

IAHR Bulletin Supplement (July 2004)

The International Association for the History of Religions (IAHR)

[<http://www.iahr.dk>]

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Nominations for the IAHR Executive Committee 2005-2010

In compliance with the Constitution of the IAHR and with the nomination procedural rules for the Executive Committee of the IAHR, adopted by the International Committee in Hildesheim on May 24, 1998 and revised by the General Assembly on August 12, 2000, a nominating committee was appointed in May 2003. The committee is composed of three elder stateswomen and/or statesmen who no longer seek office. They are chosen in view of their close knowledge of the IAHR and their wider knowledge of international scholarship. They are also chosen in terms of gender and regional representation. The Executive Committee voted on the matter and appointed the following:

- Prof. Michel Despland, Montréal, Québec
- Prof. Michael Pye (chairperson), Marburg, Germany
- Dr. Yolotl González Torres, San Ángel, México

Their charge was to produce one or more nominations for the positions of all the officers and the members without portfolio. These candidates, as well as any other candidates that may be proposed by members of the International Committee, will be subject to election during the next International Committee meeting in Tokyo, Japan, on March 27, 2005 (9:00-12:00 a.m.). According to the constitution, members of the International Committee may propose alternative nominations not less than one month prior to each international congress, which means one month before the day prior to the opening of the congress. The actual opening date of the congress is March 24, 2005. **Thus, alternative nominations must reach the General Secretary by e-mail or ordinary mail no later than February 23, 2005.** All nominations shall be made public, but those nominations that are inconsistent with the constraints mentioned in the constitution and in the rules will not be taken into consideration. These rules are included in this bulletin.

The nominating committee was instructed to submit a list of candidates no earlier than March 23, 2004 and no later than June 23, 2004. This coming electoral term will witness the introduction of a new set of offices. The new structure, which is explained on page 5, not

only requires candidates who are willing to serve the IAHR but also candidates who have the talents to carry out the specified tasks. There are also a number of other important constraints as set out by the constitution and the rules of the IAHR. The other constraints are as follows: the officers in particular, and the members of the Executive Committee in general, shall be chosen in such a way as reasonably to reflect various parts of the world where the academic study of religion is pursued in its various disciplines. The Nominating Committee should strive towards a gender balance among the nominees for the Executive Committee. Furthermore, the nominees should be actively in post at a university or a comparable institution at the time of the election, they should be chosen for their organizational abilities as well as their scholarship, and they should be committed to the aims and goals of the IAHR. There are also constraints in relation to the number of terms that members of the Executive Committee may hold. They may hold office for one quinquennial term each and be subject to re-election. No one member shall serve in the same office more than two terms and no other member shall serve for a total of more than four terms with or without intervening periods. Finally, not more than two-thirds of the Committee shall be carried on from one term to the next.

As noted in the accompanying letter by the Chair of the Nominating Committee, Prof. Michael Pye, four senior officers will be rotated off the Executive Committee, namely Peter Antes (President), Montserrat Abumalham (Vice-President), Armin W. Geertz (General Secretary) and Gary Lease (Treasurer). Peter Antes has served the full four terms and therefore cannot be re-elected. Montserrat Abumalham and Armin W. Geertz no longer seek office, and Gary Lease does not wish to continue as Treasurer.

The Nominating Committee has handed the following list of candidates over to me:

President	Rosalind I. J. Hackett (USA)
Vice-President	Akio Tsukimoto (Japan)
Vice-President	Jacob Olupona (USA)
Vice-President	Nils G. Holm (Finland)
General Secretary	Tim Jensen (Denmark)
Deputy General Secretary	Ingvild Sælid Gilhus (Norway)
Treasurer	<i>nomination invited but declined</i>
Deputy Treasurer	Pratap Kumar (South Africa)
Membership Secretary	Abraham Khan (Canada)
Publications Secretary	Brian Bocking (United Kingdom)
Internet Officer	Francisco Diez de Velasco (Spain)
Member without portfolio	Alef Theria Wasim (Indonesia)
Member without portfolio	Morny Joy (Canada)

A few points can be noted here. First, the only post that is contested is the Vice-President post. Second, the nominee for the post of Treasurer declined the nomination and, thus, there is no candidate. Hopefully, appropriate nominations will be forthcoming from the International Committee.

