



**IWRA General Assembly
24th September 2020**

Questions & Answers

“Do you have active European Chapter? I would like to be a part of it.”

Ahmed Azeemuddin Zeeshan Syed

That’s a good question. We do not have a European chapter (yet). We have been in discussions with partners to set up a Central European Chapter. If you are interested in leading on a European Chapter, please send us an email to office@iwra.org and we can tell you about what’s involved in setting up and running geographical chapters in more detail.

“How about an AFRICA Chapter? It would be a good idea.”

Zeray Yihdego

This is also an excellent question. We would warmly welcome any expressions of interest to set up an African Chapter with us. It would have to be organized by IWRA members in Africa. If this is something that you or some of your colleagues would like to explore, please do let us know. An African IWRA Chapter would be very welcomed!

“I also believe a Latin American and Caribbean Chapter would be an opportunity.”

Guillermo Donoso

Agreed as well. It is great to see so much enthusiasm for regional/national Chapters. We would love to have IWRA Chapters in Latin America and the Caribbean. Equally, this would have to be organized by IWRA members in the region, (of course with support from the IWRA Executive Office). If this is something that you or some of your colleagues would like to explore, please do let us know.

“I believe the IWRA needs to consider research output from all over the world. Therefore, I want to know if there is any plan to reduce the quality and level gap between developed and developing countries’ research work.”

Abebe Mengistu

(Answered Live).

Yes there is. We currently have in development the mentored Special Issue of *Water International*, that is supporting researchers from different parts of the world including, developing countries, to get their research published with the support of more senior and well published experts.

We also have the World Water Envoy programme for the XVII World Water Congress, bringing young people from water insecure communities in different countries to come the Congress, to share the stories of their communities, and to seek knowledge, advice and support to help their communities overcome these issues.

We are also offering a new free level of membership for people to join IWRA, and access much of the expertise that we make available, and to join Task Forces. And for those who want a fuller membership experience, but who cannot afford it, there will be membership scholarships made available to apply for.



“Might there be interest in distinguishing a separate student level category?”

Larry Swatuk

(Answered Live).

The new IWRA membership structure will no longer define membership on who you are or where you are from. It will instead focus on how you want to engage with IWRA, and the activities you wish to benefit from. Many of our activities are already focussed on students and young professionals, including a dedicated Task Force; the mentored special issue of *Water International*; The World Water Envoy and rapporteur programmes at the World Water Congress; and active encouragement to include younger members in all committees and groups.

“Is it mandatory to opt for a membership category or will those who do not opt automatically be fixed to the Bronze category?”

Anonymous Attendee

(Answered Live).

When you initially register, you will indeed have to select your desired membership level.

If you are an existing student member, your membership will be transferred to Silver Level until the end of your current membership period. All other members will be made Gold Level until the end of their current membership periods. After that, you will need to decide which level of membership you wish to maintain.

If you are a Silver or Gold Level member and your paid membership period lapses, you will automatically default to Bronze Level membership, where you will remain until you either renew your higher level of membership, or you ask to resign your membership, or we are no longer able to contact you via email.

“Will the journal be freely accessible to all members?”

Larry Swatuk

(Answered Live).

As *Water International* is a subscription journal, so unfortunately only paying members (Silver or Gold) will be able to access it. This is in order to fulfil our obligations with our publisher.

“I have recently acquired the membership of IWRA. Please expand IWRA network activities more in developing countries, like Pakistan, India, Bangladesh, etc., as these countries have a lot of potential in terms of professional human resources and are at high water risks.”

Islam ul Haque

(Answered Live).

Please see the answer above to Abebe Mengistu.



“Are there any projects in the pipeline or any possibility to develop a project that would shed light on water law reform that would help countries struggling for guidance?”

Mohamed Faiz Abdul Raheem

(Answered Live).

IWRA has a strong representation in its membership and its Board of Directors of people who have legal backgrounds, including the current IWRA President and Treasurer.

IWRA also has a growing series of Policy Brief documents that can be found on the IWRA website, and Policy Advice is also included in the project reports we produce.

If there is a specific aspect of water law reform that you wish to explore with fellow members in more detail, please contact the Executive Office at office@iwra.org, or join a relevant Task Force.

“About the projects proposals and working groups... is it possible to count on grants to pursue those projects?”

Ariana Rossen

This is on a project-by-project basis - but in some cases, such as Smart Water Management, there are some funds available.

If you have any further questions based on the General Assembly or any other issue, please contact the Executive Office team on office@iwra.org.