other affiliates. Prof. Morris replied that this would involve reorganizing the association. He said that he would present this requirement to the members.

Prof. Jensen pointed out that the proposed wording did not provide the Executive Committee with specific tools to deal with non-paying members. He argued that

wording is needed that mentions the possibility of the Executive Committee to allow an affiliate to postpone an annual payment or, in extraordinary situations, to pay a reduced fee. Prof. Lease said that this would not solve the problem. Prof. Seiwert suggested that the phrase “in advance” should be removed. It invites members to only pay just before the meetings and not on a regular basis.

Prof. Cox said that the members should not forget that there is a disparity of wealth between associations. He preferred a formulation along the lines of “unless by prior agreement with the IAHR”. Dr. Bulbulia said that “grants by application” could serve as a grant of waiver where necessary. Prof. Casadio added the point that several associations haven’t paid their dues since they became members and yet they can have representatives on the Executive Committee. He suggested that if they do not pay, then they should not have representatives on the Executive Committee. Prof. Geertz replied that the Executive Committee is not a representative body and that the committee members are elected for their personal virtues and as members of the Executive Committee, they only represent the IAHR. Furthermore, he said that this is not a membership issue. It is in effect only a voting issue.

Prof. Kumar proposed that the International Committee accept the recommended change in the constitution as proposed by the Executive Committee. He said that it is a principal issue: even if you are poor, you have an obligation to pay. This may involve that the individual associations must secure funds in some way, from their universities or research councils, private foundations or private individuals, etc. Prof. Hackett agreed, but she urged that the remainder of the last sentence be deleted, i.e. “in advance of the membership period in question”.

Prof. Olupona agreed with Prof. Casadio that the national associations should pay their dues and that unless they are paid in full, they should be restricted from having representatives on the Executive Committee. The reason for this is because national associations have the right to nominate alternative candidates to the Executive Committee.

Prof. Jensen said that it is important to emphasize that the Executive Committee is not a representative body. But getting back to the actual wording of the proposal, he agreed that the phrase “in advance of the membership period in question” should be deleted. However, he would like to see the following phrase added to the latter half of the last sentence: “unless by prior agreement with the Executive Committee of the IAHR”. A discussion arose concerning this proposal. Most were in agreement that the Executive Committee has the mandate to work out alternative or reduced agreements. Dr. Bulbulia said, however, that it is not good to provide loopholes in the constitution.

Prof. Antes said that in his opinion all sides of the question have now been discussed, and he would like to put the various proposals to a vote. There was general agreement on his decision. He asked Prof. Geertz to explain the procedure. Prof. Geertz replied that according to the rules of procedure, rule 17, “when an amendment to a proposal is moved, the amendment shall be voted on first. When two or more amendments to a proposal are moved, the committee or General Assembly shall first vote on the amendment deemed by the presiding officer to be furthest removed in substance from the original proposal, and then on the amendment next furthest removed therefrom

and so on, until all the amendments have been put to the vote. If one or more amendments are adopted, the amended proposal shall then be voted upon as a whole.” He suggested to the committee that the voting procedure should be in the following order:

First amendment: “One of the most important rights and privileges of membership in the IAHR is the right to vote in the meetings of the International Committee and in the General Assembly. This voting right is dependent upon annual payment of the membership dues unless by prior agreement with the Executive Committee of the IAHR.”

Second amendment: “One of the most important rights and privileges of membership in the IAHR is the right to vote in the meetings of the International Committee and in the General Assembly. This voting right is dependent upon annual payment of the membership dues.”

Prof. Antes put the first amendment to a vote with the following result: 17 in favor, 26 against, 0 abstentions. He concluded that the amendment was therefore defeated.

Prof. Antes then put the second amendment to a vote with the following result: 36 in favor, 2 against, 1 abstention. He concluded that the amendment was therefore adopted.

Prof. Antes subsequently put the resultant proposal to the vote with the following result: 46 in favor, 0 against, 2 abstentions. The following proposal was therefore adopted:

New Article 7B: “One of the most important rights and privileges of membership in the IAHR is the right to vote in the meetings of the International Committee and in the General Assembly. This voting right is dependent upon annual payment of the membership dues.” Article 7 shall subsequently become Article 7A.

Prof. Antes thanked everyone for their discipline and for a good debate. He declared a coffee break while preparations went underway for the election procedures in point 8.

*8. Election of the New Executive Committee (cf. IAHR Bulletin 38, 2005, pp. 50-65)*

Prof. Antes referred to rule 16 on electoral procedures for the Executive Committee by which elections occur in two rounds. The first round concerns the election of the ten officers. Those whose candidacy is unopposed shall be declared “elected unopposed”. All others shall be elected by secret ballot. The second round concerns the election of two members without portfolio.

In initiating the first round, Prof. Antes noted that the candidacies of eighth offices were unopposed, and he therefore asked the International Committee to declare them “elected unopposed”. Prof. Antes therefore announced that the candidates for the nine



offices were “elected unopposed”. They are:

- President: Rosalind I. J. Hackett (USA)
- General Secretary: Tim Jensen (Denmark)
- Deputy General Secretary: Ingvild Sælid Gilhus (Norway)
- Treasurer: Gary Lease (USA)
- Deputy Treasurer: Pratap Kumar (South Africa)
- Membership Secretary: Abraham Khan (Canada)
- Publications Officer: Brian Bocking (United Kingdom)
- Internet Officer: Francisco Diez de Velasco (Spain)

Their election was acclaimed by applause.

Prof. Antes initiated the second round for electing the two Vice-Presidents and the two Members without Portfolio. He proposed that Dr. Bulbulia and Dr. Sørensen assist in the procedure and count up the votes. They then assisted the General Secretary in passing out the ballots. While this was effected, Prof. Antes reminded the members that statements of candidacy had been published and circulated in advance. Dr. Bulbulia and Dr. Sørensen retired with the ballots to count them. When they returned, the following results were announced:

Vice-President (two positions only, names in alphabetical order):

- (30) Gerrie ter Haar (The Netherlands)
- (21) Nils G. Holm (Finland)
- (17) Jacob K. Olupona (USA)
- (27) Akio Tsukimoto (Japan)

Prof. Antes announced that Prof. Gerrie ter Haar and Prof. Akio Tsukimoto were thereby elected. Their election was acclaimed by applause.

Members without Portfolio (two positions only, names in alphabetical order):

- (20) Masaru Ikezawa (Japan)
- (23) Morny Joy (Canada)
- (19) Paul Morris (New Zealand)
- (4) Winni Sullivan
- (30) Alef Theria Wasim (Indonesia)

Prof. Antes announced that Prof. Morny Joy and Prof. Alef Theria Wasim were thereby elected. Their election was acclaimed by applause.

#### *9. Recommendation of New Affiliations (cf. IAHR Bulletin 38, 2005, pp. 30-35)*

Prof. Geertz reported that the reorganization process of the *Indian Association for the Study of Religion (IASR)* does not require a new recommendation process and was solely a matter of report. Prof. Geertz also reminded the members that the application by the *Greek Society for the Study of Culture and Religion (GSSCR)* had been unanimously accepted for recommendation at the Bergen meeting and therefore did not require further deliberation. He then introduced the following applications for affiliation:

*Romania: Romanian Association for the History of Religions (RAHR).* Prof. Geertz said that the application for affiliation was accepted in Bergen, Norway in 2003 on the condition that they submit their constitution to the General Secretary. Prof. Geertz announced that he had indeed received the constitution. He also said that he did not consider the complaints from Mr. Liviu Bordas as mentioned in his written report (p. 32) to have a bearing on the affiliation process. He encouraged the RAHR, however, to negotiate directly with Mr. Bordas. The application was unanimously accepted for recommendation to the General Assembly.

*Turkey: Turkish Association for the History of Religions (TAHR).* Prof. Geertz said that the Executive Committee was pleased to have an application from Turkish colleagues after several earlier attempts through the decades. The successful establishment of the TAHR as an IAHR affiliate was effectuated through the hardworking efforts of Dr. Mustafa Alici. Prof. Geertz announced that he had received all the necessary documentation. The application was unanimously accepted for recommendation to the General Assembly.

*South and Southeast Asia: South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Religion (SSEASR).* Prof. Geertz reported that due to great efforts by Prof. Lochan in the face of political harrassment, which will be acknowledged during the General Assembly, the SSEASR has now been established as a regional association with representatives from a wide range of countries in the South and Southeast Asian region. He announced that he had received all the necessary documentation. The application was unanimously accepted for recommendation to the General Assembly.

Prof. Geertz then said that it was his sad duty to recommend the disaffiliation of the *Taiwan Association for Religious Studies (TARS)*. He referred to his report (pp. 34-35) and mentioned that the *Chinese Association for the Study of Religion (CARS)* had rightly pointed out that the affiliation of TARS by the General Assembly in Durban was illegal. He also said that discussions with CARS since then concerning the decision by the International Committee in Bergen to disaffiliate TARS as a national association, but to recommend that it be recognized as a "corresponding member", indicated that this solution was unacceptable to CARS. After several separate meetings with representatives from both sides during the Tokyo Congress, Prof. Geertz said that there seemed to be a willingness between them to try to work out an equitable solution for all parties. He therefore asked the International Committee to recommend an open-ended process in which the subsequent status of TARS be resolved after further negotiations. This proposal was unanimously accepted for recommendation to the General Assembly. The exact wording of the proposal is as follows:

The International Committee during its meeting on Sunday, March 27, 2005 recommends to the General Assembly that the Taiwan Association for Religious Studies (TARS) be disaffiliated from the IAHR. Their subsequent status in the IAHR shall be resolved after further negotiations.

*10. Recommendation of Honorary Life Members (cf. IAHR Bulletin 38, 2005, pp. 66-67)*

Prof. Peter Antes left the room at this point. Prof. Geertz reported that the following

recommendations were the first in accordance with the new rules. The procedure had been followed as stipulated in the rules of procedure. Unfortunately, the affiliates did not participate in the procedure. However, the Executive Committee put forward their three allotted names, and these were subsequently put forward by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee, Prof. Zwi Werblowsky.

Prof. Geertz said that honorary life memberships can be conferred on senior scholars who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers, and/or other outstanding contributions. Such memberships would help to designate the range of interests current in the IAHR and would provide a wide circle of consultants in relation to IAHR-related activities. Prof. Geertz said that he had expected that the affiliates would be eager to use the opportunity to honor senior scholars in their association by forwarding their names, but this was evidently not the case.

