

# World Federation of Science Journalists

## January 2010 Bulletin

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### Letter from the President

*On your mark, get set, go! The countdown to the 7<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Science Journalists in Cairo, Egypt has started. WCSJ2011 will be held 27 – 29 June, 2011 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Cairo. And we couldn't be more excited!*

*For those of you attending the 2010 Annual AAAS meeting in San Diego, please make sure to attend our news conference on Saturday, Feb 20 at 5pm at the San Diego Convention Center's Room 8. During the news conference we'll update you on preparations for WCSJ2011.*

*We'll also be launching the WFSJ's multi-million dollar training project for science journalists in Africa and the Arab world, SjCOOP.*

*We will make sure there will be many opportunities for science journalists from outside Africa and the Arab region to participate in SjCOOP.*



#### *News Conference*

**The World Federation of Science Journalists invites all science journalists to a news conference**

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> February 2010 at 5 p.m.**

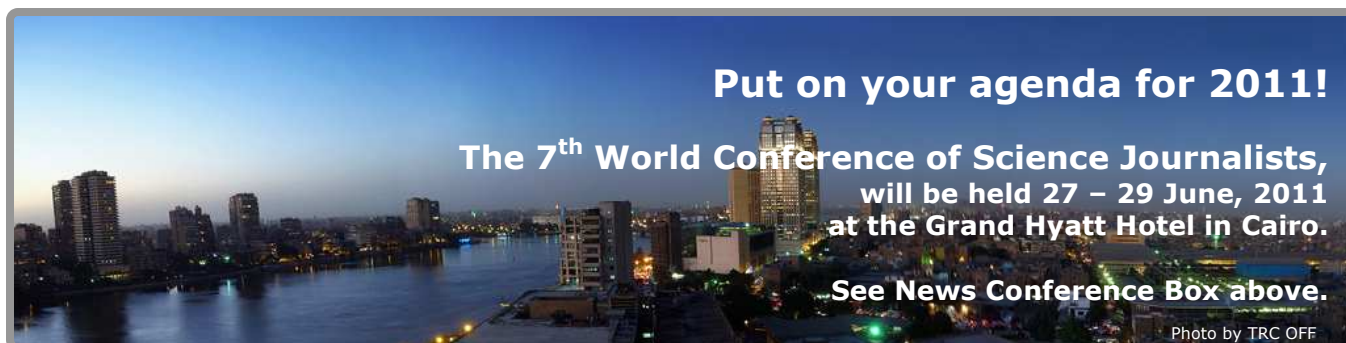
**San Diego Convention Centre, Room 8**

**California, United States**

The President, WFSJ Board members and the key organizers of the upcoming 7<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Science Journalists will give an update on the preparations leading to the conference to be held in June 2011 in Cairo.

WFSJ representatives will also launch the second phase of the SjCOOP mentoring project in Africa and in the Arab World. The 3-year multi-million dollar project aims at involving not only science journalists and their associations in Africa and in the Arab countries, but also many science journalists and associations from other regions of the world.

Get the scoop on SjCOOP!



The news conference will be a great opportunity for you to meet with and interview the WFSJ board members and the WCSJ2011 conference organizers.

Help us promote the upcoming WCSJ2011 by adding the following line to your signature:

7th World Conference of Science Journalists Grand Hyatt Hotel, Cairo, Egypt June 27-29, 2011 [www.wcsj2011.org](http://www.wcsj2011.org)

You can also follow the conference's twitter feed @wcsj11.

We're very pleased to include information on some of our member associations in this newsletter. Please make sure to send us any news stories on your associations if you'd like them to be published in our next bulletin.

And always remember, we're waiting for your nominations for the 2011 WFSJ board up until one month before the next General Assembly that will be held during the WCSJ2011 in Cairo. Be sure to read information on how to send us your nominations near the end of this newsletter. 2010 has started off at rocket pace for the WFSJ and its member associations. Let's keep up the pace and have a great 2010! Happy New Year!

Best,

Nadia El-Awady  
President, World Federation of Science Journalists  
[nadiaelawady@gmail.com](mailto:nadiaelawady@gmail.com)



## Associations News

### Spain – New Board, New President

The Spanish Association for Science Communication, Asociación Española de Comunicación Científica, elected a new executive board.



Antonio Calvo Roy is the new president. Mr. Calvo has a distinguished career as a science journalist, following the footsteps of his father, one of Spain's pioneers in science journalism. He worked for the Spanish leading newspaper El País for many years. With Ignacion Fernández Bayo, also on the new board, he then founded a small company specializing in science communication called Divulga (<http://www.divulga.es/divulga>). He has left his work as consultant to more recently become Director of Corporate Responsibility and Corporate Affairs of Red Eléctrica of Spain.

