

Foreword

The European Water Association was formally established in 1981 under the name of the *European Water Pollution Control Association – EWPCA*. In that year I completed my PhD studies and began my professional career as a young assistant professor at the Prague Institute of Chemical Technology. In those days, modern ways of communication such as fax, electronic mail and Internet were not available for the general public, this is of course for the younger generation of today not at all imaginable as nowadays this is the norm. The computers, often with the capacity less than the capacity of our today's PCs, occupied large air-conditioned rooms and it was necessary to learn specialized programming languages for communicating with them. Therefore, communication between members of scientific communities was complicated also by existing bi-polar arrangement of the world. Under such conditions international non-governmental organisations played a very important role in the information exchange. They published professional and scientific journals,

which were available in libraries of member countries and organised conferences attended by people from both parts of the divided world in spite of limited possibilities to travel. The issues of water belonged to few exceptions where the governments at least pretended to co-operate.

When EWA was founded in 1981, another professional water organisation was already well established and known in Europe – and that was the former International Water Pollution Research Association (IAWPR – founded in 1965 in England, later changed to IAWPRC and in the 1990s to IAWQ – International Association on Water Quality). Finally, IAWQ merged in 2000 with IWSA (International Water Services Association) and the today's IWA (International Water Association) was created. Some of the countries of the former eastern block were actually the founding members of IAWPR (IWA) such as Czechoslovakia or Hungary. IAWPR was also active in organising conferences and other professional events in this region. For instance, already the second biennial congress of IAWPR was held in Prague in 1969.

Silver Jubilee

This situation was not very beneficial for the beginnings of EWA as an exclusively European association. The other big difference between IAWPR and EWPCA was the structure of the membership system. The membership in IAWPR had three member categories: (i) national governing board members (national committees of IAWPR); (ii) individual members (later in different sub-categories like student, full or retired) and (iii) corporate. Whereas EWA had only one category, which was solely national membership of professional organisations from member countries. At the beginning, the membership of EWA was formed by professional organisations from countries like Germany, The Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Portugal and Scandinavia. This was for countries from Central and Eastern Europe that the former EWPCA had the appearance as if it was like a „club for the rich“. The situation completely changed after 1990. The professional organisations

in Central and Eastern European countries, either the already existing or newly established, became independent from the government, which gave them more freedom in their activities on the one side, however on the other hand this brought about problems with financing. The new situation in the 1990s opened also new fields for the co-operation of professional organisations in Europe. The need for the co-operation was strengthened by the fact that most of the Central and Eastern European countries were preparing for joining the European Union which happened in a first step in 2004 and the next step (Bulgaria, Romania) will take place in 2007. In the next stage, countries such as Croatia or Serbia and Montenegro will certainly enter the EU. In this process, the role of the EWA was and still is to prepare the national professional organisations to work in conditions common in the EU, especially as far as the adoption of *acquis communautaire* is concerned.



The EWA celebrates its *Silver Jubilee* as a truly European professional organisation with very good working contacts between the national member associations from „old“ and „new“ EU countries and with the national organisations of countries which are not members of the EU. In addition, there is a potential for the growth of the EWA and the aim is to cover EWA membership to all European countries. EWA has also established links to the new association of water utility companies „EUREAU“. The model of future cooperation between water professionals and water companies created by EWA and EUREAU will certainly be helpful for EWA members on a national level. As a professional water association of most of the European countries the EWA is building efficient working contacts with large national societies from the United States and Japan. A great emphasis is given towards improving the existing and for starting new contacts and activities with the world water asso-

ciation IWA. The biennial congress of IWA in Vienna in 2008 will be a good occasion to show the importance of IWA – EWA cooperation on the European continent.

We are confident that this anniversary brochure contributes to promoting the ideas of the EWA both in all European countries and amongst our friends and partners outside of Europe. EWA is entering its second 25 years as a well-established and dynamic association with clearly defined tasks and goals. Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to wish good health and success to all EWA staff and enthusiastic members of the EWA Management Committee and of the EWA Council for the next 25 years.



Jiří Wanner
EWA President
2005 – 2007

*Vienna 1997 (left to right):
van Riesen (DE), Ljubisavljevic (YU),
Mazepuke (LV), Myers (UK), Wanner (CZ),
Matthews (UK), Paskalev (BG)*

European Water Professionals celebrate a Silver Jubilee

The strength of the water profession is being celebrated by 25 years of working together. One of the virtues needed to embed sustainable practices into the life of modern communities is teamwork and sharing. The members of the European Water Association have demonstrated that virtue and in 25 years has grown in size so that it now represents the professional in 23 organisations.