Prof. Geertz then put forward the following three names and referred the members to the motivating descriptions in the bulletin on pp. 66-67:

Prof. Peter Antes (University of Hannover)  
Prof. Emer. Michio Araki (Tsukuba University)  
Prof. Giulia Gasparro (University of Messina)

The proposal was unanimously approved.

Prof. Antes returned to the room and congratulations were extended to him and to Prof. Araki and Prof. Gasparro.

#### *11. Future Conferences (cf. IAHR Bulletin 38, 2005, pp. 36-37)*

Prof. Geertz referred to his written report. He reported that there were only two future conference venues, namely Ankara (2006) and Windhoek (2007), but only Ankara was fairly certain because the Turkish Association had agreed to host the conference. He reported that no bids for the next quinquennial world congress venue had come in.

Prof. Jensen suggested that the in-coming Executive Committee issues a call for bids and that a nine month deadline should be set for serious bids for the next congress venue. He said that there were rumors, but no serious proposals. Dr. Juschka suggested that Canada would be a good place to hold the next congress.

Prof. Geertz described the four kinds of conferences acknowledged as IAHR events: congresses, special conferences, regional conferences and co-sponsored conferences. Details on the conditions for each type can be found at the IAHR website.

Prof. Küçük said the the Turkish Association would host a special conference in 2006 if the Executive Committee wishes. He also suggested that the congress venue for 2010 could be in Turkey.

Prof. Geertz concluded that the in-coming Executive Committee should issue a call for bids for hosting the 20<sup>th</sup> quinquennial world congress as soon as possible and that serious bids should be sent to Prof. Jensen by December 31, 2005.

#### *12. Any Other Business*

Prof. Antes asked the General Secretary if there was any other business from the

Executive Committee. Prof. Geertz replied that there was not. Then Prof. Antes asked the members if they had any other business.

Prof. Alles extended his thanks to the Japanese colleagues for their great hospitality. He said, however, that perhaps the congress program had given the impression that scholars of religion are religious leaders or are on religious quests. This is not what the IAHR does, he said, it is not a form of global theology or interreligious dialogue. Even though he respects those disciplines, this is not why he came to the IAHR congress.

Prof. Lochan agreed with Prof. Alles and described how in preparation for the first SSEASR conference, he and the IAHR had been branded in India as a religious movement by political authorities in Delhi. He had been promised both funding and conference facilities, but these were retracted at the last minute. He had to wait for hours in government offices to answer questions, and he was described in the local newspapers as a fundamentalist trying to swindle the authorities. Fortunately, he said, he received supporting letters from Prof. Antes and Prof. Geertz, and the authorities finally gave permission for the conference to be held. Prof. Lochan said that the IAHR needs to declare in very clear and strong words that the academic study of religion is neither religious, theological nor interreligious.

Prof. ter Haar, who is chair of the academic programme, said that perhaps the confusion had arisen because the programme contained two separate events. The first was the opening ceremony and public symposium. This was not the actual congress. IAHR congresses do not usually have princes giving speeches or priests performing rituals. The second was the actual congress itself which is purely academic. She said that she had referred to the dual nature of the programme in her opening talk. In Africa, similar events occurred. The IAHR congresses should acknowledge that it is being held in particular places in the world.

Prof. Alles replied that he did not feel it necessary for the IAHR to misrepresent itself when presenting itself to the general public. In retrospect it was perhaps ill-considered in relation to the Japanese public. Prof. Sørensen said that if the interreligious theme had only been in the opening ceremony, that would have been alright. But it has also permeated the academic programme.

Prof. Olupona said that this was not a new issue. All the proceedings of previous congresses indicate that this is a returning problem. Critical scholarship of such issues, he added, may not be as easy in some societies as in others. It depends on the role of religion and the issues studied. Prof. ter Haar said that a distinction between methodology and the object of our study can also make scholars blind to relevant issues. Dr. Bulbulia suggested that a statement should be released by the IAHR. Prof. Yahya found the discussion hypocritical and argued against a statement that might offend practitioners. Prof. McCutcheon said that scholars of religion should be able to share theoretical perspectives and not consider themselves to be representatives of particular societies. Prof. Jensen said that issues like those mentioned by Prof. Olupona are relevant in Denmark as well. But scholars do not agree on the issues, and it would be difficult and wrong to develop a political agenda for the IAHR. The job of members of the IAHR must be to follow the goals and aims as set out in the constitution.

Prof. ter Haar said that the study of religion also needs space to deal with the

problems facing the people we study and to be able to discuss these issues. If the IAHR wants to be purely a European or North American association, that is fine. But if it wants to be global, then it must be sensitive to different academic situations around the world. Prof. Alles replied that if one wants to be a scholar of religion, then the IAHR is the place to be. If one wants to talk theology, then one must associate with a different group.

Prof. Lease said that he feels the IAHR is being used to solve world problems. The IAHR, he claimed, has been moving in that direction during the last 10-15 years. But the IAHR is not a United Nations of religious thought. There is excellent scholarship all over the world, and members should continue to be effective in pursuing the goals of the IAHR. Prof. Kumar said that the study of religion is perhaps more complex than for instance the anthropology of religion or political science. One would not find the same kind of confusion or conflation in these disciplines, he claimed. This must be made clear, for instance, in India. The IAHR must tell the world what it stands for.

Prof. Hackett said that the Executive Committee takes Prof. Alles' points extremely seriously and promised that the in-coming Executive Committee would be proactive on image management. She also said that the field of inquiry, however, is always changing. Religion is not just about texts and temples, but also about religious rights and similar matters. She agreed that there are problems of confusion that must be addressed. One way of resolving the problem is to make the statements of goals in the IAHR Handbook and the website more clear and to directly confront the challenges of non-academic forces trying to influence our scholarship.

Prof. Antes concluded the meeting by stating that this is the last International Committee meeting for him as President of the IAHR. He said that the past 20 years on the Executive Committee had been wonderful, and he thanked the members of those past committees for excellent collaboration.

Prof. Kumar extended a vote of thanks to the out-going Executive Committee. The meeting ended with applause.

(Minutes by Armin W. Geertz)

### **III. Report by the General Secretary**

#### **1. Business Meetings & Communications (15-16)**

- 1.1. *IAHR Executive Committee Meetings (15)*
- 1.2. *NUMEN, Numen Books Series, and SoR (15)*
- 1.3. *Newsletters, E-mail Letters of Information, and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement (16)*

#### **2. Revised Policy Statement (16-17)**

#### **3. Members, Affiliates, and Individual Members (17-23)**

- 3.1. *Applications: Membership (17-18)*
- 3.2. *Applications: Affiliate (18)*
- 3.3. *Applications: Individual Membership (18)*
- 3.4. *Reorganizations (18-19)*
- 3.5. *Other Contacts and Communications regarding Membership and Affiliation (19-20)*
- 3.6. *Other Membership-Related Communications and Meetings (20-22)*
- 3.7. *Lapsed Membership? (22-23)*
- 3.8. *Member or/and Affiliate: Constitution, Terminology, and Policies (23)*

#### **4. Women Scholars Network (23-24)**

#### **5. The IAHR Website (24)**

#### **6. IAHR Conferences and Congresses (24-27)**

- 6.1. *IAHR Regional and Special Conferences (24-25)*
- 6.2. *The IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress: Toronto 2010, August 15-21 (26-27)*
- 6.3. *Other future IAHR Conferences (27)*

#### **7. Publications (27-30)**

- 7.1. *NUMEN: International Review for the History of Religions (27-28)*
- 7.2. *Numen Book Series and SoR (28-29)*
- 7.3. *IAHR World Congress Tokyo 2005: Proceedings, Adjunct Proceedings et al (29)*
- 7.4. *IAHR Bulletin, IAHR Bulletin Supplement – and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement (30)*
- 7.5. *IAHR Pamphlet (30)*

#### **8. Finances (31-35)**

- 8.1. *Tokyo 2005 - Brno 2008: Initiatives, Status, and Perspectives (31-32)*
- 8.2. *Membership Dues (32-33)*
- 8.3. *The IAHR Endowment Fund (33)*
- 8.4. *The Fund-Raising Sub-Committee (33-34)*
- 8.5. *Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH) (34-35)*

## **Report by the IAHR General Secretary IAHR International Committee Meeting September 10, 2008, Brno**

Initially, it is my sad duty to announce that since the IAHR International Committee Meeting in Tokyo 2005, IAHR Honorary Life Members, Profs. Manuel Marzal and Åke Hultkrantz, and IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease have passed away. The unfortunate news of the death of Prof. Geoffrey Parrinder also reached the IAHR Executive Committee. We honour their memory and extend our condolences to their families (Cf. the IAHR website, <http://www.iahr.dk/news.htm>, for references to obituaries).

### **1. Business Meetings & Communications**

#### **1.1. IAHR Executive Committee Meetings**

According to the IAHR Constitution Article 5, the IAHR Executive Committee, or at least the President, General Secretary and Treasurer shall, if possible, meet at least once a year.

Following its In-Coming Meeting in Tokyo, March 28, 2005, the current IAHR Executive Committee, taking office at the IAHR International Committee Meeting in Tokyo 2005, has held meetings in: Philadelphia, November 19, 2005, Bucharest, September 18-19, 2006, and Ankara, October 21, 2007. The 2008 IAHR Executive Committee Meeting takes place in Brno, September 6-7. Except for the meeting in Philadelphia, the meetings have taken place in connection with IAHR special conferences.

According to the IAHR By-Laws 20c, the minutes of the IAHR Executive Committee Meetings shall be circulated to the members of the Executive Committee only.

#### **1.2. NUMEN, Numen Books Series, and Science of Religion editorial and advisory board meetings**

For many years, the IAHR Executive Committee has constituted the *NUMEN* editorial board, and the advisory board of *Numen Books Series (NBS)*. For the last couple of years, it also constituted the advisory board of *Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles (SoR)*.

Regular editorial and advisory board meetings, consequently, have been held in connection with all the above mentioned IAHR Executive Committee meetings, except the one in Philadelphia. Separate minutes from each of these have been recorded and adopted. Present at these meetings have been, as a rule, the two *NUMEN* Managing Editors (Gustavo Benavides and Einar Thomassen), the *NUMEN* Reviews Editor (Maya Burger), and a representative from Brill Academic Publishers.

According to the IAHR By-Laws 20c, the minutes of the editorial board of *NUMEN* shall be circulated to the members of the board only.

### **1.3. Newsletters, E-mail letters of information, and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement**

Following Tokyo 2005, regular letters, e-mail letters of information, and most lately an IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement as of March 18, 2008 (see below under 'Publications') have been sent (June 14, 2005; November 1, 2005; November 2, 2005; April 2, 2006; January 11, 2008) to the officers of the IAHR member societies and associations. It is then up to the officers and the member societies to see to it that this communication is distributed one way or the other also to the individual members of their societies and associations. All letters of information can, besides, be found also at the IAHR website.

