

Record of the 11th Meeting of the General Assembly (30 June 2023)

On 30 June 2023, the General Assembly of the Global Network of Water Museums met online, starting at 2 pm CEST, to discuss the following Order of Business:

1. Opening of the Plenary and appointment of the Chair
2. Approval of the record of the last General Assembly (December 2022)
3. New WAMU-NET Members: presentation and welcome
4. Winners' announcement of the 4th Edition of the Youth Prize Contest 'The Water We Want'
5. The contribution of WAMU-NET to the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York (22-4 March)
6. Discussion on WAMU-NET activities under Priority 2 'Water Sustainability Education' (IHP 9)
7. Follow up of the WGs established in Marrakech
8. Discussion on ongoing projects and next activities
9. Status of 2023 annual Membership contributions (received until June 26th)
10. Report on 2022 annual Membership contributions
11. Approval of the final budget for the year 2022 (art.16)
12. New 'regional branch' of WAMU-NET (Charter art.1) at the Autonomous Province of Trento
13. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the Members
14. Closing of the meeting

Members who are present (in presence online):

Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum, India; Anguiano Gomez Alan Jazael, IURHEKUA Museo Interactivo del Agua, Mexico; Bangde Yang, Baiheliang Underwater Museum, China; Bernabè Tonino, IDRO-Ecomuseum of Ridracoli / Acque di Romagna, Forli-Cesena; Liliana Pena Naval, Federal University of Tocantins, Brazil; Braun Ralf, Water Museum of Bavaria 'Haus am Strom', Germany; Buisman Jurjaen, Museum Geelwinck, The Netherlands; Calvi Benigno, Martesana Ecomuseum, Italy; Margarida Felipe, Museo de l'Agua, Lisbon, Portugal; Cernelic Kroselj Alenka, The Posavje Museum Brežice, Slovenia; Crowe Deirdre, Water Museum of Ireland; De Laet Hilde, Hidrodoe Pidpa, Belgium; Eulisse Eriberto, Water Museum of Venice, Italy; Mário João Freitas Mesquita, Águas do Porto, Parque das Águas, Porto, Portugal; Fioretti Francesco, Hydra, Museo Multimediale Cascata delle Marmore, Italy; Herrerias Gisela, Museo del Agua 'Agua para Siempre', Mexico; Iovine Raffaele, Water Museum of Naples 'Lapis', Italy; Kabir Farah, Water Museum, Bangladesh; Hugo Snabilie, Broekerveiling Water Museum, The Netherlands; Kiselinov Nicola, Water Museum of Ohrid, Macedonia; Leordean Loredana, Aquatim, Romania; Marbaix Julie, Musée de l'Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium; Lorena Albanés, OSE Water Museum, Uruguay; Martinez Torres Osvaldo, National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH), Havana, Cuba; Maruškić Kulaš Margarita, Aquatika Karlovac, Croatia; Moors Eddy, IHE Delft, UNESCO C2C, The Netherlands; Rodes Javier, Museos de Mequinenza, Spain; Sciarra Marco, The Well of the Quarry, Italy; Schwartzstein Judith, Catskill Water Discovery Center, USA; Malotidi Vicky, HYDRIA Network, Greece; Serra Giménez Eudald, Museu de l'Aigua i el Textíl, Spain; Maria Olmo Rodrigues, Tribunal de les Aigües de la Vega de Valencia, Spain; Travers Daniel, Canadian Museum of Water, Port McNicoll, Canada; van Staveren Martijn, IHP-HWRP Netherlands National Committee, The Netherlands; Wieriks Koos, Nederlands Watermuseum, Arnhem, The Netherlands; Wang Xianping, Yellow River Museum, China; Widadi Ismail, Mandala Mathika Subak Museum, Indonesia; Yongming Chen, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou, China;

Members who are not present (justified absentees):

Ambrosi Turbay Luisa, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador; Becker Christoph, Historisches Klaerwerk Krefeld, Germany; Bolognesi Andrea, Opificio delle Acque / Water Factory of Bologna, Italy; Bresciani Carmela, Ecomuseo delle Judicarie, Italy; Chilesi Barbara, Museum of the Rice Fields, Rivers, and Rural Landscape of Mantua, Italy; Croitoru Victor, Water Museum 'Leonida Truta',

