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## **Calvo, Lucas; Mossa, Michele IAHR Presidents message**

HydroLink

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# IAHR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## Dear Members

At the beginning of the New Year I would first like to send you my very best wishes for the coming year and I hope that the year ahead will be a peaceful, prosperous and healthy one for you and your family.

Last September I was honoured to be re-elected as President of IAHR to July 2015. I am particularly grateful to Professor Nobuyuki Tamai, Nominating Committee Chair (and Past President of IAHR) and his Committee colleagues for nominating me to continue to serve as President for a second term and to the members of IAHR for their support and encouragement. I am also delighted to welcome new elected and co-opted members to the Council and am very grateful to all those serving members whose term had come to an end and who have contributed so much to IAHR during their period on Council. In particular, I am pleased to welcome Professor Arthur Mynett as a new Vice President and am personally very grateful for the support provided to me by the retiring Vice President Jean-Paul Chabard.

Last year's World Congress in Chengdu, China, was extremely successful, attracting over 1500 delegates, (including 400 students) and nearly 1200 papers from 80 countries. For me, personally, it was the Vice Minister (of Water Resources) Dr. Jiao Young's Opening Keynote lecture that was one of the most memorable presentations at the Congress. He talked about how early Chinese civilisation had lived with the river, then managed the river and now realises the need to revert to living with nature. He showed excellent examples of the massive challenges that China faces in managing all aspect of its water resources etc. and these challenges, and the growing importance of water in China, encourage me about the exciting opportunities for IAHR to have a strong base in China, post 2015 which I explain later in this message.

The past year has been my second full year in office and a time to continue to build on some exciting new initiatives, focused on addressing

some of the challenges our Association faces now, and in the future. In particular, in connection with our new strategic focus, we are aspiring to: (i) implement activities aimed at closer links between academia and practitioners; (ii) develop a Young Professional community; (iii) form closer alliances with other water associations to address some of the global water challenges (e.g. increased flood risk); and (iv) diversify beyond traditional fields and encourage involvement in fields of global concern (e.g. efficient agriculture).

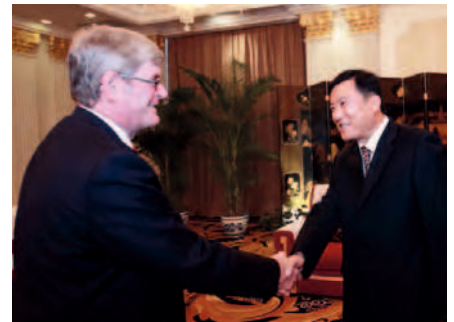
I am delighted to report that our Congresses and other initiatives are leading to a trend of increased membership (now over 3000 Individual Members, which has been complemented by the growing focus on our Regional Divisions for: Asia Pacific, Latin America, Europe, Africa and the Middle East and North Africa. Our Regional Congresses are becoming more prominent within the IAHR technical calendar, as well as delivering excellent networking opportunities - particularly for our younger members. This coming year we have our three important regional congresses, including: the 3<sup>rd</sup> IAHR Europe Conference in Porto, Portugal (14<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> April), and the 19<sup>th</sup> Asia and Pacific Division (APD) Conference in Hanoi, Vietnam (21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> September). I shall be attending the Europe Conference, but regret that I cannot attend the APD Conference as it coincides with my son's wedding. However, I am grateful to IAHR Vice President Arthur Mynett, who will attend on my behalf. Last, but not least, our Latin America Division Congress takes place in Santiago, Chile (25<sup>th</sup> - 29<sup>th</sup> August). I hope that you will try and attend if you reside in one of these regions.

## Connecting with Practitioners

In enhancing our links with practitioners we have undertaken two key tasks. Firstly, in Chengdu we launched the first issue of our new Journal of Applied Water Engineering and Research. This new on-line journal is published in collaboration with the World Council of Civil Engineers and by Taylor & Francis; the journal is included in your membership for the first two years. The journal



**Prof. Roger A. Falconer**  
CH2M HILL Professor of Water Management, Cardiff University, UK  
IAHR President



Meeting Dr. Jiao Yong, Vice Minister of Water Resources, China



From left to right: President Roger Falconer, Nobuyuki Tamai, Wolfgang Rodi and Willi Hager and Executive Director Christopher George



Louise Ellis and Chris Ellis from Arup present details on "Water Sensitive Urban Design" to the IAHR Cardiff Young Professional Network

focuses on practice-based research and case studies in water engineering and research, and we particularly welcome papers from practitioners in consulting and specialist modelling companies and government departments and regulatory authorities. The Chief Editor of the journal is Professor Tobias Bleninger, of the University do Parana, Brazil and the Deputy Editor is Teodoro Estrela, of the Jucar River Basin, Spain. For further details see JAWER.

