

2020 CHAPTER REPORT



Each national chapter is required by IAH Rule 6.5 to provide an annual report on its activities. This helps us to report the Association's activities and is published on the IAH web site. It is also expected that, under the terms of the chapter's constitution or rules, the national committee will make an annual report to members in their country.

1. ABOUT YOU

Your name	Diganta Sarma
Email address	diganta@namibhydro.com
Role/responsibility held in chapter	National Chapter (Council) member responsible for IAH matters

2. YOUR CHAPTER'S INFORMATION

<p>Is your chapter's information correct on IAH's website: https://iah.org/groups/national-chapters</p> <p>Please tell us of any changes now and each time a new committee is chosen.</p>	<p>No, there is a new committee in place since October 2020. The new committee members are:</p> <p>Ester Gustavo – President Diganta Sarma – Vice President Bertram Swartz – Treasurer Gettie Shiinda – Secretary Anna David – Ordinary Member</p>
<p>Does your chapter have its own website? If so, please confirm the URL.</p> <p>If you do have a website, who is responsible for its management? Please provide contact details.</p>	<p>Yes. http://namhydro.com/wp/</p> <p>The council member in charge of maintenance of the website is Gettie Shiinda (Gettie.Mulokoshi@mawlr.gov.na)</p>
<p>Would you be interested in IAH hosting your chapter's website/providing support? As an example, see https://germany.iah.org/.</p>	<p>Yes, we will be interested in IAH hosting our Chapter website.</p>
<p>Does your chapter have an elected committee?</p> <p>If yes, how often are elections held and how are they managed e.g. postal/email vote/at meetings?</p>	<p>Yes. Elections are held yearly as part of the Annual General Meeting (AGM). The AGM is held in Windhoek with members physically present for voting. Since the COVID 19 pandemic, members are invited to join the AGM online with only the Council being physically present at the meeting.</p>

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3. LOCAL MEMBERSHIP

<p>How is local membership status and trends? e.g. stable, declining, increasing.</p>	<p>Local membership has been decreasing. There were 21 paid up NHA members in 2018 and 7 in 2019. In 2021, 13 members have paid but more registrations are still possible.</p> <p>Note that we were not keeping record of the IAH membership renewals before the last AGM.</p>
<p>What are your challenges to recruitment? e.g. volunteer time/limitation, IAH fee rates, competition from other societies, language, etc.</p>	<p>The main challenges are the IAH fees for potential student members and insufficient marketing/promotional activities carried out in recent time.</p>

4. YOUR CHAPTER'S ACTIVITIES IN 2020

<p>Did your chapter hold an annual meeting (AGM-style)? If so, please advise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date and place of meeting • Approximate number attending 	<p>Yes. The AGM was held virtually on the 09/10/2020.</p> <p>16 people attended.</p>
<p>Did your chapter hold other events e.g. technical and scientific meetings, seminars, conferences, field visits, training events?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If you have already reported these to the IAH Secretariat, only summary information is required. • If not, these please provide a summary of dates, location, number of participants, topics, etc. and how successful you felt each event was. • Do you have photos we can use? • Are your events open to IAH non-members? • Did you hold events in partnership with others e.g. a national society, company, institution? 	<p>Activities were inhibited due to the COVID 19 pandemic during 2020. But the council met twice and could organise the AGM.</p> <p>The Chapter (NHA) actively participated in the SADC-GMI focus group discussions on the establishment of the National Focal Group for Namibia with the aim of implementation of sustainable groundwater management practices.</p>

5. YOUR CHAPTER'S PLANS

<p>Do you have any activities or tasks planned for 2021?</p> <p>If yes, please provide brief details, including if your plans are limited because of e.g. lack of funds or local interest/volunteer support to help</p>	<p>Three activities are currently planned for the year but number of attendees is restricted due to COVID 19:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Talks by final year post-graduate hydrogeology students of University of Namibia on their research work. 2. Field trips and fun walks: The fun walks will be open to the members of the public interested in groundwater. The first fun walk will be to the artesian
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	<p>flowing boreholes of the Windhoek Aquifer and Artificial Recharge site. Field trips will be to hydrological or hydrogeological schemes.</p> <p>3. Interest groups or mentorship programmes. The interest groups will bring together hydrogeologists and hydrologists of different experience and skill levels to take part in discussions and interactions on a subject with the aim of enhancing understanding and skills, particularly in areas of practical importance in Namibia. The first two interest groups planned are in hydrochemistry and test pumping data interpretation.</p> <p>The mentorship program would approach more experienced hydrogeology professionals to work with younger professions to tap into their experience and knowledge.</p>
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6. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Please use this section to make any additional comments/suggestions e.g. what support from IAH centrally might assist your chapter, future plans you would like to see for IAH

The need in Namibia is primarily in training. Requirement for assistance in these areas has been identified.

- Access to expertise on arid region hydrogeology and water management
- Access to expertise on artificial recharge
- Access to expertise on groundwater and mining