Furthermore, information on and calls for the IAHR International Committee Meeting, Brno, September 10, 4-6 pm, have been sent in e-mails (February 17, 2008; March 18, 2008; June 12, 2008, and August 11, 2008) to the officers of the constituent member societies and associations of the IAHR.

The minutes from the Tokyo IAHR International Committee Meeting and General Assembly (prepared by the former General Secretary, Prof. Armin W. Geertz) were sent to the officers of the constituent member societies and associations of the IAHR as attachments to an e-mail sent November, 1, 2005.

Information on IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, IAHR Affiliate Conferences as well as 'Other Conferences' are posted on the IAHR website. Here members can also find information on the recently established Women Scholars Network, <http://www.iahr.dk/wsn/>, and the XXth Quinquennial World Congress in Toronto 2010, <http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr/Home.htm>

## **2. Revised Policy Statement**

The In-Coming Executive Committee at its first meeting in Tokyo agreed to take serious the wish expressed at the International Committee Meeting in Tokyo to tighten up the IAHR policy statement and academic profile.

The IAHR Executive Committee as well as the editors of *NUMEN* agreed to stress the fact that the IAHR is a non-religious or non-confessional academic enterprise. Consequently, a primary task has been to revise the profile as it appeared in the general information given in e.g. the *IAHR Bulletin, Tokyo Congress Edition*, number 38, 80, and in pamphlets on the IAHR. The IAHR policy statement now reads as rendered below, and it is this text that will substitute similar texts e.g. in the next *IAHR Handbook* and it is also this revised text that figures in the latest IAHR pamphlet.

The text, mailed to the officers of the constituent member societies and associations of the IAHR November 1, 2005, reads:

The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR) is a worldwide body of national and regional associations for the academic study of religion, and is a member of the Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines/The International Council for Philosophy and Humanistic Studies (CIPSH) under the auspices of UNESCO.

The IAHR was founded in 1950 at the 7th international congress of the history of religions in Amsterdam. During the last World Congress in Tokyo, Japan, 2005, the IAHR grew to 37 national and 5 regional associations - reflecting the international and global diversity of the association.



The IAHR is composed of a General Assembly, an International Committee, and an Executive Committee. The General Assembly meets at each Quinquennial Congress and is composed of all members of constituent societies of the association present at that congress. The International Committee, which consists of two voting delegates from each national or regional association, meets during every Congress to elect the Executive Committee, and to make recommendations on matters of importance to the IAHR. The International Committee also meets once between the congresses. The Executive Committee consists of 12 members, representing major areas of the world, and features as reasonable a gender balance as possible.

The IAHR holds world congresses every five years. The next (the XXth) Quinquennial Congress will be held in 2010. The IAHR also sponsors regional and special conferences during the quinquennial periods, and carries on a tradition of holding its congresses and conferences in as many parts of the world as possible. This serves to support the work of IAHR affiliates, and to encourage international collaboration and intercultural exchange between scholars.

The IAHR seeks to promote the activities of all scholars and affiliates who contribute to the historical, social, and comparative study of religion. As such, the IAHR is the preeminent international forum for the critical, analytical and cross-cultural study of religion, past and present. The IAHR is not a forum for confessional, apologetical, or other similar concerns.

The next step is to consider whether the revision should be reflected also in for the IAHR Constitution, Article 1.

### **3. Members, Affiliates, and Individual Members**

According to the IAHR Constitution Article 3A, "The IAHR is constituted by national or multinational (regional) societies for the academic study of religions. These are such societies as are now members and such societies as apply for membership and, on recommendation of the Executive and International Committees (see below), may be admitted by the General Assembly at future International Congresses." The current membership counts 37 national societies/associations, 5 regional associations (cf. the IAHR website, <http://www.iahr.dk/associations.htm>, for a full list).

According to the IAHR Constitution Article 3B, there are, however, two more ways to connect to the IAHR, namely as an 'affiliate' and as an 'individual member'. The article reads: "To the IAHR may be affiliated:(a)International associations for the academic study of particular areas within the history of religions; (b) Individual scholars for whom there is no appropriate national or regional society. Affiliation is effected by the application to the Executive and International Committees and by approval of the General Assembly."

#### **3.1. Applications: Membership**

At present there are three (3) applicant societies/associations, namely:

- *Eesti Akadeemiline Usundiloo Selts/The Estonian Society for the Study of Religions (ESSR)*, established and adopted as member of the EASR in 2006,
- *Associacao Portuguesa para o Estudo Das Religioes/Portuguese Association for the Study of Religions (APER)*, established and adopted as member of the EASR in 2007, and
- *American Academy of Religion (AAR)*

*The ESSR* applied for IAHR membership in an e-mail dated July 26, 2006, the

*APER* applied for IAHR membership in an e-mail dated September 19, 2007, and the AAR applied for IAHR membership in a letter dated August 12, 2008 sent by an e-mail dated August 18, 2008.

### **3.2. Applications: Affiliate**

At present there is one (1) application for status as an affiliate to the IAHR. The applicant is *The International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR)*. The IACSR applied for affiliate status in an e-mail dated October 7, 2007.

### **3.3. Applications: Individual Membership**

At present there is one (1) application for individual membership. The applicant is Dr. *Niru Kumar Chakma*, Department of Philosophy, Dhaka University, Bangladesh. The application was sent by an e-mail dated July 15, 2008.

### **3.4. Reorganizations**

- The *New Zealand Association for the Study of Religions (NZASR)* has been reorganized and a new constitution was adopted June 2007. The President for 2007-08 is Douglas Pratt, the Secretary Will Sweetman. Since then the NZASR has also paid membership dues.

- *The Russian Association for the History of World Religions* (formerly *The Russian Association for the History of Religions*). Following up on the efforts of the previous General Secretary to help effectuate a reorganization of the Russian association (cf. the Minutes from the IAHR International Committee in Tokyo, item 4), I met with Prof. M. Shakhnovich in St. Petersburg March 2006. Prof. Shakhnovich - in spite of several obstacles and problems - promised to continue her search for finding a way to revive and reorganize the Russian association. September 21, 2006, a fax from Prof. Shakhnovich communicated the good news that *The Russian Association for the History of World Religions* had been established (same date) in Moscow. With Academician Prof. Alexander Chubarian as President and Prof. Marianna Shakhnovich as General Secretary.

I immediately congratulated Prof. Shakhnovich, and in an e-mail dated September 28, 2006, I asked her whether this was a new association or a reorganization. Prof. Shakhnovich replied that it was a reorganization. At the same time she invited me to join the reorganized association for its 'inaugural' conference in St. Petersburg April 2007. However, no more news about this nor any other matters has come to my knowledge. It has not been possible to get in contact by e-mail to Prof. Shakhnovich ever since. During a visit to Moscow spring 2008, a meeting with the President, Academician Prof. Alexander Chubarian, was arranged. Following this meeting, during which Prof. Chubarian expressed his wish that *The Russian Association for the History of World Religions* become active, and actively engaged and represented in the IAHR (and the EASR), more info about the IAHR was sent to Prof. Chubarian. So far, however, Prof. Chubarian has not responded.

- *Kenyan Association for the Study of Religion (KASR)*: According to an e-mail correspondence copied to me from Jan Platvoet, the AASR webmaster, an association

with this name was established in January 2007. This is also evident from the *AASR Bulletin* Nos 27 & 2, 2007, 39-40. It seems that the KASR is supposed to substitute for a defunct *Eastern African Association for the Study of Religion (EAASR)*. According to the correspondence and the report printed in *AASR Bulletin*, the KASR intends to seek membership of the AASR as well as of the IAHR. I have, however, so far received no direct information on the KASR from any of the members of the interim committee listed in the *AASR Bulletin* (p. 40).

### **3.5. Other contacts and communications regarding membership and affiliation**

Since 2005, I have been contacted by several societies, associations and individuals inquiring about membership, affiliation, or some kind of cooperation:

- *Queensland Society for the Study of Religion (QSSR)*, Australia, has been one such society. Following an extended communication with Helen Farley, President of the QSSR, and discussions within the QSSR, the QSSR has decided not to apply for corporate membership.

- *Committee for the Scientific Examination of Religion (CSER)* (cf <http://www.centerforinquiry.net/cser/about>) in an e-mail from the Chair, Joseph Hoffmann, inquired about the procedure for organizational membership of the IAHR. I have replied that the IAHR is in a process of (re-)considering the category 'affiliate' (cf. below), and that the CSER will be contacted as soon as these deliberations have been brought to a conclusion. The CSER and its membership was also encouraged to consider the possibility of membership in NAASR or other national associations.

Besides the above mentioned correspondence directly related to requests for membership and affiliation, exploratory meetings between representatives from the *American Academy of Religion (AAR)* and the IAHR President Rosalind I.J. Hackett and the IAHR General Secretary, Tim Jensen, have been conducted during the AAR annual meetings in Washington DC and San Diego, and at a meeting in Atlanta where the IAHR was represented by the President solely. The theme of the meetings was possible ways of cooperation, e.g. in regard to co-sponsoring conference participation by scholars from weak currency countries. The President and Executive Secretary of the *North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR)* have been informed about these explorative meetings from the very beginning, and the then NAASR Executive Secretary was scheduled to participate in the meeting in Atlanta. As can be seen from above, the AAR later has decided to apply for membership.

Informal and preliminary talks on the possibility of affiliation to the IAHR have been conducted with the Secretary General of *ISORECEA, International Study of Religion in Eastern and Central Europe*, as well as with Wouter Hanegraff from the *ESSWE, European Society for the Study of Western Esotericism*.

Two scholars, Prof. Brahim El Kadiri Boutchich from Morocco, and Dr. Yaron Schwartz from Israel have asked about individual membership. Prof. Brahim El Kadiri Boutchich was recommended to join the *African Association for the Study of Religions*, and he has recently communicated that he is already a member of the AASR. Dr. Yaron Schwartz was encouraged to seek membership with the *Israel Society for the History of*

*Religion*. However, having learnt (cf. below) that this society may be in disarray, I have written Dr. Schwarts again. So far, though, he has not replied to this most recent e-mail.

