



IAHR – Towards a New Future

A Report from the Task Force

Over its history spanning some 75 years, IAHR has undergone a number of changes and adjustments in its organizational and management structure.

The present organizational structure dates back 25 years to the “Jack Kennedy era” (IAHR President J.F. Kennedy) in the mid-eighties. Major changes have taken place since then both within IAHR (e.g. the change of host organisation in 2001 and appointment of a full-time Executive Director in 1999), within our profession (e.g. the rise of an integrated approach to water resource management beyond the more narrow hydraulics field), and in communications technology (e.g. internet platforms and the move to electronic publishing). All these changes have implications on the operation of IAHR for serving effectively the profession and its membership as well as on its financial viability.

The Executive Committee (EC), with the mandate of IAHR Council, has attempted in recent years to deal with these implications in a number of ways, e.g. the development of a Strategic Plan that in turn drives a Business Plan, both with continuous updating; the establishment of a Revenue Generation Task Force; the possible outsourcing of journal publishing; and more.

The IAHR Council in Venice in 2007 decided to launch a process of consultation with the members about how our association needed to respond to change. Articles by Roger Falconer arguing the case for a name change, and responses by Jean Cunge, and Anton Schleiss were published in *HydroLink* (Issues 3, 5, 6 /2008). A lively on-line discussion in response to the original article by Falconer also took place with around hundred useful comments posted on the IAHR website including from past presidents and “elder statesmen” – strongly endorsing Falconer’s arguments in favour of change of the association! However, many of these contributions stated that a name change alone would not bring much: fundamental

changes in the way IAHR operates would be needed in the first place!

At the Nagoya Council meeting last September President Nobuyuki Tamai therefore put in place a special Task Force on Structural Change and asked it to prepare a set of recommendations for structural change based on the feedback from these discussions and based on direct contact with the Section Officers, and other key IAHR figures.

The Task Force consisted of the three Vice-Presidents Peter Goodwin, Gerhard Jirka (Chair) and Joseph Lee, together with the three Division Chairmen, Phil Burgi, Peter Davies and Angelos Findikakis, and the Executive Director Chris George (ex officio). The Task Force has worked over the last nine months in good collaboration with many of you within IAHR. The range of opinions expressed in the *HydroLink* articles, on the IAHR website and in other direct messages to the TF was carefully deliberated, and a preliminary draft of our recommendations was circulated to the chairs of all Technical Sections and Regional Divisions, and necessary revisions were made.

The recommendations of the Task Force were unanimously and enthusiastically endorsed by the IAHR Executive Committee in March, and in

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April an overwhelming majority of all Council Members endorsed the Recommendations.

This means the structural changes within IAHR will become effective by this August in Vancouver, pending some final procedural votes by Council relating to revisions in the By-Laws.

One element of the plan, namely the name change of IAHR (see separate box on page 45) is a Constitution issue and, as such require approval by the General Membership Assembly in Vancouver this August.

The proposed structural changes will substantially revise the way IAHR operates now and will prepare it better for the future. There are many elements in the plan, a few of which are highlighted here. The Final Report of the Task Force as approved by Council is viewable on the IAHR website (www.iahr.org - eLibrary>council reports -).

The most important change will be at the level of the Technical Committees (currently “Sections”). The Committees form the thematically and intellectually independent basic units of IAHR. In future, any IAHR member, present or new, will affiliate directly with the Committee of his or her choice. Thus, we want each member to feel an active ownership, a sense of a home and belonging: “This is my committee! I belong to it and I work with it.” Committees will be the chief innovative and creative forum in which members, in particular younger members, can operate with a sense of being part of IAHR and shaping the profession. At the core of this concept of committee affiliation will be an “electronic membership platform” (eMP) enabling on-line communication and decision-making (including balloting) within the entire IAHR community as well as specific subgroups.

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Some aspects of this eMP will be operational by this August. In addition to the primary affiliation, any member can specify secondary affiliations for up to two more Committees. In any decision-making activity (e.g. balloting) the primary affiliation carries one vote, the secondary affiliation one-half vote.

The future IAHR will contain fourteen Technical Committees that are grouped in two Technical Divisions. Each Committee may appoint one or more short-term Working groups. The placement of the two committees marked with * will be finalized by August.