The new AECC board:  
President: Antonio Calvo Roy; First Vice-President and Treasurer: Ignacio Fernández Bayo; Second Vice-President: José Pardina Cáncer; Third Vice-President: Pilar Perla Mateo; Secretary: Fernando Torrecilla Molina; and members at large: Pablo Francescutti Pérez, Javier Armentia Fructuoso, Esperanza García Molina, Elena Sanz Pérez de G and Eugenia Angulo Alonso.

Mr. Calvo's email is: [calvoroy@gmail.com](mailto:calvoroy@gmail.com). AECC's web site is: [www.aecomunicacioncientifica.org](http://www.aecomunicacioncientifica.org) and his postal address:

Antonio Calvo  
Calle Diana, 16, 1º C.  
28022 Madrid Spain

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### Togo - WFSJ Welcomes Togo

At its last meeting, in November in Budapest, the Board of the World Federation of Science Journalists approved the membership of the Science Journalists and Communicators of Togo, JCS-Togo.



JCS-Togo had its founding general assembly in September 2009 and it now has a total of 21 individual members, mostly active journalists. The association plans to initiate its own training activities.

The President of the Science Journalists and Communicators of Togo is Ms. Andr ea A. Dagawa, journalist with the Agence de communication et de presse, based in Lom  (Togo)  
(email: [dagsaq01@yahoo.fr](mailto:dagsaq01@yahoo.fr)).

Florent Tiassou, journalist with Deutsche Welle, is in charge of communications and the person to contact for further information on JCS-Togo  
(email: [tiassou@yahoo.fr](mailto:tiassou@yahoo.fr)).

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### **South Africa – SASJA**

South African Science Journalists resolutions for 2010

By Lynne Smit, Vice-President of SASJA

The young South African Science Journalists' Association marked its first year of existence by holding its annual general meeting on Skype and voting for the executive using SurveyMonkey.com. Now if we could all get together for a shebeen crawl....

The March 2009 climate change reporting conference for two dozen reporters from across Africa, organised by one of Africa's few science journalism lecturers, Dr George Claassen of the University of Stellenbosch, paid off when five of the participants flew to Copenhagen to report on the international climate change negotiations in Denmark at the end of the year.

Our New Year's Resolutions for 2010: issue more press releases (like the one SASJA did in November pointing out the tragedy of parents who refused to vaccinate their children during the measles outbreak in which four children died and 2000 became ill); continue to tease the current minister of science and technology, Naledi Pandor, for being chauffeured about in two R1.5 million Mercedes Benz vehicles with heated seats while funding is cut for research into critical issues like a vaccine for HIV; continue to support efforts for the next global meeting of science journalists in Cairo in 2011 and improve the links between public relations workers, science communicators and science journalists within South Africa, as the community is too small and fragmented to be able to afford separate ghettos!



Watch out for our new website in 2010, and our lobbying efforts with the South African National Editors Forum to try to get more science desks into local media houses!

Lynne Smit  
(previously Lynne Wilson)  
Vice-President, South African Science Journalists' Association (SASJA)  
Of Course Media and Communications  
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skype: lynnegregsmmit or ofcoursemedia  
[www.ofcourse.co.za](http://www.ofcourse.co.za)  
[www.wheatlands.blogspot.com](http://www.wheatlands.blogspot.com)  
I'm twittering as Wheatlands

(For an explanation of my name, go to <http://wheatlands.blogspot.com/2009/08/writer-formerly-known-as.html>)

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### **Europe – EUSJA**

By Hanns-J. Neubert, President of EUSJA

It is with great sadness that we have to tell you that Prof. **EUSJA** Dr. Hugo Obergottsberger passed away last month (December 2009) at the age 83.

Hugo Obergottsberger was one of the co-founders of EUSJA and the first President of the former Working Group Science Journalism Central Europe. He also founded the Austrian Club of Educational and Science Journalists, in 1971.

Even before the iron curtain fell, Obergottsberger made contacts to science journalists associations in Eastern Europe and organised conferences for European science journalists in Salzburg, Laxenburg and Krems, partly in co-operation with UNESCO, which positioned EUSJA and its national associations.

He was also active in promoting the creation of the World Federation of Science Journalists.

The Board of EUSJA expresses its deepest sympathy

Hanns-J. Neubert, President  
President of EUSJA  
<http://www.eusja.org>  
Chairman of the Board TELI <http://www.teli.de>  
Tel +49-40-41 80 43  
Mobil, SMS +491715418043

## Other News

### **News from Guatemala**

By Lucy Calderon

"The workshop was excellent, I would like to come tomorrow too", "the professors were excellent", "we want to learn more", were some of the thoughts expressed by the participants of the First International Workshop in Science Journalism that was held in Guatemala City.