As required by the constitution and by-laws, it is incumbent on the General Secretary to send the list of candidates to the International Committee of the IAHR. The officers of the IAHR affiliates are hereby requested to make the list known to their International Committee representatives. The representatives are normally the President and Secretary – or such representatives as appointed by the President and/or Secretary – of each affiliate national and

regional association together with the members of the Executive Committee.

Accompanying letter from the Chair of the Nominating Committee

To the President and the General Secretary of the IAHR

Dear Peter, dear Armin

On behalf of the nominating committee (Michel Despland, Canada; Yolotl Gonzalez Torres, Mexico; Michael Pye, Germany) I have pleasure in sending you herewith our list of nominations for the Executive Committee for the period 2005-2010. Please allow me to make a few introductory comments.

First, our discussion process was quite complicated and therefore it was not possible to send out individual letters in the course of it, asking whether the persons named would agree to be nominated. The resultant debate might have been too widely networked. We therefore nominated them as a list *subject to their agreement*. In the meantime we have heard that, with one exception, the persons named have in fact agreed to their nomination. Unfortunately, the exception relates to the important office of Treasurer (see below). While I wrote to you provisionally on June 23rd, as required, the present form of this letter gives the exact situation as of now, while documenting the correct nomination process.

Second, we are very concerned about the current world political climate in which the IAHR, as an international and intercultural organisation, has to operate. On the basis both of our experience and of our very recent listening in various parts of the world, including largely Muslim regions and non-Anglophone areas, we regard the potential location of leading IAHR positions within the USA as very problematic indeed. Hopefully, this climate will change. But currently it is so, and the damage caused by wars which are widely regarded as unjust will take many years to overcome. In the meantime, any suggestion of cultural hegemony must be avoided. We make this point because our nomination for president, Prof. Rosalind Hackett (British by nationality), is professionally based in the USA; at the same time, however, she is professionally identified with Africa and is a fluent speaker of French. We are also aware of the importance to the IAHR of being able to speak to a constituency *within* the USA, just as, in previous times, efforts have been made to speak within other major cultures in spite of political tensions. We hope therefore that this nomination will be understood by all concerned as one which arises in the context of considerations typical of the internationalism of the IAHR. We do not seek to *politicize* the position of the president or of any other officer; rather we seek to *depoliticize* it. In this we request cooperation, particularly on the part of those who will in due course be elected.

Third, while there is a requirement that questions of international balance should be considered - and we have considered them - it should be remembered that members of the Executive Committee do *not* represent particular countries. For example, our nominees for vice-presidencies do not represent Japan, USA/Nigeria or Finland. Since the IAHR now has member associations in so many countries it is impossible for them to be "represented" on the Executive Committee. On the contrary, it is the International Committee of the IAHR which provides this representation, and we should never tire of reminding our members of this, all over the world. Nevertheless our complete list includes at least ten countries of nationality or residence.

Fourth, on the basis of (a) the various rules and (b) personal information received, four

senior officials will be rotated off the Executive Committee this time, namely Peter Antes (President), Montserrat Abumalham (Vice President), Armin Geertz (General Secretary) and Gary Lease (Treasurer). It is with great regret that we do not have the option of nominating any of these colleagues for further office. This means that the continuing role of some other members, albeit with other offices, will be of great importance in providing continuity.

Fifth, there are a few tactical considerations in our list. The Deputy General Secretary would be in Europe, which is a good thing because the next major congress *might* also be somewhere in Europe (after North America 1995, Africa 2000 and Asia 2005) and the practice has been establishing itself that this post plays a leading role in organizing the academic programme of the Congress. We hoped and hope that the treasurer might be in the Eurozone. Though this is of course not essential it would be particularly appropriate because the IAHR has just been legally registered in the Netherlands. For this reason, as well as for general continuity, we sought to nominate Gerrie ter Haar to this position. Unfortunately however, we have now heard that for quite understandable reasons she has declined this nomination. We are sorry that we were unable to identify and nominate a treasurer within the time allotted to us.

