

Record of the 16th Meeting of the General Assembly (25 June 2025)

On 25 June 2025, the General Assembly of WAMU+NET met online, starting at 2 pm CET.

Members who are present (online):

Institutional representatives: Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum, India; Bangde Yang, Baiheliang Underwater Museum, China; Capati Alessandro, Hydra Multimedia Museum of Marmore Waterfalls, Terni, Italy; Castro-Henriques Mariana, Museo de l'Agua, Lisbon, Portugal; Karen Southworth, Royal Pump Room Museum, UK; Cernelic Kroselj Alenka, The Posavje Museum Brežice, Slovenia; Chen Ai-Lin, Museum of Drinking Water, Taipei, Taiwan; Croitoru Victor Lucian, Water Museum 'Leonida Truta', Romania; Crowe Deirdre, Water Museum of Ireland; De Laet Hilde, Hidrodoe Pidpa, Belgium; El Mandour Abdennabi, Musée Mohamed VI de la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc 'Mohammed VI', Morocco; Escalera Elizabeth, Museo Interactivo del Agua 'Iurhekua', Mexico; Eulisse Eriberto, Water Museum of Venice, Italy; Fernandes Ruben, Parque das Águas, Águas e Energia do Porto, Portugal; Fusco Fabiana, University of Udine, Italy; Hendrick Aude, Brussels Sewer Museum, Belgium; Lee-Niinioja Hee Sook, Subong Aqua Flores, Finland; Leordean Loredana, Aquatim, Romania; Lijing Tang (Vivian - Mao Wenjing), Lingqu Canal Museum, Guilin, Xing'an, China; Marquisio Caceres Adriana, OSE Water Museum, Uruguay; Maruškić Kulaš Margarita, Aquatika Karlovac, Croatia; Moors Eddy, IHE Delft, Unesco C2C, The Netherlands; Pena Naval Liliana, Brasilian Water Museum, Brazil; Poelina Anne, Martuwarra Fitzroy River, Australia; Rodes Javier, Museos de Mequinenza, Spain; Rosso Rogerio, International Water Memorial, MINA - ADASA, Brasilia, Brazil; Samuel P. Manoj, Water Resources and Heritage Museum, Kozhikode, India; Schultz Ellen Freedman, Fairmount Water Works Interpretive Center, Philadelphia, USA; Schwartzstein Judith, Catskill Water Discovery Center, USA; Scoullos Michael, HYDRIA Network, Greece; Snabilie Hugo, Broekerveiling Water Museum, The Netherlands; Grazia La Fauci, Infea Network for Environmental Education and Biodiversity, Messina Italy; Vignarca Roberto, Natural Reserve 'Spagna Highlands and Mezzola Lake', Italy; Yongming Chen, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou, China. Individual members: Boselli Vladimiro Andrea, Italy; El Moujahid Omayma, Morocco; Kerr-Wilson Ian, Canada; Lessa Joana, Portugal; Pypaert Philippe, Belgium, Italy.

Members who are not present (justified absentees):

