

✉ Prof. Dr. C. Wild, FB 02, Universität Bremen, Postfach 33 04 40, 28334 Bremen

President of the International Society for Reef Studies (ISRS)  
Prof. Dr. Ruth Gates  
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawai'i at Manoa, 46-007 Lilipuna Road, Kaneohe, HI 96744, USA

Prof. Dr.  
**Christian Wild**  
Marine Ecology/Coral Reef Ecology,  
Faculty 2, Biology/Chemistry,  
Universität Bremen

Leobener Str.  
Gebäude UFT, Raum 2160  
D-28359 Bremen

Telefon (0421) 218 - 63359  
Fax (0421) 218 - 62949  
eMail christian.wild@uni-bremen.de

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## 14<sup>th</sup> ICRS 2020

Dear Ruth, dear ICRS Councilors,

It is a great pleasure for me to submit our bid for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) envisioned for summer 2020 in Bremen, Germany.

Bremen is a medium-sized (ca. 560.000 inhabitants) city state in the North of Germany. It is a green city with short distances. The international airport Bremen that has several daily flight connections to all major European destinations is only 15 min away from the city center of Bremen. There, a multitude of hotels at very reasonable prices (summer 2020 is low touristic season in Bremen) is located in walking distance to the envisioned conference venue: the Congress Center Bremen (CCB), with its spacious and flexible infrastructure that perfectly fits with all ICRS requirements.

We envision ICRS 2020 in Bremen as an affordable, eco-friendly world event with short distances.

The scientific environment of Bremen is outstanding and diverse. Bremen University campus with its strong marine science focus has been selected as only one of 11 Germany Excellence universities in a very competitive procedure. The awarded university of Bremen includes the excellence cluster Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (MARUM) and Bremen Marine Ecology cluster (BREMARE). This marine research focus of University of Bremen is supplemented by several world-class marine research institutions such as the Max-Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology (MPI), the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT), and the Alfred-Wegener Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI). Many scientists from these institutions are actively involved in coral-reef related work covering all disciplines from geology, ecology, biogeochemistry, physiology, genetics, microbiology, to social sciences and economics. Consequently, representatives from all these institutions have happily confirmed to act as scientific members in the ICRS 2020 organization committee.

We have teamed up with a strong local event organizer, the Bremen Convention Bureau (BTZ) that has already extensive experience in preparing and successfully implementing similarly sized or even larger scientific conferences than the ICRS in Bremen.

ICRS 2020 in Bremen would be the first time ever that this world conference takes place in Europe. This vision has triggered a great level of enthusiasm among many different colleagues not only in Bremen, but also at neighboring German and Dutch institutions that have now all agreed to join forces in order to offer an attractive program in all aspects to the global coral reef community.

In the preparation process of this bid, I contacted the authorities in Bremen and was pleased that all very much like the idea of hosting ICRS 2020 in Bremen. Please find the support letter of the Rector of University of Bremen, Prof. Dr. Bernd Scholz-Reiter, in the following.

Another support letter will be signed by the Mayor of Bremen, Carsten Sieling and the Senator for Research, Prof. Dr. Eva Quante-Brandt. Both confirmed their patronage of ICRS 2020. Their letter will be send to you by classical mail within the next two weeks.

We are all very excited about the idea of having ICRS 2020 in Bremen and would be more than happy to host this important event.

Please find our 10-page bid in the following. I am ready to answer any upcoming question as best and fast as I can.

Yours sincerely,



Christian Wild (bid coordinator)  
on behalf of the entire ICRS 2020 Bremen potential organization team

✉ Universität Bremen · Der Rektor · Postfach 33 04 40 · 28334 Bremen

President of the International Society for Reef Studies  
(ISRS)  
Prof. Dr. Ruth Gates  
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology, University of  
Hawai'i at Manoa, 46-007 Lilipuna Road, Kaneohe, HI  
96744, USA

## DER REKTOR

**Prof. Dr.-Ing.  
Bernd Scholz-Reiter**

Bibliothekstraße  
Verw. Gebäude, Raum 2080  
28359 Bremen

Telefon (0421) 218 - 60010  
Fax (0421) 218 - 60009  
www [www.uni-bremen.de](http://www.uni-bremen.de)

Sekretariat:  
Ute Otto  
Telefon (0421) 218 - 60011  
E-Mail [rektor@uni-bremen.de](mailto:rektor@uni-bremen.de)

Ihr Zeichen:

Ihre Nachricht vom:

Unser Zeichen:  
R / R-V

Datum:  
19.08.2016

### 14<sup>th</sup> ICRS 2020

Dear Dr. Gates, dear councilors of the ISRS,

it is my great pleasure to support the bid for the 14<sup>th</sup> International Coral Reef Symposium (ICRS) to be hosted in summer 2020 in Bremen, Germany.

