

WA-Summit Advisory Council Chairman's Opening Speech Eth Lloyd (30/31 August 2020)

Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena tatou katoa

It gives me great pleasure to welcome us all here and to open the 11th WA-Summit Business Session. Thank you all for joining together on this platform. For some of you I know it is not such a great hour of the day, so your attendance is even more notable.

We will be sharing Delegates names and countries with you all, if you do not wish to have your name included please advise us of that in the Chat now.

I remind you all about the Protocols shared with you so that we can all participate fully in this business session. I ask that you adhere to them.

I now ask Karen Nanninga to remember Sonia Vanular, the founder of IMA who died this week, at the wonderful age of 98.

I had the pleasure of working with Sonia personally for many years during my terms of office on the Association's Council, and so has Helen Monument and some of the IMA Delegates.

In Sonia, we lose a phenomenal leader for our profession. Sonia would have been proud and happy to see us gathered here today, which wouldn't have been possible without her vision in the early seventies, and the visions of the founders of all our associations. These visions are at the root of the development and the promotion of the identity of our profession. Sonia started at a European level and today we will found the Alliance at a global level.

And Helen, she would no doubt have been delighted to see you at the helm of this body as Interim Chair.

We will certainly remember with gratitude Sonia's dedication, determination and drive, her curiosity and open mind towards change and progress, her "never stop learning attitude", her sharpness even at her great age, and above all her vision of joining forces Europe wide and globally in service of the profession and the organisations we work for.

Thank you, Sonia Vanular – we will honour and uphold your legacy - may you rest in peace.

Thank you Karen, I had the pleasure meeting Sonia in Antwerp 2017, I believe, she was a remarkable woman.

I wish to acknowledge, Valerie Jackson, Life Member of AAPNZ, Facilitator at the 2000 WA-Summit in Wellington, New Zealand, the first with participants as well as Delegates. Valerie is close to her 50-year membership of AAPNZ and is unfortunately unable to be with us today.

I thank Veronica Cochran, CEO of IAAP, Co-Leader of the WA-Summit Advisory Council - Future Task Force. Veronica was to be present as a guest but unfortunately has had to send her apologies.

There are others present either as Guests or supporting us, who will not be speaking or voting, and I wish to welcome and acknowledge these:

Members of our Task Force, some of whom are present as Delegates: Dawn Becker, Megan Hall, Lucy Brazier, Melissa Mahoney, Barrett Shaw, Lizzie Jean-Nandjui, Diana Brandl, Jesse Egeonu, Helen Monument, Melba Duncan.

Your facilitators and notetakers for our later discussions - Facilitators Karen Nanninga, Lucy Brazier, Juanita Mort and Helen Monument with note takers Dawn Becker, Debra Chafe, Alison McKessar and Ursula Wartha.

Our communications team for our Social Media and Newsletter Summit-Up - Julia Schmidt, Diana Brandl and Elizabeth White-Peters.

Our Zoom Administrator Sherie Pointon, AAPNZ – Sherie has worked to prepare everything and is still working supporting us in running this event.

Special thanks to one of our Delegates Rhonda Scharf, who provided her Zoom account for us to be able to run this meeting today, her generosity has enabled us to hold this meeting and has been invaluable.

Finally, but very importantly, I wish to acknowledge, welcome and introduce Helen Monument, Interim Chair for the WA-Alliance Council. Helen will introduce the Interim Council to you a little later.

Today is a milestone - the first on-line meeting of the WA-Summit. We have a record number of countries (29) with 56 Delegates present, making the decisions we are about to make more powerful and robust internationally.

I am mindful that this will be the last Business Session for the WA-Summit that I will chair, meaning for me the decisions today are exciting, this is our future.

Over the past 20 years I have seen many changes to the WA-Summit which first started in 1992 in the USA.

