



General Assembly Report

The Most Beautiful Bays of the World Toubacouta-Sine-Saloum Delta, May 26, 2011

Board of Directors:

J rome Bignon, President
Galip Gur, President-Elect
Bruno Bodard, General Manager
Michel Bujold, General Secretary
Bruno Therrien, Treasurer
Louis Th bault, Assistant-Treasurer
Ngo Van Hung, Vice president for Asia
Enrique Litman, Vice president for America
Coumba NdoffeneDiouf, Vice president for Africa

Representatives from:

Praia de Rosa Bay , Brazil
Chaleurs Bay, Canada
Tadoussac Bay, Qu bec - Canada
Mont Saint-Michel Bay, France
Gulf of Morbihan - Quiberon Bay, France
Somme Bay, France
Yeosu Bay, South Korea
Bodrum Bay, Turkey
Delta of Sine-Saloum, Senegal
Bouches de Kotor, Montenegro
Gulf of Porto and Girolata, Corsica - France
Puerto Galera Bay, Philippines
Nha Trang Bay, Vietnam
Cambodia Bay, Cambodia
Grikos Bay, Patmos - Greece
Mindelo Bay, Cape Verde
Pemba Bay, Mozambique

Les Saintes Bay, Guadeloupe - France
Setubal Bay, Portugal
Agadir Bay, Morocco
Halong Bay, Vietnam
European Union Representatives
UNESCO Representatives

Represented Candidate Bays:

Fort de France Bay, Martinique - France
Rosas Bay, Catalonia - Spain
Baule Bay, France
Horta Bay, Azores-Portugal
Jounieh Bay, Lebanon

Invited Bay:

Arguin Bank, Mauritania

Excused Bays:

Qingdao Bay, China
Diego Suarez Bay, Madagascar
Samana Bay and Rincon Bay, Dominican Republic
Santander Bay, Spain
Puerto Vallarta Bay, Mexico
Cartagena de Indias Bay, Colombia
Valdès Peninsula, Argentina
San Francisco Bay, USA

Excused Candidate Bay:

Walvis Bay, Namibia
Matsushima Bay, Japan
Pen Ghu, Taiwan
Zadar-Dugi Otok, Croatia

Non-Excused Bay:

Table Bay and False Bay, South Africa
Backwaters of Kerala, India
Bantry Bay, Ireland
Lang Co Bay, Vietnam

8h45 a.m.: Opening of the General Assembly by the President, Jérôme Bignon

On behalf of the Most Beautiful Bays of the World Network, he thanks Mr. Diouf, Vice-President Africa for his warm and colourful welcome.

Welcome

Words of welcome are delivered by Mr. Coumba Ndofoène Bouna Diouf, Fatick Regional Council President. He is pleased to see the number of countries that came to Taboucata in the Delta of Sine-Saloum for the 7th Congress and to the Most Beautiful Bays of the World (MBBW) Scientific Symposium. He stresses the fact that the Earth is at a decisive point: Climate change is here and it can no longer be ignored. He thanks the Board of Directors for granting Sine-Saloum the challenge to organize within the Scientific Symposium, the 7th Congress. He also thanks everyone that was involved in the planning and organization of the event. Mr Diouf ends with a video on Sine-Saloum Delta.

President's Report

The Most Beautiful Bays of the World Network President states that sustainable development must be at the centre of our organization, and that everyone's involvement is paramount to reach this objective. He adds that climate change must not be forgotten. Nature can be grateful but also very unforgiving as she has shown in Haiti (Jacmel Bay) and in Japan (Matsushima Bay). The President reads a letter from Matsushima Mayor mentioning the earthquake and tsunami that devastated his city. The Mayor will take time to reflect on the presence of his bay within the MBBW organization. (On behalf of the MBBW, letter of support and solidarity will be sent to Matsushima Bay). A minute of silence is held in memory of the victims of the natural disaster inflicted on these two countries.

The President carries on by saying that the organization is somewhat fragile but the MBBW is more and more influential and credible world wide. Therefore, the bays must be strong and united. In every country, everyone must show that the MBBW exist. For UNESCO, the MBBW is a useful organization. He hopes that one day the MBBW will be bearer of a program setup by the European Union. The MBBW is efficient and a down-to earth organization.