Coral reef research is of extreme importance for us because particularly climate change is threatening these precious ecosystems. Although no tropical coral reefs are found at the European continent, we understand that we not only benefit from them but also contribute to their global degradation. It is therefore also a European responsibility to take part in the discourse how to achieve coral reef sustainability in a time of rapid environmental change and to address measures that mitigate their diminution.

For these reasons, I think it is time that the 14<sup>th</sup> ICRS takes place in Europe for the first time ever, and Bremen is an ideal location.

The scientific environment of Bremen is outstanding and diverse. For many years now, the University of Bremen has been among the top league of German universities in the area of research. Since June 2012, the University of Bremen is entitled 'University of Excellence'. One of the high-profile areas of Bremen is Ocean and Climate Research. Well known research institutions in this context are the university's Center for Marine Environmental Sciences (MARUM) and the Bremen Marine Ecology – Centre for Research and Education (BreMarE). The university's focus on marine research is supplemented by several marine research institutions nearby such as the Max-Planck-Institute for Marine Microbiology (MPI), the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT), and the Alfred-Wegener-Institute for Polar and Marine Research (AWI). Many scientists from these institutions are actively involved in coral-reef related work covering disciplines from geology,

biogeochemistry, ecology, physiology, genetics, and microbiology to social sciences and economics. Consequently, representatives from all these institutions have happily confirmed to act as scientific members in the ICRS 2020 organization committee that is chaired by my university colleague Christian Wild from BreMarE and the faculty of Biology and Chemistry.

I am excited about the idea of hosting ICRS 2020 in Bremen, and I can confirm my support of this world-class event. I look forward to welcoming 2.500 to 3.000 coral reef scientists from all over the world to Bremen.

Sincerely,

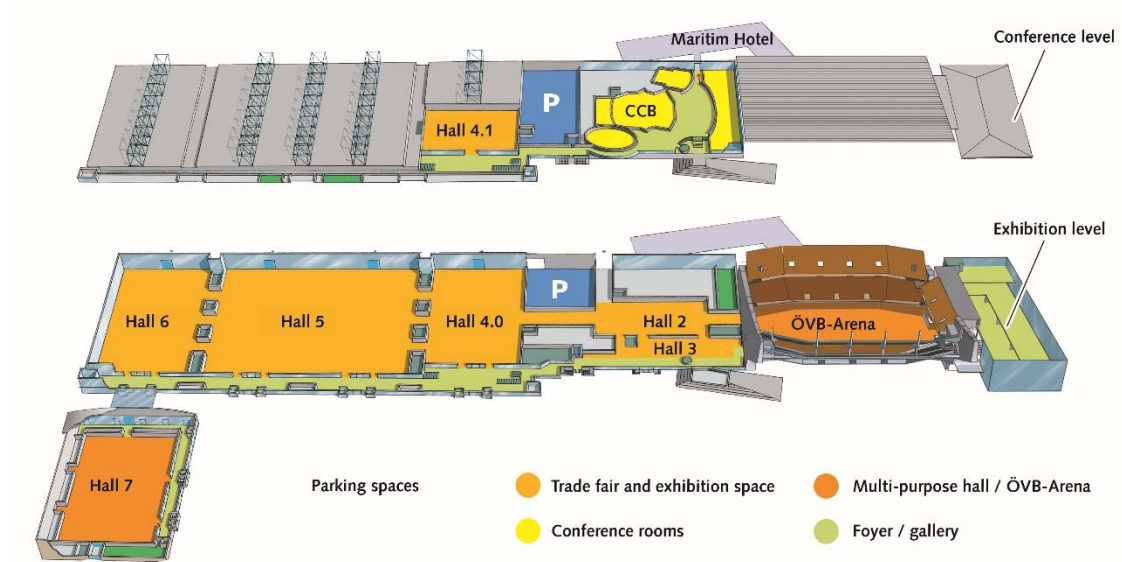


Prof. Dr. Bernd Scholz-Reiter  
Rector

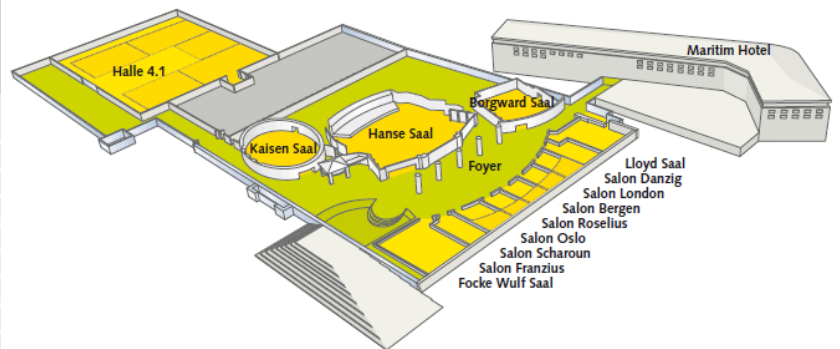
## 1. Venue: Bremen Exhibition and Conference Centre Bremen (CCB)

Centrally located in the heart of Bremen and consolidated under one roof – the Exhibition and Conference Centre Bremen (CCB) offers the perfect setting for ICRS 2020.