### **3.6. Other membership-related communications and meetings**

Besides electronic communication with officers from member associations on a wide variety of matters, I as well as the President, Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett, have tried to arrange personal meetings with officers and to attend as many IAHR Special and Regional Conferences as possible. Special mention may be made of the following:

- At the AAR Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, November 2005, I met with the then Executive Secretary, Russell T. McCutcheon, of the *North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR)* and the then editor of the US based *CSSR (Council of Societies for the Study of Religion) Bulletin* to discuss the possibility of some kind of cooperation in regard to publications. Talks on this and some kind of cooperation also in regard to *Religious Studies Review*, another journal published by *CSSR*, are still on-going
- Participating in a conference in Seoul, South Korea, April 2006, I met with the now international liaison officer of the *Korean Association for the History of Religion (KAHR)*, Prof. Chae Young Kim. I have met with Prof. Chae Young Kim also during other conferences, and we have also communicated by e-mail. So far, though, the efforts to get in direct touch with the officers of *KAHR* (also regarding payment of dues) have been in vain
- Returning from Seoul, a stop over in Beijing to meet with officers from the *Chinese Association for the Study of Religion (CARs)* was arranged. Much to my regret, this meeting never came through due to unforeseen visa problems. I thank the Chinese colleagues for their readiness to meet and hope to pay a visit to Beijing in the near future
- April 2006, *The Estonian Society for the Study of Religions* was established in Tartu, Estonia. Together with Kim Knott, the *EASR* General Secretary, I attended the establishment and the inaugural conference
- March 2007, I paid a visit to Lisboa where Portuguese colleagues had arranged lectures and a chance to have talks on the possibility of establishing a Portuguese association. Unfortunately, I was unable to participate in the inaugural conference in spring 2008 of the then established *Portuguese Association for the Study of Religions (APER)*. However, the IAHR President, Rosalind I.J. Hackett, the IAHR Internet Officer, Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, as well as the *EASR* General Secretary, Prof. Kim Knott, attended the conference
- August 2007, a visit to Budapest was arranged in order to meet with the President of the *Hungarian Association for the Academic Study of Religions*, Prof. Mihaly Hoppal. We discussed, *inter alia*, possible ways of engaging the Hungarian association and its younger members more actively in the IAHR, e.g. by way of an IAHR Special Conference hosted by the Hungarian association
- In 2002, following e-mail communication, the Membership Secretary Abraham Khan while in Bratislava in 2006 for a conference met with scholars pertaining to the Slovakian association. In November 2007 while in Bratislava, I also met with a group of scholars from the Slovakian association to discuss matters of mutual interest.

- To help contribute to the planning of IAHR Special and Regional Conferences, visits have been paid to the RAHR in Bucharest in April 2006, and to Bangkok and the SSEASR in May 2006.
- During the EASR annual conference in Bremen September 2007, young scholars from Russia as well as young Belgian scholars expressed interest in contributing to revitalizing their respective national societies.
- In Bucharest 2006 and Bremen 2007 preliminary and informal talks regarding the possibilities and rationales for the establishment of a society for the study of religions in Bulgaria were conducted.
- The IAHR Honorary Life Member, Prof. Zwi Werblowsky, in communications with the late Treasurer, Gary Lease, as well as in more recent communication with the General Secretary, has stressed that he has not been President of the *Israel Society for the History of Religion* for many years, and that he does not know if there is a President. A letter sent recently to one of the officers listed in the IAHR files may clarify whether the *Israel Society for the History of Religion*, one of the oldest member societies to the IAHR, is still functioning or actually defunct.
- April 2008 and later this year some members of the *Indian Association for the Study of Religion (IASR)* have sent letters to the President, with a copy to the General Secretary. The elected IASR President seems to have stepped down a year ago, yet so far no new President has been elected. Though the IAHR Executive Committee cannot interfere in the internal affairs of the member societies, it is, of course, concerned that they function well, - both in terms of scholarly work as well as organisation. The IAHR Executive Committee is always ready to help find ways to revitalize and maybe even reorganize member societies.
- The President and the General Secretary have been participating in the business meetings and the general assemblies 2006 and 2007 of the EASR in Bucharest and Bremen. In Bremen the EASR decided not to have an annual conference in 2010 but to have, instead, its General Assembly in conjunction with the IAHR 2010 World Congress. Consequently, the 2010 Toronto organisers have been asked to be kind enough to reserve a time slot for the EASR General Assembly.

Special mention should be made of the *Taiwan Association for Religious Studies (TARS)*: On the recommendation of the IAHR International Committee, the IAHR General Assembly at its meeting in Tokyo 2005, decided that the *Taiwan Association for Religious Studies (TARS)* be disaffiliated. It was, however, added that "[t]heir subsequent status in the IAHR shall be resolved after further negotiations." The history, reasons and reasoning leading to the recommendation by the IAHR International Committee, first in Bergen 2003 and then in Tokyo 2005, to disaffiliate the TARS can be gathered from a reading of the most relevant texts (*IAHR Bulletin* 37, 2002,7-10; *IAHR Bulletin* 38, 18; 34-35; cf. also the minutes from the International Committee Meeting Tokyo 2005 as well as the 2005 General Assembly Minutes, both still to be finally adopted).

Accordingly, one of my first duties as General Secretary was to write the TARS to encourage them to consider possible ways to help pave the way for a solution to the

problems that caused the disaffiliation. Since then I have mailed TARS several times, and I also received a polite reply saying that they would consider the matter. In Leiden in February 2007, I happened to meet the former TARS President, Prof. Yen-zen Tsai who gave me the impression that discussions in *TARS* concerning the possible future IAHR status of TARS so far had been inconclusive. The efforts to try to find a solution will, however, be continued, - also in light of the solutions worked out to allow the participation of athletes from Taiwan in the Olympics, not least the 2008 *Beijing* Olympics.

### **3.7. Lapsed Membership?**

As the unfortunate case with the disaffiliation of the TARS shows, then the IAHR does have some provisions and procedures for adoption as well as disaffiliation of members. But are they sufficient?

In light of the many member societies that had not paid dues for many a year, the Constitution was amended at the meetings in Tokyo. A new paragraph (Article 7B) was added. It reads: "One of the most important rights and privileges of membership in the IAHR is the right to vote in the meetings of the International Committee and in the General Assembly. This voting right is dependent upon annual payment of the membership dues." At its meeting in Bucharest 2006, the Executive Committee decided to interpret and manage this amendment with regard to the future, i.e. with the 2005 amendment as the date of the beginning of the 'new era': Member societies not having paid up each year, beginning 2005, would lose the right to vote, first time at the IAHR International Committee Meeting in 2008. This decision was linked, of course, also to the more pro-active billing policy. Consequently, the General Secretary in his calls for that meeting has stressed this point time and again.

As can be glanced from the list (see the section on 'Finances') of member societies and dues paid and not paid 2000-2008, several member societies can be said to be in 'bad standing'. Not just in regard to the years up to 2005, but also in regard to the years after. Following the 2005 decision, some have now lost the right and privilege to vote, at least at the International Committee Meeting in Brno 2008. Obviously, then, these measurements, the pro-active billing policy included, have not been sufficient to solve the problems with members not paying their dues in due time. Things have improved, but ...

Moreover, this is not 'just' a question of money. Most, though not all, of the societies that have not paid their dues for many years, seem to be beyond communication. The officers, at least those listed by the Membership Secretary and the General Secretary, do not reply to e-mails sent again and again by the IAHR Executive Committee. Sometimes the silence may have to do with difficulties reading and writing English. Sometimes, it probably has to do with a change of officers, a change, however, not communicated to the IAHR.

No matter what: The un-paid dues and the total silence raises the question as to what a degree some of the named societies are actually functioning or not. It also raises another question: How long should the IAHR Executive Committee, the International Committee and the General Assembly wait for a member society to pay up and/or

respond to repeated enquiries? If a member society, as far as can be judged from lack of payment of dues and communication, seems in disarray or defunct, then how many years should we try to communicate (in vain) before we draw the conclusion that as far as the IAHR is concerned this society is actually defunct and no longer to be counted as a member? When has a membership lapsed?

### **3.8. Member or/and Affiliate: Constitution, Terminology, and Policies**

Soon after taking office, I noticed that while the Constitution, Article 3AB (cf. also above, p.3) distinguishes between (3A) *members* (national and regional member-associations/-societies), and (3B) *affiliates* (international associations for the study of particular areas within the history of religions), then the terminology in use ('affiliation', 'disaffiliation', 'affiliate(s)') does not reflect the wording of the Constitution. Neither does the terminology nor the actual state of affairs and policy reflect (what I see as) the intention of the Constitution, namely to have not only member societies and associations but also affiliate societies and associations.

Consequently, I suggested to implement the wording of the Constitution and to look into the possibilities for having 'real' affiliates. The Executive Committee has supported this suggestion, and as can be seen from above p. 4, there is by now an application for status as affiliate. Yet, the new possibilities thus opening up, also opens up a series of questions and challenges regarding e.g. criteria for (adopting) affiliates, the status, rights and obligations of 'affiliates' as compared to 'members' (e.g. fee, voting rights, participation in World Congresses).

The Executive Committee is discussing these issues, and the first applicant belonging to this 'new' category, *The International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR)*, represented by its General Secretary, Prof. Armin Geertz, has been kind enough to enter into a preliminary discussion of relevant matters.

## **4. Women Scholars Network**

At the first meeting of the In-Coming Executive Committee in Tokyo 2005, the President, Prof. Rosalind I.J. Hackett, put forward ideas of having a special task force establish a resource network for women scholars (IAHR Women Scholars Network), and she explained that her proposal was also linked to a desire to develop more resources on the IAHR website.

The Executive Committee asked Profs. Hackett, Joy, Prof. Wasim, and ter Haar to discuss the possibilities in greater detail, and after some years of preparatory work, the Women Scholars Network was launched in 2007. The purpose, as spelled out at the website of the network at <http://www.iahr.dk/wsn/>, reads: "This network has been founded to provide a forum for women in Religious Studies throughout the world to be in contact with one another. So, the basic aim is to encourage scholarly exchange, as well as to help solidify friendships that have begun at various IAHR conferences in different countries and regions. We hope to provide a venue for dialogue on topics of mutual academic and professional interest."

It is the hope, not only of the steering group but also of the IAHR Executive Committee that the IAHR Women Scholars Network will thrive and be an important help

and resource to women scholars. We thank everybody engaged in developing and maintaining the network, particularly Prof. Morny Joy and her graduate students.

## 5. The IAHR Website

As mentioned on p. 2, the IAHR website naturally serves as one if not *the* most important means of communications to the IAHR membership.

In his report to the Executive Committee at its meeting in Ankara 2007, the Internet Officer, Prof. Francisco Diez de Velasco, proposed that the IAHR offer to member societies who do not have a website (or the infrastructure for lodging and maintaining a website) that they can, one way or the other, lodge their webpages on the IAHR website.