Hence, any Committee may have unlimited membership, several hundred members in some cases. The eMP will allow Committee work, including meetings, to proceed continually as an open virtual forum, not bound by the typical present format of a one-time meeting on the occasion of the biennial congress or specialist meeting. The Committee is led by a Leadership Team (LT), consisting of six to eight members including the positions of Chair, Vice-Chair and Past-Chair. The LT is elected with overlapping terms in a biennial ballot of all affiliated members. Committee activities comprise a number of regularly continuing or special products or services that promote or publicize the specific scientific and technical themes and disciplines to which the Committee devotes itself. This includes (1) the preparation of review articles or special issues in IAHR journals, (2) the publication of books, monographs or design manuals, and (3) the organization of specialty symposia and conferences. Each Committee is expected to complete within a four-year cycle at least one product in each of these three categories. A Committee can establish ad-hoc Working Groups in order to achieve any of these activities within a concentrated short-term

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schedule (four to six years). Also, each Committee may keep a financial account maintained by the Secretariat in Madrid.

All Technical Committees are to be placed in two Technical Divisions: Division 1 IAHR-Hydraulics will contain those predominantly mono-disciplinary Committees that focus on the physical (mechanical) aspects of hydraulic science and engineering. Division 2 IAHR-Hydro-Environment will contain those strongly interdisciplinary Committees that deal with the multiple physical, chemical and biological aspects of hydraulic science and engineering as well as the environmental and socio-economic factors affecting water resources planning and management. A collaborative discussion process has been going on over the past few months to achieve the placement or re-arrangement of the present 18 Technical

Box 1 - Technical divisions

Division 1 - IAHR Hydraulics

- Committee on Fluid Mechanics
- Committee on Hydraulic Measurements and Physical Modelling
- Committee on Hydraulic Machinery and Systems
- Committee on Industrial Flows and Energy Exchange
- Committee on Hydraulic Structures
- Committee on Fluvial Hydraulics*
- Committee on Ice Research and Engineering*

Division 2 - IAHR Hydro-Environment

- IAHR/IWA/IAHS Joint Committee on Hydroinformatics
- Committee on Fluvial Hydraulics*
- Committee on Ice Research and Engineering*
- Committee on Groundwater Hydraulics and Management
- Committee on Coastal and Maritime Hydraulics
- IAHR/IWA Joint Committee on Marine Out falls Systems
- IAHR/IWA Joint Committee on Urban Drainage
- Committee on Ecohydraulics
- Committee on Water Resources Management

Sections into this new Division structure. Most of the existing, well-established and highly productive Sections are directly transferred into the new structure; a few are combined or dissolved - always in agreement with the current leadership. The new Committee line-up is shown in Box 1.

These two Technical Divisions will each be led by a Vice-President proposed by the EC and appointed by the Council on a biennial basis. In addition, a Division Secretary will be chosen in a bottom-up process by the members of the Leadership Team of all Committees within the Division. It is the responsibility of the Division leadership to guarantee scientific and technical quality and innovation of all the activities within the Technical Division. It also monitors the productivity of the committees through review of the annual activity reports.



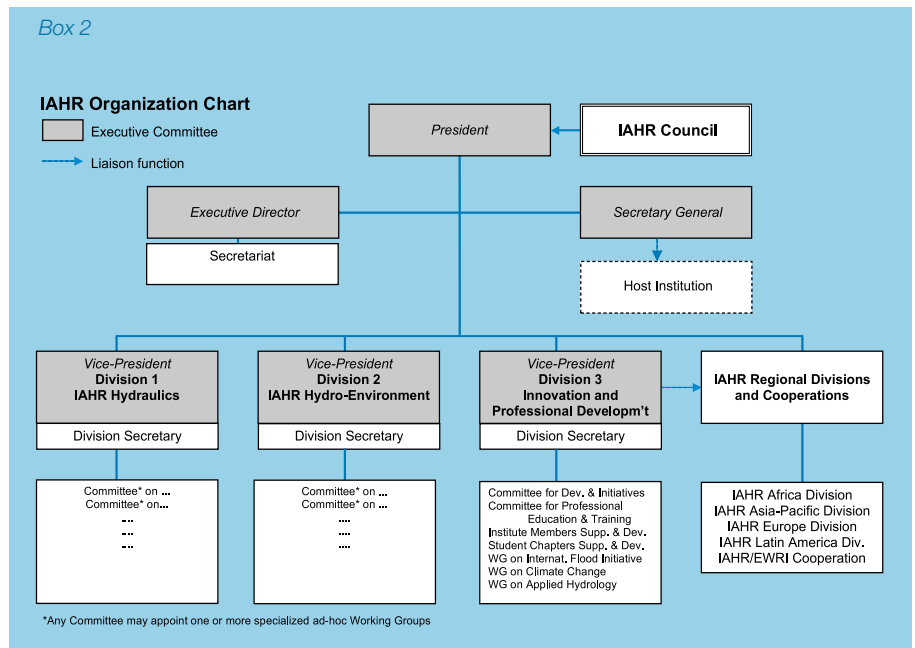
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The Division 3 - Innovation and Professional Development (IPD) Division will comprise all activities and initiatives that are dedicated to professional support and development of IAHR members such as Institute Members coordination, new membership initiatives, professional education and training, and Student Chapters coordination and to promote innovative, high impact, and visibility actions of IAHR, such as interdisciplinary working groups and task forces, exploring and encouraging emerging fields, and strategic initiatives. The IPD Division will be led by the third Vice-President in collaboration with a Division Secretary. The Division leadership also provides liaison to the Regional Divisions, but has no direct management responsibility for those Divisions as these continue to operate independently under their own by-laws and regulations, largely without interference from IAHR Council or Secretariat.

