

# Background of Professor Hopeton Dunn - Candidate for IAMCR Presidency

Dear Colleague

As you may know, the process of accepting nominations for the 2012 IAMCR elections is currently underway. The nominations phase is to be followed by voting for President and other members of the Executive Board and for International Council members, starting after March 1, 2012. Our President, Prof. Annabelle Sreberny, is not standing for re-election. Details of the nomination process were circulated on December 23, 2011.

This year, 2012, marks 20 years of my involvement with IAMCR since attending my first IAMCR conference in São Paulo, Brazil in 1992 as a graduate student of City University, London. I was elected Co-Chair of the Communications Policy and Technology Section in 2002.

Since then I have taken on various other leadership roles including my present position as Secretary General of IAMCR. I have a strong record of research output and a reputation for public service in the media and communication field.

I am Professor of Communications Policy and Digital Media at the University of the West Indies, Jamaica where I hold an endowed Chair in Telecommunications Policy and Management and direct a Masters Degree Programme in that field. I am author/editor of five books and many book chapters and academic journal articles. I am recipient of two University Faculty Awards for high quality research and publication and for raising large amounts of international research funding.

I take this early opportunity to let you know my intention to stand for election as President of IAMCR. I humbly ask for your support and for your vote when the time comes.

## PLATFORM

Should I be elected to serve as President, my principal aims will be to push forward reform of IAMCR's processes, costs and structures and to strengthen the inclusiveness of our membership and their more active participation in the life of IAMCR. In this context, and despite the challenges we face in a period of economic downturn and hardship for many of our members in the North and South, I commit to:

- Finding ways to honour the Braga conference commitment to keep conference fees as low as possible.

- Working actively to encourage membership growth by strengthening our recruitment of students, emerging scholars and established researchers from all over the world.
- Fostering a consensus on rationalizing, consolidating and opening opportunities for Sections and Working Groups.
- Seeking out and settling conference venues at least two years in advance.
- Leading a consultation about use of virtual and additional online technologies in support of IAMCR meetings and academic activities, starting with meetings of key governance organs of the Association.
- Strengthening our involvement in regional conferences hosted in partnership with affiliated regional organizations.
- Continuing support for students and emerging scholars from countries of the global North and the South in their efforts to develop their careers and to prosper within IAMCR.
- Paying special attention to language issues in the Association, including continued provision of simultaneous translation at plenary sessions and production of regular IAMCR newsletters in at least the three official languages of the Association.

I advance this platform with a deep commitment to and understanding of IAMCR. I do so based on my numerous contributions to the Association over several years.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights of my current and past contributions to IAMCR and my involvement in global media and communications research and policy-development are:

Secretary General of the IAMCR and Chair of the Conference Planning Committee since 2008. I have worked very closely with Local Organizing Committees to plan and deliver the last three IAMCR conferences in Mexico, Braga and Istanbul. I am similarly guiding planning for the IAMCR 2012 conference, alongside the Durban Committee.

I helped to guide the introduction of the Open Conference System (OCS) which has now been used for two years to support improved organization of IAMCR's conferences, working closely with our web managers and Section and Working Group Heads to tackle the challenges of a new online abstract submission and review system in the face of expanding interest in our conferences.

I worked with the Executive Board to develop Special Sessions at our conferences that tackle current global issues.

I have encouraged the restoration of the tradition of pre-conference submission of full academic papers and peer review of all conference abstracts.

I also serve as an active member of the IAMCR Executive Board, International Council and the Task Force on Media and Communications Policy.

#### Other Contributions:

Former Chair and Co-Chair of the Communications Policy and Technology Section for 6 years, contributing to its development as one of the largest and most innovative Sections of the Association.

Former Co-Chair of IAMCR's Task Force on Global Media and Communications Policy for two years, providing leadership especially on the need to foster the 'greening' **of the association**, research on ICTs and the Environment, and strengthening our links with global ICT policy forums.

Chaired a Plenary Session on 'Access' at the Internet Governance Forum (IGF) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt (2009), furthering some of the policy goals of the Task Force.

Participated as a Civil Society advocate in the World Summit of the Information Society (WSIS) in Geneva (2003) and Tunis (2005).

Represented IAMCR and the University of the West Indies at regional conferences and meetings such as COMPÓS (2008) Brazil and ACCE (2009) Ghana, West Africa.

Plenary panel speaker at international conferences including International Institute of Communication, World Association of Christian Communication, International Telecommunication Union and UNESCO regional conferences and IAMCR conferences in Braga 2010, Paris 2007, Cairo 2006 and Taiwan 2005.

Re-appointed in 2011 to the public service position of Chair of the Broadcasting Commission of Jamaica, a position I have held since 2007 and which is limited to periodic policy guidance and oversight of the work of the Commission's full time executive staff.

Serve as Commissioner of the Jamaica National Commission for UNESCO and serve on several other local and regional Boards.

#### COMMITMENT

I am seeking election as IAMCR President to further the Association's key objectives and to contribute at the highest level to an Association that I love, respect and consider vital to global media and communications education and research. My background and the leadership skills I have gained through my positions within and outside IAMCR have prepared me well to guide the Association in the next period of its development.

I invite you to support my candidacy by your own vote and by encouraging similar support among your peers and academic institutions, in the 2012 elections.

Thank you and very good wishes for 2012

Hopeton S. Dunn,

January 1, 2012