

Record of the 9th Meeting of the General Assembly

On 28 October 2022, the General Assembly of the Global Network of Water Museums met in presence and online, at 10 am in Marrakech (Morocco), on the occasion of the 4th International Conference of the Global Network of Water Museums, to discuss the following Order of Business:

1. Opening of the meeting and appointment of the Chair
2. Approval of the Record of last General Assembly (June 2022)
3. Inauguration of the new web site of WAMU-NET
4. 'Water museums for Peace': an additional WAMU-NET logo for the growing climate of war
5. Presentations and discussion of the activities implemented in the first half of the year
6. The contribution of WAMU-NET to UN-Water Summit on Groundwater (Paris, 6-8 Dec. 2022)
7. Interactive sessions and working groups
8. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the members
9. Closing of the meeting

Members who are present (in presence and online):

Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum, India; Becker Christoph, Historisches Klaerwerk Krefeld, Germany; Borroni Massimiliano, University of Ca' Foscari, Italy; Buisman Jurjaen, Museum Geelvinck, The Netherlands; Edo Bricchetti, Martesana Ecomuseum, Italy; Capati Alessandro, HYDRA Multimedia Museum Marmore Waterfall, Italy; Croitoru Victor, "Leonida Truta" Water Museum of Cluj-Napoca, Romania; Crowe Deirdre, Water Museum of Ireland; Damon Betsy, Keepers of the Waters, USA; De Laet Hilde, Hidrodoe Pidpa, Belgium; Delcourt Caroline, Musee de l'Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium; El Mandour Abdennabi, Musee Mohammed VI de la Civilization de l'Eau, Morocco; Eulisse Eriberto, Water Museums of Venice, Italy; Herrerias Gisela, Museo del Agua "Agua para siempre", Mexico; Iamiceli Marco, Associazione Paese dell'Acqua, Italy; Karels Ron, Broekerveiling Museum, The Netherlands; Kerr-Wilson Ian, Canada; Kiselinov Nicola, Water Museum of Ohrid, Macedonia; Leordean Loredana, Aquatim SA, Romania; Lessa Joana, Portugal; Ivana Kaleb Vuletic, Aquatika Karlovac, Croatia; Mesquita Mario, Museu da Agua do Porto, Portugal; Moors Eddy, IHE Delft Institute of Water Education, The Netherlands; Otte Alexander, Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme of UNESCO; Rodes Javier, Museos de Mequinenza, Spain; Ruf Thierry, France; Sapiano Manuel, GHAIN National Water Conservation Awareness Centre, Malta; Samoura Alassane, Musée de l'Eau de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Seccarello Riccardo, The Aqueduct Museum of Venice/VERITAS; Sharroks Amy, Museum of Water, UK; Soria José Alfonso, Tribunal de les Aigües de la Vega de Valencia, Spain; Vignarca Roberto, Riserva Naturale Pian di Spagna e Lago di Mezzola, Italy; Wang Jianping, Yellow River Museum, China; Wundsam Karin, Water Adventure Mini-Danube, Austria; Xiaowen Zhang, Changjiang Civilization Museum, Wuhan, China.

Members who are not present (justified absentees):

Andrejasic Wechsler Tanja, Our Humanity Matters, USA; Bangde Yang, Baiheliang Underwater Museum, Chongqing, China; Bertolucci Stefano, Italy; Bolognesi Andrea, Opificio delle Acque, Canali di Bologna, Italy; Boxer Graham, National Waterways Museum of Ellesmere, UK; Braun Ralf, Water Museum of Bavaria "Haus am Strom", Germany; Castro Enriques Mariana, Museu da Agua, Lisbon, Portugal; Chilesi Barbara, Ecomuseo della Risaia, Italy; de Vries Sandra, The Netherlands; Dodiță-Farcaș Daniel, Aquaserv S.A., Romania; Facchi Alberta, National Archaeological Museum of Adria, Italy; Galli Marco, Ecomuseo Adda di Leonardo; Gargano