The Executive Committee and the Internet Officer have so far not developed this idea further. Because we are always searching for new ways to serve our membership, the IAHR website has to be upgraded and developed on a continuous basis (for example the above mentioned site for Women Scholars Network). A few new items have been introduced since 2005, but more innovations are on their way.

It is too early to draw final conclusions of the on-going evaluation of the effects of the new delegation of duties as of 2005. From the point of view of the General Secretary, however, the introduction of an officer, the Internet Officer, to maintain the IAHR website, has proved extremely useful and helpful. Allow me to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the current Internet Officer for his expedient effectuation of my requests for e.g. posting of pieces of information and changes regarding membership.

## 6. IAHR Conferences and Congresses

### 6.1. IAHR Regional and Special Conferences

Regarding IAHR conferences, the relevant paragraphs of the IAHR Rules and Procedures read (<http://www.iahr.dk/special.htm> and <http://www.iahr.dk/regional.htm>): "The IAHR holds a world congress every five years. In between the five year congresses, the IAHR sponsors at least one conference a year during which the Executive Committee or its officers can hold annual business meetings and the International Committee can meet (usually) triennially. (...)."

While a *regional* conference "usually focuses on a broader theme with participation by scholars from a particular region (for instance Scandinavia, Latin America, Africa, etc.)", a *special* conference "usually focuses on a special theme with participation by local scholars and a number of invited scholars from other countries."

Since the XIXth Quinquennial World Congress in Tokyo, March 24-30, 2005, on "Religion: Conflict and Peace" hosted by the *Japanese Association for Religious Studies*, the IAHR has sponsored the following Regional and Special conferences (cf.

<http://www.iahr.dk/pastconf.htm> - IAHR Conferences 2002):

1. Thessaloniki – Greece, June 2-5, 2006. *The Greek Society for the Study of Culture and Religion* (GSSCR): "Society in Transition. The Interdisciplinary Study



of Religion in Modern Reality". An IAHR special conference.

2. Bucharest – Romania, September 20-23, 2006. *The Romanian Association for the History of Religions (RAHR)*: "Religious History of Europe and Asia". An IAHR special conference.

3. Stockholm-Sweden, April 19-22, 2007. *The Swedish Association for the Study of Comparative Religion (SSRF)*: "Borders and Boundaries: New challenges in the academic study of religion". An IAHR special conference.

4. Bangkok-Thailand, May 24 – 27, 2007. *The South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR)*: "Syncretism in South and South East Asia: Adoption and Adaptation". An IAHR regional conference.

5. Gaborone, Botswana, July 8-12, 2007. *The African Association for the Study of Religions (AASR)*: "Health, Healing and the Academic Study of Religion in Africa". An IAHR regional conference.

6. Ankara-Turkey, October 22-24, 2007. *The Turkish Association for the History of Religions (TAHR)*: "Secularism and religious resurgence". An IAHR special conference.

(For a list of past conferences of IAHR member societies and associations, cf. <http://www.iahr.dk/pastconf.htm> - *IAHR Affiliate Conferences 2002*)

The IAHR Executive Committee wishes to express its gratitude and to extend many thanks to all the colleagues whose engagement and hard work have made these conferences possible and successful. We also want to express our gratitude for the help offered in regard to practicalities related to accommodate the IAHR Executive Meetings. Participating in the conferences, with or without papers, and meeting colleagues has been a great inspiration and encouragement to all of the IAHR Executive Committee officers and members-at-large who have been able to do so.

For many of the member associations (and quite a few participants), the special conference in question has been their first IAHR conference, and their debut in the international IAHR context. For others, like e.g. SSRF, the conference signalled a new beginning and the active engagement of a younger generation of scholars in the international community of scholars. The IAHR Executive Committee cannot but regret that the financial situation of the CIPSH and of the IAHR has made it impossible for us to help finance but some of the conferences and only with small amounts of 'seed-money'.

**NB:** Before moving to the up-coming XXth IAHR Quinquennial World Congress in Toronto 2010, it is my duty (cf. also the remarks by the former General Secretary, *IAHR Bulletin*, 38, 2005, 43) to remind the hosts and others planning publications related to the IAHR special or regional conferences about the publication policy of IAHR conference proceedings, adjunct proceedings and spin-off volumes: All such publications must acknowledge that the papers were presented at an IAHR conference, the IAHR Executive Committee is to be informed about the publications, and 12 copies should be sent to the IAHR Executive Committee in order for the officers to be able to gain insight in the IAHR related academic and institutional activities.

## **6.2. The IAHR XXth Quinquennial World Congress: Toronto 2010, August 15-21**

The XIXth IAHR World Congress held in Tokyo from March 24-30, 2005 attracted some 1700 delegates from some 61 countries. So far the largest Congress in the history of the IAHR. As can be seen from the section below on 'Publications', and as related in the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement*, March 2008, 3, the official Proceedings of the Tokyo congress is ready for print, and Adjunct Proceedings and other Congress related volumes have already been published, in English and Japanese.

It is, however, time to look forward to the next IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, and the IAHR Executive Committee started to look forward to that already during the Tokyo Congress when the In-Coming IAHR Executive Committee decided to issue a call for bids for hosting the XXth Quinquennial IAHR World Congress. At the time of the deadline for submitting bids, several national and regional associations had shown their interest in hosting the congress but only one serious bid came in, namely from a consortium of:

The North American Association for the Study of Religion (NAASR)  
The Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR)  
La Société québécoise de la religion (SQER)  
The Department and Centre for the Study of Religion (CSR), University of Toronto  
The Institute for the Advanced Study of Religion, University of Toronto

Having studied the bid in detail and discussed matters, the Executive Committee unanimously decided to accept this offer, and this acceptance was communicated to the aforementioned associations and institutes, att. Donald Wiebe and James DiCenso, in a formal letter dated February 19, 2006.

Since then several meetings between representatives from the IAHR Executive Committee and the hosts have taken place, primarily in connection with the AAR annual conferences or whenever else possible to meet with no extra costs. And, as can be seen when following the link now to be found at the IAHR website, the Congress, the theme of which is "RELIGION - A HUMAN PHENOMENON", has now been officially launched. The planning and preparations, thanks to the hard work done from day one by the organizers, are progressing according to the rules and regulations of the IAHR.

The information to be found at the website of the Toronto IAHR World Congress at <http://www.religion.utoronto.ca/resources/iahr/Home.htm> constitutes the 'First Circular' for the Congress, and, to quote the text: "the 'Call for Papers' will follow this announcement as we approach the date of the conference. At that time, more detailed information will be available regarding registration and submission of abstracts, plenary session speakers, payment of fees, travel and accommodation arrangements, social programming, criteria for financial assistance, and more."

The IAHR Executive Committee encourages all the IAHR member societies and their individual members to take a look at the website, now and again, - and to reserve the days of August 15-21, 2010 for the event. As stated by the organizers: "The World Congresses constitute the primary public event sponsored by the International Association of the History of Religions. Originally held every four years, World

Congresses are now organized quinquennially and bring together scholars interested in the academic and scientific study of religions to share the results of their research and to engage in discussion and debate of the major issues and concerns in the field."

For information on the various committees set up, please see the indicated website.

Finally, it should be mentioned that one of the first tasks performed by the In-Coming Executive Committee was to revise and rewrite the so-called *Basic Framework for Running an IAHR World Congress* (cf. <http://www.iahr.dk/congress.htm>). This document, revised June 6th 2005 by the IAHR Executive Committee, is intended to serve as both framework and guidelines for organizing an IAHR Congress.

### **6.3. Other future IAHR Conferences**

As for 2008, the IAHR has focused its attention on the conference in Brno, 7-11 September: "Time of Decline, Time of Hope: Scientific, Cultural and Political Engagement of the Study of Religions", an IAHR Special Conference and the 8th EASR Annual, hosted by the *Czech Society for the Study of Religions (CSSR)*. Cf. <http://www.phil.muni.cz/relig/easr2008/>. - This conference is important also because it serves as the venue for the IAHR International Committee Meeting

As for 2009, the Executive Committee so far has agreed to have the *South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Culture and Religion (SSEASR)* host yet another IAHR Regional Conference, this time to be held in Bali, June 3-6, 2009 with the theme: "Waters in South and Southeast Asia: Interaction of Culture and Religion". (Cf. <http://sseasr.org/about.html>)

Member associations interested in hosting an IAHR Special or Regional Conference in 2009 are strongly urged to contact the General Secretary as soon as possible.

## **7. Publications**

### **7.1. NUMEN: International Review for the History of Religions**

In agreement with the representatives from Brill Academic Publishers and following a decision taken at the Executive Committee Meeting, Bucharest, 2006, the IAHR, represented by Brian Bocking, the IAHR Publications Officer, and the IAHR General Secretary, have been negotiating a new agreement with Brill Academic Publishers on the future of *NUMEN* (and *Numen Book Series*; on this and on *Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles* see below).

Following a year which, besides quite a lot of electronic communication, included a meeting in Leiden (with the Managing Editors present too) and another one in Copenhagen, the IAHR Executive Committee at its meeting in Ankara, October 21, 2008 could endorse a new contract on *NUMEN* (and agree on the future in regard to *Numen Book Series*). The main points in the new contract, finally signed December 7, 2007, are as follows:

- Brill makes a separate payment to the IAHR of € 1.504 per issue (equivalent to 7.520 € per year) in acknowledgement of IAHR's contribution to *NUMEN*. In return, the

Executive Committee/Editorial Board will seek to cooperate actively with Brill through the IAHR to develop the subscription base, solicit articles, find qualified reviewers, etc.

- This annual sum will be index-linked so that the payments will broadly keep pace with inflation.
- Brill makes a 'one-off' payment (€ 15.037) to the IAHR for the undisputed right to the journal title *NUMEN*.
- The pagination of *NUMEN* increases by about 20% from its current average of 523 pages to 600-625 pages per year. *NUMEN* can then be marketed as a five issues-per-year journal. However, the Managing Editors shall supply Brill with but four sets of content each year: three single issues and one double issue.
- The two Managing Editors, plus the Reviews Editor, are appointed by Brill on the recommendation of the IAHR, and Brill draws up separate contracts with these editors, including an agreement on an annual honorarium to each editor, including the Reviews Editor. It is, furthermore, agreed between Brill and the IAHR, that:
  - Expenses of the editors will be covered up to a maximum of Euro 1.504, and also copy-editing costs will be covered up to a maximum of Euro 1.504 per year.