The CCB is located right in the middle of the city center, directly adjacent to the main train station in the South and the green 200-hectare large city park in the North. Exhibition space, meeting rooms and a four-star superior hotel are all easy-to-reach inside the same building.



Bremen Conference Centre				
	Exhibition space in m <sup>2</sup>	Row seating	Conference seating	Banquet seating
Hanse Saal & Hanse Empore	1,470	1,600	960	1,000
Hanse Saal	1,100	1,300	750	800
Hanse Empore	370	300	210	200
Kaisen Saal	428	450	300	300
Borgward Saal	375	420	240	280
Focke Wulf Saal	252	200	130	150
Lloyd Saal	200	170	100	120
Salon Danzig	109	100	60	70
Salon London	100	80	45	60
Salon Scharoun	100	70	40	60
Salon Franzius	100	80	50	60
Salon Bergen	87	70	40	45
Salon Roselius	82	70	40	45
Salon Oslo	76	60	35	40
Foyer	1,730	limited use as exhibition space possible		
Upper floor / foyer	300	–	–	–
Cloakroom foyer	450	–	–	–
Group room 1	70	40	20	–
Group room 2	51	25	15	–
Group room 3	80	45	30	–
Group room 4	103	80	50	–
Capacity can be extended through use of the flexible space partition system in adjacent Hall 4.1, maximum capacity for usage options:				
Room 4.1 A	245	234		
Room 4.1 B	295	288		
Room 4.1 C	207	199		
Room 4.1 D	305	288		
Room 4.1 E	253	234		



Exhibition spaces can be combined with conference rooms. CCB offers capacities for up to 10.000 people. There are 21 rooms and halls available. They can be combined in many different ways. Additionally, there are flexible and soundproof meeting rooms in Hall 4.1 as an extension of the CCB.

For the ICSR 2020, we would combine all CCB meeting rooms with Hall 4.1, Hall 4.0, and Hall 5. Plenary events could take place in Hanse Saal with gallery and extension to the foyer. Oral session presentations (up to 20 running in parallels) would take place in all meeting rooms and in the divided large hall 4.1. Exhibition, poster session, and lunch breaks could take place in the two large basement halls 4.0 and 5.

## **2. Security**

There is certainly no doubt about the excellent security conditions in Germany. It is safe to walk throughout the Bremen area during both day and night times, so that no car or taxi use is required for safety reasons.

## **3. Accommodation:**

Bremen offers a wide range of accommodation with over 100 hotels (ca. 11.000 beds) in Bremen, of which 60 % are within walking distance of the CCB. Participants of the ICRS won't waste time for longer bus or taxi rides. Guests may choose between 5-Star superior hotels, small privately run hotels, budget design hotels, hostels and youth hostels (please find a summary of hotels with prices in annex 1). International hotel chains such as Swissôtel, Courtyard by Marriott, Maritim, and Best Western are also represented in Bremen.

The envisioned time - first or second week of July – for ICRS 2020 is low tourist season in Bremen. Because of this fortunate situation, we will be able to negotiate beneficial hotel deals, so that average accommodation costs will be much (30-60 %) lower compared to the previous ICRS events at major tourist destinations in Australia and the USA. In fact, we have already confirmed rates for the headquarter conference hotel (The 4-Star superior Maritim) with direct access to the CCB in the amount of € 89 per single room and € 109 per double room including breakfast buffet and all taxes and fees. The normal rates range from € 120 to € 145 for a single and € 130 to € 180 for a double room. Thus, we already negotiated a 25 % discount for the entire headquarter conference hotel, and we are very positive that we will negotiate similar discounts also for the other hotel in the vicinity of CCB.

### **Individual service for ICRS participants:**

The Bremen Convention Bureau (BTZ) will provide sufficient room capacities with best available rates exclusively for all participants of the ICRS. BTZ also offers an online booking service and personal consultancy.

### **Benefits for the participants:**

- ✓ Comfortable online-booking or an alternative booking via hotel booking form.
- ✓ Special rates are guaranteed up to 4 weeks before arrival.
- ✓ Convenient, one-stop service for individual assistance and booking.
- ✓ Payment on arrival.
- ✓ Cancellation free of charge for individual reservations usually up to 24 hours before arrival (exception: max. 2 weeks before arrival) in almost all hotels.
- ✓ No minimum stay.



