

Association “Initiatives for the Future of Great Rivers”

Annual Activity Report

Year 2019

INTERNAL OPERATION of the Association and relations with THIRD PARTIES

Internal operation:

The Association “Initiatives for the Future of Great Rivers” held a Management Board meeting and an Ordinary General Assembly in 2019:

- **Management Board meeting on 15 April 2019:** adoption of the activity report and the financial report for the year 2018; presentation of the accounts closed on 31/12/2018; information on changes in the composition of the Rivers Committee, following the change of office of Mozammel Haque (BIWTA, Bangladesh) and Marie-Laure Vercambre (Green Cross International, France).
- **Ordinary General Assembly on 15 April 2019:** approbation of the activity report, the financial report and the accounts closed on 31/12/2018; acknowledgement of the Auditor’s report.

Relations with third parties:

A rider to the financial sponsorship agreement between the Association and CNR dated 8 November 2017 was signed on 1 December 2018, modifying the procedures of paying the donation in cash and the term of the agreement. This rider stipulated the payments for the years 2019 and 2020.

A sponsorship contract was signed on 28 March 2019 **between the Association and the Foundation Terre d’Initiatives Solidaires** for the conference “Rivers and ports, winning back cities and their inhabitants” organised by the Association in the framework of the congress SMART RIVERS (Lyon, 1 October).

The **sponsorship agreement** signed on 29 May 2018 **between the Association and the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation** ended on 30 April 2019. In accordance with its commitments, IFGR handed over an attestation validating the amount and assignment of the payments made to it and its activity report for 2018.

ACTIONS IN THE GENERAL INTEREST directly organised by the Association

Sessions / Events:

In 2019, IFGR organised:

- The **8th international session** gathering the members of its Rivers Committee **in French Guiana (Cayenne and Saint-Laurent du Maroni)**, in partnership with the Pasteur Institute of Guiana, a member of the Association. This session, organised from 15 to 19 April, was devoted to health: ***“The health of rivers, human health – the example of the River Maroni”***. This session was organised in partnership with the Prefecture of the Region, the Territorial Authority of Guiana and the ARS. It was the subject of considerable coverage by the local press and a scientific article on the site THE CONVERSATION France. IFGR continued its collaboration with the local stakeholders (Guiana Water and Biodiversity Committee and the Water Agency in the framework of a cross-border project, BIO-Plateaux; and the Prefecture in the framework of a research project on religious sciences and training of the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes).
- The **9th session**, held in **Pekin and Zhengzhou (China)** from 21 to 25 October, and hosted by the Yellow River Conservation Commission (YRCC), a member of the Association. In the perspective of major meetings in 2020 (IUCN World Conservation Summit and COP15 Biodiversity in China), our works focused on the subject: ***“River & Biodiversity: lessons learned from the Yellow River and experiences shared with other rivers around the world”***. This session, organised with the support of the French Embassy, received the label “French-Chinese Year of the Environment” of the French Ministry of Ecological and Community Transition. Two articles appeared in the French daily newspaper LA CROIX following this event.
- A conference **“Rivers and ports, winning back cities and their inhabitants”** held on 1 October, during SMART RIVERS, the world congress of actors in river transport and global transport logistics, held in Lyon. IFGR invited AIVP, another international network working on the subject of ports and cities, to be joint coordinator of this event, which provided another angle of reflection on river and port infrastructures, by taking into account their interactions with cities and citizens.

A platform of solutions: projects of today, rivers of tomorrow

In October IFGR added to its site a **platform open to all featuring innovative practices and efficient solutions for rivers**. More than thirty solutions proposed by the members of IFGR and its network have been presented to date to assist river managers to adapt their practices and make the general public aware of the preservation and enhancement of rivers. This platform is aimed at fostering the exchange of knowhow between rivers around the world, so as to better foresee their future. It also strengthens the position of IFGR as a reference in the world of rivers.

