

Dear IAD Members,

At first, I like to send you my best wishes for the year 2022. Let us hope that it will bring a better situation so that we can meet personally on conferences and due to other reasons. Scientific exchange is the basis for successful work and one of the main objectives of the IAD.

I have been a member of IAD for more than twelve years. At first, IAD was the possibility for me to gain more knowledge on Danube issues, especially on the network and the people behind it, but also on scientific topics that were in my field of interest (floodplain ecology, river morphology, restoration of rivers, floodplains and wetlands). I came to know many interesting people who stood for different topics and gave me a deep insight into the Danube catchment and ecosystem as well as into the political and administrative structure in several countries. Especially institutions like ICPDR came closer to my network and range of operation, which makes a greater commitment to the IAD important and meaningful.

Therefore, in 2015 I accepted the offer to succeed Dr. Kohman as the Country Representative of the IAD in Germany. Scientifically, in the same year I took over the IAD Expert Group 'Floodplain Ecology' as successor of my honorable esteemed colleague Professor Dister. This was the starting point of a deeper engagement in the IAD scientific network, which was completed by taking over the position of co-editor of the Danube News, together with Dr. Haidvogel. All this shows my dedication to the IAD.

As I have been working internationally for most of my scientific life, this will continue to be my working style, also in the future. As a President of IAD, I therefore will aspire to keep the IAD network together and to strengthen it as tightly and as powerfully as possible. Furthermore, I would try to focus IAD research on important issues of our century, such as biodiversity (aquatic as well as semi-terrestrial), river, floodplain and wetland restoration, limitation of hydropower especially in combination with hydro-morphological issues, free flowing rivers, and climate change. My vision is to keep the international standing of IAD as visible and high as possible and to strengthen its influence in the Danube Catchment – scientifically and politically!

Bernd Cyffka, 25 January 2022