#### **4. Food Outlets (all in walking distance to ICRS venue and hotels):**

The city's proximity to the sea combined with its connections to rural life have shaped traditional cuisine in Bremen. Apart from local food like famous Kale and Pinkel, Labskaus and Knipp, Bremen has a wide range of culinary specialties to savor. As the CCB is located in the heart of Bremen, there are many different restaurants of all price categories available in walking distance.



**Main Train Station:** If one is looking for fast food, a slice of pizza, a kebab, a „Wurst“, or a sandwich, this can all be found inside and close to the main train station.

**The Market Square:** Bremen's market square, the old town hall, and the cathedral are UNESCO World Heritage sites and are certainly one of the absolute must-see locations. As an old trading town, Bremen ships German wines to countries all over the world and has the largest wine cellar of Germany, situated below the market square and a large area to the left of the town hall. It belongs to the Bremen Ratskeller Restaurant, where traditional Bremen specialties and classic German dishes are served in a historic wine cellar.



**Schlachte Embankment:** Just a stone's throw from the market square and the Bremen Town Musicians, is the popular Schlachte promenade situated along the Weser river. Quayside is a wealth of restaurants, beer gardens and local markets; this is the Schlachte Magic! Relax - experience - enjoy.

**The Böttcherstraße:** One of Bremen's most famous cultural places was built only 100 years ago. It hosts the Paula Modersohn-Becker Art Museum. One will also find a Sushi-Restaurant and the „Ständige Vertretung“, a very nice restaurant with good „Flammkuchen“ and „Kölsch“, special dishes and beers from Cologne.



**Schnoor quarter:** Bremen's oldest district, the Schnoor quarter, is a maze of lanes lined with little 15th and 16th century houses offering a variety of great restaurants and unique cafés. The ideal place to relax after an interesting conference day and to absorb some Bremen history alongside.