Jiří Wannner from the Czech Republic says 'It is a great honour to be the President at this time. We share

knowledge and enjoy ourselves in doing so. We support national organisations, but we bring together the wisdom of a very wide variety of experiences and contribute to the development and application of European policy and practice.'

In fact European co-operation extends beyond the 25 years. Johannes Lohaus, Executive Director, based in Hennef, Germany, says 'co-operation started when the political map of Europe looked very different. Co-operation across the political divide was a normal part of day-to-day life for our members.'

European co-operation started as long ago as 1969 when a small number of national organisations established the first „Europäisches Abwasser Symposium“ (EAS). This was in association with Messe München GmbH at the renowned international trade fair in Munich at IFAT which is now one of the world's biggest of its type. It is held every three years.

In 1972 the organisers were joined by organisations from other countries such as France and the UK. By now the responsibility for organising the EAS was so important that a



IFAT 1981 *The founding fathers in the first Management Committee: (from left to right) Ehrhardt (NL), Fouquet (FR), Truesdale (UK), Kuntze (DE), Plümer (DE), Hawerman (SE)*



Contract signed by IAWPRC and EWPCA in 1984 (left to right): Milburn, Engelbrecht, Kuntze, Plümer

Chairman was appointed – Dr. Carl Heinz Plümer from Germany. After three more successful triennial events the founders realised that with the accession of several more countries to the European Community and the growing complexity of environmental legislation that there was a need for a European professional organisation to contribute to the development of policy and practice.

So in June 1981 the European Water Pollution Control Association, the EWPCA, was launched with Member Associations which dealt with water pollution control. The special relationship with Messe München GmbH and IFAT continued in the arrangements for the new organisation. Whilst it was organisations which belonged, individu-

al members within those bodies were to be encouraged to take advantage of, and participate in, the affairs of the European Association. The President was Dr. Ernst Kuntze and the Secretary General was Dr. Carl Plümer both from Abwassertechnische Vereinigung (ATV). This relationship with ATV and its successor, the DWA, has continued. Dr. Sigurd van Riesen was Secretary General of both organisations from 1989 to 2004 as is the current Secretary General, Johannes Lohaus.

EAS Basel 1980





IFAT 1993

The first Chairman of the Technical and Scientific Committee was Geoffrey Truesdale and its Technical Secretary was Peter Matthews both of the Institute of Water Pollution Control based in the UK.

The Council of the Association was made up of representatives from Member Associations and its routine business was conducted through a Management Committee. This remains the core of the governance of the Association.



Munich. The Management and Technical Committees meet at the same time. But in addition the Committees meet more frequently to satisfy the needs of their business. The various positions within the Management Committee as well as the Technical Committees have been on an honorary basis. The first of the business meetings was in late 1981 in Stockholm at a very exciting time when the Russian submarine was stranded. This was on display for many years in Stockholm Harbour but with the changes which took place in Europe in later years, it was returned to Russia. The first Annual Meetings took place in a rather chilly Spring Seville, but Spanish hospitality kept everyone warm.



IFAT 1983 From the start a pattern of meetings was established in which the Council meets every year in one of the countries represented in the Association, and of course every third year in

The Technical Committee determined a mission on European technical co-operation, which remains its driver. It provides a forum for experts to collaborate for mutual benefit and to contribute to



European affairs. The work on European legislation became so demanding that it established a closely allied committee to deal with these matters exclusively, but still drawing in the expert networks of the Technical Committee. It has organised many conferences including those at IFAT. Right from the start it has contributed very positively to the development of European policy and practice on such matters as sewage sludge utilisation, urban wastewater treatment, bathing water quality, flood risk management, regulation of chemicals, and research policy. It is now the only water professional NGO involved in the implementation of the Water Framework Directive. It is essential to the future of the Association that it continues to attract new recruits to keep

the Committees, task groups and expert networks vibrant. The Association published a *Code of Ethics* for individuals which has been adopted by most Member Associations.



First meeting of the EAS programme committee 1985 left hand side from back to front: Plümer (DE), Truesdale (UK), Kuntze (DE) right from back to front: Haremoës (DK), Jost (CH), Frangipane (IT), Ehrhardt (NL)



EAS | 1980

Silver Jubilee



10 Years
EWA
1991

The Association is responsible for the award of the William Dunbar Medal for services to sewage treatment technology and this has become one of the foremost awards for water professionals in the world.

The Association has also produced many documents starting with Eurowater in 1984 which provided the first comprehensive survey of water pollution control service but has included publications on the

management of investment in wastewater treatment and surveys of quality standards. In 1991 the Association launched its own Journal, European Water Pollution Control but following modern trends this is now published as an electronic journal, E-WATER and publication is encouraged from members.

