

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20 September 2023**



**International
Association of
Hydrogeologists**

DRAFT MINUTES OF MEETING

The 2023 Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Hydrogeologists was held at 1600 BST (1700 SAST and 1500 UST) on 20th September at the Cape Town International Convention Centre and online using Zoom. All members of the Association who had fully paid their subscription for the year were entitled to attend and participate in the proceedings. Guests were also welcome to attend. The presentation slides are available at <https://iah.org/members/iah-meetings>.

DRAFT MINUTES

1. Prof David Kreamer (DK), President of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, welcomed 62 members and 14 observers at the venue and 17 members online to the meeting. He acknowledged that some members were unable to attend the meeting because of other commitments, especially those in other time zones. He then asked for a moment's silence for members and colleagues who had passed away during the last year.
2. DK invited comments on the minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held on 20th September 2022, available at <https://iah.org/members/iah-meetings> and then asked for a vote to approve the minutes. The minutes were duly approved.
3. DK was pleased to present the Presidents' Award to Prof. Carlos Molano, long term member of IAH, and former IAH Vice-President for Latin America and the Caribbean (see <https://iah.org/about/awards> for further details).
4. Jane Dottridge, IAH Secretary General described progress with implementing the Forward Look programme and developments in IAH's international liaison activities. IAH continued to aim for involvement of more members in the Association's activities and she urged members to volunteer. She highlighted, 'Hydrogeodia', the public awareness-raising activities run by the Spanish NC in support of World Water Day each year. Activities have also been organised in Portugal and increasingly in Latin America. Jane asked all national chapters to follow this example by hosting their own 'Hydrogeology Days' in 2024.
5. JD described how IAH's two new staff members were working to enhance member benefits through developing education and outreach programmes and an improved social media strategy. Guidance to support young professionals in their career development was in draft and the team was available to support the organisation of congresses, conferences webinars and other training and educational initiatives.
6. She noted that Hydrogeology Journal continued to be the top global specialist journal devoted to the subject. Although the Strategic Overview Series was reaching an end of topics it might cover, these are still mostly in English and the job to translate these into other languages will continue. She asked volunteers to put themselves forward to help with this task, noting that all languages should be considered. Alongside our SOS papers, the new Technical Insight Series (TIS) had now been established, which was more aimed at groundwater professionals. She invited IAH's commissions and networks to consider making a contribution to the series.
7. Much of IAH's international engagement is with UN, and she reported recent IAH participation UN Water conference in March and in the development of a UN Water Expert Group on groundwater. IAH had also taken steps to set up an IAH-UN working

group that would be able to contribute more effectively to the many requests for contributions that IAH receives from the various UN organisations. During the past year, IAH had also joined Equal Aqua, the World Bank platform supporting gender diversity and inclusion in water sector. IAH also remained committed to developing its joint activities with other organisations, such as the Groundwater Project (GWP), IGRAC, IWA, IWRA, WWQA, in line with the Association's aims, as set out in our mission statement.