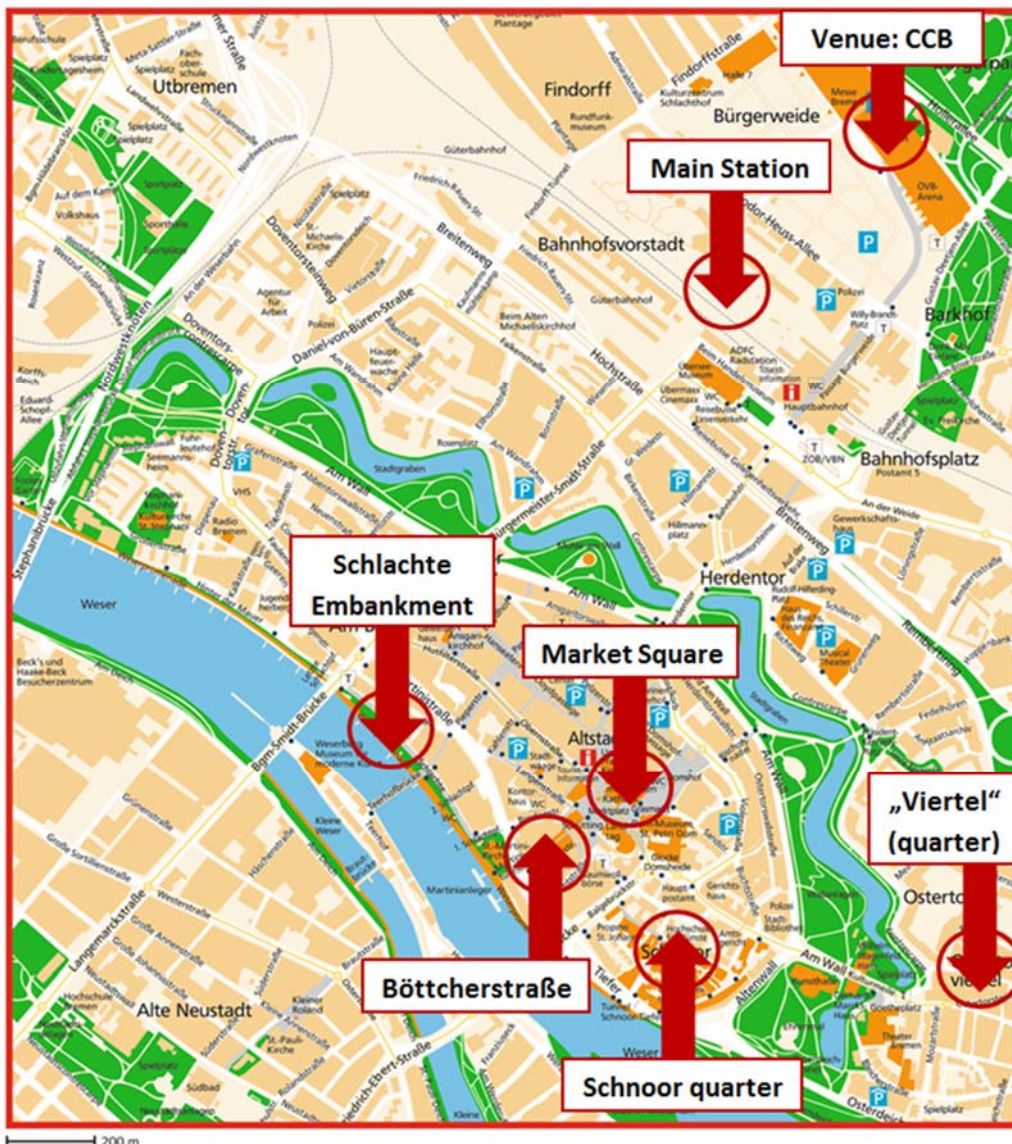


**„Viertel“(quarter):** This is the local nickname given to the districts Ostertor, Steintor, and Fesenfeld. It is an alternative and international neighborhood where many students and academics live. It's home to the Bremen Theater, the Art museum, several cinemas, many small boutiques, and a multitude of bars, pubs, and restaurants. At most locations, the kitchen remains open until midnight, and often longer.



In addition, one can easily find a nice place to enjoy local beers: Beck's beer is known to everyone, but if it is coming to a draft, many locals prefer Haake Beck, which is a smooth, blond, and tasty beer. One can try it for example in the LITFASS or many other bars with beer gardens, located at Ostertorsteinweg.

One will find many different restaurants in the Viertel, not only at „Vor dem Steintor“ and „Ostertorsteinweg“, but also in the small streets around. Take a stroll and discover the area! One will see typical Bremen architecture and old „Bremen city houses“.



Map of Bremen’s city center. The main train station is located in direct vicinity to the Congress Center Bremen (CCB), the envisioned venue for ICRS 2020. The old part of Bremen is mainly located on the “island” between Weser River and the historical city moats filled with water.

**5. International access:**

Germany has a liberal policy for short-term visitors. Thus, many nationalities don’t need a visa at all, and all other nationalities will get visas without problems to attend the conference. The organization committee will care for the rapid provision of invitation letters for all participants that require a visa to enter Germany.

**6. Budget:**

We have calculated a detailed budget that is summarized in the table below. The underlying detailed numbers can be provided upon request. The budget at the moment is calculated based on estimations and reference numbers, where available, from the 13<sup>th</sup> ICRS Honolulu 2016.



<b>Basic calculation ICRS 2020 Bremen, Germany</b>			
<b>Incomes</b>	<b>in €</b>	<b>Expenses</b>	<b>in €</b>
1. Participation fees (early bird): ISRS members (750) non-ISRS members (730) ISRS student members (500) non-ISRS student members (480)  <b>Subtotal:</b>	330.000	1. Conference room rental	200.000
	480.000	2. Lunch and coffee break catering	220.000
	155.000	3. Social events (including icebreaker event, three poster session receptions and the evening event on Thursday)	300.000
	195.000		
<b>1.160.000</b>			
2. Industrial exhibition	35.000		
3. Sponsoring: German Research foundation (DFG) Others, e.g. German Ministry for Development (BMZ)	(70.000)	4. Conference infrastructure site costs (e.g. A/C, heating, cleaning, waste disposal, signage, booth construction etc.)	100.000
	tba		
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1.195.000</b> <b>(1.265.000)</b>		
		5. Technical installations	100.000
		6. Conference and publication management	130.000
		7. Personnel expenditure (e.g. security, hostess, ambulance, scientific committee etc.)	70.000
		8. Poster sessions	12.000
		9. Stipends for participants (10) from developing countries	30.000
		10. Miscellaneous	100.000
		<b>Total:</b>	<b>1.262.000</b>

We are in the fortunate situation that because of the low season in Bremen in summer 2020, we will get all conference and exhibition halls for a negotiated 50 % discount. The confirmed offer for all room rental for the entire conference week is thus only 200.000 €. Total calculated expenses account for 1.262.000 €. This will be almost completely compensated by incomes of 1.195.000 € through conference participation fees and exhibition stand rental costs (15 stands for commercial companies and 15 for stands for NGOs at 50 % reduced rates). We will very likely get 70.000 € conference support from the German Research Foundation (DFG), but we can only apply for this funding earliest 12 months before the event. We are therefore confident that via DFG and additional sponsors, we will be able to acquire enough funds to not only cover the present minus.