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Romania (“Somes Water Company”); Damon Betsy, Keepers of the Waters, USA; Denis Laurent, Brussels Sewer Museum, Belgium; Dodiță-Farçaș Daniel, Casa Apei / House of Water, Romania; El Mandour Abdennabi, Musée Mohamed VI de la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc ‘Mohammed VI’, Morocco; Facchi Alberta, National Archaeological Museum of Adria, Italy; 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; Haliori Keti, World Water Museum, Greece; Horvath Istvan, Duna Museum, Hungary; 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; Javadian-Zadeh Mohammad, Yazd Water Museum, Iran; Lanzinger Michele, MUSE Science Museum of Trento, Italy; Lee-Niinioja Hee Sook, Subong Aqua Flores, Indonesia; Londinsky Nicolas, Musée des Egouts, Paris; Mazzi Mario, Pozzo di San Patrizio, Orvieto, Italy; Micheletti Andrea, National Archaeological Museum of Adria, Italy; Mikolji Yelka, Green Earth Alliance, USA; Mikolji Ivan, USA; Mizzan Luca, Natural History Museum of Venice, Italy; Moon Soo-hyeong, Jeju Water Exhibition Hall, South Korea; 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; Sapiano Manuel, GHJN - National Conservation Awareness Centre, Malta; Sharroks Amy, Museum of Water, UK; Singha Sushmita, Water Museum of Udipur, India; Topcu Ercan, Isum Istanbul Su Müzesi, Turkey; 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; Vignarca Roberto, Natural Reserve ‘Spagna Highlands and Mezzola Lake’, Italy; Wechsler Tanja Andrejasic, I Am Water, USA; Wundsam Karin, Water Adventure Mini-Danube, Austria; Zhang Xiaowen, Changjiang Civilization Museum, Wuhan, China; Bertolucci Stefano, Italy; De Vries Sandra, The Netherlands; Kerr-Wilson Ian, Canada; La Spada Giuseppe, Italy; Lessa Joana, Portugal; Mikolji Ivan, Venezuela; Ruf Thierry, France; Siampani Maria, Greece; Van Pee Lode, Belgium; Wilmott Christopher, UK; Zheng Xiao Yun, China.

1. Opening of the Plenary and appointment of the Chair

The President Eddy Moors is appointed as Chair of the meeting and opens the General Assembly.

2. Approval of the record of the last General Assembly (December 2022)

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

3. New WAMU-NET Members: presentation and welcome

No.13 new members (from Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Cuba, Finland, Indonesia, Italy, Slovenia, and USA) joined the WAMU-NET during the 1st semester 2023. A presentation of all members is made by Lucrezia Gigante and Eriberto Eulisse. New members include: AUSTRIA – One Body of Water Association, Vienna; BELGIUM – Musée des Égouts / Sewer Museum, Brussels; BRAZIL – Federal University of Tocantins, Palmas; CUBA – Albear Aqueduct Museum / National Institute of Hydraulic Resources, Havana; FINLAND – Subong Aqua Flores Digital Museum; INDONESIA – Mandala Matika Subak Museum, Bali; ITALY - Environmental Archaeological Museum of the Waters of Padua / MAAAP, Padua; ITALY - IDRO-Ecomuseum of Waters, Ridracoli / Romagna Acque, Forlì-Cesena; ITALY - Water Museum of Naples “Lapis”, Naples; ITALY - Pozzo della Cava / The Well of the Quarry, Orvieto; ITALY - Judicaria Ecomuseum “From the Dolomites to Lake Garda”, Ponte Arche-Trento; SLOVENIA -The Posavski Museum, Brežice; USA – Catskill Water Discovery Center, New York. A warm welcome to new members is expressed by all present members.

4. Winners’ announcement of the 4th Edition of the Youth Prize Contest ‘The Water We Want’

The online ceremony with the winners' announcement of the 4th edition is opened by a welcome speech of Francesco Fioretti: the Marmore Waterfalls Museum (Italy) is the main partner of this year's edition. This year, the Global Network received almost one hundred works among drawings, videos and other media, including photographs and water songs. The six winners of the 4th Edition of The Water We Want are: DRAWINGS: 6 -12 y: *Cherish the Source of Life* by Guo Yufei. Huayuankou Primary School, Zhengzhou, China. Submitted by Yellow River Museum. DRAWINGS: 13-18 y: *The Source of Life* by Kiraly Antonia. "Pavel Dan" Theoretical High School, Campia Turzii, Romania. Submitted by Water Museum "Leonida Truta". VIDEOS: 6 -12 y: *Water to Save? Let's Do It at School!* by Class 5B. Primary School Dante Alighieri, Mogliano Veneto, Italy. Submitted by Water Museum of Venice/Consiglio di Bacino 'Laguna di Venezia', Italy. VIDEOS: 13-18 y: *Tears of Water* by Yu Binbin. Zhejiang Medical Technology School, Hangzhou, China. Submitted by National Water Museum of China. OTHER MEDIA: 6 -12 y: *Save the Rivers!* by Adreet Roy, Aarish Mukherjee, Aarshi Pal, Khusmina Saha. Indus Valley World School, Kolkata, India. Submitted by Living Waters Museum. OTHER MEDIA: 13-18 y: *Looking for Myself* by Class 3A, I.I.S.S. Enrico Giannelli, Parabita (LE), Italy, Romania. Submitted by Paesi dell'Acqua. The Global Network also awarded 10 Special Mentions. All works feature in the online digital exhibition available at thewaterwewant.watermuseums.net