Massimo, ANBI Associazione Nazionale delle Bonifiche delle Irrigazioni, Italy; Gottardi Marco, Parco Regionale Delta del Po, Italy; Haliori Keti, World Water Museum, Greece; Horvath Istvan, Duna Museum, Hungary; Jansen Wim, Kring Vrienden 's-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands; Javadianzadeh Mohammadmahdi, Yazd Water Museum, Iran; Jazael Anguiano Gómez Alan, IURHEKUA Museo Interactivo del Agua, Mexico; Kabir Farah, Water Museum, Bangladesh; Lanzinger Michele, MUSE, Museo delle Scienze, Italy; La Spada Giuseppe, Italy; Moon Soo-hyeong, Jeju Water Exhibition Hall, South Korea; Letizia Domenico, Italy; Londinsky Nicolas, Musée des Egouts, France; Marquisio Adriana, OSE, Uruguay; Mikolji Ivan, Venezuela; Mikolji Yelka, Green Earth Alliance, USA; Mizzan Luca, Natural History Museum of Venice, Italy; Mundkur Valmik, Artisanal Alchemist, India; Punt Aart, Waterlinie Museum, The Netherlands; Rovira Pujol David, AGBAR Museu de les Aigües, Spain; Said Al Mesnad Fatima, Kahramaa Water Awareness Park, Qatar; Scoullos Michael, HYDRIA Network, Greece; Serra Giménez Eudald, Museu de la Técnica de Manresa, Spain; Siampani Maria, Greece; Singha Sushmita, Water Museum of Udaipur, Rajasthan, India; Tardani Roberta, Well of San Patrizio and Etruscan Water Heritage; Topcu Ercan, Ab-I Hayat Anatolian Water Civilizations Museum, Turkey; Travers Daniel, Canadian Museum of Water, Canada; Turbay Luisa Ambrosi, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador; Ulliana Maurizio, River Navigation Museum of Battaglia Terme, Italy; van Beek Peter, Biesbosch Museum Eiland, The Netherlands; van Melis Elise, Haarlemmermeermuseum De Cruquius, The Netherlands; Van Pee Lode, Belgium; Verber Monique, Nederlands Watermuseum, The Netherlands; Wiersma Peppie, Pop-up Museum Drowned Land, The Netherlands; Willmott Christopher, UK; Xiao Yun Zheng, China; Yongming Chen, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou, China.

1. Opening of the meeting and appointment of the Chair

The President Eddy Moors opens the General Assembly in presence at the Musée de la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc 'Mohammed VI', Marrakech, and thanks its Director, Abdenbi El Mandour, and the Minister of Habous and Islamic Affairs, Ahmed Toufiq, for the successful organization of the conference. The President welcomes all participants that are present in Marrakech and online.

2. Approval of the Record of last General Assembly (June 2022)

The record of the previous meeting of the General Assembly is read by the Executive Director, Eriberto Eulisse, and approved with the abstention of those members who were not present.

3. Inauguration of the new web site of WAMU-NET

The Director presents the restyled web site of WAMU-NET that has been realized through patient work during the last 8 months. The restyling was necessary because the website structure, created in 2017, used an outdated backend platform. This important achievement which considerably strengthens the Network's communications was made possible thanks to the engagement of a new part-time staff. Marie-Pierre Charlery was hired since March for the ongoing management of the website. In particular, the new sections that appear significantly improved are presented: the home page, the network page, the activities, and the partners. The display of the network's members is now made definitely smarter and more appealing, with a gallery of images and videos that does full justice to the exhibits of all members: www.watermuseums.net

4. 'Water Museums for Peace': an additional WAMU-NET logo for the growing climate of war

The proposal of an additional WAMU-NET logo aiming to foster peace and cooperation among people and nations in a time of warlike climate is made by the Director. The new logo is not

referring only to the ongoing war in Ukraine, but to all wars worldwide. The proposal is approved but the Director is invited to review the graphic layout of colors of the logo.

5. Presentations and discussion of the activities implemented in the first half of the year

Eulisse presents the activities carried out in the first semester, including: the toolkit of the World Inventory of water museums that was launched at the 9th WWF; the 3rd edition of the Youth Contest and Award 'The Water We Want' (TWWW); the UNESCO Chair series of lectures organized by the Venice University; and the possible extension of the Worldwide Exhibition 'I Remember Water'. Javier Moratò Farreras presents the conference on ancestral hydro-technologies that will be organized in Barcelona by the Polytechnical University in February 2023, in cooperation with WAMU-NET. This conference will discuss further the methodology developed so far for the World Inventory. Gisela Herrerias Guerra (Mexico) suggests starting in advance the next TWWW contests to enable schools to be better organized for their feedbacks; also, she suggests creating a dedicated platform TWWW on social media. Mario Mesquita (Porto) and David Rovira Pujol (Barcelona) announce the project of inventory of industrial archaeological heritage promoted by two water museums. This inventory could be developed in connection with both the World Inventory and the IRW exhibition. The UNESCO Chair series of lectures organized by the Venice University was set this year in cooperation with two UNESCO Chairs who cooperated already with WAMU-NET previously, that is the UNESCO Chairs of Montevideo (Uruguay) and Tours (France)

