

## **DECENTRALIZATION OF MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT (DECENTRALIZATION PROGRAM – DP) OF WASWC**

*(Issued January 16, 2003, amended February 27, March 27, 2003 & May 28, 2004 & June 30, 2006)*

With the expansion program of WASWC in the past year, when more Regional Vice Presidents and a large number of Country Representatives were appointed, the Council has considered it appropriate to decentralize its membership management in the following way.

### **PURPOSES**

1. To promote the philosophy of the WASWC, as written in the Constitution, by encouraging appropriate activities among members of the WASWC in the different regions and countries.
2. To increase the number of WASWC members in various regions and countries who would benefit from the services and products of the Association.
3. To effectively distribute the administrative work between the Secretariat and regions/ countries.

### **IMMEDIATE ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED**

Some regions and countries face the problems in sending membership dues, by either credit card or bank draft. Collecting dues within the country, in local currency, will ease the problem.

### **PROCEDURE.**

1. The decentralization program will be handled by one or more domestic organizations, the first preference being an association or society of soil and water conservation/ of soil science or any related field, the second being an agency, either GO or NGO. The Regional Vice President or National Representative will be the coordinator for the program.
2. The responsibility of the local organization(s) will be to:
  - 2.1 Recruit members for the WASWC, essentially from their own members, but also from other organizations in related fields.
  - 2.2 If needed, reproduce paper copies of the WASWC newsletter from the e-mail version and send them to all members in their areas. At the same time send the digital version to the members who want it by e-mail.
  - 2.3 Remind members about the membership dues each year; collect the money and manage it as described below.
  - 2.4 Promote soil and water conservation activities within the region or country as outlined in the Constitution and in collaboration with the Council and Secretariat.
3. The Responsibility of the Council and Secretariat will be to:
  - 3.1 Continue to produce the newsletter in digital form and send it to each collaborating region/ country by e-mail.
  - 3.2 Produce a special publication, once a year, post on the website and, when possible, send it as bulk mail to each region/ country.
  - 3.3 Provide technical and administrative support to the Regions and Countries as required.

### **FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS**

1. The membership fee for annual members has been established at US\$5 and US\$10 for respectively developing and developed countries.
2. WASWC members in the regions and countries that join this program may pay their membership dues in local currency. Of this amount, the local organization is required to send an amount of 40% of the fee for each member to the Secretariat for the general expenses of the Association. The method of sending is preferably by credit card, but alternative arrangements, e.g. handing over the money physically, may be made where necessary.
3. The local organization may retain the remaining amount (60%) for each member to meet local expenses as outlined above.
4. For Life members, it is appropriate to divide the membership fee (US\$160 for developed countries and those working in international organizations, US\$80 for developing countries) in the proportion of 50:50.
5. Organizations that would like to be Organization member (see the fees that follow) can apply to the Secretariat directly or can do it through the local society as agreed in the Decentralization Program for a particular country. In the latter case the sharing of the fee is divided in the proportion of 50:50.

**Organization membership:** For universities, research and implemental institutions, government agencies, NGOs, societies, associations and international organizations, etc. Persons belonging to an Organization member will receive the same online products and services as the other two above categories: \$100/ yr for an organization with up to 150 persons; \$150/ yr for an organization with up to 300 persons; \$200/ yr for an organization with up to 500 persons; and \$10/ yr for an additional 100 persons or part thereof. Local organizations in developing countries pay 50% of the rates.

6. Regional Vice Presidents and National Representatives who find this program suitable for their region or country may contact the Council and apply to join the DP program.

Bangkok, January 16, 2003 (amended February 27, March 27, 2003, May 28, 2004 & June 30, 2006)

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