

## **President's Report 2015-2016**

### **Summary of Activities**

#### **Executive Board meetings**

- Organized monthly Skype meetings and meetings in Bogota (May, 2016).

#### **International Council communication/meeting**

- Prepared meeting agenda, gathered reports and documents, communicated with council members.

#### **Leicester conference**

- Conferred with Secretary General, Executive Director, and Local Organizing Committee via email.
- Assisted with plans for UNESCO panels/sessions.
- Assisted in requesting UNESCO funds.

#### **Future conferences**

- 2017: site visit to Cartagena, May 2016; worked with EB on updated Memo of Understanding (signed in Bogota, May 20, 2016).
- Future: Worked with Executive Board to invite conference proposals; responded to inquiries; visited Guangzhou, China (June 4-8, 2016) to discuss future conference possibility.

#### **Travel (representing IAMCR)**

- *Capitalism, Culture and Media Conference*, York, UK, September 7-8, 2015.
- Meeting with co-editor, *Global Handbooks in Media and Communication Research* Series. London, UK, September 9, 2015.
- Meeting with SFSIC, Paris, France, September 11, 2015.
- Meeting with UNESCO representatives (Indrajit Banderjee, Guy Berger), Paris, France, September 10, 11, 2015.
- UNESCO/Global Alliance for Media & Gender meetings, Geneva, December 7-10, 2015.
- High Level Meeting on WSIS+10, United Nations, New York, December 14-16, 2015.
- Site visit (Cartagena)/Executive Board meeting (Bogota), Colombia, May 2016.
- Exploratory visit, Jinan University, Guangzhou, China, June 4-8 2016.
- ICA conference, Fukuoka, Japan, June 8-10, 2016.  
(moderated IAMCR panel; met with publishers about IAMCR publications)
- Meeting with co-editor, Global Handbook series, London, UK, July 24, 2016.

#### **Miscellaneous communication/publications**

- Prepared Presidential column for newsletters, Presidential (email) letters, conference-related statements and miscellaneous membership emails.
- Responded to a wide range of emails, including those addressed to IAMCR website.
- Communicated with International Council, committee/task force heads.

- Communicated with other media/communication organizations.
- Wrote/co-edited various governance documents and drafts.
- Prepared UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 4-year report.
- Helped to prepare statement for WSIS+10 High Level Meeting, December 14-16, 2015.
- Helped to prepare and disseminate statement on BBC.

#### **Miscellaneous**

- Served as co-editor of Global Handbooks in Media and Communication Research Series.
- Served as EB Liaison for Environmental Impact Committee.
- Served on Conference Organizing Committee and Fund-Raising Committee.
- Organized and moderated IAMCR panel for ICA/Fukuoka/June 2016.
- Organized IAMCR panel for ECREA/Prague/November 2016.
- Prepared video message for Wolfgang Donsbach memorial, January 22, 2016.
- Prepared video messages for IAMCR regional conference on news literacy, Department of Journalism and Mass Communication, Surendranath College for Women, Kolkata, India, January 18, 2016.
- Prepared video messages for co-sponsored event, "Comparing Media Systems in BRICS Countries: A Review of Conventional Paradigms," Dept. of Media, Higher School of Economics, Moscow, Russia, (Moscow) April 25-26, 2016.
- Arranged co-sponsorship of *What is Media?* Conference, April 14-16, 2016, Portland, Oregon, USA.

### **Executive Board Activities, 2015-2016**

This section is a brief overview of some of the activities of the Executive Board during the last year. Note that this list is not comprehensive. Many of the individual activities of EB members are not included here, but in their individual reports.

- Revised MoU for conferences
- Created emergency conference fund
- Revised/implemented lection process
- Prepared S/WG Guidelines (with Scholarly Review Committee)
- Prepared and administered membership survey
- Created EB Commission on the Activation of S/WG Outside of Conferences
- Created Committee on Improvement of Academic Life
- Created Task Force on Conference Models
- Created and distributed newsletters
- Worked on support and participation of UNESCO at conference
- Created and implemented IAMCR Ambassador program
- Worked on IAMCR's legal status and recognition in France

### **Executive Board Activities & Policies, 2012-2016**

This section is an overview of many of the activities and policies developed by the Executive Board during the last four years. Note that this list is not comprehensive. Many of the individual activities of EB members are not included here, but in their individual reports.

The current Executive Board (EB) assumed their offices at the Durban conference in July 2012. After becoming more familiar with the roles and responsibilities of the EB, the current group of officers found that they were able to accomplish many things that have improved and expanded the organization. This report is a summary of our accomplishments and an assessment of the challenges that remain for the association.