Mr. Bignon says that as president of the MBBW, he was able to get funds from the French Government; however, we must reflect on ways to get new funding after 2012.

He indicates that without volunteer work, this organization cannot function. He ends by thanking Bruno Bodard and the Board of Director for their work.

General Secretary's Report

In January 2011, the Board of Directors met in Cargèse, Corsica – France. Michel Zanettacci from Girolata – Porto Gulf was the host. The President and the General Manager visited Cambodia Bay. Galip Gur, President-Elect went to Grikos Bay on Patmos Island, Greece. In all, 5 bays were visited by the Board. During the year, an honour certificate was produced and sent to members. General Secretary, Michel Bujold

mentions that the members' round table will complete his report.

General Manager, Bruno Bodard underlines the collaboration between him and the General Secretary. Often, weekly exchanges occur. He continues by thanking the organizers of the Saloum Congress for their excellent collaboration and support. It is the first time, he says, that an international congress is organized in Senegal outside of Dakar. The members are reminded that June 8, 2011 is *World Bays Day*. On that day, members are encouraged to present honour certificates to people or organization that helped the MBBW to move forward.

The President's and General Secretary's Report are unanimously adopted.

Treasurer's Report

Bruno Therrien, Treasurer and Louis Thébault, Assistant Treasurer presents the financial statement to the association. Some bays have not yet paid their annual membership fees. Therefore, certain bays have not come forward with their obligation when joining the MBBW Network. Nonetheless, the 2010 budget shows a surplus due to funds the President was able to obtain from the French Government. Without these funds, which make 1\3 of the organization's budget, a deficit would be shown. The Treasurer hopes that in the future bays requesting a MBBW representative to travel to their bay pay the travel expenses of the representative. He says that for the moment, the organization is doing quite well because of funding received from the French Government, and also because there are neither rent nor direct salary to pay, and finally because of the volunteer work. Mr. Therrien thanks the *Office du tourisme de Vannes-Golfe du Morbihan* for office space and allowing Bruno Bodard to do work for the MBBW Network.

It was unanimously voted that in the future the organization will hire a chartered account to do the financial statements, and then handed over to an account commissionaire for verification.

The MBBW will buy a seal to certify official documents.

It is noted that negligent bays participate in the Network's activities and do not pay their annual membership fees. The Board of Directors will submit for expulsion bays that do not paid the annual fee or that do not report back. However, bays that have difficulty to carry out the annual payment are encouraged to make known to the Board.

In the future, the Treasurer's Report will take into account the fact *Office du tourisme de Vannes* lets Bruno Bodard be at the disposal of the MBBW.

The Treasurer's financial statement is unanimously adopted.

New Way to Collect Membership Fees and Vote

Bruno Therrien presents a new way to collect the annual membership fees based on the UN's *Human Development Index*. This method should bring an extra 10000 Euros to the organization's budget. Following a discussion where some people had concern about membership fees being less than previous fees, and others considering that certain particularities should be looked at, ***the proposition was unanimously adopted.*** Based on this, the Board of Directors will determine the exact fees for each bay.

World Bays Day, June 8 and Presentation of Certificates

See: General Secretary's Report

Marketing: Better Usage of the Logo

Due to a lack of time, this matter was not discussed lengthily. However, the General Manager invites all members to make good use of the logo. If possible, it should appear on letter headings, in activities, and also businesses should be encouraged to buy the usage rights of the logo.

Round Table

Praia de Rosa Bay, Brazil

- September 2011, 10th Anniversary of *Right Whale Institute*. National activities will be organized;
- The Rosa Bay Development Plan for 2020 will be presented.

Mont St-Michel Bay, France

- Received a Sine-Saloum delegation;
- Hosted the competition 'I Love My Bay' and presented a prize to a school;
- Continuation of sand removal from the bay.

