

## **Record of the 12th Meeting of the General Assembly (14 December 2023)**

On 14 December 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 meeting and appointment of the Chair
2. Approval of the Record of last General Assembly (June 2023)
3. Presentation of and welcome to new WAMU-NET Members (2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2023)
4. 5<sup>th</sup> Youth Contest and Award 'The Water We Want' (deadline: April 2024)
5. Announcement of the 5<sup>th</sup> WAMU-NET conference in Porto, Portugal (October 2024)
6. Nomination of the new Management Board (term 2024-25)
7. Nomination of the new President (term 2024-25)
8. Status of 2023 annual Membership contributions (received until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>)
9. Approval of Bylaws no.1 and no.2 (art. 17)
10. Approval of 2024 annual Memberships
11. Approval of the Forecast Budget for the year 2024 (art.16)
12. Fundraising aimed to rebuild the water mill in the Atlas, Morocco
13. Discussion on next activities planned for 2024
14. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the members
15. Closing of the meeting

### **Members who are present (in presence online):**

Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum, India; Bangde Yang, Baiheliang Underwater Museum, China; Calvi Benigno, Martesana Ecomuseum, Italy; Cernelic Kroselj Alenka, The Posavje Museum Brežice, Slovenia; Chen Yongming, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou, China; Croitoru Victor, Water Museum 'Leonida Truta', Romania ("Somes Water Company"); Crowe Deirdre, Water Museum of Ireland; Debattista Henry, GHAIN - National Conservation Awareness Centre, Malta; De Laet Hilde, Hidrodoe Pidpa, Belgium; Eulisse Eriberto, Water Museum of Venice, Italy; El Mandour Abdennabi, Musée Mohamed VI de la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc 'Mohammed VI', Morocco; Fioretti Francesco, Hydra, Museo Multimediale Cascata delle Marmore, Italy; Garriga Arias Evelyn, National Institute of Hydraulic Resources (INRH), Havana, Cuba; Jiroušková Šárka, Historical Wastewater Treatment Plant, Praga, Czech Republic; Herrerias Gisela, Museo del Agua 'Agua para Siempre', Mexico; Kerr-Wilson Ian, Hamilton, Canada; Kiselinov Nicola, Water Museum of Ohrid, Macedonia; Lee-Niinioja Hee Sook, Subong Aqua Flores, Indonesia; Leordean Loredana, Aquatim, Romania; Lessa Joana, Portugal; Maruškić Kulaš Margarita, Aquatika Karlovac, Croatia; Mesquita Mário João Freitas, Águas do Porto, Parque das Águas, Porto, Portugal; Moors Eddy, IHE Delft, UNESCO C2C, The Netherlands; Pica Fabiana, TE.AM, Napoli, Italy; Poelina Anne, Martuwarra Fitzroy River, Australia; Rodes Javier, Museos de Mequinenza, Spain; Ruf Thierry, France; Sciarra Marco, The Well of the Quarry, Italy; Schwartzstein Judith, Catskill Water Discovery Center, USA; Serra Giménez Eudald, Museu de l'Aigua i el Textil, Spain; Ulliana Maurizio, River Navigation Museum of Battaglia Terme, Italy; Wieriks Koos, Nederlands Watermuseum, Arnhem, The Netherlands.

### **Members who are not present (justified absentees):**

Almenar Cubells Francisco, Tribunal de les Aigües de la Vega de Valencia, Spain; Ambrosi Turbay Luisa, Yaku Parque Museo del Agua, Ecuador; Anguiano Gomez Alan Jazael, IURHEKUA Museo Interactivo del Agua, Mexico; Becker Christoph, Historisches Klaerwerk Krefeld, Germany; Bernabè Tonino, IDRO-Ecomuseum of Ridracoli / Acque di Romagna, Forli-Cesena, Italy; Bolognesi Andrea, Opificio delle Acque / Water Factory of Bologna, Italy; Bovolato Luis Eduardo, Brazilian Water Museum, Brazil; Bresciani Carmela, Ecomuseo delle Giudicarie, Italy; Braun Ralf, Water Museum of