This activity, first of its kind in that Central American country, was held from 23-25 of November 2009. The first day was addressed to scientists and researchers; the last two days were for journalists, as well as students of scientific careers and science communication.

Luisa Massarani of the Red Iberoamericana de Monitoreo y Capacitación en Periodismo Científico was in charge of its international organization. At local level, it was organized by the science journalist Lucy Calderon, with the support of Pamela Pennington, of the Universidad del Valle de Guatemala (UVG).



Photo by Lucy Calderon

The number of people interested on the issue exceeded the expectations. There were professionals of the ministries of health and agriculture, of the National Secretary of Science and Technology, the Foundation of Forensic Anthropology, and of other local universities, as well as of the Universidad Evangélica de El Salvador (a faith-based university).

In addition to the attendance of local journalists of press, radio and TV, two journalists from Uruguay made the journey to Guatemala in order to learn about science journalism.

Journalist from different parts of Guatemala City and from Chile participated virtually through the internet. It was really a very successful activity and both professors and participants were motivated to continue learning and sharing their experiences and knowledge.

The training workshop was divided in theory and practice, both for journalists and scientists. In the morning participants received the theory and in the afternoon they made groups in order to work an issue of their interest, with some people scripting stories for TV and others for radio or printed press.

### **WFSJ has new offices**

The secretariat of the World Federation of Science Journalists has moved a few streets from its very first premises. WFSJ's offices are now situated on the third floor of a 5-story building full of doctors' offices, radiologists, pharmacists, physiotherapists, beauticians, and massotherapists. There are also small charities, training facilities for immigrants struggling to adapt to Canada, and a small café managed two wonderful ladies.

New coordinates for WFSJ:  
4, Taschereau, Gatineau (Québec),  
Canada J8Y 2V5

Telephone: +1 819 770 0776  
Email: [info@wfsj.org](mailto:info@wfsj.org)  
Fax: +1 819 205-0726  
[www.wfsj.org](http://www.wfsj.org)

### **Merci Renald!**

The staff of the Federation wishes to take the opportunity to thank Renald Picher, the owner of the 28 Caron Street house where the Federation had its very first real office.



Renald Picher transformed a private house into a real home where consultants, small charities and non-profits could find not only a roof but also a mentor. WFSJ had to leave when Renald sold the house to tackle new challenges.

Thank you very much Renald ... and we guarantee we will put in practice all the tricks you taught us about composting.

*Olfa, Augustin and Jean-Marc*

### ***If you pay your WFSJ dues ...***

The World Federation of Science Journalists now includes 41 associations ... and it is now the time for them to pay their 2010 membership due.

To quote the WFSJ Constitution: "Members ... who do not fulfill duties and responsibilities of membership, particularly in regard to the timely payment of membership fees, will be warned by the Executive Board, and cease to be members if three such warnings go unheeded." Paragraph 3.5 also says: "Members who have not paid their contributions lose the right to vote."

The WFSJ membership fee remains ridiculously low. It is set at US\$1 per member of each association on January 31<sup>st</sup> of each year, up to a maximum of US\$300. In the case of nascent associations, applications to waive the fee can be made to the Board for special consideration.

Please contact [info@wfsj.org](mailto:info@wfsj.org) if you cannot send a postal cheque, an international bank draft or make a bank transfer.

### ***... you could be elected to the Board of WFSJ, in June 2011, in Cairo!***

It is not too early to think about it!

Executive Board members of the World Federation of Science Journalists are elected at each World Conference of Science Journalists, held every two years.

The Executive Board of the WFSJ consists of seven members: a President, a Past-President, one Vice-president, one Secretary, one Treasurer, and two at-large members.

The President is a science journalist who is an active member of the WFSJ member association that will host the upcoming World Conference. All candidates for Board membership have to be present at the General Assembly to be elected.

As much as possible, the Board membership covers most regions of the world. A Board member can be elected for a maximum of two consecutive terms, except for a member of the Board who becomes Past President.

Nominations for the board will be accepted up to 27<sup>th</sup> May 2011, one month prior to the General Assembly, in Cairo!

See full Constitution online:  
<http://www.wfsj.org/about/page.php?id=27>

### **False Conference Invitations**

Be very careful with conference invitations you receive by email.

The Union of International Associations notices an increasing number of email scams using fake invitations to conferences supposedly organized by international NGOs and development agencies. These false international conferences are just hooks to defraud or cheat unsuspecting recipients.