This new agreement has to be seen in the light of the old one from 1994, according to which Brill has been paying the IAHR \$1500 per year in order mainly to cover the expenses of the editors. The editors have received no honoraria.

The IAHR Executive Committee is happy about the outcome of the negotiations. In respect of overall direction and editorial control, the current arrangements will continue, whereby the elected Executive Committee of the IAHR is the *NUMEN* Editorial Board and thus *NUMEN* remains absolutely the journal of the IAHR and its membership. At the same time the arrangement is a great improvement in terms of money, and it is a welcome boost to the IAHR finances.

Due to these changes in regard to *NUMEN*, the paragraphs relating to *NUMEN* in the IAHR By-Laws need must be revised. A proposal for amendments therefore is on the agenda of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, September 10, 2008, in Brno.

## **7.2. *Numen Book Series and SoR (Science of Religion: Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles)***

As for *Numen Book Series*, the negotiations did not have the same outcome as for *Numen*.

The IAHR Executive Committee conceived of *NUMEN*, *Numen Book Series* and *SoR* as sort of an IAHR/Brill package and a strong 'brand'. However, as of 31 July, 2008, with the lapse of the old agreement, *Numen Book Series* is no longer an IAHR related book series.

The same goes for the *SoR*. But in this case the situation was different, since there was actually no written agreement between the IAHR and Brill regarding this publication. The informal relationship and cooperation, therefore, can be said to, simply, has come to an end.

The IAHR Executive Committee wants to thank the editors of *Numen Book Series* for the many years of hard work, and the IAHR Executive Committee, likewise, wants to

thank Katja Triplett and her team of editors for their work on *SoR*.

Due to the changes in regard to *NUMEN*, *Numen Book Series* and *SoR*, the relevant IAHR website information, <http://www.iahr.dk/publications.htm>, has been revised.

### **7.3. IAHR World Congress Tokyo 2005: Proceedings, Adjunct Proceedings et al**

The publications officer, Brian Bocking, has prepared, in cooperation with the Congress organizers, the text of the official Proceedings of the Tokyo congress, in the form of a record of speakers, themes and topics, abstracts of papers, Congress related events, a selection of photos and final statistics of attendance, etc. This will be published in book form later this year for IAHR member associations and libraries to hold as a permanent record of the Congress. The Proceedings will at the same time be made available in an online version.

Several other and separate publications have, furthermore, already been published, in English and in Japanese:

- An edited collection of major keynote papers and responses in English edited by Gerrie ter Haar and Yoshio Tsuruoka was published in 2007 as IAHR Adjunct Proceedings under the title *Religion and Society: An Agenda for the 21st Century* (in the Brill series *International Studies in Religion and Society*, volume 5)
- In Japanese a similar volume of key contributions has been edited by Susumu Shimazona, Gerrie ter Haar, and Yoshio Tsuruoka: *Shukyo: Sokoku to Heiwa (Religion: Conflict and Peace)* published by Akiyama-Shoten, Tokyo 2008.
- Two major Religious Studies journals have devoted special issues to Congress papers: Volume 32, no.2, (2005) of the English-language *Japanese Journal of Religious Studies* was devoted to articles emanating from the Congress, while a collection of papers and responses was published in Japanese in *Shukyo kenkyu (Journal of Religious Studies)* vol.79-2, no.245, Sept. 2005 under the heading 'Reports on the 19th World Congress of the IAHR in Tokyo' (pp.1-144).

Unfortunately, Proceedings from the IAHR XVIIIth Quinquennial World Congress in Durban 2000 has not yet been produced. The Publications Officer together with other members of the IAHR Executive Committee is, however, working on it.

It is the hope of the IAHR Executive Committee that the revised "Guidelines for the publication of IAHR Congress Proceedings, Adjunct Proceedings and other spin-off publications" (cf. <http://www.iahr.dk/congress.htm>) will make it easier for future World Congress organizers and IAHR Executive Committees to deal with the many questions pertaining to publications related to IAHR World Congresses.

Though, as remarked above, It is too early to draw final conclusions on the on-going evaluation of the effects of the new delegation of duties as of 2005, the introduction in 2005 of an office as 'Publications Officer' no doubt has already proved to be of great importance and use. Allow me to use this opportunity to thank the current Publications Officer, Brian Bocking, for the invaluable work he has performed since taking office in 2005.

#### **7.4. IAHR Bulletin, IAHR Bulletin Supplement – and IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement**

Following the IAHR World Congress in Tokyo, the In-Coming IAHR Executive Committee decided, in view of the financial situation as well as the expanding use of electronic communication *not* to send out printed IAHR Bulletins or Bulletin Supplements. At least for a while. Instead, it was agreed that the General Secretary should send out up-dates, news or newsletters by way of e-mails and that those updates or news should be posted also on the IAHR website.

Nevertheless: Though it is the hope that the most important news and information to the officers of the IAHR member associations actually has been effectively communicated, we want to return to a format and a terminology more in line with what has been the case for many years. At the same time we want to do so using the new electronic medium.

Consequently, March 2008 the first *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* was e-mailed to the officers of the constituent member societies and associations as well as to the IAHR Honorary Life Members registered as having functioning e-mail addresses.

It is the hope that this also makes it easier for the officers of the member association to see to it that the *IAHR e-Bulletin Supplement* is distributed, one way or the other, to the members of their associations.

As for a hard copy *IAHR Bulletin*: The Executive Committee will try its best to find the money to make sure that there is always one printed issue of the *IAHR Bulletin* being published and distributed in connection with the IAHR Quinquennial World Congress, Quinquennial International Committee Meeting and General Assembly. Likewise, we will do our best to find the means to update and print the *IAHR Handbook* in connection with the World Congresses.

#### **7.5. IAHR Pamphlet**

Following the Tokyo 2005 World Congress and the agreement of the mentioned revised policy statement, a new and updated IAHR pamphlet (or flyer) was published, with the support of the University of Southern Denmark. The information contained in this pamphlet, however, is already outdated, and a new and updated pamphlet is on its way.

## 8. Finances

### **8.1. Tokyo 2005 - Brno 2008: Initiatives, Status, and Perspectives**

At its first meeting in Tokyo, the In-Coming Executive Committee made several decisions aimed at the improvement of the severe financial situation reported by the General Secretary and the Treasurer (cf. *IAHR Bulletin*, 38, 38-40; 45-49):

- Annual dues to be collected by way of a pro-active annual billing.
- 'Invoices' mailed to the associations made also to facilitate donations to the IAHR Endowment Fund
- The IAHR Endowment Fund, mentioned in several recordings from past IAHR business meetings, also the Tokyo ones, but as of 2005 not set up as a special account, shall be set up.
- A Fund-Raising Sub-Committee (the President, one Vice-President, the Deputy Treasurer, the General Secretary, and the Membership Secretary) was set up.
- A Finance Sub-Committee (the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer, the General Secretary, and the Membership Secretary) to be set up. To coordinate and oversee the total effort to improve finances, and to provide the Executive Committee with a budget for the period up to 2010.

Not all of the intentions implied in this set up have materialised, but quite a few have, and as can be seen from the 'Treasurer's report', the financial situation indeed has improved:

In Tokyo (February 25) 2005, the balance on the checking account was \$ 32.681,11 (+ IAHR African Trust Fund \$ 10.957,01). In Brno 2008 (August 17), the balance on the checking accounts (USD account and € account) is close to \$ 62.783 (+ IAHR African Fund \$ 11.042 + IAHR Endowment fund \$ 1.695).

While the net result for 2000-2005 was **- \$ 23.429**, the net result for 2005-2008 is (at a minimum) **+ \$ 33.158**.

NB: It must be added though that it is hard, not to say unrealistic, for the IAHR Executive Committee not to have increased expenses in the years to come, e.g. for covering (part of) travel costs by the Executive Committee officers:

A glance at the accounting report provided for the Tokyo 2005 meetings (*IAHR Bulletin*, 38, 46-47) reveals that a major part (some 25.000) of the 2000-2005 expenses (a total of some 75.500 USD) was made up of travel subsidies. To this sum then must be added another 5.000 to cover travel costs for the Tokyo conference. All in all this amounts to some 30.000 USD.

Though a small part of this may have been covered by the few and very small grants from CIPSH, there can be no doubt that we have to realize that the sum of money spent since 2005 (apart from above mentioned travel costs for Tokyo) on travel subsidies, namely some 3.000 USD, is quite extraordinarily small.

Now as before (the travel costs registered by the Treasurer 2000-2005 are but a fragment of the real costs paid by the officers themselves) the IAHR expenses to a very large degree are covered, not by the regular income (dues, donations and now a honorarium for *Numen*), but by the hidden 'contributions' made by the members of the

Executive Committee and their universities in the form of payment of almost all of the IAHR expenses of the officers and members-at-large.

On the recommendation of the Deputy General Secretary, the officers and members-at-large of the Executive Committee therefore have been asked to provide an estimate of the 'contributions' they have made so far. At present not all officers have submitted the figures, but to give an impression of the amount in question, it can be mentioned that the net sum contributed by just those three officers (the General Secretary, the Deputy General Secretary, and the Publications Officer) who have at the moment reported on their contributions/costs, amounts to approximately 28.000 USD. Out of this sum the university institutions of the three have met approximately 18.500. The rest has been covered by the officers themselves or via their research accounts.

It is important that the Executive Committee, the International Committee and the total membership of the IAHR is aware of the problems and challenges implied. The IAHR accounting reports in future years will not look as good as it does now if officers and member-at-large of the IAHR Executive Committee do not have the means and the will to cover almost all of their IAHR related expenses by themselves and their institutions. A problem, of course, with implications also for the implementation of the democratic aspirations of the IAHR. Not each and everybody has the means that it takes to be an active member of the IAHR Executive as well as International Committee. And, we cannot rely on the CIPSH (see below) being there to solve these problems.

### **8.2. Membership Dues**

The improvement in finances, however, is due not only to decreased expenses for e.g. travelling. It is due first and foremost to the new agreement with Brill Academic Publishers on *NUMEN* (cf. above), and to the fact that several member societies, realizing the severe financial situation of the IAHR in Tokyo 2005, paid up.

A fact probably linked also to the pro-active annual billing launched by the late Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, in 2006. As the figures show, this policy has not worked miracles, but it certainly has worked. More members did pay up, and in consultation with the General Secretary, Lease made special arrangements with China, Hungary, Quebec, Slovakia, Southern Africa, and Spain in order to eliminate portions of past dues and meet current full dues obligations.

Allow me to express my gratitude for the work done by the late Treasurer: During the years, the late Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, constantly informed me and asked my opinion. I therefore know how many letters he wrote and how hard he worked on this.