A weekly e-bulletin is produced - European Water Management News - published for the EWA by the Netherlands Water Partnership. This is open to everyone.

The Association has evolved. Many countries from Central Europe joined and the Association played a key role in helping countries aspiring to join the European Union understand what the implications were with respect to water quality management. This role continues. Many of



Left: Farewell 2005
van Riesen (DE), Thaulow (NO)

Right: Trade Fair Munich





the Member Associations evolved to include drinking water management and it was clear that the governance of water was moving towards an integrated approach and so in the late 1990's the EWPCA took on the management of the total water cycle as its remit and became the European Water Association. A class of membership of Corporate Member was established many years ago and there are now 14 such members. More are welcome.

An organisation based on teamwork has, of course established many partnerships. These have included the CEN, EEA, EUREAU, EWRA, IWA, WEF, Aquatec, Pollutec and the Stockholm Water Symposium.

The Presidents have been elected from many countries. The term of office was three years and after experimenting for a while with one year, the term has settled down to two years. The Vice President at present is Peter Cook from the UK.

So there we have it – 25 years of achievement and more to come. The Association is always keen to recruit new Member Associations and Corporate Members and to encourage individuals to participate in its affairs. The next 25 years should be even better!!



William Dunbar Medal

Award winners



Year	Award winner	Country
1975	Dr. A.L. Downing	UK
1978	Dr. Ir. Aale Pasveer	NL
1981	Prof. Dr. sc. nat. E.A. Thomas	CH
1984	Herbert A. Hawkes	UK
1987	Prof. Dr.-Ing. Wilhelm von der Emde	AT
1990	em. o. Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Franz Pöpel	DE
1993	Geoffrey Ashworth Truesdale	UK
1996	Prof. Dr.-Ing. E.h. Klaus R. Imhoff	DE
1999	Prof. Mogens Henze	DK
2002	Prof. Dr.-Ing. Rolf Kayser	DE
2005	o. Prof. Dipl.-Ing. Dr. techn. Helmut Kroiss	AT

Left:
Hawkes (UK)

Middle:
Truesdale (UK)

Right:
Kroiss (AT)



EWA-Members as of today

European countries represented on the Council:

EWA National Professional Associations:

Austria (AT)
Austrian Water And Waste Management Association (ÖWAV)



Belgium (BE)
Comité Belge de l'IWA



Bulgaria (BG)
Bulgarian Water Association



Croatia (HR)
Croatian Water Pollution Control Society



Czech Republic (CZ)
Association of the Wastewater Treatment Experts (AWWTE)



Germany (DE)
DWA German Association for Water, Wastewater and Waste e.V.



Estonia (EE)
Estonian Water Association



Finland (FI)
Vesiyhdistys r.y. Water Association Finland



France (FR)
Association Scientifique et Technique pour l'Eau et l'Environnement (ASTEE)



Hungary (HU)
Hungarian Wastewater Association



Latvia (LV)
Latvian Water and Waste Water Works Association (LWSA)



Lithuania (LT)
Clean Water Association (VSA)



Luxembourg (LU)
Administration des Travaux et des Services Techniques Association Luxembourgeoise



Association Luxembourgeoise des Services d'Eau (ALUSEAU)

Netherlands (NL)
Netherlands Association for Water Management (NVA)



Norway (NO)
Norwegian Water Association (NWA)



Portugal (PT)
Associação Portuguesa para Estudos de Saneamento Básico (APESB)



Serbia and Montenegro (CS)
Yugoslav Water Pollution Control Society (YúWPCS)



Slovakia (SK)
Association of Wastewater Treatment Experts of the Slovak Republic



Slovenia (SI)
Slovenian Water Pollution Control Association



Spain (ES)
Asociación para la defensa de la calidad de las aguas (ADECAGUA)



Switzerland (CH)
Swiss Water Pollution Control Association (VSA)



Ukraine (UA)
Ukrainian Water Association



United Kingdom (GB)
The Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management (CIWEM)



EWA Corporate Members:

Canada (CA)
Paradigm Environmental Technologies, Inc.

Germany (DE)

Aggerverband
Emschergenossenschaft und Lippeverband

GFA Gesellschaft zur Förderung der Abwassertechnik e.V.

Kocks Consult GmbH
Messe München GmbH

R. Späne GmbH

Tuttahs & Meyer

Wupperverband für Wasser, Mensch und Umwelt

Netherlands (NL)

AQUATECH Int.
Watertechnology
Exhibition and Conferences

Netherlands Water Partnership

Unie van Waterschappen

Portugal (PT)

SANEST – Saneamento da Costa do Estoril, S.A.

EWA Supporting Members:

Spain (ES)
Canal de Isabel II