



International
Water Association

IWA Connections | *Building bridges*

Part of IWA's *Global Development Solutions* programme

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1 | What is IWA Connections?

- *IWA Connections* is a scheme designed to provide support for the development of IWA Governing Members (GM) in needy low and middle income countries. It aims to link or twin governing members in high income countries with their counterparts in other parts of the world (in essence, building a 'bridge' between the two).
- Connections will be in the form of financial or other material support, and would be offered on an annual basis, although initial commitments are sought for a three year period to provide a degree of continuity in approach.
- *IWA Connections* supports the work of the Association's *Global Development Solutions* programme (in essence, the Association's regional development programme), which helps to extend IWA's presence and activities in low and middle income countries. Governing members can, of course, choose to continue to support the existing programme of activities without subscribing to *Connections*.

2 | Why participate?

- *Solidarity*: to strengthen and catalyze the Association's development – effectively growing membership and to help achieve more locally;
- *Humanitarian assistance*: To assist with compassionate efforts and developments in parts of the world that face the severest water and sanitation development challenges;
- *Shared histories*: to target resources to countries where governing members have special interests or historical connections.

3 | How does it work?

- Governing members from high income countries make an additional financial contribution to the scheme at the time of their payment of governing membership fees. A percentage of this contribution is used to cover development costs and fund activities of governing members in low/middle income countries. Any remaining contribution will be dedicated to the existing *Global Development Solutions* programme (previously referred to as outreach or regional development programme);
- Typically, the countries benefiting from *IWA Connections* are those where there is either no current membership or where membership has potential but has been unable to raise the current governing members fee or catalyze significant action due to lack of start-up funds;
- Contributions to the scheme include:
 - Allocation of approximately 50% of the voluntary contributions towards local, home grown events and activities (defined by local national committees), which are the first step in catalysing further membership and action.
 - Allocation of a 'matching' fund, where half of the annual governing member fee in an adoptee country is paid for by a high income country governing member, with the remainder sourced locally by national committee members. Matching funds help to overcome the initial difficulties of creating, forming and developing memberships and promote self-reliance;
 - A contribution to the costs of catalyzing membership, in the form of recognizing the need to communicate, promote and publicize the work of the Association locally;
 - A contribution towards IWA's *Global Development Solutions* programme;
 - The worked example overleaf illustrates a typical breakdown of such a contribution.
- *IWA Connections* will seek to match individual or groups of governing members from high income countries with their counterparts in other parts of the world. This twinning would be based on

mutually shared interests (natural, geographic, language or historic connections) and affiliations;

- For those governing members wishing to make a material contribution, the London office will help to facilitate and broker this interaction, following a dialogue between the respective members (including an understanding of demand and supply of resources);
- IWA London office will provide a biannual update on how contributions to *IWA Connections* and other support have been allocated and with what impact;

4 | When

- *IWA Connections* will begin in 2006, and will align to the renewals timeframe for governing members.

5 | Find out more

For further details, please contact:

Dr. Darren Saywell, Regional Director, IWA, Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0QS
Tel: 0207 654 5542; E-mail: darren.saywell@iwahq.org.uk

Ms Bernie O'Neill, IWA, Alliance House, 12 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0QS Tel: 44 20 7654 5514; E-mail: bernie.oneill@iwahq.org.uk

Annex: Worked example

Contribution to <i>IWA Connections</i>	£	%
Hypothetical contribution to <i>IWA Connections</i>	5000.00	
Allocated to:		
1. 50% matching fund for governing member fees in needy countries (typically £500.00)	250.00	5
2. Activities per annum (such as events, workshops, publications, etc)	2500.00	50
3. Costs in catalyzing membership locally (i.e., communications, kick-off events, etc)	500.00	10
4. Contribution to the <i>Global Development Solutions</i> programme*	1750.00	35
Total	5000.00	100

* IWAs programme on regional development is a core part of the strategic and business plans for the Association. As such, the programme provides the Association with multiple opportunities: to extend membership in countries and regions where it is currently under-represented; to facilitate the cross-fertilisation of skills and knowledge of existing members to these regions; and to support widespread strengthening of existing national capacity.

Further information can be found at: http://www.iwahq.org.uk/template.cfm?name=iwa_outreach