Report from the Vice President October, 2020

Since being elected as Vice President at the 2017 GCM in Évora, Portugal, I have worked closely with IDEA President, Robin Pascoe on several projects, making major improvements to IDEA’s organizational structure through updating portions of IDEA’s Constitution and Operational Manual. As we began to move more of our work online, I set up our new voting system on the platform “Election Runner.” You will be using Election Runner to vote during this GCM. I initiated and developed a relationship with Trustlaw, an organization that gives free legal advice to non-profits around the world. Working closely with the Trustlaw legal team in Lisbon, along with IDEA Secretary, Alexandra Espiridião we were finally able to complete IDEA’s legal registration as a non-profit organization in Portugal in November of 2019. This change in our legal status means that IDEA is now required for the first time to have its own bank account, and working with Alexandra Espiridião, IDEA Administrator, Sónia Correia, Robin Pascoe, and IDEA Treasurer, Joachim Reiss, we were recently able to complete this initiative, along with establishing our own PayPal account through the CDG bank in Lisbon. Our new status also means that we must hire a Portuguese accountant to review our books every year. In addition, we can now apply for grants from Private Foundations and Corporations. Over the past two years, I made several trips to China, speaking at conferences and giving workshops, developing relationships with IDEA member, IDEC, in anticipation of the planned Beijing 2020 IDEA Congress. Regrettably, this event was cancelled, due to the pandemic, which has overturned all our lives. The change it has caused in my own circumstances now requires me to step down from the board of Elected Officers after this General Council Meeting. It has been a great honor and privilege to work with my talented colleagues on the board these past seven years, and to serve the IDEA membership. My life has been expanded and enriched through my work for IDEA, and I thank all of you for the opportunities I have had. I will never forget the friendships we have forged together, or the experiences we have shared. Au revoir, tchau, adiós, zàijiàn, until we meet again.