Allow me also to thank, of course, those members who paid up and those who entered into special arrangements.

As can be seen from the separate "Membership Dues Accounting 2000-2008", several societies, nevertheless, remain delinquent, some seriously so. Among the longest standing debtors are Belgium/Luxembourg, Brazil, Cuba, France, Indonesia, Israel, Nigeria, South Korea, and the Ukraine (Russia may be considered a special case): Most of these have not paid dues since 2000, some from several years before then. One



recent debtor (Romania) has not paid since the admission to the IAHR, and one (India) not since reorganization. Some of the mentioned associations have made repeated promises to pay their dues but have not done so. Others have not responded to their dues notices. Israel, cf. above, according to information received some years ago by the late Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, and more recently by the General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen, may be defunct; a letter recently sent to one of the (former?) officers may clarify this.

It is to be expected that some members, maybe more than those who have stated so in recent e-mails, intend to pay their dues during the IAHR Special Conference in Brno, September 2008.

Finally, mention may be made of the fact that IAHR regional associations, according to a decision of the IAHR Executive Committee in Wellington, NZ, in 2002, do not pay dues. Maybe the time has come to reconsider this decision.

### **8.3. The IAHR Endowment Fund**

Mention of an IAHR Endowment Fund dating back to 1992 can be found e.g. in the *IAHR Handbook 2000*, 7, and the IAHR Endowment Fund was the subject of considerable debate at the IAHR International Committee Meeting in Durban, August 9, 2000 (cf. the Minutes of the Meeting, *IAHR Bulletin* 37, 2002, 33) in response to the report by the Treasurer. A list of contributors (as of July 16, 1996) was later added to the report, and the sum total given as 6.000 USD.

Late Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, following the decisions taken in Tokyo, set up a special account for the IAHR Endowment Fund. He did not, however, put into it any other money than the 1.000 UK£ so generously donated in 2005 by the BASR.

Unfortunately, this special account had to be put together with the normal savings account when the IAHR accounts were transferred from the Bank of America, Santa Cruz, to an account set up with Jyske Bank in Copenhagen by the General Secretary.

It is, though, the intention to set up a special account again as soon as possible, and - with reference to the discussion in Tokyo as well as the above mentioned recording - the Executive Committee will discuss whether to transfer the sum (6.000 USD) mentioned in the above Minutes from the International Committee Meeting in Durban to the IAHR Endowment Fund. Furthermore, the CARS has donated 500 USD in lieu of dues for the period during which the Taiwanese association was a member, and for many a year Prof. Jonathan Z. Smith has added 100 USD to the dues paid by the NAASR. Maybe these amounts of money should also go into the IAHR Endowment Fund. The Executive Committee also has to agree on the terms for the IAHR Endowment Fund (cf. the terms set up for the IAHR African Trust Fund, *IAHR Bulletin*, 38, 17-18).

The Executive Committee extends a special thank to the BASR, the CARS, and to Prof. Jonathan Z. Smith for their generous contributions.

### **8.4. The Fund-Raising Sub-Committee**

This sub-committee, with the Membership Secretary, Abraham Khan, functioning as coordinator, has functioned largely through e-mail correspondence and memos, and

through talks between the Membership Secretary, the President and the General Secretary of the IAHR during meetings and conferences.

Thus far, the committee has agreed on a list of nine possible names for 'ambassadors' of the IAHR. Consideration of names is still ongoing. The sub-committee has also considered expanding its base with members from outside the Executive Committee. A draft of terms of reference (Fund Raising Objectives) is in the making.

The Executive Committee thanks the Membership Secretary for his continuous efforts to realize the intentions.

### **8.5. Conseil international de la philosophie et des sciences humaines (CIPSH)**

Since Tokyo 2006, the General Assembly of CIPSH convened in Alexandria, Egypt, November 2006. As in earlier meetings, The President, Prof. Rosalind I. J. Hackett, was the official representative of the IAHR. In her report to the IAHR Executive Committee, the President stressed the importance of her being there representing the IAHR as well as her firm conviction that the IAHR is in good standing with the CIPSH thanks to our engagement and performance.

Judging from the correspondence between the CIPSH, the General Secretary, and the late Treasurer, I can but confirm this. As can be seen from the report from the former General Secretary on finances as well as on the CIPSH (cf. *IAHR Bulletin*, 38, 39; 41-43) one of the main reasons for the critical financial situation of the IAHR as of 2005 was the heavy reliance on CIPSH subsidies at the same time as the CIPSH itself was not functioning well in terms of funding. For various reasons.

Some of the reasons why the finances of the IAHR has improved since 2005 are also related to CIPSH: The IAHR Executive Committee has not in its budgets counted on having or getting much money in terms of grants/subsidies from the CIPSH; we have been careful when promising and granting subsidies for IAHR Special and Regional conferences; the financial situation of the CIPSH seemed to improve a little bit after 2005, - and the CIPSH actually transferred to our account some of the money earlier promised but not paid for IAHR pre-2005 and 2005 activities.

In June 2005 we received 2.000 USD from the CIPSH, and in January 2006 another 3.000 USD. Thus the 5.000 promised for past activities pre-2005 was paid up. In January 2005, we also received 2.000 USD as a grant for the Tokyo 2005 World Congress.

In 2006 we received 2.000 USD, and the same amount was granted and transferred for 2007. We had applied for more, but so far (it is still not quite clear from the correspondence if there is hope for more or not), this is what we got. Consequently, we have been able to grant but small amounts of 'seed money' to most of the IAHR conferences.

As for 2008, we applied for 4.000 for the Brno IAHR Special Conference, arguing that since Brno is the venue for the IAHR International Committee Meeting, it is of uttermost importance to the well-being of the IAHR that we can help fund the active participation by delegates from less affluent economies. Following some extra negotiations we have, however, been granted but € 2000 (not yet transferred to the IAHR bank account).

As for 2009 we have applied for a grant to help subsidise the SSEASR Regional Conference in Bali. Though signalling goodwill, the CIPSH has not yet accepted to grant this amount, and neither do we have any certainty as to any grants for the IAHR XXth World Congress 2010 in Toronto.

The CIPSH General Assembly 2008 convenes in Cape Town, November 2008. The President as well as the General Secretary intend to participate in order to hopefully maintain and strengthen the good relations between the CIPSH and the IAHR.

As for more information on the CIPSH, please cf. <http://www.unesco.org/cipsh/>

The CIPSH website also contains information on the journal *Diogenes* published by the CIPSH. Issues of *Diogenes* are also announced at the IAHR website. Though not updated in regard to the size of subsidies granted by the CIPSH, <http://www.iahr.dk/cipsh.htm> contains the information on the current IAHR procedures and conditions concerning granting of CIPSH subsidies to IAHR meetings.

The annual fee for members to the CIPSH is now € 500. The IAHR is paid up.

Tim Jensen  
Copenhagen August 24, 2008

## IV. Treasurer's Report

Due to the tragic passing away of the IAHR Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, January 4, 2008, this report has been prepared by the General Secretary, Prof. Tim Jensen. On the one hand, it is based on and partly reproduces past reports and records by the late Treasurer, and on the other on my own records, beginning February 1, 2008 when the treasury was transferred from the accounts in Santa Cruz, CA, USA, to an account in Copenhagen, Denmark.

These accountings have NOT been audited, and not all details (e.g. transfer fees since February 2008) are included. It covers the period following the period covered (January 1, 2000-February 25, 2005) by the Tokyo report by Prof. Lease (cf. *IAHR Bulletin*, 38, 45-49).

The report is divided in 3 sections:

- A. Accountings (36-39)
- B. Assets (40-42)
- C. Dues Accounting (42-44)

### A. Accountings

#### ***INCOME***

##### **1. Dues and Brill Payments**

###### **February 2005- September 06:**

Total \$ 7. 302.50

###### **September 06 - October 07:**

Total \$7,101.00

###### **October 07-September 08 (August 17)) USD**

Dues:

100.00 (Norway)  
100.00 (Czech)  
200.00 (USA) (100 JZS)  
207.21 (UK)  
224.00 (Swiss)  
250.00 (Spain)  
100.00 (Denmark)  
100.00 (Sweden)  
1.000.00 (Japan 2008. 2009)  
100.00 (Southern Africa)  
100.00 (New Zealand)  
100.00 (Italy)

200.00 (Turkey 2006, 2007)

Total \$ 2.781.21

### **October 07-September 08 Euro**

64.31 (Due 2008 Finland)

+

15.037.00 (Brill new contract one-off payment)

1.504.00 (Brill payment per each issue)

Total: € 16.605

## **2. Grants**

### **February 2005- 09.05.06:**

1.500 (Brill subsidies)

8.960 (CIPSH subsidies)

1.766 (Contributions) (BASR Donation!?)

Total \$ 12.226.00

### **September 06- October 07:**

1,985.00 (CIPSH for 07 conf. )

1,500.00 (Brill for 07 Numen)

Total \$ 3.485.00

### **October 07-September 08 Euro:**

\* We have been promised 2.000 Euro from CIPSH for Brno.