Institutional representatives: Alioune Deme, Musée de l'Eau de Dakar Senegal; Almenar Cubells Francisco, Tribunal de les Agues de la Vega de Valencia, Spain; Ambrosi Turbay Luisa, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador; Becker Christoph, Historisches Klaerwerk Krefeld, Germany; Bernabè Tonino, IDRO-Ecomuseum of Ridracoli / Acque di Romagna, Forli-Cesena, Italy; Bernardi Massimo, MUSE Science Museum of Trento, Italy; Boaretto Emanuele, Y-40 The Deep Joy and Spa, Montegrotto Terme, Italy; Bolognesi Andrea, Opificio delle Acque / Water Factory of Bologna, Italy; Borg Alexander, GHAJN - National Conservation Awareness Centre, Malta; Mortandello Riccardo, Museum of Ancient Thermalism, Montegrotto Terme, Padua – Italy; Braun Ralf, Water Museum of Bavaria 'Haus am Strom', Germany; Bresciani Carmela, Ecomuseo delle Judicarie, Italy; Buisman Jurjaen, Museum Geelwinck, The Netherlands; Calvi Benigno, Martesana Ecomuseum, Italy; Capaldo Stefania, Italian Federation of Spa Hotels; Costea Gabriela, Healthy Danube Network, Austria; Damon Betsy, Keepers of the Waters, USA; Daniel Manyaka, Musée de l'Eau de Siga-Bonjo, Cameroun; Dodită-Farcaș Daniel, Casa Apei / House of Water, Romania; Dragone Simone, Milan Water Plant; Elham Raee, Yazd Water Museum, Iran; Fajardo Daniela, Parque Ambiental Corazón de Pance, Cali, Colombia; Frangin Claude, Water in Lyon and the Cornish Pump, France; Galeazzo Lamberto, MAAP Environmental Archaeological Museum of the Waters of Padua, Italy; Galli Marco, Ecomuseo Adda di Leonardo, Italy; Gargano Massimo, ANBI, Italy; Gatti Giovanni, ADEP / Autonomous Province of Trento, Italy; Gottardi Marco, Regional Park Po Delta, Veneto, Italy; Guzman Octavio, Museo Vivo del Agua y la Biodiversidad en el Macizo Colombiano, Cauca, Popayan, Colombia; Haliori Keti, World

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Water Museum, Greece; Horvath Istvan, Duna Museum, Hungary; Herreras Gisela, Museo del Agua 'Agua para Siempre', Mexico; Hügli Regina, One Body of Water Association, Austria; Hulshof Harry, Water Museum of Den Bosch / Kring Vrienden van 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands; Iamiceli Marco, Paese dell'Acqua, Sassinoro, Italy; Iovine Raffaele, Water Museum of Naples 'Lapis', Italy; Jiroušková Šárka, Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant, Czech Republic; Kabir Farah, Water Museum, Bangladesh; Kiselinov Nicola, Water Museum of Ohrid, Macedonia; Laforgia Domenico, Water Palace / Apulian Aqueduct, Italy; Li Kathryn, Museums Victoria, Bunjilaka Aboriginal Culture Centre, Melbourne, Australia; Lynge Hein David, Grundfos Museum, Denmark; Londinsky Nicolas, Musée des Egouts, Paris; Marbaix Julie, Musée de l'Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium; Marchi Luca, The Valley of Mills, Castelnuovo Magra, Italy; Martinez Torres Osvaldo, National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH), Havana, Cuba; Mikolji Yelka, Green Earth Alliance, USA; Mizzan Luca, Natural History Museum of Venice, Italy; Ottaiano Giuseppe, MUMAC Multimedia Museum of Campania's Waters, Naples, Italy; Pagano Fabio, Campi Flegrei Archaeological National Park, Naples, Italy; Pansera Sonia, Museum of the Rice Fields, Rivers, and Rural Landscape of Mantua, Italy; Rashad Salim, Safina Projects, Iraq; Razzini Andrea, The Aqueduct Museum of Venice / Veritas, Italy; Rovira Pujol David, AGBAR Museu de les Aigües, Spain; Said Al-Mesnad Fatima, Kahramaa Water Awareness Park, Qatar; Samoura Alassane, Musée de l'Eau de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Sciarra Marco, The Well of the Quarry, Italy; Serra Giménez Eudald, Museu de l'Aigua i el Textil, Spain; Shan Qiangsheng, The OujiangBoat Fellowship Museum, Lishui – China; Singha Sushmita, Water Museum of Udaipur, India; Tardani Roberta, Pozzo di San Patrizio, Orvieto, Italy; Topcu Ercan, Isum İstanbul Su Müzesi, Turkey; Tosi Antonio, TE.AM International Study Center for Territory and Environment, Naples, Italy; 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, The Nile Institute, Rwanda; Van Staveren Martijn, IHP-HWRP Netherlands National Committee, The Netherlands; Wang Xianping, Yellow River Museum, China; Widadi Ismail, Mandala Mathika Subak Museum, Indonesia; Wilkie Christopher, Canadian Museum of Water, Port McNicoll, Canada; Wieriks Koos, Nederlands Watermuseum, Arnhem, The Netherlands; Wundsam Karin, Water Adventure Mini-Danube, Austria; Xiang Cui, Museum of the Grand Canal, Liaocheng, China; Yiping Li, Hohai University, China. Individual members: Boyle Michelle, Ireland; De Vries Sandra, The Netherlands; La Spada Giuseppe, Italy; Mikolji Ivan, Venezuela; Ruf Thierry, France; Wilmott Christopher, UK; Zheng Xiao Yun, China.

