

Editorial

An Introduction from Kerry Arabena, the New IAEH President

A RE-VISIONED MANIFESTO: RISING TO OUR PHOENIX MOMENT



I acknowledge the traditional owners, leaders and lands of Indigenous peoples around the world and acknowledge all those who have a continued connection to Country. I celebrate your resilience and contributions to our world.

To all our 'Exquisite Elders' from different knowledge traditions who pioneered EcoHealth and created for us all a path that we may now follow; we are proud of your achievements and humbled by the opportunity to follow you. We thank you for your thought leadership and generosity in sharing your insights. These gifts set us in good stead for the civilisational transition that is our generation's to make, and we look forward to respectfully engaging you over the coming year.

On behalf of the Board of Directors for the International Association for Ecology and Health, it is my pleasure to acknowledge the tremendous effort and legacy of past Presidents and retired Directors of the Board and offer them a vote of thanks. We salute our retiring President, Professor Jakob Zinsstag, and retiring Board members - Associate Professor Edouard Kouassi, Professor Nitish

Debnath and Adjunct Professor Karen Morrison. These Board members made significant contributions to the progression of EcoHealth ideals through their commitments to membership, regional chapter development, student engagement and Board functioning.

We also acknowledge and offer a vote of thanks to Lisa Crump, EcoHealth Journal staff and office holders for their active participation in the business of the Association, and their provision of secretariat, administrative and communication supports during the past term. We extend a warm welcome to incoming Board members including Dr. Hung Nguyen, Dr. Neville Ellis, Dr. Hume Field and Arron Jenkins.

We are delighted to have conferred 2016 EcoHealth Awards to worthy winners in a ceremony at the inaugural OneHealth EcoHealth Congress held in Melbourne last December 2016. From a competitive field, Emeritus Professor Valerie Brown received the Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her years of contribution, achievement, student engagement and support. Professor Brown was joined by Dr. Jonathan Kingsley and Dr. Hung Nguyen as Exceptional Early Career Award Winners and Kouassi Richard M'Bra, Melanie Bannister-Tyrrell and Melanie Voevodin took out the Student Awards.

The Organising Committee of the Congress committed to a process that facilitated the involvement of over one thousand delegates from over eighty-six countries and over 170 scholarship holders. Front and centre of the joint Congress was the strong student and early career delegations who together developed the Aspirational Statement from the Conference, a living document that the Board are committed to incorporating in our future work. The Aspirational Statement will form part of the re-visioning efforts by engaging with members and affiliates in a strategic planning process to consider governance and

constitutional enhancements. This process will embed the work of the Association through regional chapters explore how to support these initiatives around the world, improve our communications with members and support the 2018 EcoHealth Biennial Conference in Cali, South America. In addition to these specific pieces of work, the Association will be negotiating our current and future business and governance relationships, putting in place mechanisms for building local and regional capacity and creating strong partnerships with scholars, students and organisations.

Our aims are clear: we are in a unique position with untapped potential, a growing number of individual and organisational members, a 'new look' website and an Aspirational Statement from students. There is a strong commitment to a European chapter and the appointment of Board members with a track record of transformational change. Part of our re-visioning exercise will be to explore the interface between the many emergent Associations and to define our role as distinct from, but committed to, joint programs of action to facilitate our way forward in the world, and to consider future global megatrends that will change the way we live. Another part of that re-visioning is to acknowledge what we have failed to deliver, find our peace with that, then strip away those things that are inessential, and work only on those things that matter the most.

Oftentimes, it is during these reflective moments that we find the determination we need to succeed. To succeed we need to heal relationships between all peoples and the places where we live through sustainable programs of activity, then scale these over time; we need to be cognisant of future global trends; and we need to co-create knowledge transfer, capacity building and sustainability of these initiatives with people who will be impacted by our approach. This is our Phoenix moment. This is what lies ahead of the Association's members, of our partners and of other emergent entities in ecology and health.

It sounds simple, but simplicity has been difficult to implement in modern life because it goes against the spirit of a certain brand sophistication used to justify professions, positions and revenue sources. Less is more, and usually more effective. In this context, 'simple' does not mean 'less

volatile'. In fact, what we require of ourselves is to joyously embrace uncertainty, variability, imperfection, incomplete knowledge, chance, chaos, disorder and errors. In doing so, we will have a positive and genuine impact on the health and wellbeing of living systems and all who reside within them.

Together, we need to decide what we can do, in our little piece of the world, in the 80 or so years that we have to live. Some will do this through social media, webinars and presentations, projects, caring for Country initiatives, building an EcoHealth workforce, writing publications and shifting our language from one of deficit to one of strength. Others will bring sectors together, challenge the outer bounds of their own knowledge traditions, develop new methodologies founded in diversity, coherence and equality. All of us, moving into the 21st century, will need to hone our skills and redefine our roles as individuals and in organisations and invest in meaningful relationships that facilitate compassionate responses to the issues before us, drawing on the source of strength behind us.

We, the members of the International Association for Ecology and Health Board, seek to engage with you on re-visioning our Manifesto by describing our niche, values, focus and the opportunities before us. This might facilitate a transition from a global EcoHealth framework to eco-socio-cultural-health frameworks that are regionally embedded and link together to form a global presence. In this task, we will join with our multiple generations of EcoHealth scholars and practitioners with activists, artists, and members of other associations to realise the aspirations of our emerging scholars and practitioners: to negotiate a shared identity, leverage shared values, strengthen collaborations and integrate knowledges in the places where we live, play and love.

In Unity,

Kerry Arabena

Melbourne School of Population and Global Health,
The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia
e-mail: kerry.arabena@unimelb.edu.au

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