8. There were no nominations for the Applied Hydrogeology Award (AHA) this year but JD congratulated last year's recipient, Ritchie Morris, who had received his award online but was at the AGM today. A proposal to review the AHA had been received from IAH member Luka Vucinic and this would be undertaken ahead of the AGM in September 2024.
9. Jane then went on to make two presentations for the Distinguished Associates Award: firstly Abou Amani, Director of UNESCO's Division of Water Sciences and Secretary of the Inter-governmental Hydrological Programme (IHP); and secondly, James Sauramba, Executive Director of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Groundwater Management Institute. Both have been able to apply their wide experience in making a positive contribution to sustainability and socio-economic development through their leadership in the field of groundwater management. (see <https://iah.org/about/awards> for further details).
10. Marco Petitta, Vice President for Science and Programme, reported on IAH's commissions and networks (C&Ns), some of which were holding meetings at the congress. IAH's seven commissions focus on specific topic areas; its seven networks promote interaction on a global scale.
11. Developments include: Niels Hartog appointed as new director of the Urban Groundwater Network; closure of the Groundwater and Energy Commission; approval of the new 'Groundwater Resources UNECE Classification and Management Network' (GRUCMN), led by Peter Van Der Keur of GEUS; a new Working Group on EDIA (Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Accessibility) under the Socio-Hydrogeology Network, led by Luka Vucinic)
12. Significant results from last year include: a topical collection of papers by C&Ns, published in Hydrogeology Journal Issue1/2023, and available as open access; books on Urban Groundwater, by Ken Howard (under the GWP), 'MAR: Overview and Governance, Groundwater for Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth' (IAH Book Series), and a special issue in the journal 'Water' on 'Regional Groundwater Flow Concept and Its Potential for Interdisciplinary Application'.
13. Future plans include the contribution of C&Ns to IAH's new series, 'Technical Insight Papers'. Following the closure of the Groundwater and Energy Commission and the Groundwater and Ecosystems Network, Marco considered there was an opportunity to establish a new network or commission on groundwater for water, energy, food and ecosystems (WEFE) and invited members to contact him about this. He announced that Eurokarst2024, featuring IAH's Karst Commission, would take place in Rome from 10-14 June.
14. He then presented the Honorary Members Award, after unanimous votes by those at the AGM, to three IAH members with long-standing and distinguished service to IAH: Prof Antonio Chambel of the University of Evora, past President of IAH and of the Portugal NC; Prof Viviana Re of the University of Pisa, Director of the IAH's Socio-Hydrogeology Network, co-Director of the Burdon Groundwater Network, and former Director of ECHN; and to Alan MacDonald, Head of Groundwater at the British Geological Survey, and long-standing Director of the Burdon Network. (see <https://iah.org/about/awards> for further details).

15. Ian Davey, on behalf of Dr Teodóra Szócs, Vice President, Finance and Membership, presented the 2022 accounts. In summary, there was an income of around £330K and expenditure of £295K. This represented a significant surplus, a reflection of the ongoing effects of Covid and not being able to carry forward some of the planned activities. For example, it had not been possible to travel to Wuhan for the annual congress. Council was looking at ways for beneficial use of the reserves, for members and charitable purposes. The accounts were agreed by members following a vote. The full accounts are available on the IAH web site at <https://iah.org/about/reports/management>
16. Members voted to reappoint Locke Williams Associates, Blackthorn House, St Paul's Square, Birmingham, B3 1RL, United Kingdom as the independent examiner of the Association's accounts for the next accounting period and to authorise Council to determine their remuneration.
17. ID then presented the proposals for IAH categories of fees to be updated and realigned with the classification of countries and territories adopted by the World Bank (see Appendix A). Following presentation of the initial proposals at the AGM some modifications had been made. These had been sent to NCs for comment, though there had been little response. Largely the proposals had been accepted, though some requested that changes should not deter renewals or new members. The proposals were also publicised in the August newsletter, with an invitation for comments from members, but none had been received. ID accepted that the changes were significant for those affected, but some mitigation had been included in the proposals, with an intermediate step to be established between middle and higher fees. He also noted that there had been no fee increase since 2019, during which time inflation had made the effective cost of current fees much lower than previously, though he acknowledged that pay rises may not have matched inflation. The vote was carried, with no objections and 2 abstentions.
18. A further proposal was put forward that retired members should continue to have access to Hydrogeology Journal. There was a question about whether this would be online access or a hard copy and ID confirmed that this would be online access. There was one objection to the proposal but in view of the large majority in favour the vote was carried. ID invited members to contact him if they wished to discuss this further, though he assumed that Council and the Executive Committee would now want to take this forward.
19. President Dave Kreamer reported that the next congresses would be Davos, Switzerland, in 2024 and Melbourne, Australia, in 2025. He invited chapters to put forward a proposal for 2026. He then invited Michael Sinreich of the Swiss National Chapter to make a short presentation on the arrangements for the 2024 congress in Davos.
20. The meeting ended at 1805 local time.

