

17 February 2011

Dear members,

I hope the New Year 2011 started well for all of you.

On February 7th, the Association held a management committee meeting, for which you can find the minutes on our website at <http://wsa.seagrassonline.org/news/wsa-reports>.

However, I would like to provide a brief summary of what we are currently working on so that we can keep you updated. Please remember that members engagement and feedback is vital for the Association. I must stress how critical it is that all members participate in the activities planned by the Association and provide support to the Management Committee.

Here below is a quick update on ongoing activities:

- A letter of invitation to host ISBW10 in Brasil in 2012 was sent to Dr Joel Creed, Universidade do Estado do Rio de Janeiro,
- A letter of invitation to host ISBW11 in southern China in 2014 was sent to Dr Xiaoping Haung, Chinese Academy of Sciences, South China Seas Institute of Oceanography,
- An agreement was signed with Conservation International to produce a seagrass syllabus for trainings and any other educational initiative targeting resources managers and communities to increase the management, protection and monitoring of seagrass ecosystems. This tool will be available in June 2011.
- The WSA built a new Facebook page and blog. We are hoping this will stimulate discussion among the broader seagrass community and be an effective tools for communication of seagrassers around the world. We welcome any entries for the blog; for more info and to submit your entries please contact Siti Yaakub (sitimy@gmail.com).

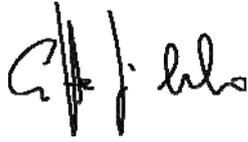
In the next few weeks we will:

- Circulate a questionnaire within the wider global seagrass community to capture ideas, initiatives and needs that the Association can address and/or support.
- Begin the process of identifying a mission and vision for the WSA, which will reflect our goals and engagement on global and regional seagrass issues.

If you would like to raise any issues, submit ideas or feedback, or volunteer for the Association, please contact the WSA Secretary, Len McKenzie, at wsa.secretary@gmail.com.

I look forward to continue working with all of you and please remember that the strength of the Association lays in the expertise and creativity of its members!

All the best,



Dr. Giuseppe Di Carlo
President
World Seagrass Association Inc.