Sixth, we are required to consider gender balance (though not necessarily precise parity). Five of our proposals (with the treasurer) would have been for women, - and five out of twelve positions maintains the good record of the IAHR record in this respect both in 1995 and in 2000.

Seventh, we are quite aware that members of the International Committee (which includes the present Executive Committee) have the right to nominate candidates for election. We also regard elections as a healthy process. In order to illustrate this we have proposed three candidates for the post of Vice-President, although only two are to be elected. We will not be surprised if others are nominated for various positions (in accordance with the rules). In particular, it remains necessary for a treasurer to be nominated, and this nomination will now have to come from within the International Committee.

Here, then, is our list of nominations:

President: Rosalind Hackett (USA)

Vice-presidents: Akio Tsukimoto (Japan), Jacob Olupona (USA), Nils Holm (Finland)
(only two to be elected)

General Secretary: Tim Jensen (Denmark)

Deputy General Secretary: Ingvild Saelid Gilhus (Norway)

Treasurer: (Gerrie ter Haar, Netherlands; nomination declined)

Deputy Treasurer: Pratap Kumar (South Africa/UK)

Membership Secretary: Abraham Khan (Canada)

Publications Officer: Brian Bocking (UK)

Internet Officer: Francisco Diez de Velasco (Spain)

Members without portfolio: Alef Theria Wasim (Indonesia), Morny Joy (Canada)

With heartfelt encouragement for the further steps in a transparent, democratic and creative electoral process,
(June 23rd) July 8th 2004

for the Nominating Committee
Michael Pye (Marburg, Germany)

The new offices of the Executive Committee

During the business meetings in Durban 2000, it was decided that the individual members of the Executive Committee should take greater part in the day-to-day work of the IAHR. This would in principle help relieve the General Secretary from matters that easily could be taken care of by other officers. Thus for the first time in IAHR history, the Executive Committee will consist of 10 officers and 2 members without portfolio. Thus candidates for these positions should be chosen for their talents in these particular areas as well as for their dedication to the IAHR and their scholarship. In order to help alternative nominees decide whether they are willing to accept their candidacy, it would be appropriate here to briefly describe the responsibilities and duties of each office.

The *President* represents the IAHR wherever appropriate, chairs the IAHR business meetings, and maintains close communication with the General Secretary and the Treasurer.

The *Vice-Presidents* represent the IAHR in various contexts and serve as deputies or substitutes for the President if necessary.

The *General Secretary* coordinates the work of the other officers, effectuates policy, updates the rules and regulations in the IAHR Handbook and the website, fills out applications, writes reports, plans meetings and agendas, monitors SOR, NUMEN and NUMEN Book Series appointments, and maintains the daily correspondence of the IAHR.

The *Deputy General Secretary* serves as substitute for the General Secretary if necessary, and it has now come into usage that this office involves chairing the academic programme of the world congress.

The *Treasurer* effectuates IAHR fiscal policy, collects fees, pays the bills, engages in fund raising efforts, and maintains close contact with the General Secretary.

The *Deputy Treasurer* serves as substitute for the Treasurer if necessary, but can also concentrate efforts on fund raising campaigns.

The *Membership Secretary* maintains the membership address list and the membership database, makes proactive efforts to secure up-to-date addresses by checking affiliate websites and bulletins and contacting those affiliates whose addresses are faulty or incomplete. Furthermore, the Membership Secretary maintains close contact with the General Secretary.

The *Publications Officer* follows up on all IAHR conference related publications, updates this information for the IAHR Handbook and the website, maintains an occasional paper bulletin, prints information flyers, monitors SOR, NUMEN and NUMEN Book Series activities, and maintains close contact with the General Secretary.

The *Internet Officer* maintains the IAHR website, keeps it up-to-date, follows the user statistics of the website, coordinates and monitors the web version of the membership database and maintains close contact with the General Secretary.

Members without portfolio can be appointed to carry out ad hoc tasks.

