



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 levels.

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 its biannual e-newsletter *IFHS News* and the Federation's website. These, in turn, are complemented by a series of technical Special Publications and an international programme of HYDRO symposia and other conferences 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 learned national hydrographic societies acting as an umbrella organisation to facilitate:

- an international voice for hydrography
- appropriate education and training for those engaged or intending to engage in hydrography through the distribution of information, involvement in the definition of international standards of education and the delivery of educational awards
- scheduling of international hydrographic conferences
- the establishment and development of new national and regional hydrographic societies

Its member societies' objectives are to promote:

- excellence in the application, history, dissemination and technical development of hydrography and related sciences.
- the highest level of accuracy and thoroughness in hydrography and related fields in accordance with internationally-defined standards.
- the free exchange of relevant information.
- the widest possible inclusion of people and organisations interested in hydrography and related sciences.
- the broadest pursuit of technical innovation in hydrography and related specialisms.
- 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 e-newsletter *IFHS News*, technical publications and conference proceedings and other relevant web-based services.
- promoting the science of surveying in salt and fresh water environments, the adjacent shore and hinterland through the organisation of specialist conferences, seminars and workshops.
- providing opportunities for professional networking and the 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, input on standards and award of educational prizes.
- 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

In addition to the benefits of membership of their own national or regional hydrographic society, **all individual and corporate members of IFHS-member societies** also enjoy:

- unrivalled access to an authoritative international forum for the exchange of hydrographic information and a relevant, globally-based audience
- the chance to contribute to and benefit from being part of a strong and united international voice for the broadest possible global hydrographic community
- representation at IHO through IFHS's Observer status
- the ability to influence crucial decisions affecting the future of hydrography
- the chance to lobby for and assist in the development of the most appropriate international standards for education and accreditation of hydrographic education and professionals
- discounted registration fees to attend all HYDRO conferences, IFHS seminars and workshops – and some events organised by other IFHS-member societies
- opportunities to disseminate cutting-edge research through the publication of technical articles in *IFHS News* and, thereby, on the IFHS website
- access to 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
- opportunities to raise their companies' profiles through sponsorship of Federation publications, activities and events and favourable rates for exhibiting at HYDRO symposia and other similar events
- the option to promote their international credentials by including the IFHS logo and/or a link to the website, alongside those of their own society, on their websites, social media platforms, letterheads etc.
- are offered a range of careers services via the Federation website

Furthermore, **every member society** also benefits from the:

- publication of their contact details and logo on the Federation's website, together with a link to their own website
- opportunity to promote their news and forthcoming events to an international audience via the IFHS website, *IFHS News* and the various media outlets used by other member societies
- option to bid to host a prestigious HYDRO conference and thereby raise their society's international profile as well as receiving a share in the proceeds of the event
- annual opportunity to highlight the outstanding work being undertaken in your universities by nominating a student or recent graduate for the prestigious IFHS Student Award, and give that candidate the chance to win £1,500 (GBP) and present their own work at a HYDRO conference
- chance to distribute their own literature on the Federation's stands (or those of other IFHS-member societies) at a range of exhibitions and trade fairs
- option to promote their IFHS membership by adding the Federation's logo and a link to its website on their own website, social media platforms and/or other promotional material

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Membership & Management

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

The Federation's structure affords member 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 community.

The Federation is governed by a Board of Directors/Trustees comprising of one Director nominated by each member 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 Board in an *ex-officio* capacity. The Board usually conducts its business via e-mail, internet-based teleconference 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 Board.

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.

Every member society is expected to play an active role in helping to meet the Federation's objectives and in the delivery of its services, including contributing to its biannual e-newsletter, *IFHS News*.

Every member society is entitled to nominate a candidate for the prestigious IFHS Student Award and has the opportunity to bid to host one of its series of renowned HYDRO conferences.

For further information about the membership and management of IFHS please contact 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, regional or language-based grouping not currently represented by an existing member society
- support the purpose and objectives of the Federation and be prepared to actively contribute to their furtherance
- be willing and able to pay the annual subscription