We envision to have the ICRS 2020 as a green event, i.e. we plan to use additional funds from sponsors to invest in catering with only organic and regional products. We aim to compensate all CO<sub>2</sub> emissions produced by the ICRS in Bremen by supporting regional projects (such as marsh renaturation) by the Bremen Climate Fond. We also envision to invest funds from additional sponsors to as far as possible compensate the CO<sub>2</sub> emissions caused by the travel of the ICRS 2020 participants via supporting e.g. Atmosfair Gold Standard Projects (please see: <https://www.atmosfair.de>).

It will be discussed with the ISRS and decided together to what proportion additional sponsorship may be used to decrease participation fees that are presently at a slightly (10 % increase) higher level compared to the 13<sup>th</sup> ICRS.

### **7. Sponsorship:**

About one year before the ICRS 2020, we will apply for support from the German Research Foundation (DFG) that will very likely contribute 70.000 € based on the dimensions of the ICRS. We will apply for sponsorship from Bremeninvest (Wirtschaftsförderung Bremen) and have already established contacts. We will apply for support through the University of Bremen (Zentrale Forschungsförderung, Interne Forschungskommission) as host institution. We have initiated contact to the Bremen State Ministry of Economy and will discuss what kind of support this ministry can provide through its tourism department. It is planned that we apply for ICRS 2020 support to the German Ministry for Research and Education (BMBF), The German Ministry for the Environment (BMUB), and the German Ministry for Economic Collaboration and Development (BMZ). In addition, we have or will establish contact with companies and NGOs based in Bremen or North Germany including FROSTA, DEUTSCHE SEE, TUI, AIDA, and BORDA. In intense coordination with the ISRS, we will also look for international sponsors.

### **8. Payment:**

The Bremen Convention Bureau offers a complete one-stop service to conference planners and travel partners. In addition, the Bremen Convention Bureau can offer full In-house-PCO (Professional Congress Organizer) Service, e.g. delegate management including an online registration service by using a professional conference software (CVS). The cashing, e.g. by credit card, is secured by a PCI / DSS (Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard) system which guarantees a secure payment process. All payment and fees will be handled on a special ICRS account.

### **9. Scientific program:**

Coral reefs are at a critical junction with regards to the unprecedented anthropogenic pressures facing them in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It is becoming increasingly clear that by the end of the century, the structure and function of most coral reefs will have been changed significantly from what they were in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. An increasing amount of research over the past few decades has been dedicated to developing predictive models of reefs and their environments, and to study the responses of coral reefs, from the microbial to the ecosystem level and even including societal systems, to projected changes. We believe it is time to systematically take stock of the accumulated knowledge for an outlook on coral reef composition and functioning at the end of the century, and the socio-economic and governance implications these have. We thus propose “Tackling the challenging future of coral reefs” as main topic of the 14<sup>th</sup> ICRS 2020 in Bremen. Key questions to be addressed by this event would be:

- 1) How will our future reefs look like and function?
- 2) What can we learn from the past in order to understand future reefs?
- 3) Which are the underlying processes driving present change of reefs?
- 4) What kind of adaptive management, conservation, and restoration measures need to be developed for future reefs?

This thematic umbrella will be used to initiate a bottom-up approach as successfully used for the last International Coral Reef Symposia, i.e. a call for session proposals to the community ca. 18 months prior to the meeting. Proposals will be discussed and selected in a way that the width of coral reef science is well covered. Selected session proposals will be organized in the three columns described below. According to the number of abstracts submitted to each of the selected sessions, the organization committee will decide about the duration of the session and its room size.

The scientific program will have three columns according to the tentative title of the symposium “Tackling the challenging future of coral reefs”:

- a) Coral reefs of the past: This column will include all geological, paleontological, and geobiological contributions along with comparative contributions that reference to the past.
- b) Actual situation of present coral reefs: This column will include all contributions that describe reef status, processes, and changes.
- c) Coral reefs of the future: This column will include all contributions that are related to understanding future reef functions, predictions, modelling, restoration, and management of changing reefs along with their novel communities.

Plenary sessions will take place every conference day in the morning with envisioned order described in the following. Monday: Welcome by organization committee and ISRS president; Tuesday: Plenary on coral reefs of the past (speaker: e.g. John Pandolfi, Willem Renema, or Gert Wörheide); Wednesday: Plenary on coral reefs of the present (speaker: e.g. Nick Graham, Peter Edmunds, or David Mouillot); Thursday: Plenary on coral reefs of the future (speaker: e.g. Ove Hoegh-Guldberg, Terry Hughes, or Jean-Pierre Gattuso); Friday: Plenary by ISRS president or Darwin award lecture.