Order of Business:

1. Opening of the meeting and appointment of the Chair
2. Approval of the Record of the last General Assembly (December 2024)
3. Online Awarding Ceremony: 5th Youth Contest 'The Water We Want'
4. 50th Anniversary of UNESCO-IHP: WAMU-NET awarded by UNESCO for its longstanding contribution to IHP
5. Status of 2025 Annual Membership Contributions (received until June 15th)
6. Approval of the Budget 2024
7. Ongoing projects and 6th WAMU-NET International Conference (Brasilia, 4-8 November 2025)
8. Water Film Prize 'Back to Our Future': presentation of the new video teaser produced by Let's Talk About Water
9. Introduction of new WAMU-NET Members (1st semester 2025)
10. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the members
11. Closing of the meeting

1. Opening of the meeting and appointment of the Chair

The President Eddy Moors is appointed as Chair of the meeting and opens the General Assembly. The President greets all the participants and welcomes the young participants, that is, the winners of the 5th Youth Contest "The Water We Want" who are present today for the award ceremony.

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2. Approval of the Record of last General Assembly

The record of the previous General Assembly (Dec. 2024) is read and unanimously approved by the present members, with the abstention of those who were not present. The CEO, Eriberto Eulisse, invites participants to notify Monica Benettazzo (mail@watermuseums.net) if they spot any discrepancy in the list of present / non-present members of the record.

3. Online Awarding Ceremony: 5th Youth Contest 'The Water We Want'

Lucrezia Gigante leads the online ceremony and announces the winners of the 5th Youth Contest 'The Water We Want', which this year include 117 entries from 25 different water museums. Lucrezia announces the 6 winners and 10 special mentions. Some winners are present in the meeting and express their happiness to have been selected and to have their works features on the website and promoted by WAMU-NET. The internal jury (composed of 5 members from various institutions) met previously to discuss and select the best artworks among many beautiful submissions. As usually, the best works will be exhibited in the online exhibition available on the WAMU-NET website.

4. 50th Anniversary of UNESCO-IHP: WAMU-NET awarded by UNESCO for its longstanding contribution to IHP

The CEO reports on how WAMU-NET was awarded in June 2025 by UNESCO for its longstanding contribution to IHP during the celebrations held in Paris for the 50th Anniversary of UNESCO-IHP. Eddy Moors expresses his reasons to be proud of this award, congratulating Eriberto and all the members of WAMU-NET for this well-deserved recognition. Thanks to the pioneering work implemented by WAMU-NET, today water museums are considered by UNESCO as key actors to promote water sustainability education. Eriberto also presents the side-event that WAMU-NET organized at UNESCO on this occasion, focusing on the MINA project of the Water Memorial for Brasilia, designed by the architect Oscar Niemeyer. Also the Special issue of the Blue Papers on Ancient Hydro-Technologies (AHTs), curated by Carola Hein and her team, UNESCO Chair at TU Delft, was presented with WAMU-NET's contribution.

5. Status of 2025 Annual Membership Contributions (received until June 15th)

The CEO recalls that no.38 membership contributions for 2025 (out of +120) are still to be paid by partners, so he invites all the members to be in line with the financial contributions from members foreseen by the forecast budget for the needed operational activities of the Secretariat. The CEO stresses why annual Membership Contributions are so important for the core institutional activities of WAMU-NET's Secretariat.