Check on the following web site if it is a genuine conference:

<http://www.uia.be/node/46358>



Photo by Lucy Calderon

## Member associations

**Africa:** African Federation of Science Journalist (AFSJ)  
**Arab Region:** Arab Science Journalists Association (ASJA)  
**Australia:** Australian Science Communicators (ASC)  
**Bangladesh:** Bangladesh Science Writers & Journalists Forum (BSWJF)  
**Brazil:** Brazilian Association of Science Journalism (ABJC)  
**Cameroon:** SciLife (Cameroon's Association of Science Journalists and Communicators)  
**Canada:** Canadian Science Writers' Association (CSWA)  
**Catalonia:** Catalanian Association for Scientific Communication (ACCC)  
**Chile:** Chilean Association of Science Journalists (ACHIPEC)  
**China:** Chinese Society for Science and Technology Journalism (CSSTJ)  
**Colombia:** Colombian Association of Science Journalism (ACPC)  
**Denmark:** Danish Science Journalists' Association  
**Europe:** European Union of Science Journalists' Associations (EUSJA)  
**Finland:** Finnish Association of Science Editors and Journalists (FASEJ)  
**France:** French association of science journalists (AJSPI)  
**Germany:** German Science Journalists' Association (WPK)  
**Germany:** German Association of Science Writers (TELI)  
**Ghana:** The Ghana Association of Science Journalists and Communicators  
International Science Writers Association (ISWA)  
**Ireland:** Irish Science & Technology Journalists' Association (ISTJA)  
**Italy:** Italian Association of Science Journalists (UGIS)  
**Japan:** Japanese Association of Science and Technology Journalists (JASTJ)  
**Japan:** Medical Journalists Association of Japan (MEJA)  
**Kenya:** Media for Environment, Science, Health and Agriculture (MESHA)  
**Korea:** Korea Science Reporters Association (KOSRA)  
**Netherlands (The):** Dutch Association of Science Journalists (VWN)  
**Tanzania:** Network of African Journalists on Earth Science (NAJES)  
**Nigeria:** Nigeria Association of Science Journalists (NAJS)  
**Pakistan:** Pakistan Medical Writers' Association (PMWA)  
**Philippine:** Philippine Science Journalists Association (PSciJourn)  
**Québec:** Association of Science Communicators (ACS)  
**Russia:** Association of Science Writers and Journalists 'INTELLECT'  
**Rwanda:** Rwanda Association of Science Journalists (RASJ)  
**South Africa:** South African Science Journalists' Association (SASJA)  
**Spain:** Spanish Association of Science Communication (AECC)  
**Sudan:** Sudanese Association of Science Journalists  
**Togo:** Science Journalists and Communicators of Togo, JCS-Togo  
**Uganda:** Uganda Science Journalists' Association (USJA)  
**United States:** National Association of Science Writers (NASW)  
**United Kingdom:** Association of British Science Writers (ABSW)  
**Associate Partner**  
Council for the Advancement of Science Writing

## Members of the Executive Board and Committees for 2009 - 2011

### Executive Board

Following the General Assembly, members of the newly elected Board decided to distribute more widely the responsibilities. Jia Hepeng is now Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee while Christophe Mvondo has accepted to Chair the Program Committee.

**President:** Nadia El-Awady, Middle East (Egypt) Journalist

**Past President:** Pallab Ghosh, Europe (UK) Science Correspondent, British Broadcasting Corporation

**Vice-President:** Valeria Roman, Latin America (Argentina) Journalist, Clarín newspaper

**General Counsel and Secretary:** Natasha Mitchell, Asia (Australia) Journalist, Australian Broadcasting Corporation

**Treasurer & Chair of Finance Committee:** Hepeng Jia, Asia-Pacific (China) Editor-in-chief, Science News Bi-weekly

**Member-at-Large:** Deborah Blum North America (USA) Journalist & author

**Member-at-Large & Chair of Programme Committee:** Christophe Mvondo, Africa (Cameroon) Journalist, La Nouvelle Expression newspaper

### Programme Committee

**Chair:** Christophe Mvondo, Africa (Cameroon) Journalist

#### Members

Valeria Roman, Latin America (Argentina) Journalist

Horacio Salazar, Central America (Mexico) Journalist

Subhra Priyadarshini, Asia (India) Journalist

Julie Clayton, Europe (United Kingdom) Journalist

Juliette Mutheu, Africa (Kenya) Journalist

Mercè Piqueras, Europe (Spain) ACCC

### Finance Committee

**Chair:** Hepeng Jia, Asia (China) Journalist

#### Members

Martin Ince, Europe (United Kingdom) ABSW

Jim Cornell, North America (USA) ISWA

Vesa Niinikangas, Europe (Finland) FASEJ

