



## World Federation of Science Journalists

### 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW

#### SjCOOP AFRICA

##### January

**SjCOOP Project in Africa and in the Middle East** : the project was granted an extension until the end of May by the UK's Department for International Development (DfID) and the end of June by The Netherlands' Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The extra funding enabled the WFSJ to further support the Virtual Science Newsroom in Africa and in the Middle East (ME). It also facilitated the participation of several journalists at the 8<sup>th</sup> World Conference of Science Journalists, in Helsinki, in June 2013.

##### February

**DfID Evaluation of SjCOOP**: a three-person team from DfID came to WFSJ headquarters to review the second phase of the SjCOOP Project in Africa and the ME. They gave SjCOOP the top score of A<sup>+</sup>.

##### September

**SjCOOP Africa/ME**: The UK's Department for International Development declined to fund the proposal for the third phase of the project. It was deemed too similar to the previous phases. The new Director travels to London to meet with DfID. He is told SjCOOP as it stands is no longer a priority. Future, DfID funded, science journalism capacity building projects will need to involve different partners and these will need to work within the framework of a consortium.

# **SjCOOP ASIA**

## **April**

**SjCOOP Asia:** on 24<sup>th</sup> April, the World Federation launched the SjCOOP Asia Project inviting journalists from South East Asia to apply for the mentoring program in science journalism. The Sasakawa Peace Foundation of Japan signed a grant agreement to help fund part of the SjCOOP Asia Project.

## **June**

**SjCOOP Asia:** a team of six mentors and three coordinators originating from Australia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam was confirmed.

## **September**

**SjCOOP Asia:** 24 mentees from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Vietnam join the team of six mentors and three coordinators and meet in Hanoi during the week of 23<sup>rd</sup> September.

## **November**

**SjCOOP Asia:** Five news editors, six mentors and two coordinators meet in Tokyo during the week of 18<sup>th</sup> November. The meeting was organized by the Japanese Association of Science and Technology Journalists. Representatives from the Korean Science Journalists Association also attended.

# **MEMBERSHIP**

## **February**

The **Association of Health Care Journalists**, a 1300-member association based in the United States, joined the World Federation as its 44<sup>th</sup> member.

## **May**

**Associations:** on 26<sup>th</sup> May, the Board approved the membership of the Balkans Association of Science Journalists which became the 45<sup>th</sup> member of the World Federation.

## **June**

**Associations:** the Swiss Association of Science Journalists was accepted as the 46<sup>th</sup> member association of the World Federation.

# GOVERNANCE

## May

**Charitable Status:** on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2013, the Canada Revenue Agency granted charitable status to the World Federation of Science Journalists: charity registration number is 83191 1748 RR0001.

**Board Elections:** on 9<sup>th</sup> May, Canadian science journalist Ms. Dominique Forget was elected to the Board, following a participation of 39 associations to the electronic voting process. On 23<sup>rd</sup> May, Mr. Curtis Brainard from the United States was also elected to the Board after a second ballot.

## June

**Board Meeting and General Assembly:** in Helsinki, the General Assembly, with a very strong participation of 30 member associations, accepted the World Federation should take over the organizing of the World Conference. It also approved a new process to elect the President of the Federation through a vote of the General Assembly.

**2015 World Conference of Science Journalists:** South Korea was selected to host the 2015 World Conference, beating off bids from Kenya and South Africa.

**New president of WFSJ:** following the selection of South Korea as host of the 2015 World Conference of Science Journalists, health journalist Mr. Chul Joong Kim became the new president of the World Federation. His term runs from 2013 to 2015. He will be the last WFSJ President whose election is tied to the country winning the bid to host the World Conference. In 2015, it is the General Assembly of the members that will elect the WFSJ President.

## September

**New Director:** Mr. Damien Chalaud, started his tenure as the new director of the World Federation of Science Journalists on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013.

## December

**The WFSJ changes address:** The WFSJ moves its headquarters from Gatineau to Montréal. The WFSJ shares office space with WFSJ member l'Association des communicateurs scientifiques du Québec and the Agence Science Presse.

Our new address,  
1124, Marie-Anne Est Street, suite 12, Montréal QC H2J 2B7, Canada  
Telephone: +1 514 508-2777

## OTHER ACTIVITIES

### February

**Kavli Symposium on the Future of Science Journalism:** the very first meeting of the organizing team of the Symposium was held in Boston with the participation of science journalists from the BBC, Wall Street Journal, Nature, Science, and the editor-in-chief of Scientific American.

### July- August

**Online Course in Science Journalism** - On 24<sup>th</sup> August, the Federation launched the Persian version of its 10-online course in science journalism. The course is now available in eight languages (Arabic, English, Chinese, French, Persian, Portuguese, Spanish, and Turkish) at: <http://www.wfsj.org/course/>

The **Guide to Mentoring in Science Journalism** was revised and updated. It is the second edition of this Guide. It shares the lessons learned in the mentoring process and looks into the complex mentor-mentee relationship.

### October

**Kavli Prize Competition:** launch of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the Kavli Prize competition in partnership with the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Five science journalists will be able to attend the Kavli Prize Ceremony in Oslo, in September 2014.

### November - December

**Kavli Symposium on the Future of Science Journalism:** the steering committee met for the first time and started drawing up the programme for the symposium, to be held between February 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> in Chicago. IDRC joins as a second funding partner.

**Ecohealth Prize Competition:** the WFSJ is asked to develop and implement an international competition, for eight science journalists from around the world, to attend and cover Ecohealth 2014 - the 5th Biennial Conference of the International Association for Ecology and Health in Montreal from August 11-15, 2014. Scholarships funded by IDRC.

# CONFERENCE

## June

**World Conference of Science Journalists in Helsinki, 24 - 28 June 2013:** the Conference attracted some 800 participants and was a success. The Federation organized two sessions; one on the Africa/ME SjCOOP Project, one on associations, and the Director participated to two panels on the training of science journalists and the future of science journalism

## September - October

**2015 & 2017 World Conference of Science Journalists:** The WFSJ drafts a new (first) contract/Memorandum of Understanding in view of changing the way the 2015 and 2017 conferences are organized.

# PROMOTION

## February

**ICCA Workshop in Anchorage,** the WFSJ Director participated with other executives of international organizations in a workshop on the planning of international conferences supported by the International Congress and Convention Association (ICCA).

## March-April

**Korea and Australia:** in March, the Executive Director and the SjCOOP Asia Director travelled to Korea at the invitation of the Korea Science Journalists' Association and visited Australia to seek funding for the SjCOOP Asia Project.

## October

**BestCities Workshop in Houston:** the WFSJ Director participated with other executives of international organizations in a workshop on the planning of international conferences. The new Director also evaluated the feasibility of a holding the 2017 conference in the USA.

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