Gulf of Morbihan - Quiberon Bay, France

- June 2010, received a delegation from Sine-Saloum;
- Big event, 'Happy Bay' at La Trinité sur Mer, the host bay. This event will be renewed in 2012;
- September 2010, joint activity with Tadoussac Bay: 'The Little Resourceful', comparison of animal living in each bay.

Puerto Galera Bay, Mindoro, Philippines

- Probably one of the smallest bay of the club members with only 4 sqm. named Man and Biosphere last 1976;
- Perfect coordination between the association of Puerto Galera Most Beautiful Bay and the Mayor of the town;
- Port restoration: Rehabilitation of "Muelle, a promenade of about 200 m.;
- Construction of a *Tourism House* with a small room dedicated to the bays;

- In 2012, possibility of a new bay candidate from the Philippines (Palawan), Cousteau once said “Probably, the Most Beautiful Seas in the World I have ever been sailing”;
- Submitted a request to organize the 2014 Congress;
- Has proposed to work on Sydney Bay to join our Club through a good friend of Hubert d’Aboville that holds a prominent position in Sydney;
- February 2011, ‘*Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival*, artists from 8 countries represented (UK, Germany, France, Croatia, Australia, Korea, Japan and Philippines), 1500 guests: A Success! Annual Event. With the profits: A 1000 trees reforestation project, and solar panels to be installed in the remote village of the Mangyans (indigenous people).

Nha Trang Bay, Vietnam

- June 2011, ‘Festival of the Sea’;
- Forthcoming: ‘Sea and Island Environment Day’. Event: Cycling Tour;
- As member of the MBBW, Nha Trang Bay Association continues to be a recognized speaking group to the municipality and the Popular Committee.

Les Saintes Bay, Guadeloupe, France

- Planning for pleasure boat eco-moorings; Annually, thousands of boats anchor in the bay and damage the sea bed;
- June 5, TF1 will be at Les Saintes to produce ‘C’est ma terre’ program. The report will compare the advantages of electrical motor powered scooters over explosion motor powered scooters.

Chaleur Bay, Canada

- December 2010, big storm. Heavy damage, lost of shore line and infrastructures;
- July 16, *Swim Chaleur Bay 10th Anniversary*. Expecting over 50 racers to swim 10 km or 3 km. The MBBW is associated with the event.
- Of the 4 pulp and paper mill around the bay: One in operation, three closed and two in demolition.

Gulf of Porto and Girolata, Corsica – France

- Working toward controlling boat mooring;
- Protection awareness program in school;
- Planning a ban on ‘Jet Ski’ on the Gulf’s waters;

- Working toward declaring Porto a biosphere reserve;
- June 8-10, receiving, from Europe, 40 experts on biodiversity.

Bodrum Bay, Turkey

- **September 2012, Bodrum-Turkey and Patmos-Greece will join to organize the World Congress;**
- Successful demonstration against building new hotels around the bay: The government will not grant new construction permit along the shore line.
- Working toward controlling boats' waste water.

Somme Bay, France

- Continued effort to protect the bay;
- 'Zero Carbon Operation' from the hotel industry in the region;
- A government decision to build a windmill farm in opened sea in front of La Somme does not have unanimity. People hope the see it installed at 24 nautical miles from shore line.
- La Somme delegates inform us the Michelle Pauly is relatively well, and her thoughts are with us.

Setubal Bay, Portugal

- June 8, 2011, *Bays Day*: inauguration of *House of the Bay and Tourism*;
- Contest: creation of 341 dauphin statuettes;
- International longue distance swim competition: 10 km race in the bay, and qualifier for *London Olympic Games*.

Grikos Bay, Patmos Island – Greece

- Thanks the MBBW for accepting Grikos candidature;
- **September 2012, Patmos and Bodrum will join to organize the World Congress;**
- June 10, 2011: Cycling race around Patmos Island.

Agadir Bay, Morocco

- Creation of Agadir Bay Association which will represent the MBBW to the new territorial authority being establish in the country;
- Biosphere Preservation Project;
- In partnership with Fatik: Hydro-Agriculture Project.

