Sep.’17
WL NEWS
Issue 3. WL News takes you to China!
It is my pleasure to bring to your mailboxes the third issue of the most comprehensive monthly compilation of leisure news. With this new issue, WLO News takes you to China on the occasion of the largest international exhibition specifically focused on leisure: the Third World Leisure Expo “Leisure: Better Life”, which will be held in Hangzhou from the 20 October to the 12 November. Here you will find more information about the WL Expo and the Third World Leisure Forum (20-21 October) – organized within the Expo and which will bring to Hangzhou some of the most prominent voices within the leisure academic community.

In order to provide you with a broader panorama on leisure in China, we invite you to read some articles published in World Leisure Journal, or a report on Chinese Tourism Outbound Market recently released by our affiliate UNWTO. We also announce the designation of the Chinese county of Jingde as a new World Leisure Community of Excellence for the year 2017, and tell you about what have made it earn this recognition. Whether or not you can physically travel to China and attend these events, the contents in this new issue of WLO News will bring you closer to some of the most relevant, ongoing developments in the field of leisure in the Asian country.

I would also like to highlight here that the Call for nominations for new WLO Board Members is now open, check the terms of reference, apply and help the network grow stronger! Another way of playing an active role within WLO is contributing to this publication. Please remember that we always welcome members’ contributions at media@worldleisure.org.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Dr. Cristina Ortega Nuere
WLO Chief Operating Officer
WLO Highlights

Everything ready for the Third World Leisure Expo and Forum in Hangzhou (China)

The Third World Leisure Expo “Leisure – Better Life”, the largest leisure exhibition in the world, will open its doors on the 20 October. Since then and for almost a month, until the 12 November, millions of visitors will get to know the exhibitors, enjoy festival and leisure activities.

Furthermore, during the 20 and 21 October, the Third World Leisure Forum will gather an outstanding international group of academics and professionals in the field of leisure to discuss on the contribution of “Leisure for a better life”. The programme, speakers and topics have been highly curated and put together in place between WLO and WL Expo team and feels to become a unique occasion. A keynote speech by WLO President, Dr. Roger Coles, will be offered during the Forum, titled “Leisure is increasingly sought after throughout the World”.

Under the title “Leisure – Better Life”, the third edition of the World Leisure Expo will transform Hangzhou International Expo Center, the Expo’s main venue, in a living demonstration of Leisure and a platform with a global influence attracting high-level meetings and all kinds of festival and leisure activities, with exhibitors coming from a very diverse range of countries and many interactive elements designed to enrich the visitors’ experience.

During the first two days, on the 20 and 21 October, right after the opening ceremony, the Third WL Forum will be organized to reflect on the main theme of the Expo, “Leisure – Better Life”. The 2-day program will gather outstanding international scholars and professionals with different backgrounds coming from nine different countries. Some of the main topics that will be discussed are: Leisure and wellbeing; Leisure industries, digital leisure and innovation; Leisure sports and sustainability; Leisure, recreation and community development; and Leisure Education. This will definitely become a unique opportunity to share and reflect about some of the most relevant and latest research achievements in the Leisure field.

Among the confirmed speakers for the Forum, visitors will have the chance to listen to:

- Jack Agrios, O.C., Q.C. Barrister and Solicitor;
- Stephen Anderson, Professor at Florida International University Miami, Florida, USA;
Stay tuned for more details on the Third WL Forum's programme!
Open call for nominations for WLO Board of Directors. Apply now!

WLO launches a Call for nominations addressed to international leisure field scholars and professionals who want to invest their time in strengthening our organization. Newly appointed members of the Board will serve for a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018. Deadline for application is Tuesday 31 October 2017.

WLO is currently seeking international leisure field scholars and professionals who want to invest their time in strengthening our organization. We are looking for thought leaders to assist WLO in empowering our projects and community, advocating for the leisure field and supporting our members worldwide.

The advancement and growth of WLO would not exist without the commitment and passion of our volunteer leaders.