2006 in Australia

- The Advisory Council was formed, an informal body with a Terms of Reference but with no mandate for global leadership or financial management. It had two aims: provide oversight of the WA-Summit itself and provide continuity between events.
- The development of Administra, the World Action Plan, capturing the outcomes of the Delegates discussions, as tangible, actionable goals and outcomes covering four areas of an administrative professionals' working life: Skills, Technology, Ethics, and Encouraging Younger People in the Profession; to support individual administrative professionals and their professional associations.
- Clarifying the purpose of the WA-Summit which is:

to guide, influence, and positively develop the profession.

It became clear over the next few summits that the Co-convenors, who were tasked with leading the Advisory Council, had to be focused on planning the summit. They had to provide an event with speakers and workshops as it was becoming a conference aimed mostly at participants who were included from 2000. This change was overtaking the purpose of the Delegate discussions, often with insufficient time left in the programme for the in-depth discussions required.

2015 in Papua New Guinea

- The Delegates asked for a review of the Advisory Council which resulted in appointing an Advisory Council Chairman to:
 - manage the research between summits conducted by teams from the Advisory Council
 - provide continuity between summits, and
 - free the co-convenors to focus on arranging the summit.

- It was agreed that the summits would again be solely for Delegates, with focus to be on the discussion topics and outcomes.
- The 2015 Delegates asked the Advisory Council to research three topics:
 - International Credentialing,
 - International Networking, and
 - International Position Titles.

This was the first research conducted by the Advisory Council Task Forces. It included desktop research and a worldwide survey gathering over 3000 responses. This research led to in-depth final reports on each of these topics by 2018; tangible outcomes which are available on our website.

This was a significant step in how the WA-Summit discussions could guide, influence, and positively develop our profession.

After the 10th 2018 WA-Summit, several new Task Forces were developed.

Two working on completing the International Credentialing and International Networking outcomes.

Four others have been working on the outcomes of the new topics from 2018; Harassment in the Workplace, Image of the Profession, Skills Set Matrix, and WA-Summit Advisory Council – Future.

Covid-19 led to our splitting the 11th WA-Summit into this separate business session to ensure we kept momentum, with hopefully, a face-to-face discussion session in May 2021.

The reports on the 2018 topics are completed, they are now being reviewed, and will go out for consultation with you, the 2020 Delegates, from 1 September 2020. Final discussion and acceptance are scheduled for May 2021.

We all owe a huge debt of thanks to those who have been conducting this work, all voluntarily alongside their full-time paid work, family, and social commitments. This work has not been easy, but they have stuck at it to complete the tasks they took on.

Two reports, however, have been shared with you.

- ***The Image of the Profession – White Paper***, to provide background information for our facilitated discussion on Branding our profession a little later in this meeting.
- ***The WA-Summit Advisory Council – Future***, which provides the background for our discussions and endorsement at this Business Session.

The constraints of the current informal structure, as I noted earlier, led to the 2018 Delegates asking for consideration of a new structure to replace the Advisory Council.

To provide what was being asked, any new structure must be able to gather and manage finances, provide leadership, advocacy, and conduct research, along with being robust, resilient, and proactive.

The Task Force was formed and with guidance from Veronica Cochran, looked at options to suit our needs. The most appropriate choice was a non-profit trade (where trade means profession) association, incorporated in the United States.

This new structure, called World Administrators Alliance; has bylaws, is now incorporated, has appointed an Interim Chairman, and an Interim Council with wide geographical representation. The domain name *wa-alliance.com* has also been purchased to ensure we can develop a website in our name.

Throughout this development the Task Force honoured a promise to consult with the 2018 Delegates, seeking their input on major decisions over the last two years.

All Delegates have been sent the WA-Summit Advisory Council – Future Report. You were asked to read, share, consult on, and bring to this Zoom Business Meeting your country's single vote on the recommendations provided.

The decisions today will set the scene for providing more robust support for all administrative professionals, individually through participating in our surveys and using our resources on our website, and for your associations through consultation and discussions with their membership.

Endorsing these steps is the focus of today's meeting. I look forward to seeing the WA-Alliance on a sound basis to take it and the WA-Summit into the future, and I look forward to the outcomes today.