While the IAMCR's goals and aims are clearly stated in the statutes, we agreed to prioritise the following additional principles and activities that seem to be generally agreed upon policies for the organization:

1. IAMCR should represent a critical orientation to the study of media and communication and is committed to principles of social justice.
2. IAMCR strives for a global and inclusive dialogue to address power differences and contribute to a more equitable society/world.
3. IAMCR should promote links with civil society.
4. IAMCR needs to continue its involvement in multilateral policy interventions.

5. IAMCR should be committed to the improvement of academic environments, including academic freedom and labour conditions.

We have also worked to operate in a transparent and inclusive manner, reporting often to the International Council and general membership, and involving the IC and general members in the activities and organization of the association in various ways.

The EB has collectively participated in the following activities:

1. Held monthly Skype meetings.
2. Held annual face-to-face EB meetings (in conjunction with conference site visits).
3. Established an internal system of document distribution (via Google Docs).
4. Revised policies relating to EB budgets (no EB member has an individual budget, but presents expenses as incurred).
5. Prepared annual reports presented to the International Council (IC).
6. Prepared IC meeting agendas and reports.
7. Prepared and implemented IC electronic meeting and voting process.
8. Prepared and received IC approval for new electronic voting process.
9. Represented IAMCR at a wide range of meetings, seminars, conferences and other events.
10. Developed a system, encouraged and approved IAMCR's co-sponsorship of various conferences, seminars, and other events.
11. Established new relationships and maintained existing ones with regional and national media/communication organizations around the world, including regional organizations such as ICA, ECREA, ALAIC, and AMIC, and national organizations such as INTERCOM (Brazil), SFSIC (France), and JSSJMC (Japan).

Specific accomplishments of this EB are presented here as they pertain to general themes. All activities have been discussed by the EB as a whole, while individual members sometimes have taken responsibility for specific areas/activities.

#### Conferences

- Assisted with organization and coordination of IAMCR conferences, working with LOCs through the Conference Organizing Committee.
- Made site visits to conference locations.
- Arranged for future conferences through calls for proposals and personal communication and travel.
- Established, implemented and revised Memo of Understanding (MoU) for Local Organizing Committees.
- Improved and distributed Conference Guidelines document.
- Developed guidelines for conference greening, with the Environmental Impact Committee.
- Established, implemented and expanded travel grants for young scholars in low or middle income countries.
- Co-sponsored a wide range of conferences/symposia around the world.

## Membership

- Designed and implemented a membership campaign, including preparation of various materials.
- Initiated and implemented a membership survey.

## Financial matters

- Reorganized bank accounts.
- Developed and implemented improved financial reporting.
- Prepared and shared financial reports.

## New programs/committees/task forces

- IAMCR Ambassadors (representatives especially in developing countries to encourage and support IAMCR membership).
- Task Force on the Global Alliance for Media and Gender (GAMAG)
- Clearinghouse for Public Statements.
- Committee on Improvement of Academic Life.
- Task Force on Conference Models and Fees.
- Committee and Task Force Project Fund.
- Section and Working Group Project Fund.

## Awards

- Arranged announcement, selection and presentation of Smythe and Schiller awards.
- Created, publicized and implemented new awards:
  - Stuart Hall Award
  - Urban Communication Foundation Grant
  - Climate Communication Research in Action Award

## UNESCO/UN

- Reinvigorated our relationship with UNESCO.
  - Received financial support for IAMCR conferences.
  - Organized special sessions at IAMCR conferences.
  - Invited UNESCO representatives to participate at IAMCR conferences.
- Attended and submitted statement at the High Level Meeting on WSIS+10 (UN/New York).
- Participated at a high level in the creation and development of the Global Alliance for Media and Gender (GAMAG)
- Presented oral statement at the UN Commission on the Status of Women.
- Promoted various UNESCO events, such as Women Make News, World Press Day, etc.

### Misc. Projects

- Research project with French media research association (SFSIC).

### New and improved policies

- Worked with the Scholarly Review Committee to develop guidelines for assessing and creating Sections and Working Group
- Created and implemented Publications Committee Guidelines.
- Improved and implemented election process.

### Fundraising

- Expanded the role of the Executive Director's office (with funds from the Dublin conference).
- Through the Fund-Raising Committee, worked on fundraising opportunities for the association.

### Publications

- Published IAMCR newsletter three times each year in the association's official languages (English, French, Spanish)
- Supported new book series with Palgrave.

### Representation

- Represented IAMCR at various conferences and other events.
- Organized/participated in panels at regional media research organizations.

### 2012-2016 Executive Board

President: Janet Wasko

Secretary-General: Maria Michalis

Treasurer: Nico Carpentier

Vice Presidents: Aimeé Vega Montiel & Pradip Thomas

Executive Director: Bruce Girard (ex officio member)