WLO Board seats are open to any WLO member in good standing and members appointed will serve a three-year term beginning January 1, 2018.

Expressions of Interest should be sent to secretariat@worldleisure.org as e-mail attachment in PDF File, no later than Tuesday, 31st October 2017.

For more information about the Open Call for Nominations and Board Members Characteristics needed for the 2018-2021 term click: 2018_WLO_Elections_Board_Member
1st China Leisure Congress paves the way for Pinggu 2020 WL Congress

As a prelude to the Pinggu 2020 World Leisure Congress, Beijing, China, the Beijing Tourism Development Committee and the People’s Government of Pinggu organized the 1st China (Beijing) Leisure Congress. The Chairman of the WLO Board of Directors, Roger Coles, the member of WLO Board of Directors Lawal Marafa, and Jack Agrios were invited to witness the event and deliver keynote speeches.

The 1st China (Beijing) Leisure Congress was hosted from the 22 to the 24 September 2017 and counted with the participation of the Chairman of the WLO Board of Directors, Roger Coles, member of WLO Board of Directors Lawal Marafa and Jack Agrios, who delivered keynote speeches. At the Congress, there were about 400 participants from all walks of life at the Pinggu District. The Congress and the presentations were structured with a main forum immediately after the opening ceremony and three parallel sessions with more than 150 participants at each session. The theme of the Congress was “Leisure makes life better”, appropriately so. There were subthemes for the parallel sessions included “Leisure City Development in China”, “Integration and Development of Leisure Industry” and “Era of All-people Leisure”.

The dynamism of the event and the energy and enthusiasm that resonated within and around the venue was clearly unprecedented in the history of local leisure events. The team of participants, the hospitality of the organizers, the pampering of the volunteers and the splashes and flashes of the media that constantly recorded the activities was a scene to behold. The last day of the congress was a field visit to showcase the agro-ecological environment that surrounds the district of Pinggu, the heritage and the temple that stood towering on the highest local elevation and the local delicacies that were served in a leisurely manner made the participants to indeed want to come back to Pinggu. As one of the participants exclaimed, “if this is a rehearsal to the World Leisure Congress”, we cannot wait to see what is on offer for the Pinggu 2020 WL Congress, Beijing, China.
WLO and Routledge, Taylor & Francis work on increased membership benefits

Cristina Ortega Nuere, Chief Operating Officer for World Leisure Organization, and Alejandra Leach-Núñez, Managing Editor for World Leisure Journal (WLJ) at Routledge, Taylor & Francis, met to discuss a renewed publishing agreement in respect of the Organization’s journal. Increased benefits for WLO members and greater synergies between the two entities formed the basis of meeting.

WLO’s COO, Cristina Ortega Nuere, met in London Alejandra Leach-Núñez, Managing Editor for World Leisure Journal (WLJ) at Routledge, Taylor & Francis, to reinforce the joint work and coordination between the two entities. Discussions focused around the WLO’s preparations for the 2018 WL Congress in São Paulo, as well as plans for marking the journal’s historic 60th anniversary, with delegates invited to a celebratory event to be held in Brazil, as well as the establishment of an inaugural WLJ best article or young researcher prize. As part of the anniversary celebrations, prospective WLO members can look forward to sampler free access to WLO content, while existing members will see their benefits increased through the renewed publishing partnership, with free access being granted to additional Taylor & Francis journals.

In the area of greater synergies, Cristina and Alejandra agreed to spotlight and give free access to WLJ content in all forthcoming newsletters, with last month’s newsletter highlighting content on Latin America in advance of the 2018 WL Congress in Brazil, and this month’s highlighting articles on China, in advance of the Third World Leisure Expo in Hangzhou. We look forward to continuing to highlight topical content to our members in future newsletters.

More information on the renewed membership benefits with regard to WLJ will be coming soon.