### **10. Logistics:**

City Airport Bremen is one of Germany’s most modern airports. It is located only 6 km from Bremen’s city center and the Exhibition and Congress Centre (CCB), providing an unparalleled accessibility. Several daily direct connections to all major European hubs such as Frankfurt, Munich, Amsterdam, Paris and London make it easy to arrive at Bremen from wherever people come from. A tram stop is located right in front of the airport, enabling passengers to be in the heart of the city within less than 20 min (trams depart at least every 10 min until 8 pm and every 20 min from 8 pm onwards) costs: 3 €. A taxi ride takes about 15 min and costs approximately € 16.



There will be two key social events:

- a) The icebreaker as welcome reception will start Sunday afternoon at around 5 pm. This event will directly take place at the CCB in walking distance to all conference hotels and the registration counters.
- b) The conference dinner on Thursday evening will start at around 6 pm. We envision that this event takes place with North Sea view on an Eco-Cruise vessel (AIDA) at the Bremen port Bremerhaven. We will care for special ICRS trains that transport the participants from the CCB to the Columbus Cruise Center, where the cruise vessel is anchored, and back. If we don’t get the cruise vessel, we will organize an astonishing whole evening event at the CCB.

### **11. Publication plan:**

Deadline for submission of abstracts will be set to approximately 6 months before the conference, and deadline for submission of conference proceedings will be 3 months after the conference, so that the ICRS 2020 proceedings can be published within one year after the ICRS. For abstract submission, an abstract management system with appropriate software will be used. Abstract book and proceedings will be published open access and in electronic form by the organization committee. We will also provide an interactive application for mobile use of the abstract book during ICRS as very successfully applied during the 13<sup>th</sup> ICRS.

## **12. Financial support for attendees:**

We have calculated the budget in a way that 10 stipends (each worth 3.000 €) for participants from developing countries can be covered. This opportunity will be announced to the community so that people can apply for them. In addition, we will apply to the German Ministry for Economic Collaboration and Development (BMZ) for support for even more attendees from developing countries. Grantees will be selected by the organization committee.

## **13. Pre- and post-symposium field trips:**

We envision to offer a whole variety of different trips that are certainly of interest for ICRS participants. Among this portfolio are excursions within Bremen and surroundings (e.g. Climate House Bremerhaven, Universum, Visits to MARUM, ZMT, MPI, AWI, ICBM Wilhelmshaven), a Wadden Sea excursion to Cuxhaven and Sahlenburg, a trip to Helgoland (only German offshore island), trips to West German fossil reefs (Eifel and Rheinisches Schiefergebirge), and the National Museum for Natural History in Berlin. Because of the vicinity to the Netherlands, we will offer guided tours to Naturalis in Leiden and Burgers' Zoo in Arnhem, where impressive coral reef exhibitions can be visited. We will also offer an ICRS post-symposium guided Coral Reef Ecology snorkeling and diving trip to the Red Sea, the closest warm water coral reef location (only ca. 4.5 h away by air transport) from Bremen.

## **14. Accompanying persons program:**

The cosmopolitan city Bremen situated on the Weser River can look back on over 1,200 years of history. Attractions include the Weser Renaissance town hall and the Roland statue on the market square (a joint UNESCO World Heritage site since 2004), the Schnoor – Bremen's oldest quarter, the quaint buildings in Böttcherstrasse and the cathedral. Bremen's best-known monument and its emblem is the statue of the Town Musicians featuring the donkey, dog, cat and rooster from Brothers Grimm fairytale.



There will be an extensive day trip offer program for accompanying persons including sportive trips (such as bicycle trips), art events (such as trips to artist villages Worpswede and Fischerhude plus Bremen art galleries Kunsthalle, Böttcherstrasse, and Museum Weserburg Teerhof), as well as river tours. In addition, all accompanying persons can join the pre- and post-symposium field trips and can book attendance of the key ICRS social events icebreaker and conference dinner.

Bremen offers a wide range of sights and guided tours, interesting technical visits and a diversity of museums and art galleries. The Bremen Convention Bureau will offer a tailor made program for the International Coral Reef Symposium to participants and companions with sightseeing tours and guided walks between 1 to 6 h. Please find more and detailed information on these tours in annex 2.

## **15. Outreach:**

There will be several media activities before, during, and after the ICRS 2020, coordinated by a professional and experienced press officer that is well connected to the media. The outreach concept for ICRS 2020 in Bremen foresees several activities including: A symposium kickoff press conference with selected key participants (president of the International Society for Reef Studies, conference chairman, and press officer) at the beginning of the conference (i.e. Sunday afternoon or Monday morning). This press conference will highlight the goals and expectations of ICRS 2020 to media representatives. Also, the program and scheduled media activities during the conference week will be presented and communicated.

A symposium completion press conference with selected key participants (particularly leading international science experts plus conference chairman and press officer) at the end of the conference (i.e. Friday afternoon). This press conference will highlight and summarize the key messages of ICRS 2020. Media representatives will be encouraged to exchange with the experts. In addition, we would develop an ICRS media partnership program.