Bavaria 'Haus am Strom', Germany; Buisman Jurjaen, Museum Geelwinck, The Netherlands; Castro Henriques Mariana, Museo de l'Agua, Lisbon, Portugal; Chilesi Barbara, Museum of the Rice Fields, Rivers, and Rural Landscape of Mantua, Italy; Damon Betsy, Keepers of the Waters, USA; Dodiță-Farcaș Daniel, Casa Apei / House of Water, Romania; 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 Ketii, World Water Museum, Greece; Horvath Istvan, Duna Museum, Hungary; Hügler 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; Javadian-Zadeh Mohammad, Yazd Water Museum, Iran; Kabir Farah, Water Museum, Bangladesh; Lanzinger Michele, MUSE Science Museum of Trento, Italy; Laurent Denis, Brussels Sewer Museum, Belgium; Lewis Hannah, Safina Projects, Iraq; Londinsky Nicolas, Musée des Egouts, Paris; Marbaix Julie, Musée de l'Eau et de la Fontaine, Belgium; Marquisio Caceres Adriana, OSE Water Museum, Uruguay; 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; Pagano Fabio, Parco Archeologico dei Campi Flegrei, Italy; 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; Scoullou Michael, HYDRIA Network, Greece; Sharroks Amy, Museum of Water, UK; Shen Helin, Hohai University, China; Singha Sushmita, Water Museum of Udaipur, India; Snablie Hugo, Broekerveiling Water Museum, The Netherlands; Topcu Ercan, Isum Istanbul Su Müzesi, Turkey; Travers Daniel, Canadian Museum of Water, Port McNicoll, Canada; van Beek Peter, Biesbosch Museum Eiland, The Netherlands; van Melis Elise, Haarlemmermeermuseum De Cruquius, The Netherlands; van Staveren Martijn, IHP-HWRP Netherlands National Committee, The Netherlands; Vignarca Roberto, Natural Reserve 'Spagna Highlands and Mezzola Lake', Italy; Wang Jianping, Yellow River Museum, China; Wechsler Andrejasic Tanja, I Am Water, USA; ; Widadi Ismail, Mandala Mathika Subak Museum, Indonesia; Wundsam Karin, Water Adventure Mini-Danube, Austria; Zhang Xiaowen, Changjiang Civilization Museum, Wuhan, China; Bertolucci Stefano, Italy; De Vries Sandra, The Netherlands; La Spada Giuseppe, Italy; Mikolji Ivan, Venezuela; 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 (June 2023)**

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

### **3. Presentation of and welcome to new WAMU-NET Members (2<sup>nd</sup> semester 2023)**

The six new members who joined WAMU-NET during the second semester are from Australia, China, Czech Republic, Iraq, Italy, and Ireland (Martuwarra River Council, Hohai University, Historical Wastewater of Prague, Basra Open Museum, National Park Campi Flegrei Napoli, ADEP Autonomous Province of Trento, and Michelle Boyle as individual member). The present members give a warm welcome to the new members, who share their motivations for having joined. Considering the 13 new members who joined during the 1<sup>st</sup> semester, the total number of new members for 2023 is 19.

#### **4. 5th Youth Contest and Award 'The Water We Want' (deadline: April 2024)**

Lucrezia Gigante, coordinator of TWWW, illustrates the call for entries for the 5th edition, whose main novelty this year is the enlargement to a new age group, from 19 to 25. The new call for entries is commented on. It is pointed out that all submitted works next year might be included in the exhibition to be held in Bali on the occasion of the 10th WWF, therefore creating a prestigious setting for all participating members.

#### **5. Announcement of the 5<sup>th</sup> WAMU-NET conference in Porto, Portugal (October 2024)**

On behalf of Agua e Energia do Porto and its CEO, Ruben Fernandes, Mario Mesquita makes a presentation of the city's water heritage and welcomes all members in Porto for the first half of October 2024, when the 5th International Conference of WAMU-NET is planned. The President Moors invites all members to participate, and the Director Eulisse confirms that the save the date will be announced soon.