China-Hungary international cooperation in the field of Leisure fostered by two WLO Board Members

WLO Board of Directors member Dr. Miklos Banhidi (Széchenyi István University) visited China last July invited by Board Member Dr. Jane Zhou (Zhejiang University). He taught a 3-week summer course, conducted and accompanied Dr. Zhou in her field research, met with local authorities and engage in multiple discussions with actors in the local leisure community. Banhidi’s visit is one step more in the consolidation of international cooperation relationship that started already in 2016.

Dr. Miklos Banhidi (Széchenyi István University), WLO Board of Directors member, did a teaching and research stay at Zhejiang University, from the 10 to the 29 July, invited by another WLO Board member, Dr. Jane Zhou.
Among many other activities, Dr. Banhidi offered a summer course of three weeks at the end of which students were able to: give a detailed description on a professional sports manager’s position, write a CV to apply to a professional sports club, and successfully complete a test with several questions. Parallel to this teaching activity, Dr. Banhidi had the opportunity to join Dr. Zhou’s research team and assist her in her work as an advisor for cities in the province to develop their leisure and tourism. More specifically, he accompanied her in a visit to Quingyuan County to analyze the local conditions and plans by the communities.

Miklos Banhidi valued the experience as highly satisfactory: “I would like to thank Jane organizing this visit very professionally. During my stay we worked together and developed some very good ideas for future cooperation, such as helping communities in leisure and tourism development, doing common research and publishing joint articles”.

The international cooperation between China and Hungary had begun already in 2016 by the two WLO Board members, Dr. Jane Zhou and Dr. Miklos Banhidi. In November 2016 a delegation from Hangzhou visited Széchenyi István University to discuss on the development of exchange programs among the two universities. A Memorandum of Understanding was then signed, and a few months later a group of Chinese table tennis players, students from Dr. Zhou’s graduate class, were invited to be a part of Márk Bánhidi International Memorial table tennis competition in Pápa (Hungary).

WLO’s COO meets representatives of leisure destination Lake Garda (Italy)

Lake Garda is not only a stunning natural setting, but also a major natural and leisure destination in Western Europe. Invited by Fondazione Il Vittoriale degli Italiani, WLO’s COO Cristina Ortega visited the Brescia shores of the lake and learnt more about the management and promotion of this leisure destination. She met Il Vittoriale’s President, Giordano Bruno Guerri, and the Director of the Consorzio Lago di Garda Lombardia, Marco Giraldi, with whom she discussed on potential forms of collaboration. Getting first-hand knowledge on leisure spaces and practices help us improve our services to the leisure community, and for that we sincerely thank the invite.

Cristina Ortega, WLO’s Chief Operating Officer, attended the Cultural Awards ceremony that took place at Il Vittoriale degli Italiani, the museum-home of Gabriele d’Annunzio in Gardone Riviera, on the Brescia shores of Lake Garda, Lombardia, Italy, on the 16 September, where she had the chance to meet its President, Giordano Bruno Guerri. The venue comprises a group of buildings, roads, squares, an outdoor theatre, gardens and streams that make it a unique place.

WLO’s COO also had the chance to meet the Director of the Consorzio Lago di Garda Lombardia, Marco Giraldi, as well as Gianluca Ginepro and Antonia Di Belia, in order to explore possibilities of collaboration between WLO and the Consortium.
Jingde County (China) designated as a 2017 World Leisure Community of Excellence

Jingde County, in Anhui province in China, has been designated as a new WL Community of Excellence for the year 2017. The evaluators highlighted the County’s good performance in terms of partnership between organizations, engagement of its population and attracting tourists to undertake a range of leisure activities.

An on-site visit was made between 6 and 8 July 2017 by members of WLO Board of Directors to assess the nomination of Jingde County, in the Chinese province of Anhui, as a World Leisure Community of Excellence for the year 2017. During the visit, the evaluators met with county officials, staff of management committee of Huangshan Mountain and staff from the local travel company, as well as the Executive Vice Mayor of Jingde County, the Vice Mayor in charge of Tourism, Health and Social Services and the Secretary General of the Communist Party of Jingde County. The purpose of such meetings and interactions was to gauge the level of commitment of the leadership as regards to leisure industry and services to the community.

