

Record of the 3rd Meeting of the General Assembly (n.3/2019)

On 23 December 2019, the General Assembly of the Global Network of Water Museums met through an on-line meeting followed by a telematic meeting , from 9am to 12pm CET (Central Europe Time), to discuss the following Order of Business (OoB):

1. Opening of the meeting, appointment of the Chair and approval of the Record of the last General Assembly
2. Approval of Annual Memberships Contributions (year 2020)
3. Approval of the Forecast Budget 2020 (art. 16)
4. Nomination of a new member in the Management Board (art.8) to represent African countries
5. Communications on ongoing activities: youth contest “The Water We Want”, 4th WAMU-NET Conference in Hangzhou (China, 27-30 March 2020), and activities of Steering Groups
6. AOB and closing of the meeting

Management Board Members who are present:

Adams Clive, Centre for Contemporary Art and the Natural World, UK; Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum, India; Bangde Yang, Baiheliang Underwater Museum, Chongqing, China; Braun Ralf, Water Museum of Bavaria “Haus am Strom”, Germany; Bricchetti Edo, Martesana Ecomuseum, Italy; Croitoru Victor Lucian, Water Museum “Leonida Truta”, Romania; Damon Betsy, Keepers of the Waters, USA; De Laet Hilde, Hidrodoe Pidpa, Belgium; de Vries Sandra, The Netherlands; El Mandour Abdennabi, Musée Mohammed VI de la Civilisation de l’Eau, Morocco; Eulisse Eriberto, Water Museums of Venice, Italy; Haliori Ketii, World Water Museum, Greece; Hernandez Almodovar Sonia, Museu de les Aigües, Spain; Herrerias Gisela, Museo del Agua “Agua para siempre”, Mexico; Karel Ron, Broekerveiling Museum, The Netherlands; Kerr-Wilson Ian, Hamilton Museum of Steam and Technology, Canada; Lanzinger Michele, MUSE, Museo delle Scienze, Italy; Leordean Loredana, Aquatim SA, Romania; Marchi Fabio, Consorzi dei Canali di Reno e Savena in Bologna, Italy; Maruskic Kulas Margarita, Aquatika Karlovac, Croatia; Moors Eddy, The Netherlands; Otte Alexander, International Hydrological Programme of UNESCO; Scoullou Michael, HYDRIA Network, Greece; Serra Giménez Eudald, Museu de la tècnica de Manresa, Spain; Sharroks Amy, Museum of Water, UK; Singha Sushmita, Water Museum of Udaipur, Rajasthan, India; Topcu Ercan, Ab-I Hayat Anatolian Water Civilizations Museum, Turkey; Ulliana Maurizio, River Navigation Museum, Italy; Vallejo Guerrero Sofia Emilia, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador; Vallerani Francesco, University of Ca Foscari, Italy; van der Meer Jan, Kring Vrienden ‘s-Hertogenbosch, the Netherlands; Wundsam Karin, Water Adventure Mini-Danube, Austria; Zhang Xiaowen, Changjiang Civilization Museum, Wuhan, China; Zhang Zirong, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou, China.

Members who are not present (justified absentees):

Boxer Graham, National Waterways Museum of Ellesmere, UK; Caravanti Wilgor, Brasil; Castro-Henriques Mariana, Museu da Agua, Lisbon, Portugal; Crijns Huibert, Municipality of 's-Hertogenbosch, The Netherlands; Deya-Canal Bartomeu, Spain; Dodiță-Farçaș Daniel, Aquaserv S.A., Romania; Kabir Farah, Water Museum, Bangladesh; Marbaix Julie, Musée de l’Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium; Mizzan Luca, Natural History Museum—Fondazione Musei Civici, Italy; Punt Aart, Waterlinie Museum, The Netherlands; Ruf Thierry, France; Samoura Alassane, Musée de l’Eau de Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso; Said S M Al Mesnad Fatima, Kahramaa Water Awareness Park, Qatar; Sanchiz Jose Font, Tribunal de les Aigües de la Vega de Valencia, Spain; Steiner George, Tourism Board Linz, Austria; Tzalkai Timea, Duna Museum, Hungary; van Beek Peter, Biesbosch Museum Eiland, The Netherlands; van Melis Elise, Haarlemmermeermuseum De Cruquius, The Netherlands; Zijp Nadine, Ludwig, The Netherlands.

1. Opening of the meeting, appointment of the Chair and approval of the Record of the last General Assembly

The President Eddy Moors chairs the meeting. As the valid quorum of members is present, as set by the Charter the President opens the General Assembly at 9am CET. The meeting closes at 12pm.

The Record of the last General Assembly held in Valencia on 13th of June (which was sent in advance to all WAMU-NET members) is approved with 1 abstention.

