



The International Federation of Hydrographic Societies (IFHS) is a unique partnership of learned national and regional hydrographic societies that, through its worldwide membership, is able to address every specialism within the hydrographic profession and related disciplines, at all levels of experience and expertise. It has considerable international influence, and is respected by hydrographic professionals and organisations at governmental and intergovernmental level.

The Federation is recognised throughout the world for promoting the development of hydrography and hydrographic learning by providing unrivalled opportunities for the exchange of ideas and practices.

The Federation provides a global hub for the wider hydrographic community, both individual and corporate, and offers tangible benefits to all classes of membership within the affiliated national societies through a range of products and services. Communication of the Federation's objectives is primarily achieved via the periodical, *The Hydrographic Journal* and via the Federation's website. These, in turn, are complemented by a series of technical Special Publications and an international programme of symposia and seminars, in addition to informal national and regional evening meetings, workshops and social events organised by the member Societies.

Individual and Corporate members of the Federation's constituent societies include the full spectrum of: contract hydrographic surveyors, government and military personnel, oceanographers, geophysicists, geologists, environmental scientists, civil engineers, port surveyors and operators, academics, project managers, software engineers, surveyors in all sectors of private practice. Also represented are: petroleum companies, research and educational institutes, environmental protection and monitoring organisations, professional bodies and other associations, equipment manufacturers and suppliers, dredging and salvage contractors and others involved in associated sciences, technologies and applications. These members are drawn from all levels of the profession and are distributed in over 70 countries throughout the world.

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## Purpose

The International Federation of Hydrographic Societies is a unique partnership of national hydrographic societies, acting as an umbrella organisation, which:

- is an international voice for hydrography
- promotes the free exchange of information between all those engaged in hydrography and related sciences
- schedules international hydrographic conferences
- fosters the establishment and growth of new national societies

Its member societies; objectives are to:

- promote excellence in the application, history, dissemination and technological development of hydrography and related sciences.
- promote the highest level of accuracy and thoroughness in the application of hydrography and related sciences in accordance with internationally-defined standards.
- promote free exchange of information between all those engaged in hydrography and related sciences.
- encourage the broadest possible inclusion of people and organisations interested in hydrography and related sciences.
- promote the broadest pursuit of technological innovation for the purpose of hydrography and related sciences.
- promote the highest possible standards of safety by and for the application of hydrography and related sciences.

## The Federation's activities include...

- facilitating the accumulation and dissemination of knowledge through the publication of its international refereed *Journal*, technical publications, collections of papers and proceedings, CD-ROMs and other relevant information including web-based services.
- promoting the science of surveying in salt and fresh water environments, the adjacent shore and hinterland through the organisation of specialist seminars and technical workshops.
- providing opportunities for interaction and exchange of information through international symposia, including the well-established 'Hydro' conference series.
- promoting improved education and training for those engaged in or intending to engage in hydrography through the distribution of information, and educational awards.
- promoting career opportunities through the publication of relevant careers guides, web-based employment and work placement advertisements and other web-based facilities.

## Benefits of Membership

### All member hydrographic societies receive

- a full listing of their contact details, key personnel and web address in *The Hydrographic Journal* and on the Federation website.
- inclusion of their news and reports in the Information Bulletin of the *Journal*.
- promotion of all their events in the Calendar sections of both the *Journal* and Federation website.
- a link to their own website from the Federation website.
- opportunities to distribute their literature with the *Journal* and also via the Federation's stand at a range of exhibitions and trade fairs.
- ready access to a globally-based hydrographic audience.

### Individual and Corporate Members of affiliated hydrographic societies

- be entitled to attend all Federation and member Society events, including Hydro symposia and will be offered discounted registration, where applicable.
- have unrivalled opportunities to network within the regional, national and global hydrographic community.
- are regularly informed of the latest professional and technical developments.
- have access to an authoritative international forum for the exchange of knowledge and the ability to influence crucial decisions affecting the future of hydrography.
- are offered a range of careers services via the Federation website.

### and may also

- receive *The Hydrographic Journal*, if their Society has elected to subscribe.
- have unrestricted access to all areas of the Federation website, including members only sections and services.
- receive selected Special Publications free of charge with the option to purchase other publications such as technical papers, conference proceedings and reference guides at reduced rates.

### Corporate Members of affiliated hydrographic societies may also

- raise their organisation's profile through sponsorship of Federation publications, activities and events in addition to discounted advertising rates in *The Hydrographic Journal* and other publications and on the Federation website, and favourable rates for exhibiting at Hydro symposia and other similar events.
- benefit from discounted delegate registrations for Hydro symposia, seminars and workshops.
- take advantage of a range of recruitment and work placement services including web-based advertising and direct mailing to registered job-seekers.
- use the logos of both the Federation and their national society on letterheads, websites, publicity material etc.

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## Membership & Management

Membership of the Federation is comprised of national hydrographic societies or similar organisations.

The Federation's structure affords the member national societies the freedom to operate under their own independent constitutions, maintain their own membership databases and determine and collect their own subscriptions whilst maintaining and subscribing to the wider international interests of the hydrographic profession at large.

The Federation is governed by an Executive Committee comprising of one Director nominated by each Member national society, observing the principle of one member, one vote. The Operations and Publications Manager, the Hon. Treasurer and representatives of Associate Members also advise the Executive in an *ex-officio* capacity. The Executive usually conducts its business via e-mail, teleconference, virtual meetings, electronic voting and other modern business communications techniques.

Federation Membership is open to any national hydrographic society or similar organisation, subject to the guidelines below and the approval of the Executive Committee.

Currently membership is made up of two sub-groups, one which provides all its members with copies of each edition of *The Hydrographic Journal* and a second which subscribes to a smaller number of *Journals* to distribute selectively.

Short-term, non-voting, Associate Membership is also available to new or smaller societies at the half the full subscription rate. This enables such societies to familiarise themselves with the Federation and the opportunities it offers before applying for full membership.

Member and Associate Member societies are required to pay an annual subscription to the Federation. Each society's fees are calculated on a per capita basis, plus an additional component based on its *Journal* requirements if appropriate.

For further information or answers to specific questions about the membership and management of IFHS please contact [helen@hydrographicsociety.org](mailto:helen@hydrographicsociety.org).

## A society seeking membership should

- be a registered, self-sustaining, not-for-profit organisation
- represent a significant number of members
- represent a distinct national or regional grouping not currently represented by an existing member society
- support the purpose and objectives of the Federation