Tadoussac Bay, Canada

- Annual bay cleanup with children;

- September 2010, joint activity with Gulf of Morbihan – Quiberon Bay: ‘The Little Resourceful’, comparison on Video-conference of animal living in each bay;
- Searching for solutions to fight coastline erosion;
- Working toward organizing another MBBW meeting in Tadoussac;
- Project to identify all bays from the MBBW.

Cambodia Bay, Cambodia

- Happy to be part of the MBBW;
- Demanding work to submit Cambodia Bay’s candidature;
- The government manages the coastline and looks forward to become an international reference for integrated coastline management and eco-tourism.

Delta of Sine-Saloum, Senegal

- Happy to organize the 7th MBBW Congress and to see its international impact;
- Presentation of Madame Ba. She was at the origin of Sine-Saloum’s membership to MBBW.
- Thanks the MBBW for supporting *Nema Bah Communal Natural Reserve*;
- Received a delegation from Mont St-Michel;
- In partnership with Agadir: Hydro-Agriculture Project;
- Stresses the importance to share between bays.

Yeosu Bay, South-Korea

- Remarkable presentation during the opening congress ceremony on *Yeosu International Exposition 2012* with sea and maritime areas as themes. Bays are invited to be part of the event.

Kotor Boca, Montenegro

- March 2012, projecting to receive the Board of Directors for a meeting.

Mindelo Bay, Cape Verde

- Projecting to reinforce the Most Beautiful Bays of the World impact in the archipelago.

Pemba Bay, Mozambique

- Construction a congress and seminar hall in order to receive the MBBW congress

in 2014.

Messages for Excused Bays:

- Diego Suarez Bay, Madagascar: Work is progressing with the construction of the House of the Bay on Ampasikely Site in Gust of Wind Gove.
- San-Francisco Bay, USA: Bays having to do with the *America's Cup* are invited to join forces.

11h40 a.m. End of the General Assembly and Opening to the Extraordinary General Assembly

Modification to the Charter's Statutes

- Article 5 – Club Membership and Exclusion Criteria

The following text:

'Only one bay per sea for a given country can apply. « It must be considered a bay, in the terms of the geographical definition, any indentation in the maritime or ocean coastline.'

Is modified to read:

'Any indentation in the maritime or ocean coastline (bay, rocky inlet, delta, fjord, gulf, estuary).'

Members concerns with the modification:

- Fear of a network to big, not enough restrictive, and lost of the character: *'Select Club'*;
- Harmful competition if along a given shore line many bays become member of the MBBW;
- The Board of Directors has too much power in selection new members.

The President specifies that the organization must be more opened, and it is not to the network's interest to limit its expansion. Nonetheless, he takes note that the Board of Director may have too much power with approving new members. He accepts the principal that new members be voted in at general assemblies. Based on these comments, ***the modification is unanimously accepted.***

End to the Extraordinary General Assembly

New candidates' presentation

The following bays presented on May 24 between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. A draw decided the order of presentation. Based on the new rules, all these candidatures submitted by the Board following the meeting in Cargèse, were accepted.

- 1- Jounieh Bay, Lebanon
- 2- Horta Bay, Acores - Portugal
- 3- Rosas Bay, Catalonia – Spain
- 4- Fort de France Bay, Martinique – France
- 5- Baule Bay, France

Following a secret vote, these five bays received approbation for an official visit. The final decision to become member of the MBBW will be done after the visit, a discussion at the next Board Meeting and a vote in General Assembly.

Admission Ceremony and Certificate Presentation

Grikos Bay and Cambodia Bay receive their admission certificate to the Most Beautiful Bays of the World Network. Being present, Cambodia Tourism Minister accepts the certificate. He gives a brief speech followed with a video on Cambodia Bay.

Honour Certificate

Puerto Galera Bay receives an honour certificate for organizing the *Malasimbo Music and Arts Festival* and for the reforestation and solar power projects. To receive this Honour Certificate were Hubert and Ara d'Aboville (respectively President and Board Member of Puerto Galera Most Beautiful Bay Club) accompanied by Hubbert Dolor, Mayor of Puerto Galera.

1h30 p.m. End of the Meeting