Votes recorded in the telematic meeting (see [Attachment n. 1](#)):

In favor: 32

Not in favor: 0

Abstained: 1

Total number of votes (only members attending the meeting): 33

2. Approval of Annual Memberships Contributions (year 2020)

The Management Board (MB) stressed the necessity of a new frame of reference for annual memberships fees to be settled with fixed contributions. The proposal for 2020 consists of fixed amounts calculated according to the number of visitors and the country where each museum/member operates. Fixed contributions will be set for all types of memberships (as stated in art. 6 of the Charter, with Ordinary, Affiliated and Associated members): see the [Attachment n.2](#).

The main advantage of this new frame of reference with fixed amounts/year, is to avoid fluctuating membership fees that are generated by the present calculator. These fluctuations are quite misleading. Thus, the new proposal aims to replace permanently the existing Excel calculator as to annual contributions. New amounts for each category of membership have been estimated as an average of previous contributions made by all members of the same category. As a result, only minor variations in annual fees for each member can be noticed if compared to those of 2019. Another advantage is that members can calculate well ahead the membership fee which is due for the next year (independently from the number of members, as it happened in the past).

Also, it is suggested to replace the ambiguous labelling of “LICs” (Less Income Countries) with the one of “DIS” (Disadvantaged Institutions). Indeed, the definition of LICs generates confusion if the principle of asking an “equitable contribution” from all WAMU-NET members is considered. Thus, with the new labelling of DIS, any institution or museum which operates in critical economic conditions (independently from its location in a poor or rich country and related GDP) is in the position to apply for a lower annual fee by making a written request to the Management Board.

The new proposal with fixed rates was sent in advance to all WAMU-NET members. As there aren't requests of modification, the proposed annual rates for 2020 are approved, as shown in the [Attachment n.2](#).

Votes recorded in the telematic meeting (see [Attachment n. 1](#)):

In favor: 31

Not in favor: 1

Abstained: 1

Total number of votes (only members attending the meeting): 33

3. Approval of the Forecast Budget 2020 (art. 16)

The Forecast Budget outlined by the MB considers all revenues and costs expected in 2020. Revenues (including membership contributions and incomes deriving from two conferences in China) and costs (mainly related to WAMU-NET staff for running the Global Network) are paired for 2020, as shown in [Attachment n.3](#).

However, it is stressed that revenues are too modest and can match only the minimum standards to run the Global Network as it would be necessary. Indeed, revenues deriving from membership fees are not sufficient to cover the real costs of the WAMU-NET staff. To cover real costs, including costs related to a part-time stipend of the Executive Director, again next year it is expected that *Civiltà dell'Acqua* will continue to pay in 2020 the proportional portion of Mr. Eulisse's salary for his time dedicate to WAMU-NET. At present Eulisse's

salary is reimbursed every month by *Civiltà dell'Acqua* to the Autonomous Province of Trento (the Italian public administration that currently detaches Eulisse to perform his activities as Director of the Global Network based at the University of Venice thanks to the financial support of *Civiltà dell'Acqua*).

For 2020, real costs of the Executive Director have been estimated considering his activities performed for at least 2 working days / week. Nonetheless, according to estimated revenues, in 2020 the Global Network is in the position to reimburse only 1 day / week of Director's salary (1 day/week/year = € 9.000 per year). Thus, the in-kind support granted by *Civiltà dell'Acqua* with its own staff still represents a need for the Global Network: an opportunity, but also a potential risk. Indeed, next year *Civiltà dell'Acqua* may not be able to reimburse the salary of Eulisse to the Province of Trento, as it was made during the last years unfailingly. Being the regular management of the Global Network strongly dependent upon the fortunes of *Civiltà dell'Acqua* (a non-profit NGO based in Venice), in 2020 a special effort will have to be made to find new revenues and become less dependent from *Civiltà dell'Acqua*.

Because of limited revenues, also the total remuneration of the Communications Team, which in 2019 was estimated in € 4.750 / year (for three people) cannot be increased in 2020, although the workload related to communication activities is expected to increase (in particular, considering all activities needed to launch the youth award "The Water We Want", in addition to regular institutional communications of WAMU-NET via Newsletters and social media, which cannot be cancelled. Also the remuneration of the secretary (€ 4.750 / year), due to budget constraints, will remain unchanged for 2020.

In view of the above, the MB has proposed for approval of the General Assembly a Forecast Budget which takes into account, for 2020, the activity of only one day / week for the Executive Director, and unchanged remunerations for all members of the Communications Team and the Secretary.

Although the workload expected from planned activities is considerable, the remuneration of the present staff cannot increase in 2020, unless more revenues will be made available during the year. Finally, it is agreed that both fundraising activities and funded projects will be prioritized in 2020, considering the half-voluntary work that is performed by all WAMU-NET staff.

The Forecast Budget 2020 which was prepared by the MB and sent in advance to all WAMU-NET members is approved without requests of modification, as shown in [Attachment n.3](#).