Public evening talks (Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday) by selected international experts in “Haus der Wissenschaften” (House of Sciences) in the city center of Bremen (about 10 min walking distance from CCB. We also envision a coral reef-related public exhibition in “Haus der Wissenschaften” 1 month before, during, and 1 month after the ICRS 2020.

As this would be the first time an ICRS is held in Europe, we aim to establish a strategic link to the EU government institutions. Members of the organization committee have established contacts (and contributing institutions have established Brussels contact bureaus) to members of the European Commission and Parliament responsible for marine issues, and we envision to set up a policy day where scientific information from the ICRS community is personally communicated to interested delegates from EU institutions.

#### **16. National and local government support:**

The ICRS 2020 will take place under the confirmed patronage of the Ministry for Science, Health and Consumer Protection of the State of Bremen. The head of this ministry, the senator, but likely also the Mayor of Bremen (contact already established), will open the ICRS 2020 and will welcome key participants (i.e. the board of the International Society for Reef Studies, the organization committee, and all session chairs) for a reception in the old upper Bremen town hall, preferably on Monday evening before the public talk at House of Science in the city center of Bremen. We will also establish contact to the German National Ministry of Research and Education (BMBF) to ask for ideological support and welcome words as soon as we know that we are assigned to host ICRS 2020 in Bremen.

#### **17. International and national non-governmental organizations:**

The University of Bremen would act as academic host of ICRS 2020 and supports the event in several aspects including the delegation of conference chairman, provision of media network, and deputation of experts and press officer into the organization committee. We also join forces with neighboring Dutch and German academic institutions such as Universities of Oldenburg, Berlin, Amsterdam, and Wageningen along with the Naturalis Center for Biodiversity in Leiden. In addition, we have confirmed contribution of the Max-Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology (MPI) and the Leibniz Center for Tropical Marine Ecology (ZMT) in Bremen, as well as the Alfred-Wegener Institute of Polar and Marine Research in Bremerhaven. We also have two Bremen- based foundations on board: The KELLNER & STOLL - FOUNDATION and SECORE International. These partnerships are reflected by the constellation of the organization committee below that now includes at least one member from each of the coral reef-related players in the state of Bremen and beyond.

#### **18. Local Organizing Committee:**

Prof. Dr. Christian Wild (University of Bremen) – Conference chairman; overall coordination, conference management, fund-raising

Andrea Hess (Bremen Convention Bureau BTZ) – Professional local conference organizer; overall coordination, conference management and accommodation, coordinator of accompanying persons program

Dr. Rita Kellner-Stoll (KELLNER & STOLL - FOUNDATION, Bremen) –overall coordination, fund-raising, local networking

Prof. Dr. Andreas Breiter (Vice Director for Research, University of Bremen) – coordination of Bremen University involvement

Dr. Eberhard Scholz (Head press office, University of Bremen) – coordination of media activities

Prof. Dr. Tilman Harder & Prof. Dr. Kai Bischof (University of Bremen) – scientific program committee

Prof. Dr. Nicole Dubilier & Dr. Arjun Chennu (MPI Bremen) – scientific program committee

Prof. Dr. Agostino Merico, Dr. Malik Naumann, and Dr. Sebastian Ferse (ZMT) – scientific program committee, publication editors

Prof. Dr. Claudio Richter (AWI, Bremerhaven) – program chair, field trip host

Dr. Carin Jantzen and Christoph Haacke (SCORE International, Bremen) – coordination of public outreach activities, coordination of post-ICRS Red Sea field trip

Prof. Dr. Peter Schupp (University of Oldenburg) – scientific program committee, field trip host

Dr. Georg Heiss (Free University Berlin) – scientific program committee, field trip host

Dr. Willem Renema (Naturalis, Leiden, Netherlands) – scientific program committee, field trip host

Prof. Dr. Ronald Osinga (University of Wageningen, Netherlands) – scientific program committee, field trip host

Dr. Jasper de Goeij (University of Amsterdam, Netherlands) – scientific program committee, field trip host

Dr. Alexander Wolf (Bremen Overseas Research and Development Association – BORDA) - outreach

Members of this team already successfully organized the European ISRS meetings 2006 (with ca. 400 participants each) in Bremen and 2010 in Wageningen, Netherlands, along with several International Coral Reef Ecology Symposia (with ca. 100 participants each) in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2013, and 2014.

The Bremen Convention Bureau (BTZ) as the local management partner for ICRS 2020 has extensive experience with the preparation and organization of medium and large scientific conferences in Bremen (for references please see annex 3). It offers a complete one-stop service to conference planners and travel partners. BTZ provides the following services:

- Technical visits
- Transfer services
- Arrangement of accommodation
- Arrangement of social evening events
- Conference management