The report elaborated after the visit highlighted that “the contribution of the County to the leisure of its people can best be portrayed as a spiral development that starts from household empowerment which leads to people’s undertaking of leisure initiatives which encourage more active participation and attracting more visitors. All these in turn generate more resources for maintenance and rehabilitation of leisure resources for enjoyment and lifelong learning and growth as evidenced in the community”. This report was then submitted to the WLO Community of Excellence Evaluation Committee for deliberation and decision.

We take this opportunity to send a message for other communities to stay tuned for a new call for Communities of Excellence being launched soon.

WLO sends its congratulations to Jingde County and encourages all actors to keep up the good work in promoting leisure as a means for human development.
“2017 Taiwan Summer Solstice”: Chinese Taipei WL Chapter promotes innovation in tourism

September was a month of celebration for Chinese Taipei World Leisure Chapter. Several activities were organized on the occasion of the Summer Solstice 235. Among them, the academic Conference “2017 Taiwan Summer Solstice 235” was devoted to tourism in Taiwan, while “2017 Taiwan Summer Solstice 235 Original Design and Marketing Competition” invited students to submit their innovative projects for the tourism industry.

Taiwan, on the Tropic of Cancer – 23.5 degrees North latitude, is an island rich in both resources and natural habitats. It is known as the “Emerald on the Tropic of Cancer” for its beautiful landscape, which makes it an important tourism destination in the region and worldwide. In this context, and on the occasion of Summer Solstice 235, several activities were organized by Chinese Taipei World Leisure Chapter to promote innovation in tourism.

Firstly, the Conference “2017 Taiwan Summer Solstice 235” was an opportunity to evaluate Taiwan’s tourism development through academic studies and to share our research experiences on Taiwan tourism. Secondly, “2017 Taiwan Summer Solstice 235 Original Design and Marketing Competition” invited students interested in the tourism industry to present their ideas. The participants submitted their original creative event project with a relevant concept of tourist sight-seeing in Taiwan. With the creativity of young students, the “Taiwan Summer Solstice 235” aims to innovate in the field of tourism services and activities, assembling all design talents with independent thinking and problem-solving ability in order to provide the Ministry of Transportation and Communications Tourism Bureau with innovative tourism projects.

Chinese Taipei is a WL Chapter. With a minimum of 10 members, WL Chapters offer a unique affiliation opportunity to individuals at the community level. They also create an opportunity to embrace WLO’s broader vision, priorities and themes.

News from Quebec WL Chapter: the recreation training programme DAFA continues growing

The DAFA Program, 2016 World Leisure Innovation Prize winner, consolidates as a reference training program on recreation in the field of leisure and sports, with 2016-2017 seeing a considerable increase of new leaders, instructors, organizations and training courses. The Program will now continue to develop under the leadership of Sonia Vaillancourt, recently appointed as new general manager and who will replace Daniel Caron upon his retirement. We wish both of them the best of luck!

In 2016-2017, the DAFA Program, managed by the Quebec Leisure Council (CQL, Conseil Québécois du Loisir), has welcomed 3,764 new leaders, 168 new instructors, 36 new organizations and organized 240 training courses. Following the 2016 World Leisure Innovation Prize, the DAFA Program received a motion of congratulations from the Québec National Assembly.
In addition, the partners of the DAFA Program updated the content of the training and carried out 22 training updates throughout Quebec. It was present in 19 regional, national and international events and has organized the 32nd edition of the Journalism Award in leisure. Its two Facebook pages welcome 4,437 subscribers. Some 150 students were met to present the community of leisure. Finally, DAFA participated in two partnership research projects: one on the leisure community and integration, and another on the relations between the national leisure organizations and the Quebec government.

