



International Association for Ecology and Health Board Communiqué

Striving for sustainable health of people, wildlife and ecosystems by promoting discovery, understanding and transdisciplinarity.

VOTE OF THANKS

The Board wants to offer a vote of thanks to the outgoing President Professor Jacob Zinsstag, Associate Professor Edouard Kouassi and Professor Nitish Debnath, and thank them for their years of service to the IAEH Community through their work on the Board and in their respective countries. Associate Professor Edouard Kouassi worked hard to grow the membership of the Association providing years of service on the Membership Committee and will focus on his important work on sustainable development and mental health. Prof. Debnath has served on the Board since 2011 and will remain engaged with the IAEH through the development of a regional chapter of the EcoHealth Association in Bangladesh. Professor Zinsstag has been President of the Association from 2012 and during his Presidency he made significant contributions to the development of the EcoHealth Community, offered his considerable wisdom and support to the development of the on-line teaching, learning and communications strategies. Professor Zinsstag will also remain active and engaged through establishing a regional chapter in Europe, and has made himself available to support the incoming President and Board. Vote of thanks as well to all those who have offered support to the Board through their active participation, their provision of Secretariat and Administrative support; who have been actively engaging students around the world and undertaking projects in their communities and growing our membership.

INCOMING BOARD MEMBERS

Professor Kerry Arabena was elected President, and was joined by other new Board Members Dr. Hung Nguyen, Dr. Neville Ellis, Dr. Hume Field and Aaron Jenkins, who now fills the vacancy created by Professor Debnath. We will be sharing more information about our Board, their roles Executive functions, aspirations and projects on our EcoHealth Website in the coming weeks.

IAEH AWARD WINNERS FOR 2016

The 2016 EcoHealth Awards were presented by the International Association for Ecology and Health at the OneHealth EcoHealth Congress on 7 December 2016 at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. The IAEH Board wanted to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of our Major Award Recipient for 2016, Emeritus Professor Valerie Brown. Also recognised were two Exceptional Early Career Award Winners Dr. Jonathan Kingsley and Dr. Hung Nguyen. In addition, The Board wanted to offer a special thanks to the winners of the Best Student Poster Kouassi Richard M'Bra and the winners of the Best Student Presentation Melanie Bannister – Tyrrell and Melanie Voevodin. In addition to certificates and cash prizes, each winner is awarded a complimentary 3 year membership in the International Association for Ecology and Health.

IT'S A WRAP

The Board wanted to acknowledge the contribution of members of the Organising Committee in their work over the past three years to bring together the EcoHealth and OneHealth

communities in an inaugural joint Congress that involved over 1000 delegates from over 86 countries across the world. <http://oheh2016.org/organising-committee/>. Also, the EcoHealth Board acknowledges the extraordinary contribution of those scholarship winners who were able to attend the conference – over 170 people were assisted to attend and give voice to a strong student and early career delegation. This next generation of students, scholars and early career scholarship winners were able to participate in the development of the Aspirational Statement from the Congress; which is being shared and discussed across the world. The Board acknowledges all the Students who lit the Fire and the Elders (in our respective local and knowledge tradition communities) who fanned the flame to bring to life this Aspirational Statement, available at <https://ohehaspirationalstatement.wordpress.com> Also noted was the contribution of Associate Professor Robyn Alders AO for Blogging about the development of a Statement relating to Secure, Safe, Sustainable Food Systems at: <http://oheh2016.org/sustainable-food-systems/>; and the thank you message from the Chairs of OHEH2016 <http://oheh2016.org/welcome-message/>. Next, we look forward to the 2018 Conference in Cali, South America in 2018. <https://ecohealth.net/resources/conferences/>

POST CONFERENCE MEETING OF THE NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The IAEH Board will meet every six weeks over the coming year to consider and decide on matters that will strengthen the position and contribution of the International Association of Ecology and Health. After each meeting, we will send a communique to inform stakeholders of the work of the Board and matters regarding the future contribution of the Association. Please forward this onto colleagues and employees who may be interested in its content.

DECISIONS MADE BY THE BOARD

The Board members decided to rebuild our member base and as a matter of priority ensure we have a comprehensive list of past and present IAEH members, and their current contact information. We will also be building a newsletter subscription contact list, as we seek to be more engaged with our members and communities. These lists will be helpful for sending information about Regional Chapters and conferences, educational activities and events.

For the position of Vice President, as we have new Directors on the Board, a decision was made for interested Directors to put forward a Statement on their key contributions to the Association. The Vice President will be voted for at the next Board meeting.

To protect the viability and sustainability of the Association going forward, the Board made and ratified a number of key decisions in relation to our financial and strategic positions. To shift into a strong financial position, the Board of the Association moved to separate the business elements of the EcoHealth journal from the Association, and that the Board craft an MOU to redefine the relationship between the Journal and the Association effective immediately (7 December 2016). This decision means that the Association's Constitutional requirements to change the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal no longer apply. Funds can be freed up and used to support the growth of the Association separate to that of the Journal. The

Board, through its member survey, will seek input on the drafting of an MOU between the Association and the Journal with a focus on content. The Association will instead become a founding member of the Journal. Bi-monthly meetings between the Editorial team and the Board are no longer required. The Editorial Board and the Editor-in-Chief of the Journal have been informed and the impacts of this decision on costs associated with membership are being considered.

In addition to these decisions, the Board asked the Treasurer to redraft our Association's budget showing the impact of our decisions through until 2020, including the aspirations of our members. Through this process, we will also be considering the role and contribution of our various committees and will also actively engage the committees in this re-visioning exercise.

MEMBER INPUT TO STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

The Board will be sending to members and affiliates a survey to assist us with a Strategic Planning Process planned for in April 2017. The Board need the assistance of members to co-create the roles and functions and Strategic Directions of the Association that will benefit the communities we work with, and facilitate support for practitioners, teachers, scholars and students. Members are invited to be actively engaged in the lead up to this exercise. As part of this Strategic Planning exercise, Board members are writing a series of discussion papers as a starting point for our thinking:

1. Re-visioning the IAEH – Strategies to enhance Governance and Constitutional Change
(Jonathan Sleeman and Neville Ellis)
2. Chapters of the Association – How to Build on the Experience of the Oceania Chapter, and How to Activate these around the world
(Moses Chimbari, Aaron Jenkins and Hung Nguyen)
3. Developing an MOU with the EcoHealth Journal with a focus on content, relationships and members.
(Jon Epstein and Kerry Arabena with input from John Sleeman and Vice President)
4. Addressing operational costs, budget deficits, revenue, and financing organisational capacity for impact.
(Jon Epstein, Kerry Arabena, Hume Field)

WEBSITE AND COMMUNICATIONS

There have been some improvements with the website over the past few years and we wish to thank all those who participated in the development of our Association's site, particularly by addressing the issues associated with membership registration and renewal. The website will be our major point of communication so more thought is required to support effective administration, policy and decision making for loading information on the website and having a strong social media presence. The budget decision making process will reflect the need to resource a responsive, flexible, nimble website; and a communications and marketing strategy.

For more information, podcasts and short videos from the conference – see here:

<https://www.facebook.com/One-Health-EcoHealth-Congress-2016-857413960993374/?nr>

FOLLOW US:

We want to hear from you! Send through comments, stories from the field, things that interest you and tag us on twitter. Don't forget to follow us:

Twitter: @IAEH_EcoHealth

Facebook: International Association for Ecology and Health

Email the Secretary: <https://ecohealth.net/contact-us/>

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kerry Arabena". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Kerry Arabena
President, IAEH
5th January 2017.