5. The contribution of WAMU-NET to the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York (22-24 March)

"The Walk of Water : An Intergenerational Journey" is the title of the exhibition organized at the UN 2023 Water Conference in New York on 22-24 March. The exhibition is an example of how art, water and science can be used to share clear messages on the state of the world's water throughout time and across generations. Through a thematic journey dedicated to the past, the present and the future of water, a selection of works submitted by all WAMU-NET members in the previous editions of the youth contest *The Water We Want* and the worldwide exhibition *I Remember Water* (2022) have been showcased in the exhibition. The UNESCO Deputy Director General, Mr. Xing Qu, visited the exhibition during its opening on 22 March 2023, what marks an important achievement for WAMU-NET. The President Moors congratulates Eriberto and his team to make this possible in a very short time and with limited financial resources. The Vicepresident Chen Yongming confirmed the exhibition was an ideal setting to meet the Minister of Water Resources of China. The WoW was developed by UNESCO WWAP (World Water Assessment Programme) and the European Commission's Joint Research Centre in collaboration with WAMU-NET, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, Water Science Policy, and other six partners, and is supported by the Arts Coalition for Water. The exhibition is also available online: <https://walkofwater.com>

6. Discussion on WAMU-NET activities under Priority 2 'Water Sustainability Education' (IHP 9)

Director Eulisse and Alexander Otte present the IHP Strategic Plan Phase 9 (2022-29) focusing in particular on its Priority 2 'Education for Water Sustainability'. WAMU-NET is included among the "Key Activities and outputs" of Priority Area n.2. WAMU-NET is explicitly mentioned as follows: "UNESCO-designated sites and the Global Network of Water Museums will be mobilized in raising awareness and improving water culture of citizens." (§ 119, p.25). "IHP-IX encourages a broad conception of water education to favor a change in behaviors towards a society with greater eco-social awareness [...] supporting the development of interdisciplinary materials such as guidelines, briefing papers, and case studies on leading practices in water education for mass media contributing raising awareness of public at large." Specific activities planned by WAMU-NET and its members will be reported to OETWG 2 (Open-Ended Thematic Working Group No. 2).

7. Follow up of the WGs established in Marrakech

President Moors invites all WAMU-NET members to join the Working Groups established in Marrakech. The WGs set during the 4th WAMU-NET conference with the respective rapporteurs are on: Water Sustainability Education (A.Otte); World Inventory (J.Morato); African Network

(A.Benqlilou); Cross border engagement (V.Croituru); Museums responses to crises (J.Lessa). In particular, it's expected the Education WG will organize a webinar on this topic by the end of 2023.

8. Discussion on ongoing projects and next activities

The discussion focuses on WAMU-NET's potential contribution to the next World Water Forum in Bali, May 2024, and on the EU-funded project, CREDIT. This is a small-scale project funded under the Creative Programme of the EU and will focus on the digitization of water-related natural and cultural heritage of museums. Other WAMU-NET partners include HYDRIA Greece; AQUATIKA Croatia; and the Water Factory Bologna, Italy. Activities include training courses, workshops and digitization campaigns: they will provide opportunities and potential benefits to all WAMU-NET members.

9. Status of 2023 annual Membership contributions (received until June 26th)

Membership contributions collected so far for the year 2023 amount to € 28.032. Expected memberships at 31.12.2023: € 34.000. The difference will be collected during the 2nd semester.

10. Report on 2022 annual Membership contributions

In 2022, WAMU-NET counted 82 members (71 institutions + 11 individual members). Membership contributions collected in 2022 amount to € 28.145. It's noted there are five pending membership contributions to be still collected for 2022, totaling € 1.950.

11. Approval of the final budget for the year 2022 (art.16)

Director Eulisse presents the balance sheet for 2022, which shows a final loss of (-) € 938. However, considering the 5 memberships that are still pending for 2022 (totalling € 1.950), it is noted that the final budget would have registered a final surplus of approx. (+) € 1.000. The Director stresses that WAMU-NET is still suffering from the lack of adequate staff. The President and the members of the MB congratulate Eulisse on its tenacious work in completing several activities with a budget still inadequate to the network's potential. The budget is approved unanimously by all present members.

12. New WAMU-NET 'regional branch' (art.1 of the Charter) at the Autonomous Province of Trento

Due to the termination of collaboration with the Venice University and its UNESCO Chair, Director Eulisse announces that ADEP ('Agenzia per la Depurazione': the Water and Sewage Agency of Trentino) offered to host a new independent branch office of WAMU-NET at the premises of the Autonomous Province of Trento. This represents a unique opportunity for the network, as Director Eulisse himself could be seconded to this location without having to repay his salary (as he has always done to date) for his activities rendered to the WAMU-NET network. According to art.1 of the Charter, all present members unanimously approved the opening of a branch office at the Autonomous Province of Trento.

13. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the Members

Discussion focuses on the next WAMU-NET activities for potential contributions of all its members.

14. Closing of the meeting

The President thanks all members for their contributions and invites those who could not attend the meeting to vote by telematic means before the deadline. The meeting closes at 16,20 CET.

Trento, 30 June 2023

The President
Eddy Moors

The Executive Director
Eriberto Eulisse