Strategic Plan 2015-2019

Final Version

Task Force

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1.   Vision

To be the world-leading association for hydro-environment engineering and research

2.   Mission

IAHR fosters a global network of researchers and practitioners of hydro-science and engineering by:

- Innovation in hydro-science and transferring emerging knowledge into practice
- Informing policy and management through hydro-science
- Sharing knowledge through education and professional development
- Providing a sustainable platform for superior member services

Goal 1:   Our Global Community of Researchers and Practitioners

IAHR fosters and enhances global and regional communities of engineers and scientists to accelerate knowledge discovery, technology transfer, data generation, tools and share experiences on best practices. IAHR will proactively adapt to engage a wider professional community by continuing to provide services to researchers whilst developing new initiatives engaging a wider, more practice-oriented audience. The IAHR worldwide community is divided by distance, language, climate and culture into different regions facing different challenges. The successful specialty conference series maintain active communities of researchers but are difficult for many of our members to attend – this especially applies to young researchers, members in developing countries and practitioners. These barriers can be partially overcome through the congresses and activities of our regional divisions.

Objective 1.1: To strengthen our existing journals and expand our portfolio of journal, and books

> **Actions**
>
> **1.1.1** Raise the impact factor of our Journals
>
> **1.1.2** Expand our portfolio of Journals
>
> **1.1.3** Raise profile of conference proceedings
>
> **1.1.4** Expand our portfolio of books and monographs

Objective 1.2: To enhance collaboration between research and practice communities

> **Actions**
>
> **1.2.1** Enhance practitioner engagement in Technical Committees
>
> **1.2.2** Conduct Workshops at the request of agencies or industry
>
> **1.2.3** Use Membership platform to conduct open dialogues on technical issues
>
> **1.2.4** Create favorable opportunities of practitioner participation in conferences

Objective 1.3: Strengthen and diversify our conference activities at the global and regional levels

> **Actions**
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> **1.3.1** Experiment with webcasting (either live or recorded) plenary talks from the World Congress and Specialty Conferences through the IAHR web page.
>
> **1.3.2** Expand regional activities – but with specific attention to Asia and Spanish-speaking countries that leverage the strengths of the IAHR Secretariat offices.
>
> **1.3.3** Encourage Committees to offer their specialty conferences in collaboration with Regional Divisions and to diversify to countries under-served by IAHR.

Goal 2: Hydroscience Knowledge to inform practice, policy and management

IAHR strives to be the leading independent international community of research and best practice in all aspects of hydro-environment engineering. IAHR seeks to provide an effective platform for global dialogue between this segment of our community and the policy and management arena such as multi-lateral development agencies.

Objective 2.1: Accelerate knowledge discovery and application.

Promote a more interdisciplinary approach in areas of interest to our members, and promote the role of our community in the *global water dialogue.* IAHR will continue to support and promote the activities of each Technical Committee, but will also explore synthesis activities that transend traditional science and engineering disciplines boundaries.

Actions

2.1.1 Initiate synthesis activities of interest to agencies or society that blend the expertise of IAHR with other peer organizations. Guidance of Institute members will be solicited to identify grand challenges they are facing and where could IAHR support Institute members activities in these areas. Possible topics might include: summarizing sustainability metrics across different countries, expanding water security initiative, global changes in hydropower generation due to climate change or helping inform carbon markets or sequestration strategies. Identify strategic partnerships with peer organizations or international bodies such as the World Bank for specific activities

2.1.2 Offer peer-review capability to governmental agencies or industry

Goal 3:   International education and professional development

IAHR will expand the young professional network (YPNs) to develop networking between early career researchers and professionals in universities, agencies, consultants and industry – under the guidance and mentorship of senior IAHR members. In addition to a range of activities held within each network the YPNs are encouraged to work together at the national and regional level with the regional IAHR Congress used as an important nexus for joint activities. Social media (both within IAHR and outside) will be harnessed for communication. The existing Third World Membership Fund programme (TWMF) will be redesigned to provide some funding for developing the activities of YPs and for developing continuing education.

IAHR in collaboration with other international associations in the field can play a key role in facilitating international recognition for the qualifications and experience of specialists in water engineering.

Objective 3.1: Attract young professionals and serve as an indispensable career-long anchor for water professionals

Actions

3.1.1 Update list of active YPNs – with contact details. Track progression of individuals from YPN membership to full individual membership
3.1.2 Engage YPNs is planning of workshops and conferences
3.1.3 Publish Hydrolink article on YPNs and initiate regular YPN article
3.1.4 Develop prominent place for YPNs on IAHR Website and include places for YPN chat-rooms.
3.1.5 Redesign and re-launch TWMF

Objective 3.2: Establish a Global Water Qualification

Actions

3.2.1. Engage other peer organizations to discuss the feasibility of establishing an internationally recognized qualification for Hydroscience professionals.

Goal 4: To provide a sustainable platform for enhanced member services

To ensure a sustainable future, the IAHR membership must be increased both to be able to continue operating a professional secretariat and to guarantee a "critical mass" sufficient for a dynamic and vibrant technical community. Diversification of revenue sources must be a part of the process toward financial independence. The secretariat should have stable funding to offer long-term commitment and career path for talented secretariat staff, and to have resources to implement strategic initiatives.

Objective 4.1: Ensure a secure financial business model for IAHR

Actions

4.1.1 Prepare annual membership report
4.1.2 Continue special membership offers at World Congresses and Specialty Conferences
4.1.3 Maintain governmental support for Secretariat Offices
4.1.4 Explore potential IAHR-government agency partnerships such as continuing education courses

Objective 4.2: Provide exemplary service and value to the IAHR membership

Actions

4.2.1 Maintain the quality of our existing publications in collaboration with our partners, but strive to introduce new products to fulfill emerging needs.
4.2.2 Embrace new technologies/media to provide platforms for communication between members, sharing of knowledge and for e-learning
4.2.3 Continue enhancements of the IAHR membership platform, including a list of Continuing Education courses offered with IAHR cosponsorship (for employers and professionals) and new ways of connecting researchers on specific research questions such as the use of social media.
4.2.4 Explore opportunities for IAHR co-sponsored Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) or graduate classes that provide international perspectives (building on HydroWeb or courses offered through small groups of instructors).
4.2.5 Support the expansion of the IAHR media library
4.2.6 Enhance communications between Secretariat, Committees or Regions including logistical support from the IAHR Secretariat for new initiatives.

Appendix: Implementation Plan 2016-20

An implementation plan will form part of this plan as will the annual work plan.