#### **6. Nomination of the new Management Board (term 2024-25)**

As set in the Charter, the term of office of the Management Board for the period 2022-2023 expires this year. Director Eulisse, on behalf of the outgoing Board, sent out an invitation to all WAMU-NET members to present themselves as possible members of the new Board according to the guidelines criteria of the Charter (art.8: gender and nationality balance). The Board has a maximum capacity of 11 members.

All members of the outgoing Board, nine in all, stand for re-election for their final term, having started their mandate four years ago. At the same time, five new candidatures were received from: Ruben Fernandes, Portugal; Margarita Kulasc, Croatia; Nikola Kiselinov, Macedonia; Francesco Fioretti, Italy; and Antonio Tosi, Italy. The General Assembly assessed the curricula and the motivations expressed by the new and old candidates. In unanimously reconfirming the nine candidates of the outgoing Board, in light of the strong commitment demonstrated in the last term, two new members are also confirmed unanimously: Ruben Fernandes and Margarita Kulasc.

The new Management Board for the period 2024-2025 is therefore composed of 11 members, as follows: Ahmed Sara, Living Waters Museum (India); Chen Yongming, National Water Museum of China, Hangzhou; Croitoru Victor, Water Museum of Cluj "L. Truta" (Romania); El Mandour Abdennabi, Musée de la Civilisation de l'Eau au Maroc "Mohammed VI"; Eulisse Eriberto, Civiltà dell'Acqua / Water Museum of Venice (Italy); Fernandes Ruben Parque Patrimonial das Aguas, Aguas e Energia do Porto, Portugal; Herrerias Gisela, Water Museum "Agua para Siempre!" (Mexico); Kerr-Wilson Ian (Canada); Kulasc Margarita, AQUATIKA Freshwater Aquarium Karlovac, Croatia; Moors Eddy, IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, UNESCO Centre cat.2 (Netherlands); Scoullous Michael, Hydria Water Museum (Greece).

Also the external Observer is unanimously reconfirmed in the person of Amani Abou, Director of the Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the Intergovernmental Hydrological Programme (IHP).

#### **7. Nomination of the new President (term 2024-25)**

Eriberto Eulisse, recalls that the Charter provides for the new president to be elected by the newly formed Management Board (art.5). However, the same article also states that the General Assembly might consider electing him directly from among the members of the newly elected Management Board, that is, during today's assembly. Considering such an opportunity, the General Assembly unanimously reappoints Eddy Moors as President of WAMU-NET. Warm thanks are expressed to him for his exemplary commitment to develop further the network.

#### **8. Status of 2023 annual Membership contributions (received until Nov. 30<sup>th</sup>)**

The outgoing Director reports the Ordinary membership contributions at € 30.378 (as of 05.12.2023). In addition, € 7.800 must be added as special contributions (Silver Memberships) from: ANBI (Italy), Civiltà dell'Acqua (Italy), HWRP (Netherlands), and Marmore Waterfalls Museum (Italy). The

Assembly expresses appreciation for these voluntary additional contributions. In total, membership contributions amount at € 38.178 (as of 05.12.2023). Nonetheless, there are still € 3.400 of pending contributions from: Changjiang Civilization Museum Wuhan (China), Natural Reserve 'Pian di Spagna' (Italy), Our Humanity Matters (US), OSE (Uruguay), Regional Park Delta Po (Italy), Water Museum of Ireland (Ireland), Water Museum of Kalapara (Bangladesh), World Water Museum (Greece). The Director pledges to make a recall in order to regularize these dues by the end of 2023.

### **9. Approval of Bylaws no.1 and no.2 (art. 17)**

Ian Kerr Wilson and Eriberto Eulisse read and comment the Bylaw no. 1 'Excluded members' and Bylaw no. 2, 'Duration of annual contributions'.

Bylaw no. 1 states that "it's the right of any member to withdraw from WAMU-NET at any time by simply notifying it, as provided for in Art. 7 of the Charter. In the event of non-payments of dues for 2 consecutive years, the Executive Director shall contact members who are in arrears with their annual fees to obtain justification of the reasons for the delay. If such members do not answer or do not provide adequate justification, the Board shall propose exclusion of the member to the General Assembly. Excluded members lose all benefits of being a WAMU-NET member". Bylaw no. 2, 'Duration of annual contributions', states that "payment of dues provides voting rights and guarantees the benefits and opportunities of active membership. All contributions are to be referred to the calendar year, that is, from January 1st to December 31st, regardless of the month of the calendar year in which they are paid". After discussion, bylaws no. 1 and 2 are approved unanimously by the GA.

