

List do Komitetów Narodowych IAH
od Johna Chiltona –Executive Manager IAH
(z dnia 05.11.2013)

Dear colleagues,

I am writing to you for several reasons:

1) Enclosed is a short report on a meeting of national chapter representatives which was held during the recent Perth congress. You will see that at the meeting those present decided to set up a standing committee of national chapter chairs, which was a suggestion of the US chapter in their response to our invitation for comments on the rules and guidelines for national chapters. This is intended to help with our efforts to build up the national chapters, encourage dialogue between chapters and help them to benefit from the activities of each other. We expect that this will become active during 2014, and the Secretariat will be working with Tamara Marković to set this up.

2) The IAH Executive and Secretariat are working on the IAH Rules as they relate to national chapters and the guidelines for the operation of chapters. We know that both need updating. Earlier in the year we asked for your views on where they might need to be improved. We are grateful for the responses and useful suggestions received from some chapters, and we would still like to hear from others with ideas that might help us in this work. Bruce Misstear and myself will be presenting a report with suggested changes to the IAH Executive meeting in February 2014, so any comments in the next few weeks would be very helpful. The relevant document is attached again. I apologise for repeating this message to those who have already responded.

3) We are also working on the question of Associate Membership of IAH and what this should consist of, how much it should cost and what benefits should come with Associate Membership. This was set up to take account of the situation where a national chapter was in fact the national association with the status of IAH chapter. This still applies in some cases. If this is the case, I would be grateful for a copy of any Memorandum of Understanding or agreement which covers this position for your chapter. We have some in our records, but I am sure we don't have all of them. This will help us to decide the best way of updating our Associate Member option.

4) You will have seen that the new IAH website is now live and operating. Our job now is to build up the content and keep it up to date. You will see the chapters' page with details of the contacts. Please check that they are correct. It will be good to keep this up to date, so when you have an election and change of committee, please pass on the details of the new committee to Sharon who will make sure the information is correct.

5) One of the things which came up for discussion at the IAH Council meetings in Reading and in Perth is the question of student fees. Although we have a reduced fee for students, we probably have not made great efforts to encourage students to join IAH. The rapid development of the ECHN, however, helps to focus the debate over whether students should have completely free membership or pay a very small fee, significantly smaller than they do at present. There are opinions on both sides; some feel that students should have free membership, others that something which is completely free is not fully valued. Clearly there would need to be some time limitation on student membership (as there is at present), and the discussion also raises the question of which benefits would come with free or greatly reduced membership fees. For example, many students could get access to the Hydrogeology Journal through their university library and might not even need on-line access from their IAH membership. Council asked the Executive and Secretariat to investigate the implications of free or very low-cost student membership, including by comparison with similar societies and report in 2014. In the meantime, we would like to hear the views and opinions from the national chapters on this issue. There is also an invitation for views in the upcoming IAH News and Information.

6) You will also see from the new website that we do not have very many national chapter reports for 2012. Thank you to those who have sent them. You will see that these reports are envisaged in the Rules, and we have not been very active in really chasing after them. They do not have to be very long, and should just summarise technical meetings that you have held yourselves or with others, field trips and any other activities which you think might be of interest, for example if the IAH chapter has been involved in providing advice to government, then we would be very happy to hear about that.

7) You will have seen that the 2014 IAH congress will be held in Marrakech, Morocco, and we are already working hard to make sure this will be a successful and rewarding conference. Please encourage your members to consider submitting abstracts and attending the congress.

Finally, don't forget that the Secretariat can help you with publicity material, posters and flyers for your meetings, and can advertise them on the listing on the website. Please don't hesitate to contact myself or Kellie.

With best regards,

John Chilton

Dwa załączniki do listu:

1.NC Meeting report Perth, 2. NatChap Guidance09