Ian Davey

on behalf of IAH Council, September 2023

Appendix B: Country Fee Bands

1. At the Council meeting and Annual General Meeting (AGM) in September 2022, proposals were presented for revising IAH's subscription fee country-categories. It was agreed that there should be a further review, with the aim of presenting final proposals in September 2023 to Council and then, with Council's recommendations, to members at the AGM.
2. IAH has had different fee bands for many years, offering lower fee rates to individuals and organisations who live or are based in non "high income" countries and territories, as defined by the World Bank¹. The World Bank has four income groupings: low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high. IAH currently uses four categories for countries and territories: low, transitional, middle, and high.
3. Since IAH last reviewed its fee categories the alignment with the World Bank's income groups has diverged significantly. The aim is to re-establish this alignment, for a more realistic and fairer scheme. The fees would be adjusted accordingly, with fee categories set as A, B, C and D (equivalent to low, lower-middle, upper-middle and high).
4. About half the countries would remain in the equivalent new category. Nearly all of the others would move to a higher category, almost half of these by more than one category. The changes would be phased by 3 years for each category change, to help mitigate the impacts for those affected. The proposed categories are shown against each country in the accompanying file 4b. Proposed fees are shown in Appendix 1 below.
5. The suggested fees take account of views from members and national chapters that the fees are often an obstacle in recruiting or maintaining IAH members. Fees have been reduced for the categories A, B and C, and it is proposed that the fees for category D should not be increased. It is intended that overall the revised fees should have a neutral effect on IAH's membership income.
6. A few chapters have provided feedback. Those not affected by a change in category, understandably have not raised objections. There were some concerns that changing to a higher fee-rated category may make it more difficult to attract and retain members.
7. Increases in costs are clearly unwelcome, though membership subscriptions have remained the same since 2019. During this time inflation has increased other costs by more than 15% in many if not most countries. Data suggest that for IAH online membership this could be the equivalent of the fee falling from €78 in 2019 to €65 now. It is accepted, though, that salaries may well not have increased by the same proportion.
8. As part of the review, it is also suggested that retired member subscriptions should include online access to Hydrogeology Journal. Currently HJ is not included in this membership category. If appropriate, the fee for retired members could be adjusted to help cover the additional costs to IAH. Retired members are those who have retired from paid professional roles and this criterion would need to continue.

Teodóra Szócs, Vice President, Finance and Membership

Ian Davey, Executive Manager

September 2023

¹ As stated by the World Bank, the term country, used interchangeably with economy, does not imply political independence but refers to any territory for which authorities report separate social or economic statistics. Information about how the World Bank classifies countries and territories can be found at <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/378834-how-does-the-world-bank-classify-countries>. IAH does not accept responsibility for the classification of the countries or territories defined by the World Bank or other parties.

Appendix 1: Current and proposed fees

IAH Fees 2023	High income	Middle income	Transitional	Low income
Member	€ 88.00	€ 58.00	€ 50.00	€ 42.00
Online Member	€ 78.00	€ 48.00	€ 40.00	€ 32.00
Student Member	€ 30.00	€ 26.00	€ 24.00	€ 22.00
Student Online Member	€ 20.00	€ 16.00	€ 14.00	€ 12.00
Associate Student Member	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Retired Member	€ 40.00	€ 27.00	€ 24.00	€ 22.00
Corporate Member	€ 485.00	€ 300.00	€ 255.00	€ 190.00
Gold Sponsor	€ 1,875.00			

Proposed categories & fees	D	Intermediate	C	B	A
Member	€ 88.00	€ 68.00	€ 54.00	€ 46.00	€ 36.00
Online Member	€ 78.00	€ 58.00	€ 44.00	€ 36.00	€ 26.00
Student Member	€ 30.00	€ 26.00	€ 24.00	€ 22.00	€ 20.00
Student Online Member	€ 20.00	€ 18.00	€ 16.00	€ 14.00	€ 12.00
Associate Student Member	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00	€ 0.00
Retired Member	€ 40.00	€ 32.00	€ 27.00	€ 24.00	€ 22.00
Corporate Member	€ 495.00	€ 400.00	€ 305.00	€ 260.00	€ 195.00
Gold Sponsor	€ 1,875.00				

Details for each country are available at <https://iah.org/members/iah-meetings>