It will be interesting to see whether this new delegation of duties will work out. Whereas the problem that the new offices were meant to solve, i.e. re-apportioning the growing number of duties that have accumulated for the General Secretary, has been solved, a foreseeable problem will be getting everyone to do their tasks and keep the General Secretary up-to-date on their areas of responsibility. If it doesn't work out, the constitution will have to be changed in order to accommodate the situation (which would take effect for the 2015-2020 Executive Committee).

The members of the International Committee should keep these matters in mind as they

deliberate on alternative nominations. The Executive Committee will be expected to be active and willing to share the burdens.

One final matter: please make sure that nominees have accepted their candidacy. A statement to that effect should accompany nominations that are sent in to the General Secretary. Once again, the deadline for alternative nominations is **February 23, 2005**.

Nomination Procedure for the Executive Committee of the IAHR

(Adopted by the International Committee of the IAHR on May 24, 1998 in Hildesheim, Germany; revised to accommodate constitutional changes adopted by the General Assembly of the IAHR on August 12, 2000.)

1. Nominating Procedure

The nominating procedure is set up in Article 4.c of the Constitution of the International Association for the History of Religions.

2. Nominating Committee

- 2.a. A Nominating Committee is appointed by the Executive Committee as stipulated by Article 4.c of the Constitution.
- 2.b. The Nominating Committee is composed of three senior colleagues who no longer seek office. The members of the committee are chosen in view of their close knowledge of the IAHR and their wider knowledge of international scholarship. The members of the committee are also chosen in terms of gender and regional representation.
- 2.c. The members of the Nominating Committee shall appoint one of its members as the Chairperson of the committee. The Chairperson has the responsibility of guiding the work of the committee and of communicating its nominations to the International Committee.

3. Nominations

- 3.a. "A Nominating Committee, appointed by the Executive Committee, shall submit nominations for the next Executive Committee to the members of the International Committee by mail not more than twelve months and not less than nine months prior to each international congress." [Article 4.c of the Constitution].
- 3.b. The nominations may be accompanied by a brief recommendation for the nominations.
- 3.c. The nominations shall be made public by the General Secretary in the IAHR Bulletin or by direct mail to the officers of the constituent societies of the IAHR.
- 3.d. The candidates will be invited to give a brief statement of candidacy in the IAHR Bulletin.

4. Constraints

- 4.a. "The Executive Committee is composed of a President, two Vice-Presidents, a General Secretary, a Deputy General Secretary, a Treasurer, a Deputy Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, a Publications Officer, an Internet Officer and two members without portfolio. The officers in particular, and the members of the Executive Committee in general, shall be chosen in such a way as reasonably to reflect various parts of the world where

academic study of religion is pursued in its various disciplines.... The members of the Executive Committee shall hold office for one quinquennial term each and be subject to re-election, but not more than two-thirds of the Committee shall be carried on from one term to the next. No one member shall serve in the same office more than two terms and no other member shall serve for a total of more than four terms with or without intervening periods.” [Article 4.c of the Constitution].

- 4.b. At the International Committee meeting in Paris in 1993, it was recommended that the Nominating Committee strive towards a gender balance among the nominees for the Executive Committee.
- 4.c. At the International Committee meeting in Rome (1990) and recalled for the minutes in Paris (1993), it was recommended that nominees for the Executive Committee should be actively in post at a university or a comparable institution at the time of the election.
- 4.d. Nominees should be chosen for their organizational abilities as well as their scholarship, and they should be committed to the aims and goals of the IAHR.

5. Alternative Nominations

- 5.a. “Members of the International Committee may propose alternative nominations not less than one month prior to each international congress.” [Article 4.c of the Constitution].
- 5.b. One month prior to each international congress means one month before the day prior to the opening of the congress.
- 5.c. Such nominations shall be made public. Those nominations that are inconsistent with Point 4 above shall not be taken into consideration.

Proposals for Honorary Life Membership of the IAHR

In Durban, a procedure for proposing Honorary Life Membership of the IAHR was decided upon. The procedure is set out in the by-laws as follows:

The International Committee of the IAHR decided at its meeting in Mexico City on August 9, 1995 that honorary life memberships can be conferred on senior scholars who have distinguished themselves through life-long service to the history of religions through their scholarship, regular participation in IAHR conferences, service as national or international officers, and/or other outstanding contributions. Such memberships would help to designate the range of interests current in the IAHR and would provide a wide circle of consultants in relation to IAHR-related activities. Honorary life members would be listed on the editorial cover of *Numen* and receive the IAHR Bulletin free of charge.

