



Richard and IUAPPA: an epoch

More than two decades ago NSCA (now EPUK) proposed Richard Mills as the next Director General of IUAPPA. While fully involved in IUAPPA's 18th World Clean Air Congress in Istanbul, he chose that week to lay down this function. To understand his contributions to IUAPPA's development it is worthwhile to have some knowledge of IUAPPA's earlier years. Though IUAPPA is EFCA's older brother by far it happened that I had come across IUAPPA when Germany hosted the 3rd World Congress in Düsseldorf; that was in 1973.

IUAPPA was founded in 1965. The initiative came from *Christopher Barthel* who brought the 6 founding members together in Washington. His name is kept in the Barthel Award, the most prestigious award IUAPPA has to present. Congresses and conferences were important activities according to the original Statute; IUAPPA's mission included a cleaner atmosphere worldwide and support to developing countries on their way to cleaner air.

NSCA had had the honour to organise IUAPPA's first World Congress (London 1966). IUAPPA's secretariat was established in the UK and *Sir Alan Wilson* became IUAPPA's first president. However, after the Congress these functions went to the organizers of the second congress in Washington (1970).

The *permanent secretariat* dates from 1977 and went to the UK. IUAPPA's first Directors General were *Philip Glass* who had closed his career as a Rear Admiral and *John Langston*, an Air Commodore when he left the Army; both served IUAPPA for 10 years.

Administering the matters and representing the Union was in good hands with them. Developing the Union's mission still lay with the Executive Committee and its Committees. Its main output consisted of publications on air quality policy in IUAPPA countries, available for the Members. Another action was the founding of the *Development Fund*. A Member that had been elected to host a World Congress was supposed to contribute to it and happy to do so. The DG's served President and Members to perfection: their military discipline forced them to send the agenda for the IB-meeting with all annexes 3 months in advance! The *Development Fund* grew regularly without substantial spending. In the nineties IUAPPA counted 29 full Members and 9 Observers and associate Members; the attendance at World Congresses, however, started to decline.

Richard's entry

This pattern could have continued if the *Trustees of NSCA* had selected a successor for John Langston with a comparable CV. It did not happen, though John Langston was forced to stay for one more year because his successor had not been found yet. The next year Richard Mills and IUAPPA had found each other. Richard also found the prototype of a constant factor within NSCA: Peter Mitchell who had served IUAPPA since 1977 as its Office Manager and Accountant; he is still there, a pensioner now!

Richard, however, did not enter IUAPPA empty-handed: he brought his considerable network; his creative mind could think out-of-the-box; he combined strategic and tactical skill to realize his ideas. What has he done with it?

A characterisation could be: "*From local to global*". While experience of air pollution happens at local scale it was common knowledge then that reducing it requires to consider the regional scale. At the end of the last century the first suggestions were made that transport of



pollutants on a global scale has to be considered as well, in particular at the Northern Hemisphere.

Inspired by the UNECE Convention Richard ordered a state-of-the-art report on transport of air pollutants on the global scale. It was the first step towards the Global Forum on Air Pollution.

Treasury

I would like to mention that he also had proposed some changes in the Statutes. One of these was that IUAPPA was to have a treasurer. The International Board (IB) approved the change in 2000 in Peru; from 2001 the treasurer office was manned; by me! A little story on its start.

In comparison with EFCA's finance IUAPPA's treasury appeared to be an easy job: my title was "*Honorary treasurer*" and implied that all the work was done in the UK. In that first year I even did not hear anything and this went on in 2002. So when the next IB in Sao Paulo was approaching I asked Richard what IUAPPA's treasurer could expect? "*Oh yes, the account, yes, you have to present it in the IB; but Peter is still busy with it*". A check with Peter a bit later revealed that the account was with Richard then; so my task seemed just waiting. To make a long story short: in Sao Paulo, at breakfast, half an hour before the opening of the IB, Richard handed me a few sheets with information! I have to add it went only once like this; from then on we had regular and constructive interaction on the main lines. The IB had learned that Richard's priorities were a bit different from those of his predecessors.

Global Forum

In the meantime Richard, in cooperation with the UK office of the Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI), had started to lay the basis for the Global Forum on Air Pollution. He managed to find support and sponsors for his idea to raise similar bodies as the UN-ECE CLRTAP in other parts of the world.

World Congress 2004

Another challenge came his way: the 13th World Congress in 2004 which was to take place in Jerusalem had to be displaced for safety reasons. Several interests complicated a decision on a new venue. When finally London had been agreed as new venue Richard had some 18 months left to coordinate its organisation. Though the Israelian association remained involved their financial basis had become a debt; the decision for London had created a major risk for NSCA. Richard's efforts to find sufficient sponsoring for a closed budget are to be considered as a major success.

The same could be said of the Congress itself and for several reasons. In addition to a substantial scientific programme the Congress also provided the ideal platform for a public presentation of the foundation of the GAP Forum.

IUAPPA and EFCA

The relation between IUAPPA and EFCA has always been a good one. Mutual membership of EFCA and IUAPPA made it easy to start fruitful cooperation in this period. NSCA had arranged a side-event at the Congress which highlighted the differences between the British Clean Air policy and the direction the European Commission had chosen. It happened that the European Commission and EFCA had agreed to have a joint workshop on implementing the



new legislation in the Member countries. The conclusions in London could now be added to other critical remarks in Brussels.

The Iberian part of the America's was selected to test the feasibility of the UN-ECE concept outside Europe. Richard invited a group of countries around the table; he successfully guided them with building an infrastructure with transboundary databases on air pollutants and to start the development of a common policy for the region.

Successes of the Global Forum

In the following years Richard's work for the GAP Forum made gradual progress. Though it was soon recognised that the work of the GAP Forum qualified as a task of UNEP it took quite some time before UNEP confirmed it. Since then UNEP supports the initiative financially and agreed to have a similar project started in North-Africa.

After 2004 the World Congresses kept Richard's regular interest. He needed a platform where new results of the Global Forum could be made public. He arranged key speakers (and became one of them himself) and so contributed to the level of a Congress.

In the meantime the role of Black Carbon in the atmosphere had come to the foreground. It became the priority pollutant to tackle because its reduction has benefits for air quality and climate. The *co-benefits approach*, framed as ***One Atmosphere***, was soon on the agendas of IUAPPA and EFCA and further stimulated cooperation between the two federations.

Richard was also in the frontline when the *Climate and Clean Air Coalition* was initiated. It developed into a fast growing body of high level; it is still waiting, however, for recognition by the main UN-bodies on Climate Change. Most recently, he assisted EFCA and PIGE in a side-event at the Conference of the Parties in Cracow. No doubt that he made use of the opportunity to mention CCAC.

Describing Richard: can we? It is not easy. Yes, a friendly man, with a well-developed sense of humour. A good speaker, assisting others where he could. Still, I have seen more people with a similar qualification. The difference he made is seen when considering what he achieved: it shaped a unique Epoch of IUAPPA.

Thank you Richard: we will miss you!

Joop van Ham, also on behalf of EFCA,
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