Votes recorded in the telematic meeting (see [Attachment n. 1](#)):

In favor: 32

Not in favor: 0

Abstained: 1

Total number of votes (only members attending the meeting): 33

4. Nomination of a new member in the Management Board (art.8) to represent African countries

In view of the availability of Prof. Abdennabi El Mandour, Director of the Musée de la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc 'Mohammed VI' (Marrakech), to become member of the Management Board, and considering the need of better representing African water museums in the MB, his nomination is confirmed.

Votes recorded in the telematic meeting (see [Attachment n. 1](#)):

Votes in favor: 31

Not in favor: 0

Abstained: 2

Total number of votes (only members attending the meeting): 33

5. Communications on ongoing activities: youth contest "The Water We Want", 4th WAMU-NET Conference in Hangzhou (China, 27-30 March 2020), and activities of Steering Groups

The Executive Director reports on ongoing activities and internal organization of the Global Network.

- (1) Activities of Steering Groups. So far, no activity has been reported by the leaders of Steering Groups nominated by the MB. Considering this, the Advisory Committee (AC) which met in November discussed how to improve the activities of SGs by involving WAMU-NET members in discussions related to specific topics / activities which needs the attention of dedicated Steering Groups.

The AC suggests considering the activation of Steering Groups only if assigned with temporary tasks on particular planned activities (such as organization of conferences, or the coordination of specific projects etc). Also, the AC proposed to create online discussions to enable the involvement of any interested WAMU-NET member. A member of the AC, Sandra de Vries, volunteered to manage and coordinate the initial steps of working groups' online discussions before the takeover of related leaders.

The AC recommends activating specific and dedicated SGs only for temporary and concrete tasks. Also, it is suggested to use the name of 'Task Forces' (TFs), rather than Steering Groups (SGs), in order to reflect the temporary nature / activity which needs to be performed for specific tasks (organization of conferences, management of specific projects, etc). The first manifestations of interests from WAMU-NET members wishing to be involved in specific working groups have been collected via email.

- (2) Youth contest "The Water We Want". The participation of 24 members to the youth contest and their contribution to the planned online exhibition "The Water We Want" was confirmed. It is expected to receive an approximate number of 100 entries to be exhibited in the final online exhibition. The final winners could be announced in Paris, in case there will be available funds to organize a specific event at IHP.

The announcement of winners and a press conference could be organized in conjunction with the next Executive Board of UNESCO-IHP (27 March – 3 April).

- (3) 4th WAMU-NET conference in Hangzhou, China. The Save the Date announcing the next conference of the Global Network in Hangzhou (27-30 March 2020) was sent through newsletter. Thanks to efforts made by the National Water Museum of China, in cooperation with local sponsors, it will be possible to support the participation of a few LICs/DIS members also in 2020. Concerning the institutional video of the Global Network, unfortunately no funds were found. The making of a WAMU-NET official video is thus postponed.

The Executive Director stresses that, 18 months after the endorsement of the IHP Resolution, a video on WAMU-NET would be necessary to reach new and different audiences (including potential sponsors) and convey the institutional messages of the Global Network.

In January, a more detailed program of the 4th conference will be sent to all. Its contents will be based on contributions made both by the MB and AC members who are willing to contribute to its scientific contents, in line with the auspices of the National Water Museum of China. A specific Task Force could be activated to better perform this task. The President Eddy Moors suggests broadcasting the main sessions of the conference, to enable the participation of those water museums which will not be able to join the next conference in China.

6. AOB (any other business) and closing of the meeting

The President Eddy Moors reports about his recent meeting with the official Delegation of the Netherlands at UNESCO. There is the possibility to outline a formal 'Decision' (to be adopted by the next EXB - Executive Board of UNESCO-IHP) aimed at supporting WAMU-NET with financial contributions provided by different member states represented at the EXB. This mechanism could generate some new revenues and alleviate the difficult financial situation of WAMU-NET.

Indeed, a funding mechanism endorsed at state level would enable WAMU-NET to manage better a considerable number of activities which have been outlined for 2020 and 2021. Since the present revenues are rather limited, and definitely not sufficient to cover the running costs ("real costs") of the Global Network, this opportunity should be considered as a priority.

Official Delegations of all member states at UNESCO, which are based in Paris, should be contacted by WAMU-NET in order to create the ground for supporting the Decision at the moment of official voting in the next EXB. In this frame, WAMU-NET members can be instrumental in facilitating contacts with their respective national delegations and are warmly invited to facilitate this process, as it was made in 2018 for the approval of the UNESCO-IHP Resolution n.XXIII-5. Both the President and the Executive Director will start working to draft the AMU-NET Decision in view of the EXB approval.

The President closes the meeting at 12 pm.
The Record of this meeting is approved hereby and right away.

- ./ Attachment n. 1: Votes recorded in the telematic meeting*
- ./ Attachment n. 2: Table with annual membership contributions for 2020*
- ./ Attachment n. 3: Forecast Budget 2020*

23 December 2019

The President
Eddy Moors



The Executive Director
Eriberto Eulisse