Communication:

In 2019, IFGR disseminated **5 newsletters in French and English** via a mailing list with more than 1,500 contacts.

Regarding its external communication, the Association also relied on its internet site and the social networks **Linked-in** (more than 300 followers) and **Twitter** (650 followers).

The works carried out during the sessions were transcribed in the form of bilingual “**report and advocacy**” booklets.

IFGR also contributed, in the form of an interview with Erik Orsenna, to the 5th edition of **Barometer of water, health and drainage** published by Solidarités International on 22 March.

Press relations: organisation of an evening at the Maison de la Danse in Lyon for journalists in the economic press (AFP, Bref Eco, Les Echos, La Tribune, C News) on 31 January.

ACTIONS IN THE GENERAL INTEREST organised with the Association’s partners

Conferences

IFGR participated in several conferences during 2019:

- **Symposium on “Water at the heart of change. Accelerating to reach the Sustainable Development Targets”** organised by the Partenariat Français pour l'Eau (PFE), the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS) and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) on 26 June at the AFD Paris.
- **Study day** organised by the Etablissement Public Territorial de Bassin **Seine Grands Lacs "Le PAPI (Flood Prevention Action Programme): an approach of territorial solidarity"** on 4 June at the Maison de la RATP, Paris.
- **Philosophy Café** bringing together Erik Orsenna, Chairman of IFGR and Gilles Mulhauser, Managing Director of the Water Agency of the State of Geneva and member of IFGR: “How to give a voice to a river and a lake” on 30 March at Bains des Pâquis (Geneva), for the 4th edition of the **History and City Festival– stories of water**, organised in partnership with the University of Geneva (Switzerland).

Event for the general public

For the fourth year running, IFGR supported the **travel film and book festival *Quais du Départ***, organised in Lyon, for a day of debates and screenings of “A world in transition” (partnership amounting to €2,000).

PARTICIPATION IN COLLECTIVE ACTIONS

IFGR also participated in workgroups to make progress on issues relating to water resources and rivers in national and international decision-making:

- **Second sequence of National Water Assembly:** consultation with elected representatives and actors in water organised at the initiative of the Ministry of Ecological and Community Transition: climate change and water resources.

- **Three workgroups of the French Partnership on Water:** levers to speed up the implementation of the Sustainable Development Targets; water and climate change; sustainable development targets.

DONATIONS RECEIVED

Funds were paid for the year 2019 by CNR, in accordance with the provisions stipulated in the rider of the financial sponsorship agreement signed on 1 December 2018. Its purpose is to finance the association's activities in the general interest. The payment was made in one instalment, on 4 February 2019.

Following the signature of the partnership agreement for the conference "Rivers and ports, winning back cities and their inhabitants" organised by the Association in Lyon, during the SMART RIVERS congress, IFGR issued a call for funds on 28 March 2019 from the Foundation Terre d'Initiatives Solidaires. The payment was made in one instalment, on 30 April 2019.

The Association also received a total amount of three thousand six hundred and thirty three euros (€3,633) by way of subscriptions for 2019, from its members, in conformity with the scale of subscriptions voted at the Management Board meeting of 25 September 2018.

EVENTS AFTER CLOSING THE ACCOUNTS

Like many associations, IFGR's activities have been affected by the impacts of the world health crisis linked to the Covid-19 epidemic in 2020. Missions abroad must be rescheduled, our 10th international conference has been postponed from April to September (date??), in addition to the postponement of the international events in which IFGR was due to participate in (World Conservation Congress, COP15 Biodiversity, COP26 Climate). IFGR nonetheless continued its activity through teleworking with all its members and partners.

For the moment, the current crisis has had no impact on the association's perpetuation as it benefits from the donation paid by CNR for 2020 and it has not contracted any loans. We are nonetheless aware of the possible consequences of this crisis on the quest for new sponsors.

Date: 22 January 2020



The Chairman