The International Committee of the IAHR decided at its meeting in Durban on August 9, 2000 that recommendations for honorary life membership should be presented to the International Committee at its meeting during quinquennial congresses.

The procedure is as follows:

The International Committee appoints by recommendation of the Executive Committee an Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee consisting of three honorary life members. The General Secretary of the IAHR shall then request the IAHR affiliates to

suggest one or two names and the Executive Committee to suggest up to three names. These names will be forwarded to the Advisory Committee which will choose up to five names. Their recommendation shall be accompanied by brief statements of the achievements of the recommended persons. Their recommendation will be presented to the International Committee by the General Secretary of the IAHR.

At its meeting in Bergen, Norway, on May 10, 2003, the International Committee appointed professors Louise Bäckman, Tamaru Noriyoshi and R. J. Zwi Werblowsky to serve on the Honorary Life Membership Advisory Committee. Prof. Werblowsky was appointed Chair of the committee. The next step in the process is that the IAHR affiliates suggest one or two names accompanied by brief statements of the achievements of the recommended persons and **send this information to the General Secretary no later than December 1, 2004**. These suggestions will be forwarded together with the suggestions from the Executive Committee to the Advisory Committee. They will then choose 5 names to be presented to the International Committee by the General Secretary.

The current Honorary Life Members are listed on the IAHR website as follows:

Current honorary life members

Professor J. Omosade Awolalu (Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria)
Professor Louise Bäckman (Solna, Sweden)
Professor M. André Caquot (Paris, France)
Professor Carsten Colpe (Berlin, Germany)
Professor, Director Kong Fan (Beijing, China)
Professor Y. González Torres (San Ángel, Mexico)
Professor Åke Hultkrantz (Lidingö, Sweden)
Professor J. Leclant (Paris, France)
Professor Manuel Marzal (Lima, Peru)
Professor Noriyoshi Tamaru (Tokyo, Japan)
Professor G. C. Oosthuizen (Westville, South Africa)
Professor Michael Pye (Marburg, Germany)
Professor Julien Ries (Namur-Suarlee, Belgium)
Professor Kurt Rudolph (Marburg, Germany)
Professor Jacques Waardenburg (Lausanne, Switzerland)
Professor R. J. Zwi Werblowsky (Jerusalem, Israel)

Former honorary life members

Professor Lauri Honko (Turku, Finland)
Professor Annemarie Schimmel (Bonn, Germany)
Professor Eric Sharpe (Sydney, Australia)
Professor Ninian Smart (Lancaster, England)
Professor Geo Widengren (Stockholm, Sweden)

Call for conference and congress bids

One of the key aspects of the IAHR is hosting conferences and congresses. These events, which are held in various parts of the world, effectively bring together members and serve as well to encourage the development of new IAHR affiliates. Thus the IAHR network strengthens and grows through its conferences. There are several different types of IAHR events. The primary event, of course, is the quinquennial World Congress. This is truly a world event and is characterized by a large array of panels, symposia, keynote addresses, plenary sessions, roundtable sessions, etc. Major IAHR business meetings including the International Committee, which conducts the elections, and the General Assembly are also held during the congress. A number of the affiliates also hold meetings during the congress and various publishers and series editors host receptions and/or conduct meetings. Difference conferences are held in between the congresses. The IAHR Regional Conferences usually focus on a broad theme with participation by scholars from a particular region. The IAHR Special Conferences usually focus on a special theme with participation by local scholars and a number of invited scholars from other countries. The IAHR-sponsored conferences are hosted and run by one or more national or regional affiliates. The right to use the IAHR-designation requires that attempts are made by the hosting association to cover the travel and living expenses of at least two key persons from countries with weak currencies. Any participating representative of the Executive Committee should be allowed time to speak about the IAHR and its activities. It is further recommended that wherever possible attention should be paid to gender balance in terms of speakers as well as of participants. A number of other requirements are listed at the IAHR website. In return, the IAHR will send one or two Executive Committee members to the conference, it will cover the event at the website and will seek possible access to *Numen* or *Numen Book Series*, and, in cases where the hosting country has currency problems, publication subsidy in or form or another will be explored.