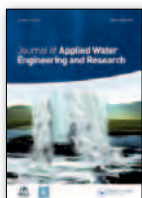


Secondly, we have re-focused *Hydrolink*, which is our main magazine for all members, published quarterly, and our key opportunity to appeal to new members. The magazine was re-launched in 2013, with about 70% of each issue now focusing on a particular theme or project. A new Advisory Editorial Board of practitioners has been appointed, under the chairmanship of Dr. Angelos Findakakis, of Bechtel, and including representatives from some of our key Institute Members. The magazine continues to be edited by Professor Michele Mossa, of the Technical University of Bari, Italy, and I am very grateful to Michele and the Advisory Board for all they have achieved in transforming this magazine. I hope that you welcome this new focus and please advise either myself or the Editorial team if you have any comments or suggestions for future topics or projects etc.

### Scholastic Activities

I am delighted with our continuing scholastic activities and was pleased that we published a new IAHR Monograph in 2013 on Large Eddy Simulation, co-authored by Wolfgang Rodi, George Constantinescu and Thorsten Stoesser. I was also particularly pleased to award Honorary Membership of IAHR, at the World Congress in Chengdu, to Professor Wolfgang Rodi, as well as Professor Nobuyuki Tamai (Past President) and Professor Willi Hager (Past Editor of JHR).

The Journal of Hydraulic Research - our flagship journal - continues to flourish under the editorship of Prof. Vlad Nikora, supported by his wife Nina and a strong editorial team. Although the Impact Factor may not have risen as much as we might all have liked over the past couple of years, this journal has a peer review rigor which is second to none. From my own experience with the UK Research Assessment Exercise, this rigor is paramount and the journal is regarded within the UK as



being one of the very best in the field. I would like to express my sincere thanks to Vlad and his team for maintaining the very high standards of this journal and for introducing the highly successful new Vision Papers.

The Journal of River Basin Management is now being led by my colleague Dr. Michaela Bray and we are very grateful to Prof. Paul Bates, of the University of Bristol, for all his hard work as the Founding Editor in Chief of the journal until August 2013. Closer collaboration with the IAHS in running this journal is now being developed, with Christopher George and I having recently met with the new President of IAHS, Prof. Hubert Savenije. We agreed that we would run this journal much more as a joint effort in future, with a new editorial board, including more members from the IAHS fraternity. In particular, Prof. Thorsten Wagner, a Vice President of IAHS, is now serving on the executive editorial team (along with myself), and we are confident that the journal will flourish, along with links with IAHS, in the future. Once again, I am grateful to Michaela for agreeing to develop this journal with Taylor and Francis, and we hope that it will have an Impact Factor shortly.



### Young Professionals

I am particularly enthusiastic about the IAHR developments relating to the Young Professional Network, being led by Vice President Marian Muste and his team. We have recently re-organised our Student Chapter at Cardiff University to become an IAHR Young Professional Network. This new network has many advantages over the Student Chapter. Firstly, it includes all members within our research team, i.e. research students, post-doctorate research associates under 35 etc. Secondly, the Network also includes young graduate engineers from consulting companies, including Arup and CH2M HILL at this stage, but with more companies to be recruited. This latter benefit brings our researchers into contact with industrial companies and likewise it gives the companies an opportunity to meet and develop a friendship with our students. I am grateful to my research students and staff at Cardiff University for developing our Network, led by Dr. Reza Ahmadian as the academic link, and I look forward to seeing more networks developed over the coming years and, yet again, more opportunities to engage with companies.

### The Future

Finally, as you may be aware our original agreement with our host organisation CEDEX in Madrid, Spain, is due to expire at the end of 2014 and the Executive Committee has been working hard to find a new base for IAHR. Over the past year we have had two attractive offers from (i) the Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research, in Beijing; and, more recently, (ii) a public-private joint initiative in Spain, which would retain our links with CEDEX. I am delighted to report that our Council has approved that as of the end of 2014 onwards IAHR will have two head offices of equal standing, but different responsibilities. These include offices in Madrid and Beijing. This is an exciting opportunity for IAHR's future and will enable us to provide a better service to our members and take on board new initiatives with the additional resources. The distribution of the workload between the two offices is currently being arranged through a council team chaired by our Executive Director, Dr. Chris George, but one of the new initiatives being considered is the development of an internationally recognised professional qualification along the lines of Professional Water Engineer and Scientist (PWES). We are hoping that any such qualification will be developed in association with UNESCO, and with assistance from IHE Delft, and we plan to develop this qualification in partnership with other learned societies in the water field. Furthermore, the opportunity of two offices will enable us to work more closely with the organisers of our World and Regional Congresses to a higher standard, as well as exploring the scope for developing our publishing activities etc. and delivering more to our members.

In summary, I believe that these are really exciting times for our association and I am grateful to you all for your support and encouragement. In the meantime, I would like to conclude this message by again extending to you my very best wishes for 2014 and on behalf of IAHR I would like to express my sincere thanks to all those members who have contributed so much of their time to the committees, workshops, journal editorships, books, monographs etc. and to all the staff in the Madrid Office who do such an excellent job with limited resources. Finally, I would also like to express our sincere appreciation to CEDEX (and in particular our dedicated Secretary General, Dr. Ramon Gutierrez-Serret), who provide us with considerable support in terms of monetary and in-kind resources; without their support our fees would have to rise considerably.