The Canadian recreation training Programme Diplôme d’Aptitude aux Fonctions d’Animateur (DAFA), established in 2009 and managed by the CQL, was the winner of the WL Innovation Prize in 2016. The DAFA Programme offers training and support to professionals, trainers and managers who work in the field of recreation in leisure and sports. The Programme facilitates group recreation, validates the work of the facilitators, promotes recruitment and retention, and encourages discussion between networks through recognition of the Programme across Quebec and beyond.

Following the retirement of the general manager, Daniel Caron, who has been in the position since the creation of the CQL, the board of directors has hired Sonia Vaillancourt as new general manager. WLO sends its congratulations to Daniel on his great work and the best wishes to Sonia on this new challenge.

Quebec is a WL Chapter which, with participation of the CQL and the Université du Québec à Trois-Rivières (UQTR), helps foster WLO’s mission, vision and objectives.
Laurel Sliskovic (Canada): “Leisure is the perspective that shapes how I actively participate in my geographic and social communities”

Few things make us happier than our members renewing their commitment to our growing network. Laurel Sliskovic is a graduate of Vancouver Island University, a World Leisure Centre of Excellence (WLCE), and works at The Sociable Scientists Inc. We asked her about her views on Leisure and her experience as a WLO member.

Read our conversation with Laurel Sliskovic, a graduate of Vancouver Island University, a World Leisure Centre of Excellence (WLCE), who works at The Sociable Scientists Inc and just renewed her WLO membership.

In one sentence: What does leisure mean to you?
Leisure is the perspective that shapes how I actively participate in my geographic and social communities; it provides choice and opportunity for exploration, growth, and fulfillment.

What leisure projects, research and/or activities are you involved in?
I paddleboard, swim, fish, dance, sing, ride my bikes, volunteer, read, practice yoga, facilitate community reading circles, snowboard, and research leisure and its role and impact on sustainable community development on Vancouver Island on the West Coast of Canada.

How did you hear about WLO?
I am a graduate of Vancouver Island University, which is a World Leisure Centre of Excellence.

Why did you decide to become a member of WLO?
WLO’s role through its projects and programs are well-aligned with my own values in the promotion of healthy, accessible, affordable leisure for all people.

What kind of synergies would you like to develop through your WLO membership?
Continually learning from and contributing to applied research opportunities that translate into enhanced leisure experiences for all is what I would like to develop (and am developing) through my WLO membership.
Senthil Kumaran Piramanayagam (India): “I am researching to develop a comprehensive universal design of built leisure infrastructure in India”

WLO is extremely happy to welcome a new member from India! Senthil Kumaran Piramanayagam works as a professor and a researcher at the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Administration and Centre for Hospitality Research (WGSHA), at Manipal University (India). These short questions will bring closer to him and his work.

WLO welcomes Senthil Kumaran Piramanayagam as a new member. He works as a professor and a research at the Welcomgroup Graduate School of Administration and Centre for Hospitality Research (WGSHA), Manipal University (India). Keep reading to know more about him!

In one sentence: What does leisure mean to you?
It is a time, we are what we are.

What leisure projects, research and/or activities are you involved in?
Guiding scholars in leisure research and researching to develop a comprehensive universal design of built leisure infrastructure in India.

How do you promote the development of leisure and leisure studies at Manipal University?
At Welcomgroup Graduate School of Administration and Centre for Hospitality Research (WGSHA) of Manipal University (India) we encourage Leisure and Leisure education through teaching and research.

How did you hear about WLO?
I have been a follower of WLO and its activities for a long time through the internet, as a teacher and a researcher.

