



BIR names new president, treasurer at convention

William (Tom) Bird of Chiho Environmental Group has been elected as the association's new president.

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[Conferences & Events](#) [International Recycling News](#) [Personnel](#)

The [Bureau of International Recycling](#) (BIR) elected William T. Bird of Chiho Environmental Group, Hong Kong, as its new president during the [Annual General Assembly of the 2019 BIR World Recycling Convention & Exhibition](#), which took place May 19-22 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore.

Bird was approved by the general assembly for a first two-year mandate, which can be extended once, BIR reports in a news release announcing Bird's appointment. In Bird's opening address at the Annual General Assembly, he thanked his predecessor Ranjit Baxi for his work during the past four years and expressed his gratitude to be at the head of the international organization.

"BIR is long established as the sole truly international recycling federation," Bird said. "I am honored to be serving its more than 750 member companies and national recycling federations in the coming years."

Bird is the chief operating officer at [Chiho Environmental Group](#), which is one of the world's largest metal recycling companies. Prior to his appointment, Bird had been BIR treasurer and a member of the organization's executive committee for three years. BIR reports that Bird has held several long-term positions in BIR leadership, including interim president of the Ferrous

Division and chairman of the Internal Audit Committee. He also served as president of European Ferrous Recovery and Recycling Federation (EFR).

Additionally, Bird has more than 30 years of experience in metal recycling. According to a news release from BIR, he began his career in the family business The Bird Group and acted in senior positions at London-based Liberty Metal Recycling, Netherlands-based Van Dalen and Australia-based Sims Metal Management.

According to a news release from BIR, Andreas (Andy) Wahl, president of Atlanta-based [TAV Holdings Inc.](#), has also been appointed as interim BIR treasurer following the election of previous Treasurer Tom Bird as the global federation's president. BIR reports that Wahl will fill this position until the end of the treasurer's mandate in May 2020.

Wahl chaired BIR's Media Metals Separation Committee, the Communications Committee and the Statutes & By-Laws Committee, BIR reports. He also served on the board of the BIR Nonferrous Metals Division for more than 17 years and has been on the organization's Advisory Council for more than 13 years.

In addition, Wahl has held many posts within the U.S. [Institute of Scrap Recycling Industries](#) (ISRI), Washington, including chairman of the Nonferrous Division Committee, the Membership Committee and the Trade Committee. Other ISRI committees on which he has served over the last 18 years include shredder and finance. Furthermore, during his tenure as trade chair, he had a special task force focus on high profile issues such as container theft.

Wahl began his career in the industry almost 30 years ago with Eumet Recycling, subsequently joining fellow German firm Kersch Metals before moving on to Huron Valley's base in Belgium, BIR reports in a news release. In the U.S., he worked for Newell Recycling between 1997 and 2014, including 12 years as vice president of its Nonferrous Division. For the last five years, he has been president of TAV Holdings Inc., which offers separation technology for different industries, nonferrous metals processing and trading services.

"I am proud to step in for Tom Bird for the remainder of the treasurer's mandate and will look to take best care of BIR's finances during these quite unpredictable times for the recycling industry and for the global business community as a whole," he said. "I look forward to playing my part in ensuring that our world organization remains robust and highly effective in the face of the many challenges confronting us."

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