



President's Annual Report - 2008

Friends and Colleagues

Firstly I would like to welcome delegates to this our 18th Annual General Meeting and Conference. I would also like to thank Tønder Kommune for the hospitality they have extended to us and for all the hard work that has gone into organising this weekend, which we all appreciate.

In my first year as Vice President I have very much enjoyed taking over the role of President from Cllr Hans Christian Thoning, due to his election as a Member of Parliament in Demark. I intend to take an active role, along with the secretariat, in moving the organisation forward and increasing our influence and membership over the coming years.

I am pleased to see the development of the KIMO International Baltic Forum and would like to welcome our new Baltic colleagues to the Annual General Meeting. I would also like to thank Simrishamn Kommune for their commitment and support which made the development of the Forum possible. Over the coming years I believe there are many areas where we can cooperate and share knowledge and the addition of the Baltic region to KIMO will increase the influence of the organisation at the EU and International Level. KIMO Internationals application for observer status at the Helsinki Commission, if successful, will also allow us to negotiate directly with governments on issues that effect coastal communities in the Baltic.

As the organisation continues to grow it is important that we have the secretariat capable of matching that growth therefore I am happy with the recent restructuring of roles. The international Secretariat will no longer undertake the coordination of both KIMO International and KIMO UK but will focus on International issues. For the first we will also have a full time KIMO UK coordinator and I would like to welcome the new coordinator Tom Piper to the organisation. These changes should give us the capacity to continue the development of the organisation in to the future.

KIMO has continued to identify and lobby against threats to coastal communities. One significant area is the number of containers that are lost overboard from ships every year. This is an issue with which I have first hand experience as my municipality Ameland has regularly had containers washed up on its coastline over recent years. Not only are the contents of the containers unknown and

sometimes hazardous there is currently no compensation regime in place compensate municipalities for their clean up costs. It is an issue we will discuss in greater detail later when I hope we can agree a political resolution on this issue.

KIMO has also been active in international fora, for example, highlighting the research KIMO Sweden undertook in to levels on Microplastics in coastal waters at the OSPAR Biodiversity Committee. We have also undertaken a review of Marine Litter in the North East Atlantic for OSPAR and the United Nations Environment Programme. This will provide the background for the marine litter section of the OSPAR Quality Status Report (QSR) 2010 and will be published by UNEP as part of its Global Assessment of Marine Litter. It is important that KIMO continues to influence the work of OSPAR especially over the next two years in the build up to the 2010 Ministerial Meeting.

KIMO's Networks have also been working hard on behalf of their members undertaking action on many local issues. KIMO Sweden was part of the "Västerhavsveckan", an event focusing on the marine environment along the Swedish west coast and contributed with posters and lectures, and took part in an event with local and regional politicians discussing marine litter.

KIMO Netherlands and Belgium has actively participated in governmental working groups on issues such as the IMO MEPC, and the HRI. The executive board launched a strategic plan 2008-2012, which had been adopted by the general board, with one of its targets is to broaden the network and invite provincial governments to participate in the KIMO organization. In 2008 our executive board visited the ministers of the province of Noord-Holland to explore their willingness to cooperate with KIMO. After the start of the Fishing for Litter project in Eemshaven, Lauwersoog and Harlingen in 2006 projects have started in the harbours of Den Oever and Delfzijl in 2008. In December 2008 KIMO Netherlands and Belgium undertook monitoring of waste from the North Sea in the harbour of Rotterdam, which was reported on by radio and television.

The national Danish network has been involved in the discussions about possible oil pollution from wrecks, Ship-to-Ship transfers, beach cleaning and how climate changes affect the coastline. We have send KIMO Denmark's answer to proposals for laws about places of refuge and for the evaluation of the investigations of the national capacity of alert to combat oil pollution. KIMO Denmark has worked on a project documenting the amount and the costs of marine litter cleaned up at the sea by fishermen or at the coastlines by the municipalities. A proposal for a national standard for municipalities and harbours to document their expenses regarding marine litter is also being developed so it can be presented for the Danish Parliament.

In KIMO UK the main focus has been in extending the Funding for fishing for litter Scotland and securing funding for Fishing for Litter South West (England). Both

of these projects are now underway and will be launched in October by Richard Lochhead Scottish Fisheries Minister and Jonathan Shaw the UK Fisheries Minister respectively. The network has also participated in consultations processes on Ship-to-Ship regulations and the Scottish Marine Planning Bill as well as giving a presentation to the Scottish Executive Marine Directorate. The KIMO Home Working Data Trawl project was also successfully completed proving that this type of home-based marine consultancy could be developed as an additional income for KIMO in the future.

KIMO's smaller members have also contributed significantly to the organisation too in the last year. In the Faeroes a pilot Fishing for Litter project was run in one harbour and proved successful with the composition of litter monitored similar to other schemes. KIMO Isle of Man had a paper on Fishing for, which called for the governments involved to investigate FFL schemes, agreed by the British Irish Council allowing KIMO UK to secure the funding it need.

I have very much enjoyed my first year as Vice President working with the organisation and plan to continue working closely with the Secretariat, Board Members, National Coordinators and Members to ensure we continue to be a success. I would like to thank you all for the hard work you have put in over the last year and I look forward to my next two years as president.

Thank you.

Mayor Albert de Hoop (Vice President)
Gemeente Ameland
The Netherlands