The organization chart in Box 2 summarizes the new management structure of IAHR. Until now the three Vice-Presidents did not have any specific management role within IAHR. In the future they are in direct charge of the three Divisions, reporting to the President.

IAHR Conferences are a major service product that IAHR is offering its membership and the scientific community and profession at large. The TF considered a new common strategy for conferences under the IAHR brand-name. Our top event, the current "Biennial Congress" will in the future be labelled as the IAHR World



The organization of the future IAHR is shown in this chart. The three Vice-Presidents will lead the two Technical Divisions and the Division of Innovation and Professional Development. The six members of the Executive Committee are marked by a shaded box.

Congress, held biennially in the odd calendar year and at a location that is strategically chosen by Council. It will be a true World Congress, as IAHR has abandoned its somewhat euro-centric role of the past in which congress locations alternated between European and non-European sites. This is already indicated by the forthcoming pattern: Vancouver 2009, Brisbane 2011, Chengdu 3013!

A second tier of congresses are the IAHR Divisional Congresses also held biennially (or

less frequently) but in even calendar years. These include congresses organized by the Regional Divisions, namely IAHR Africa Congress, IAHR Asia-Pacific Congress, IAHR Europe Congress, and IAHR Latin America Congress. Significantly, the first IAHR Europe Congress is already scheduled for 2010 in Edinburgh (see announcement on page 47 in this issue) in order to ensure a regular meeting venue for the European member community. But the new organizational structure also allows future flagship congresses organized by the Technical Divisions. As an example, an existing

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broad-themed event, like the “International Symposium on Environmental Hydraulics” could be reformed into an “IAHR Hydro-Environment Congress” guided by the future plans and visions of that Division.

The IAHR Specialty Conferences/Symposia continue to be strongly focussed events, covering a scientific/technical discipline or application, organized by the Technical Committees. Usually they are held *infrequently* (typical cycles are 4 to 6 years), but a more frequent pattern is possible as long as no conflicts with the more broad-based congresses arise.

Throughout its re-structuring work the TF deliberated independently of any need for a name change of IAHR. This issue was left as a final point of its deliberations. The TF came to the conclusion that the new name International Association for Hydro-Environment Engineering and Research (IAHR) - with NO change of acronym or logo!- would indeed expand the future radius of opportunities for IAHR, make it attractive to a wider membership of water professionals, especially younger members, and be commensurate with the proposed structural changes.

The TF would like to thank the many individuals within IAHR who have assisted our work with their opinions and suggestions. The cooperation and feedback we received from the section leaderships was inspiring, the opinions voiced by so many members and past leaders indicated to us how people care about this outstanding organization. The TF has truly profited from all that energy! In conclusion, we do believe that the forthcoming organizational and management reforms will move IAHR forward – towards a new era!

Prof. Gerhard Jirka
IAHR Vice President and Chair - Council
Task Force on Structural Change
 Jirka@uka.de

Proposal for Constitution Change

for consideration at the Vancouver General Members Assembly

The environment in which our members work has substantially changed during the last ten years: hydraulic engineering and research is now set within a much more inclusive and integrated approach to water resource management.



One of the Task Force proposals which recommends a change of name of our association is a Constitutional matter – requiring Member approval, and in accordance with IAHR Constitution Article 25 this proposal to change Article 1 of the Constitution is published here below. The proposal - already endorsed by Council - will be submitted to ballot at the 2009 General Members Assembly requiring a two-thirds vote in favour for adoption.

Existing	Proposed
<p>Name and seat</p> <p>Article 1 The name of the association is: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDRAULIC ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH (IAHR by abbreviation) and has its seat in Delft, the Netherlands.</p>	<p>Name and seat</p> <p>Article 1 The name of the association is: INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR HYDRO-ENVIRONMENT ENGINEERING AND RESEARCH (IAHR by abbreviation) and has its seat in Delft, the Netherlands.</p>