6. The contribution of WAMU-NET to the UN-Water Summit on Groundwater (Paris, 6-8 Dec. 2022)

The Director presents the concept note of the side-event and exhibition titled "Valuing Ancient Water Values" that WAMU-NET will organize in the frame of the next UN-Water Summit on Groundwater. The initiative will be developed in cooperation with different partnering institutions, including the Netherlands and the Italian Permanent Delegations to UNESCO and the Venice University, among others. A limited number of case studies will be selected in order to show what historical practices related to groundwater management can target the UN's SDGs in different continents worldwide. At the same time, fundraising is necessary to guarantee the financial sustainability of this costly initiative for WAMU-NET. The Director ensures that the fundraising activity will cover all main costs of the planned exhibition and side-event.

7. Interactive sessions and working groups

Interactive sessions are established to continue the work of the General Assembly with smaller groups, in order to facilitate participation and discussion on the following topics: (1) Education, (2) Fundraising, (3) Worldwide Inventory, (4) African Network of water museums, (5) Cross border engagement on water sustainability, and (6) Museums' responses to crises. Discussions are made in separate working groups and are facilitated by the designated moderators, as follows:

- 1) Water Education in the 9th phase of IHP 2022-2029 (A.Otte)
- 2) Fundraising (I.Kerr-Wilson)
- 3) Worldwide Inventory on ancestral hydrotechnologies (J.Morato)
- 4) African Network of water museums (A.Benqlilou)
- 5) Cross border engagement on water sustainability (V.Croitoru)
- 6) Museums responses to crises (J.Lessa)

The proposals discussed by the working groups will be included in the conclusion of the 4th Conference. It's decided that the facilitators should continue the discussion on specific topics

within specific working groups and provide also after the conference further and continuous support to WAMU-NET.

8. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the members

Edo Bricchetti points out how water awareness education has been developed by eco-museums through active participation of the local communities. The participatory methodology can be shared with other museums interested to involve more local communities. Jurn Buisman suggests that this implies a wider consideration of 'museums', as defined by ICOM. Samoura Alassane stresses the difficult conditions in which museums are operating in a warfare climate, like in Burkina Faso. Amy Sharroks and Betsy Damon suggest creating through WAMU-NET new tools and funding mechanisms to support the members in need, like Samoura. Hanane Benqlilou confirms availability to continue the exploration of involving potential new members from Africa in cooperation with the water museum of Marrakech. Sara Ahmed suggests creating a virtual water observatory - or water lab – managed in cooperation with WAMU-NET. Ian Kerr-Wilson confirms availability to coordinate a working group on project fundraising, although his expertise is limited to America and Canada funding mechanisms. Francesco Fioretti announces the creation of a new Foundation in Italy, based at the premises of the Marmore Waterfalls museum, that is aiming to develop a special project (and publication) on water education, in cooperation with WAMU-NET. Karl Wantzen announces the imminent publication of his book on 'river culture' - that is the result of the Conference organized in 2018 in Wuhan, China, on Great Rivers. It is agreed that its dissemination will be made also by WAMU-NET and its members. Ruben Teixeira Fernandes, CEO of Águas e Energia de Porto, manifests possible interest to host the 5th international conference of WAMU-NET in Portugal. The Director Eulisse recalls that in 2023 the nomination of the new MB is also foreseen. As a rule, MB members can be re-elected two times, that is, their mandate can last three times two years at the most.

9. Closing of the meeting

The President Eddy Moors concludes the plenary assembly by emphasizing how this conference was important to connect again water museums and WAMU-NET members after the difficult period of COVID. Again, he expresses warm thanks to the Ministry of Habous and Religious Affairs and to the water museum of Marrakech for the generous hospitality. Abdenbi El Mandour, in turn, thanks all participants for their contribution in this conference and announces the program of the Gala Dinner and of the field trip in the Atlas Mountains planned for the following day.

Marrakech, 28 October 2022

The President
Eddy Moors

The Executive Director
Eriberto Eulisse