

Chengdu 2013 Young Professional Declaration

Engaging the next generation in the IAHR future

Young professionals (YPs) are the future of the IAHR and the hydro-environmental profession. After several rounds of discussions and exchanges among student chapters and YP representatives participating in the Chengdu IAHR Congress, the following suggestions are put forward to the IAHR Council:

1. Representation in the Council

YPs would like to be more involved in all aspects of IAHR activities and be an integral part of the whole community. Given the opportunity, YPs can use their skills and energy to take responsibility within the organization and move IAHR forward toward an even stronger future. Not only do YPs benefit from joining and engaging in the IAHR family, but even more so the IAHR can profit from the attracting and nurturing YPs for a healthy future of IAHR

We propose to have an YP representative in the IAHR council. The protocol for appointing the YP representative will follow be formalized in accordance with IAHR constitution and bylaws.

2. Funding for linking YPs

YPs strive to create a global network water community. YPs' ambitious visions require networking opportunities at the local, regional, and global levels. To attain this goal it is needed to have logistic support and dedicated funds.

We therefore propose that IAHR budget 20 000 Euro/year YP activities. The funds should support individual or group activities but always under the overseeing of the local, regional, or global YP leadership.

This funding scheme should promote a competition of ideas and YP engagement. Thus a proposal containing the description of planned activities or projects including a budget plan should be submitted to the IAHR Council which decides about the approval for one or two projects that should be funded per year. This ensures that the amount of funds available can be used for extraordinary activities, larger excursions, and YPs' get-togethers etc. Such funding could be given as a prestigious award at the Biannual Congress and in the years in between at the regional Congresses or an IAHR Section Conference. The funded entities should report back about their experiences so that other YPCs can also learn from it.

3. Networking platform - professional development 2.0

IAHR is an organization which promotes cooperation within and outside community. Networking between YPs and also more experienced members should be ensured through a robust networking between all YP chapters.

We propose to set up online resources such as dedicated website, webinar series, chat room, and mailing lists. In addition affordable professional development resources (short courses, workshops) should be made available through various IAHR events.

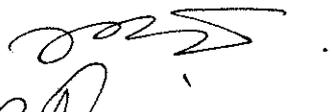
4. Mentoring

Accelerated integration of YPs into IAHR would be a decisive factor for attracting them in IAHR technical activities and leadership, providing a continuous stream of energy and vitality to our association. The new organizational structure of the YP chapters uniting all IAHR local members younger than 35 years under the same organization umbrella would provide an ideal framework for two-way interactions irrespective of the YP affiliation in their early-stage of the career. Graduates of engineering schools (master and PhD) and YPs from academia and practice participating in the local YP chapter activities will provide the first level of mentoring through first-hand interactions.

In addition to this local mentoring of new members an international cyber-mentoring program could reach senior professionals to infuse knowledge and experience to attain the second level of mentoring of YPs. Mentors from both levels could provide their mentees advice in topics like career development, publications etc. but also help the mentee to understand IAHR structures and help them to get more involved in the IAHR community.

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Taking advantage of the new structure of the YP chapters, we propose to create a peer mentoring system that includes face-to-face and cyber-mentoring programs that would continuously transfer the knowledge and experience of junior and senior professionals of our association to Young Professionals.

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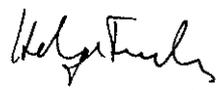
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