## **EXPENSES**

### **February 2005- 09.05.06:**

		*bank
		to
Bank Fees	15,00	refund
Bookkeeping (05)	255,00	
Bookkeeping (06)	275,00	
Dues & Memberships		
Fees	636,85	

Editorial Fees		1.612,88
Lodging & Travel		0,00
Postage		84,00
Books (Reimbursed)		1.716,00
Website		94,00
Wire Fees		332,50
Bangkok Conference		500,00
Bucharest Conference		500,00
Tokyo Congress		
Food	370,76	
Gifts	19,00	
Printing	1.970,69	
Reimbursements	351,75	
Travel	5.080,00	
<b>Total Tokyo Congress</b>		<u>7.792,20</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>		<u><b>13.813,43</b></u>

**September 06 - October 07:**

*Bank Expenses:*

Incoming/Outgoing Wire Fees	Account Charges
45.00	2.29
35.00	5.80
10.00	
45.00	
10.00	
10.00	
10.00	
15.00	
45.00	
45.00	

SUB-TOTAL ACCOUNT FEES: \$8.09

SUB-TOTAL WIRE FEES: \$270.00

SUB-TOTAL BANK FEES: \$278.09

*Conference/Meeting Expenses*

Conference Grant Support	Conference Expenses
SSEASR Bangkok 500.00	Bucharest 76.35
African Assoc Botswana 500.00	186.56

Turk Assoc Ankara 1,000.00

SUB-TOTAL: \$2,000

SUB-TOTAL: \$262.91

SUB-TOTAL CONF EXPENSES \$2,262.91

*Travel Expenses*

Airfare to CIPSH meeting (Hackett): 1,070.83

Airfare to Bucharest (Wassim): 1,445.37

SUB-TOTAL TRAVEL EXPENSES \$2,516.20

**TOTAL EXPENSES: Sept 2006 to October 2007: \$ 5,057.20**

**October 07-September 08:**

*USD:*

1.021.22 (transfer fee included) (Brian Bocking for print costs Tokyo Proceedings)

802.90 (Reimbursement Gustavo Benavides Ankara Numen Meeting 2007)

825,40 (Reimbursement Einar Thomassen Ankara Numen Meeting 2007)

570.90 (Reimbursement Brian Bocking for expenses ad Brill meeting Copenhagen 2007)

362.00 (Reimbursement Tim Jensen)

Total: 3.582.42

*Euro:*

1.013.38 (transfer fee incl.) (SSEASR grant for 2009 conference)

513.39 (transfer fee incl) (Dues to CIPSH)

Total: 1.526.77

## B. Assets

### B.I. TRANSFER TRANSACTION AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 2008:

1. Account number 06960-10654: USD 40.893.85 ('Checking account' )
2. Account number 06966.40332: USD 1.695.96 ('Endowment fund')
- 3ab. Deposit note (a) re IAHR African Trust Fund : USD 11.042,79, (b)  
Deposit note re ? : USD 1.099.47

**2+3= 13.838.22 USD**

Transfer fee (45 USD) + Penalties ( 97,22 USD + 16.35 USD) = 158,65 USD

**2+3 - 158,65 USD = 13.679.65 USD**

Total Transfer to Jyske Bank, DK, ONE (1) account number 5033 1344130: USD  
**54.573.50**

### B. II. CURRENT ASSETS (August 17, 2008 )

1.

**USD Account: \$ 52. 610. 29** (October 2007: "Checking account": 41,255.85 07 )

(This account then comprises:

- a) IAHR African Trust Fund (February 1, 2008 = \$11.042,79)
- b) Endowment Fund (February 1, 2008 = \$1.695.96)
- c) 2 deposit notes (February 1, 2008 = \$ 2.795,43)) (Most likely belonging to the IAHR African Trust Fund)

2.

**Euro Account: € 15.591.93** (some \$ 22.910, rates as of August 17, 2008)

**A+B (in USD) 75.520 USD**

(incl.:

**IAHR African Trust Fund \$11.042,79**

**IAHR Endowment Fund \$ 1.695.96)**

### B. III. TOTAL ASSETS 2005-2008



**Tokyo** (February 25) 2005::

Checking account \$ 32.681,11 + IAHR African Trust Fund \$ 10.957,01

**Ankara**, October 2007:

Checking account \$ 41,255,85 + IAHR African Fund \$ 10.689,97 + Endowment Fund \$ 1.739,24)

**Brno** September 2008 (August 17):

"Checking account" \$ 62.783 + IAHR African Fund \$ 11.042 + IAHR Endowment fund \$ 1.695

*Note to Assets:*

Late Treasurer, Prof. Gary Lease, October 2007 noticed:

"Re: Endowment Fund: This fund does not reflect funds targeted for the Endowment Fund that were booked prior to my assumption of the office of Treasurer. Research into the notes and comments from my predecessor is on-going. Anecdotal evidence indicates that there will be a considerable increase in this amount once my research is complete. Once the total is established, a longer- and higher-paying investment can be chosen."

Tim Jensen adds: According to Minutes of the IAHR International Committee Meeting, August , Durban 2000 (cf. IAHR Bulletin, 37. 2002, 33) "Prof. Martin expressed satisfaction in the fact that there is \$ 6.000 in the IAHR Endowment Fund. He requested that the list of contributors be added to the report.". The Minutes p.33 further reads: "They are listed here as of July 16, 1996...", and then comes a list comprising 9 donors.

To these may then be added another donation of 1.000 British Pounds by BASR (2005), and 500 USD from the CARS (2007), - and maybe the annual personal contributions (USD 100) added to the NAASR dues by Prof. Jonathan Z Smith.

**B. IV. 2005-2008 NET RESULT**

**TOKYO ACCOUNTING REPORT**

JANUARY 1, 2000 - FEBRUARY 25, 2005:

INCOME TOTAL       \$ 52.044  
EXPENSES TOTAL     \$ 75.473

**NET RESULT           - \$ 23.429**

**BRNO ACCOUNTING REPORT**

FEBRUARY 25, 2005- AUGUST 17, 2008

INCOME TOTAL               \$ 57.357  
EXPENSES TOTAL       \$ 24.199

**NET RESULT           + \$ 33.158**

Notes:

1) There may be some very minor transfer/wire expenses, and other minor expenses that I have NOT listed following the transfer to DK. They will be listed as I find also somebody to audit the report.

2) Brill ought have paid for more than one issue by now. We have 4 more payments of € 1.504.00 coming in in 2008, plus at least € 2.000 from the CIPSH. Add to this also more dues.

**C. IAHR MEMBERSHIP DUES ACCOUNTING 2008  
2000 - 2008**

37 dues-paying national societies/associations:

Austria	2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
Belgium/Luxembourg	2001
Brazil	[missing since entry, or at least 2000]
Canada	1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
China	[missing since 1996] 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999; 2005, 2006, 2007 [donation made in lieu of dues for Taiwan period 2000-04]
Cuba	[missing since 1999]
Czech Republic	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Denmark	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Finland	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
France	[missing since 1996]
Germany	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Greece	2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 (to be paid in Brno)
Hungary	[missing since 1996] 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007

India	[missing since 1996] 2004, 2005 [after reorganization]
Indonesia	[missing since 1996]
Israel	[missing since 1999]
Italy	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Japan	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009
Mexico	2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Netherlands	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006
New Zealand	[excused from dues since entry; dues paid after reorganisation], 2007, 2008, 2009
Nigeria	1998, 1999, 2000
Norway	1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Poland	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
Quebec	2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007
Romania	[missing since entry]
Russia	[missing since 2000]
Slovakia	[missing since entry, or at least 2000] 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 (promised to pay for 2008 and 2009 while in Brno)
Southern Africa	[missing since 2000] 2001-2005 (1/2), 2006, 2007, 2008
South Korea	[missing since 2000]
Spain	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006 2007, 2008 [missing since 2000: 2 payments of \$116 each, March 2005; 1 payment of \$600, April 2007]
Sweden	1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

Switzerland	2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008
Turkey	2006, 2007
Ukraine	[missing since 2000]
United Kingdom	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005 2006, 2007, 2008
United States	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008

5 non-dues paying regional associations:

African Association for the Study of Religion (AASR)

Eastern African Association for the Study of Religion (EAASR)

South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Religion (SSEASR)

European Association for the Study of Religion (EASR)

Latin American Association (ALER)

Notes:

Special arrangements have been made with China, Hungary, New Zealand, Quebec, Slovakia, Southern Africa, and Spain in order to eliminate portions of past dues and meet current full dues obligations.

Several associations remain delinquent, some seriously so. Among the longest standing debtors are Belgium/Luxembourg, Brazil, Cuba, France, Indonesia, Israel, Nigeria, South Korea, and the Ukraine (Russia may be considered a special case): Most of these have not paid dues since 2000, some from several years before then. One recent debtor (Romania) has not paid since the admission to the IAHR and one (India) not since reorganization.

Some of the mentioned associations have made repeated promises to pay their dues but have not done so. Others have not responded to their dues notices.

Israel, according to information received by Tim Jensen, may be considered defunct, but a letter sent to one of the (former?) officers may clarify this.

It is to be expected that some members, more than the ones who have said so, intend to pay their dues during the IAHR Special Conference in Brno, September 2008.

All in all: The campaign to write to all associations seeking payment of past or current dues and the concerted efforts of the late Treasurer, the General Secretary and most lately by Deputy Treasurer Pratap Kumar Penumala, have been but partly successful.

Tim Jensen

Copenhagen August 24, 2008

## V. Proposal for Amendments to the IAHR By-Laws

### **Proposed amendments to the *By-Laws and Rules***

(cf <http://www.iahr.dk/procedures.htm> of the IAHR due to the new agreement as of December 2007 with Brill Academic Publishers.

*Rule 22. Amendment and/or Suspension* reads:

"The Rules of Procedure may be amended and/or suspended by the International Committee on recommendation by the Executive Committee, except where they reproduce provisions of the Constitution of the IAHR, by a decision taken by a simple majority of the members present and voting."

The Executive Committee proposes the following amendments (none of which reproduces provisions of the Constitution) to the following rules:

#### ***Rule 1.d***

*Current text:*

The Editorial Board of NUMEN consists of the Executive Committee and two managing editors. The judicial relationship of the Editorial Board and the publisher Brill Academic Publishers are stipulated in the Memorandum of Agreement, dated July 11, 1994. The two managing editors are appointed by the Executive Committee in agreement with the publisher every five years with effect from each quinquennial congress of the IAHR. The editors may be reappointed for a second five year period. Normally the appointments of the editors will be in alternate succession to ensure that only one editor retires at the end of each five year period.

*Revised text:*

Members of the Editorial Board of NUMEN are appointed by the IAHR Executive Committee. As a rule the Editorial Board consists of the Executive Committee. The Managing and Reviews Editors are appointed by the Publisher on the recommendation of the IAHR Executive Committee, and the Publisher draws up separate contracts with these editors in conformity with the overall contract between the Publisher and the IAHR. The duration of the appointment of the Editor(s) will be stipulated in the contracts, but as a rule the period is 5 years.

The judicial relationship between the IAHR and Brill Academic Publishers is stipulated in a contract signed by the parties on December 7, 2007. The contract will be in force for a period of ten years from this date, i.e. until December 6, 2017.

The agreement will be renewed automatically for ten years, unless notice in writing is given by either party at least twelve (12) months before the date of termination of the agreement.

#### ***Rule 20c.***

*Current text:*

The minutes of the Executive Committee and the Editorial Board of NUMEN shall be circulated to the members of the committee and the board only.

*Revised text:*

The minutes of the Executive Committee shall be circulated to the members of the committee and to the *NUMEN* Managing and Reviews Editors only. The minutes of the Editorial Board of *NUMEN* shall be circulated only to the members of the board, to the Managing and Reviews Editors, and to the Publisher.

.....

The IAHR Executive Committee proposes that the wording of the current *Rules 2d* ("The Editorial Board of NUMEN normally meets in conjunction with the Executive Committee meetings."), and *10.c.* ("A meeting of the Editorial Board of NUMEN requires a minimum attendance of five of its members.") remains unchanged.