

Dear WWRF Members,

At this time of year it's often the case that we look back and review what's happened over the 12 months. This time it's with a sense of shock as we remember the troubles that so many of us have gone through this year. But we look to 2021 with a sense of optimism that is at least partly due to the potential of technology such as ours to make a real difference. In the words of one of our Fellows: 'I, too, am an optimist and hope that the vaccines will get us back to the new normal. We are on the same page about the increased role of wireless in the future and how COVID has accelerated that increase.' That indeed will be a subject that we return to.

Since our last newsletter, we've held a number of online events, including a workshop on business modelling for 5G, and a number of seminars expanding on topics covered at our last WWRF meeting. I hope you've had the chance to take part in some of these, we are putting together a programme for early next year, which will include workshops on THz networks and ehealth among other subjects.

Coming up early next year we have our 45th meeting. This was originally scheduled to be in Kuala Lumpur, hosted by Wirahswasta, but we have now decided to hold this as a completely online occasion on 18-21 January. Registration will be free for both members and non-members. This promises to be a very exciting occasion, with special sessions on 'beyond 5G', 'connecting the unconnected', cybersecurity and a workshop on non-terrestrial networks. Later in 2021 we will be hosting our high-level Huddle 2021 in Ottawa, Canada, on 29-30 September and are working with ITU to develop the event.

I'm also happy to report that we are continuing to work with ITU on the next phase of evaluation of IMT-2020 technologies, and our application for full membership of ITU will allow us to work more extensively with them in future.

New members since the last newsletter include: Prof. Widad Ismail, from USM in Malaysia, Terma AS from Denmark and Ubitech Ltd from the UK. We welcome them all to WWRF, and look forward to working together on a range of important topics.

I hope you a safe and peaceful Christmas and New Year, and look forward to exciting challenges for us in 2021.

Nigel Jefferies
WWRF Chairman