

The Hague, July 4, 2017

To: IWA Governing Members
IWA Strategic Council

Copy for information:
Chairs of SG
IWA Board of Directors

Dear colleagues, dear friends

As communicated in my previous letter, due to the vacancy of the position of Executive Director, Tom Williams, IWA Programme Director, assumed the position of Interim Executive Director since the first of April. He fulfils this task with great professionalism and transparency with the help of all the management team of IWA.

I am happy to announce that we have recruited Prof. Kala Vairavamoorthy as the new Executive Director after a two steps preselection out of 80 candidate compiled by Writeresearch, the UK head-hunter, and a deep final selection process by the recruitment committee (composed by the President, two vice-Presidents, Strategic Council chair and IWAP chair). The recruitment process and the final choice have been validated by the Board in its June meeting and Prof. Kala Vairavamoorthy has signed his contract a week ago.

Kala Vairavamoorthy is currently the Deputy Director General (Research) at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). He is a water resource management expert, with a particular interest in urban water issues. He was the Founding Dean of the Patel College of Global Sustainability and a tenured Professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, at the University of South Florida. He was a full professor and Chair of Water Engineering at the University of Birmingham, UK. Kala has dual nationality (UK and Sri Lanka). He is a well-known IWA member and many of you have surely already met him.

Kala is eager to take over the challenges of IWA, and bring his wide scientific, managerial and cultural experience. He will move to the Netherlands and will be in position to take his new assignment on the first of October 2017, but should be able to be with us at the next Board, Strategic Council and General Assembly in September in Prague. **Up to that time Tom Williams will remain in full capacity as Interim Executive Director.**

In May we have started conducting a membership survey to better understand our member needs and values. The Membership, Engagement and Communication committee of the Board under chairmanship of Silver Mugisha (silver.mugisha@nwsc.co.ug), is looking with deep interest at the changes of policy made two years ago in the members' recruitment and the new IT tools, in order to understand what should be adapted in order to provide the best possible service to our members. The challenge is to keep our core values, linked to our status of Charity and member association, meanwhile we adapt to the new tools available for communication, the way to work nowadays and the trend of the market. Do not hesitate to come back to us in order to help to improve!

The Board besides usual tasks has validated in June the composition of the new Strategic Council which a third of it been renewed through a process of election by segments. You will find in copy the composition of it. The Strategic Council under the Chairmanship of Daniel Nolasco (danielnolasco1@gmail.com) is responsible for providing strategic guidance to the Board and Governing Assembly on a range of issues, including Specialist Groups, programmes and important global issues.

As announced the next **General Assembly will be in Prague (Czech Republic) the Saturday 23rd of September. The Strategic Council (in its renewed composition) will meet the Friday 22nd** and will be invited to join the Governing Assembly on the 23rd in particular for common discussions on SDG's in the afternoon. In the Governing Assembly the life of the association will be presented and commented, along with the validation of the 2016 accounts, the choice of the 2022 World Water Congress, and as every two years the election of a President (for the period October 2018/ October 2020). **On Friday September 22nd, a diner will take place** for a common networking time between Board, Strategic Council, Governing Members representatives and staff. The Board, the staff and myself we hope that lots of you would be able to take the opportunity to be in Prague for those important moments of the life and governance of the association.

The Water and Development Congress & Exhibition in Buenos Aires, November 13-16; <http://www.waterdevelopmentcongress.org/> is in full preparation. The selection of papers and workshops should be done in two or three weeks and released.

In parallel the Tokyo Congress is under construction <http://www.iwa-network.org/news/tokyo-2018-first-announcement/>. We should finally launch the call in the near future.

We also continue to support the fantastic work of our members in organising Specialist Group conferences throughout the year (www.iwa-network.org/all-events/). It is a bottom-up approach which is key for us!!

And do not hesitate to send Young water professionals to Cape Town for the Young Water Professionals Conference (December 10-13; <http://iwaywpconference.org/>). You will prepare the IWA new scientific and governance community of 2030/2040.

With kind regards,



Diane D'Arras
President
International Water Association