### **10. Approval of 2024 annual Memberships**

The proposal of the outgoing Management Board is to keep the same contributions for Ordinary Memberships as in previous years. Minor adjustments are made only as regards 'volunteering contributions' (Silver, Ivory and Gold memberships), as shown in [Attachment no.1](#). Joana Lessa proposes to change the name of the Ivory membership to Platinum. After discussion, the 2024 annual memberships are approved unanimously by the GA.

### **11. Approval of the Forecast Budget for the year 2024 (art.16)**

for next year, for the first time, there is a possibility that the cost of the Executive Director is not borne by WAMU-NET, but by the Autonomous Province of Trento (new member) for tasks and duties performed by Eulisse Eriberto for WAMU-NET. This new condition frees up financial resources to cover other running costs. The final estimated result for 2024 is thus mainly due to the savings generated by not having to reimburse Eriberto Eulisse's salary to the Autonomous Province of Trento - where he is employed. This condition is made temporarily possible thanks to the new network member, ADEP (Agency of Depuration of Trento), headed by Director General Giovanni Gatti, to whose structure Dr. Eulisse is currently seconded. Thanks to this secondment, Eulisse can devote itself to the coordination work of the network for 3 days a week. The break-even result for 2024 is made possible by these exceptional conditions. The President expresses warm appreciation to Director Gatti and hope that these conditions can become permanent. The budget is approved unanimously by all present members, as detailed in [Attachment n.2](#).

### **12. Fundraising aimed to rebuild the water mill destroyed by the earthquake in the Atlas, Morocco**

Abdennabi El Mandour and Eriberto Eulisse report on the fundraising campaign to reconstruct the hydraulic mill destroyed by the earthquake. The detailed forecast for reconstruction is estimated in 54.800 Dirhams (€ 4.998). The funds collected so far are € 2.420 (approx. 50%). Generous donations were made by: Eriberto Eulisse (Civiltà dell'Acqua, Italy), Chris Baker (Krefeld Historical Plant, Germany), Francesco Fioretti (Marmore Waterfalls Museum, Italy), Amy Sharrocks (Museum of Water, UK), Ian Kerr Wilson (Canada), and Gisela Herrerias (Mexico). Since the missing amount is still

quite considerable to start the reconstruction, Sara Ahmed confirms interest in supporting this project by covering the remaining part. All members appreciate these generous contributions.

### **13. Discussion on next activities 2024 (22 March 2024: World Water Day “Water and Peace” with exhibition**

The Director reports on the next activities planned by WAMU-NET. These include: a contribution at the 10th WWF in Bali, Indonesia, and the organization of the 5th WAMU-NET Conference in Porto. Members are invited to send expression of interest to participate in any of these activities to Stefania Schiavon: [mail@watermuseums.net](mailto:mail@watermuseums.net). Also, Eulisse recalls that the CREDIT project (Creative Digital Waters) will deliver by the end of 2024 new interactive educational tools for kids. Also, WAMU-NET members will benefit both directly and indirectly from this activity starting from the 2nd half of 2024. A dedicated session of the Porto conference will illustrate these benefits to all members.

### **14. AOB - Proposals and suggestions from the members**

Sara Ahmed announces the start of the AQUAMUSE project, which will also involve the Burkina Faso Water Museum in a South-South collaboration with a view to creating a digital museum of the Nile River. The project is coordinated by IHE Delft and Sara Ahmed expresses appreciation for the support given by the Netherlands to this decentralized cooperation project.

### **15. 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 scheduled deadline. The meeting closes at 16,20 CET.

Venice, 14 December 2023

The President  
Eddy Moors

The Executive Director  
Eriberto Eulisse

*Attachment no.1: 2024 annual Memberships*

*Attachment no.2: Forecast Budget for the year 2024*