The IAHR also conducts Co-sponsored Conferences. These involve conferences arranged by IAHR affiliates together with at least one other international academic association and that participants are from not less than three different countries.

There were no conferences held in 2001, but since 2002 the following have been held:

<i>Year</i>	<i>Special Conferences</i>	<i>Regional Conferences</i>
2002		Wellington, New Zealand (New Zealand Association)
2003	Bergen, Norway (Norwegian Association IAHR Intl. Com.)	New Delhi, India (Indian Association)
2004	Santander, Spain (Spanish and European Assoc.)	Legon, Ghana (African Association) Yogyakarta and Semang, Indonesia (Indonesian Association)
2005		New Delhi, India (South Asian Association)
2005	XIX World Congress of the IAHR, Tokyo, Japan	

The Executive Committee, which must meet once every year, convenes during these events. The International Committee, which meets once in between the world congresses, usually convenes during an IAHR event three years after the congress.

The purpose of this section is to invite bids for the next World Congress venue (2010) and for any IAHR conferences during the years 2005-2010. So far, there are preliminary plans to host a conference in Turkey during 2006 and one in Namibia during 2007. Furthermore, it seems that some affiliates are considering a possible congress site in Europe.

Any bids are welcome. The Executive Committee will be meeting in September 2004 where bids will be discussed. Otherwise, it will be meeting again in Tokyo, and, of course, the International Committee will also convene and any further bids brought to the attention of the General Secretary will be presented.

Other items

As most of the affiliates have noticed, the primary channel of information from the IAHR to its members is through the website <<http://www.iahr.dk>>. Here you will find the latest news as it happens. Affiliate officers are expected to share IAHR announcements with their members. Usually up-dates are announced by an e-mail from the General Secretary. Since the General Secretary does not have the e-mail addresses of all the officers of the IAHR affiliates, it would be in the interests of all parties that current e-mail addresses are sent to him. There is unfortunately insufficient resources to track down current e-mail and postal addresses, and, therefore, there are members and affiliates that receive no news from the IAHR. This is quite unfortunate, and many affiliates evidently do not understand the importance of this simple procedure.

There are three matters of announcement which will be placed on the website, but should be mentioned here as well. The first is the good news that the IAHR has now become registered as a legal body in The Hague, The Netherlands. After years of complications, this happy event has finally come to fruition through the kind services of Mr. Joed Elich of E. J. Brill Publishers in Leiden. Our most heartfelt gratitude is hereby extended to Mr. Elich!

As a result of this turn of events, the IAHR can now confirm legal agreements with Brill concerning the *Numen Book Series*, *Science of Religion*, *Abstracts and Index of Recent Articles* (which will be taken over from Roots and Branches of Cambridge) as well as *Numen*.

Another excellent bit of news is the fact that after several decades of effort, the General Secretary has now received an application for membership from Turkey. The name of the organization is Türkiye Dinler Tarihi Derneği (TÜDTAD) / Turkish Association for the History of Religions (TAHR). The association consists of 86 members from 22 different universities in Turkey. The Board consists of Prof. Dr. Abdurrahman Küçük (President), Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın (Vice-President), Doc. Dr. Ahmet Hikmet Eroğlu (Accountant), Dr. Asife Ünal (Secretary) and Mr. Bayram Polat (Treasurer).

Finally, as many of you may have noticed, the second call for papers for the 19th World Congress of the IAHR was sent out in May. The call can be downloaded in pdf-format at the following addresses: <<http://www.iahr.dk/19thcongress2call.pdf>> and the congress website located at <<http://www.l.u-tokyo.ac.jp/iahr2005>>. Please check the congress website regularly for up-dates and note that the deadline for early registration is September 30, 2004. I can report that more than 1500 participants have already registered!