Why did you decide to become a member of WLO?
To learn, network, engage and share

What kind of synergies would you like to develop through your WLO membership?
I would like to access to resources and engage with experts and people who can help in our (India) progress in the leisure spectrum.
JOURNAL: *World Leisure Journal* gives you free access to a selection of articles on Leisure in China

On the occasion of the Third World Leisure Expo (20 October-12 November) and Forum (20-21 October) in Hangzhou, Routledge, Taylor & Francis has generously agreed to give free access to some of the most recent *World Leisure Journal* articles on Leisure in China. The selected articles are: “Leisure attitude and satisfaction with leisure and life: proposing leisure prioritization and justification” (2016), by Suh-hee Choi and Ye-ji Yoo, based on data collected from students in tertiary educational institutions in Macao; the article “The history of sports and physical education in China” (2016), by the two members of WLO Board of Directors Chiung-Tzu Lucetta Tsai and Lijun Zhou, by, and a review of the book *Finding leisure in China* (Geoffrey Godbey and Song Rui, 2015), written by Francis Lobo in 2016.

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ARTICLE: “A Cultural Confrontation: Western Impacts on Female College Students’ Leisure Opportunities in Taiwan and China”

We invite you to read this extremely enlightening article by two members of WLO Board of Directors, Chiung-Tzu Lucetta Tsai and Lijun Zhou, and learn more about how cultural change and Westernization are affecting female college students’ leisure pursuits. The article, published in *Social Indicators Research* in 2015, presents a cross-cultural comparison of Taiwanese and mainland Chinese female college students, and reflects on how the ideology of Confucianism heighten the factors constraining these young women’s leisure.

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Warm-up readings for the Third World Leisure Forum (Hangzhou, China)

Here we offer you a preview of some of the contents that will be presented in the Third WL Forum in Hangzhou next 20 and 21 October. Dr. Liza Berdychevsky, Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism, College of Applied Health Sciences University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, will deliver a presentation on “The Impacts of Sexual Risk Taking in Tourism on Health and Wellbeing: Toward Effective Sexual Health Education for Tourists”. The following articles by Liza touch some of the main issues that she will raise in her presentation: “Sexual health education for young tourists” (*Tourism Management*, 2017) and “Toward
the tailoring of sexual health education messages for young women: A focus on tourist experiences” (Journal of Sex Research, 2017). On the other hand, this publication on “Bicycle Trails and Tourism”, by Prof. Dr. Roger Coles, WLO Chairman, Professor and the Interim Vice Provost for Community Engagement at Central Michigan University, serves as a warm-up for his keynote speech “Leisure is increasingly sought after throughout the World”.

UNWTO Publication: Penetrating the Chinese Outbound Tourism Market – Successful Practices and Solutions

UNWTO has recently released an important report titled “Penetrating the Chinese Outbound Tourism Market – Successful Practices and Solutions”. The publication describes Chinese outbound tourism market, the newest trends of the general Chinese tourism market, as well as some successful ways to penetrate it, based on the practices developed by different countries, like Australia, Japan or Switzerland, among others.

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2nd CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: World Leisure Congress 2018 in São Paulo!

The 2nd Call for abstracts has just opened for World Leisure Congress 2018 “Leisure beyond constraints” (28 August-1 September), organized in partnership with SESC São Paulo and with the academic guidance of the University of São Paulo. Proposals will be accepted until the 10 November on issues related to one of the 11 thematic areas of the Congress. Check the guidelines, submit your proposal and don’t miss the opportunity to be part of the major international leisure Congress.

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JOB OPPORTUNITY: Assistant Professor – Sport Management at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

The Department of Recreation, Sport and Tourism at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign invites applications for an Assistant Professor – Sport Management, nine-month, tenure-track position. This position builds on the department's interdisciplinary strengths to integrate recreation, sport and tourism and offers opportunities to engage in interdisciplinary scholarship within the department as well as other units within the College of Applied Health Sciences and across campus. The start date for this position will be the 16 August 2018. Screening of candidates will begin on the 30 September 2017 and will continue until the position is filled.

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Save the date for ANZALS 13th Biennial conference “Leisure for Social Change”!

ANZALS 13th Biennial conference will be celebrated in Hobart, Tasmania, from the 4 to the 7 December 2017, at the Sandy Bay campus of the University of Tasmania. The conference will explore leisure as an agent for social change at individual, community and societal levels in a rapidly changing world.

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