6. Approval of the Budget 2024

The budget final result for 2024 is a loss of (-)12.000 €. This loss is mainly due to the exhibition organized at the 10th World Water Forum in Bali. Unfortunately, the fundraising campaign for this exhibition failed, so it became a relevant cost for WAMU-NET that had to implement it, as foreseen by the agreement with AICS (Italian Development and Cooperation Agency). However, the CEO stresses that the final loss in the 2024 budget would have been much worse (around -40.000 €), without the financial support of the Province of Trento. Eddy Moors stresses that it would be important to find other, more sustainable solutions for supporting the network financially in the long term. Finally, the CEO emphasises the crucial importance of funds from EU projects to support the operating costs of WAMU-NET's staff over the next two years: these are the Soil Tribes and Aqua Motion projects (Horizon Programme).

7. Ongoing projects and 6th WAMU-NET International Conference (Brasilia, 4-8 November 2025)

The CEO announces the opening of the new office of WAMU-NET in Ala, Trento – as part of the agreement made with the Province of Trento. This is a key achievement for WAMU-NET as it reduces

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the weight of operational costs related to the Executive Director. Eulisse briefly presents the European Horizon projects in which WAMU-NET is involved: the SoilTribes project (WAMU-NET is organizing a travelling exhibition comprising the work of 4 selected artists, which will travel to 7 museums in Europe); STARTS AQUAMOTION (involving 3 artistic residencies coordinated by WAMU-NET in 3 locations in Italy and possibly also at the Venice Biennale in 2026).

Eulisse introduces the next 6th WAMU-NET International Conference in Brasilia (4-8 November 2025), hosted by Adasa (Water Regulation Agency of Brasilia). Adasa proposed to host the conference, also considering their MINA project – the International Water Memorial, which will open in Brasilia in the next few years, in a building designed by Oscar Niemeyer. Débora Dinez (Adasa) confirms the logistical information and the draft programme that will be shared soon (prepared by WAMU-NET) with all members, also including the application form, a list of hotels, the deadline to register and other information about the conference. The conference will be organized in three days: the first day will be dedicated to discussing topics related to climate change and adaptation; the second day will be dedicated to the development of the Water Cloud (Education Repository) and to the winners of the water Film Prize “Back to Our Future”; the third day will host WAMU-NET’s General Assembly. Several social events including a city tour of Brasilia and a welcome and closing dinners will also be organized. A technical working group will be active to elaborate the content of the three-day conference. All partners are warmly invited to participate in this group.

8. Water Film Prize ‘Back to Our Future’: presentation of the new video teaser produced by LTAW

Eulisse provides an update about the Water Film Prize ‘Back to Our Future’ on ancient hydrotechnologies (AHTs). The CEO invites everyone to spread the Call and stimulate participants from all parts of the world, and to foster the importance of AHTs. The new video teaser produced by LTAW will be shared with members for further dissemination.

9. Introduction of new WAMU-NET Members (1st semester 2025)

Lucio Bonato announces the new six museum members of the network. They are located in India (2 museums), in China, in United Kingdom and in Italy (2 museums) and the three individual members. The representatives of these museums introduce themselves to the other members of the network.

10. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the members

Philippe Pypaert suggests to make an inventory of how many museums overlap with / belong to a UNESCO site/designation. Not for the sake of statistics, but to seek more synergies among UNESCO designations/sites and a network like WAMU-NET when it goes to Education for Sustainable Development / Water Education, a clear priority of UNESCO in these years. He suggests to have a look at: <https://www.unesco.org/en/sustainable-development/education/sites>.

Déirdre Crowe (Water Museum of Ireland) shares the link of an interesting website where resources on water education and sustainability are developed and shared: https://watermuseumofireland.ie/?page_id=503.

11. Closing of the meeting

The meeting closes at 16,30 CET.

Venice-Trento, 25 June 2025

The President
Eddy Moors

The Executive Director
Eriberto Eulisse

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