

Minutes of the meeting of the WAN-IFRA WPF General Assembly

Thursday, 2017-10-12, Meeting at IFRA World Publishing Expo 2017, Content Stage 2

Participants of the World Printers Forum General Assembly Meeting

Mr. Eike	Bühning	Badische Neueste Nachrichten Badendruck, Karlsruhe, Germany
Mr. Andreas	Gierth	Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung (F.A.Z.), Frankfurt/Main, Germany
Mr. Sanat	Hazra	Bennett, Coleman & Co (The Times of India Group), Mumbai, India
Mr. Ralf	Henninger	Papierfabrik Palm, Aalen-Neukochen, Germany
Dr. Michael	Hirthammer	Sun Chemical, Eurolab, Karlstein, Germany
Mr. Thomas	Isaksen	DDPFF, Kopenhagen, Denmark
Mr. Menno	Jansen	Q.I. Press Controls BV, EAE, Oosterhout, Netherlands
Mr. Herbert	Kaiser	Koenig & Bauer, Digital & Web, Würzburg, Germany, Vice Chair World Printers Forum Board
Mr. Jan	Kasten	ppi Media GmbH, Hamburg, Germany
Mr. Carl Conrad	Mäder	Ferag AG, Hinwil, Switzerland
Mr. Gerhard	Raab	ppi Media GmbH, Hamburg, Germany
Mr. Josef	Schießl	Süddeutscher Verlag Zeitungsdruck, München, Germany
Mr. Martin	Schorn	UPM, Hamburg, Germany
Mr. Heiko	Schröder	TMI Service GmbH, Ahrensburg, Germany
Dr. Rick	Stunt	dmg media, London, UK, Chair World Printers Forum Board
Mr. Cees	van der Wild	Resolute Forest Products, Diegem, Netherlands
Mr. Markus	Zink	Axel Springer SE, Berlin, Germany
WAN-IFRA Representatives		
Mr. Jaiganesh	M	WAN-IFRA South Asia, Chennai, India
Mr. Magdoom	Mohamed	WAN-IFRA South Asia, Chennai, India
Mr. Manfred	Werfel	WAN-IFRA, Frankfurt/Main, Germany, Secretary World Printers Forum Board
<i>Total: 20 participants</i>		

The Agenda

No.	Topic		Time
1	Welcome	Chair WPF Board	9.20
2	Report about the work of the World Printers Forum International Newspaper Color Quality Club Projects: Optimised Paper Handling and Logistics Print-Online Performance Gap High-Value Printing Lighter Newsprint World Printers Forum Conference 2017 Election of additional Board Members	Secretary	9.25
3	Discussion of the report	all	10.15
4	New projects – proposals, discussion	Secretary, all	10.30
5	IFRA World Publishing Expo Review	all	10.45
6	Other business	all	11.00
7	Next General Assembly meeting	Secretary, all	11.10
8	Concluding comments	Chair WPF Board	11.15
	End of the meeting		11.20

The Minutes

1 Welcome and opening of the meeting

Dr. Rick Stunt, chairman of the World Printers Forum Board, welcomed the participants and called the meeting to order.

2 Report about the work of the World Printers Forum in 2017

Manfred Werfel reported about the work of the World Printers Forum since the last meeting. His presentation slides are available as a downloadable attachment to the minutes (wan-ifra.org/articles/2017/02/24/wpf-board-and-general-assembly).

The report covered the following topics.

- International Newspaper Color Quality Club
- Projects: Optimised Paper Handling and Logistics
 Print-Online Performance Gap
 High-Value Printing
 Lighter Newsprint
- World Printers Forum Conference 2017
- Election of additional Board Members

3 Discussion of the report

During the discussion of the report the question was raised: How comes that the paper tonnage of newsprint is shrinking worldwide if – at the same time – the worldwide newspaper circulation is growing at a rate of 5% per year?

Participants identified the following reasons:

- Circulation figures are falling in saturated markets (North America, Europe, Australia, Japan) and are growing in Asia and Africa, mainly in India. Since page count is rather high in saturated markets and lower in Asia, the industry is losing high-volume copies and gaining low-volume copies.
- Another statements was, that in the saturated markets not only the circulation is shrinking but the individual page count as well.
- Since years, the basic weight of newsprint is falling from 48 to 45 g/m² (America) and from 45 to 42.5 or even 40 g/m² in Europe. This also reduces the total tonnage of used newsprint worldwide.

Thomas Isaksen proposed that the kind of presentation heard at the actual WPF General Assembly meeting – including the positive findings regarding the newspaper print business – should also be presented at the next World News Media Congress of WAN-IFRA in Lisbon next June.

4 New projects – proposals, discussion

Suggestions were proposed and discussed for future research topics. A number of suggestions focussed on questions around the sustainability of printed newspapers:

- Sustainability in printing – Rick Stunt, dmg Media
- Labelling possibilities in print production – recycled, pure pulp etc.

- Compostable inks – Dr. Michael Hirthammer, Sun Chemicals
- Continuation of the work on “Higher-Value Print Products”, especially the use of FSC certified paper

Another discussed area touched the efficiency of print:

- Efficiency of the printed newspaper for advertising compared to other (electronic) media.
- Print Power – Ulbe Jelluma

Indian colleagues proposed a report about the findings from their projects on mechanical audits of printing presses. This project has just been started by WAN-IFRA in India and the report could be written during the second half of 2018.

5 IFRA World Publishing Expo Review

In general participants considered the actual Expo in Berlin as a success compared to last year, however, the target would be to get back to a size of the Expo as two or three years ago.

During the discussion the meeting participants mentioned the following comments regarding the actual Expo in Berlin:

- It should be considered to change the time schedules of the exhibition and the conference, so that there is less overlap and visitors have enough time to participate in the conference but still have enough time to meet technology partners at the expo booths.
- Perhaps the opening session could be in the afternoon of the preceding day, before the exhibition starts.
- Attendees asked for a clear stage information about what is happening where and when. Some visitors were confused and didn't find their way. Also, some participants asked to reduce the number of conference stages to avoid empty auditoriums and speakers' frustration.
- Some participants considered the Expo visitor entrance fee per day as too high.

6 Other business

Rick Stunt honoured Gerhard Raab for his many years of service on various WAN-IFRA committees and working groups and handed over a token of appreciation in the name of the World Printers Forum.

This General Assembly meeting was the last WAN-IFRA event that Gerhard Raab participated in. He will retire after having extended his professional career already beyond the regular point of time.

General Assembly participants applauded and thanked Gerhard for his great support and cooperation.



Dr. Rick Stunt, Chair of the WPF Board, thanks Gerhard Raab (right) for many years of work in WAN-IFRA committees, working groups and in the World Printers Forum Board.

7 Next General Assembly meeting

The General Assembly decided to meet again during the next IFRA World Publishing Expo in Berlin next year:

- World Printers Forum General Assembly meeting in 2018:
Thursday, 11 October 2018 (third day of Expo), 9:30 to 11:30 hours, Messe Berlin.

8 Concluding comments

Rick Stunt thanked the participants of the WPF General Assembly for their valuable contribution and the productive meeting. He closed the meeting at 11:20 h.

Notes and meeting minutes by Jaiganesh M and Manfred Werfel, WAN-IFRA, 27.10.2017.

Minutes approved by Rick Stunt (Chair of the WPF Board) and Herbert Kaiser (Vice-Chair of the WPF Board) on 2.10.2017.

The General Assembly presentation is available as an attachment to the minutes on the website of the World Printers Forum:

http://www.wan-ifra.org/sites/default/files/field_article_file/2017-10-12%20WPF%20GA%20Oct%202017.pdf