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## Appendix 2 – ICSU International Scientific Associates

An International Scientific Associate is defined by ICSU as

an international non-governmental organisation in the natural sciences or an organisation in a field cognate to those of ICSU, such as the humanistic, medical, social and technical sciences whose association with ICSU is likely to be of mutual benefit or to advance the cause of science, and whose scientific activities do not fall primarily within the scope of a single Scientific Union Member.

A Regional Scientific Associate is

a non-governmental Scientific Academy, Science Council, or other scientific institution, to which scientists or scientific bodies from more than one nation adhere, whose association with ICSU is likely to be of mutual benefit and will facilitate the attainment of ICSU's objectives, and whose scientific activities do not fall primarily within the scope of a single Scientific Union Member.

The information below was collected from the ICSU website and from the individual ICSU Scientific Associates' websites and reports. The information was current as of December 2004.

### Academia de Ciencias de América Latina (ACAL)

([www.acal-scientia.org](http://www.acal-scientia.org))

The purpose of ACAL is to promote and contribute to the advancement of the mathematical, physical, chemical, earth, and life sciences, and to their application to the development and integration of Latin America and the Caribbean. There is no Australian involvement.

### Federation of Asian Scientific Academies and Societies (FASAS)

([www.akademisains.gov.my/FASAS](http://www.akademisains.gov.my/FASAS))

The main objective of FASAS is the promotion of excellence and generation of a self-reliant base of science and technology for the benefit of humanity. It utilises regional expertise and aims to stimulate regional cooperation, identify problems of regional interest, determine priorities and organise programs and projects of mutual interest in the region. Specific objectives of FASAS are:

- to promote the advancement of science and technology for development in Asia;
- to promote the integration of science and technology into national development planning and policy making processes;
- to promote greater awareness of the roles of science and technology in nation building among the general public, business, policy and decision makers;
- to enhance the contribution and impact of academies and societies in national and regional development;
- to collect, collate and disseminate scientific information relevant to the objectives of FASAS.

To achieve the above objectives, FASAS focuses on:

- promoting best practices in the teaching of science at all levels;
- increasing awareness of the importance of science and technology in governance, in business and in everyday life; and
- carrying out other functions to achieve the overall objectives.

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### **Involved countries or organisations**

At present there are 14 member countries – Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, China, India, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.

### **Australian involvement**

The Australian Academy of Science pays membership subscriptions to FASAS. Kurt Lambeck is on the FASAS council.

## **Federation Internationale des Geometres (International Federation of Surveyors) (FIG)**

[www.fig.net](http://www.fig.net)

FIG is a federation of national associations and is the only international body that represents all surveying disciplines. It is a UN-recognised non-government organisation and its aim is to ensure that the disciplines of surveying and all who practise them meet the needs of the markets and communities that they serve. It realises its aim by promoting the practice of the profession and encouraging the development of professional standards. FIG's activities are governed by a plan of work that is regularly reviewed against a longer-term strategic plan. The current plan of work focuses on the surveyor's response to social, economic, technological and environmental change and the particular needs of countries in economic transition. FIG also recognises that markets for surveyors' services are constantly changing. The plan accordingly lays emphasis on strengthening professional institutions; promoting professional development; and encouraging surveyors to acquire new skills and techniques so that they may be properly equipped to meet the needs of society and the environment.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

There are 72 member countries.

### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions to FIG.
- The Institution of Surveyors, Australia pays membership dues to FIG.
- Several Australians are involved in FIG Commissions and working groups.

### **Main programs**

- Commission 1 – Professional Standards and Practice;
- Commission 2 – Professional Education;
- Commission 3 – Spatial Information Management;
- Commission 4 – Hydrography;
- Commission 5 – Positioning and Measurement;
- Commission 6 – Engineering Surveys;
- Commission 7 – Cadastre and Land Management;
- Commission 8 – Spatial Planning and Development;
- Commission 9 – Valuation and the Management of Real Estate;
- Commission 10 - Construction Economics and Management.

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## International Association of Hydraulic Engineering and Research (IAHR)

([www.iahr.net](http://www.iahr.net))

IAHR promotes the advancement and exchange of knowledge through working groups, specialty symposia, congresses, and publications on water resources, river and coastal hydraulics, risk analysis, energy, environment, disaster prevention, industrial processes. Among the variety of activities that are undertaken to achieve its mission are:

- organising events: congresses, specialty conferences, workshops and continuing education courses;
- technical meetings through its Sections;
- regional meetings through its Regional Divisions;
- European Engineering Graduate School Environment Water: IAHR-EGW, Stuttgart;
- participation in international programs such as UNESCO, WMO and ICSU;
- promotion of student activities;
- publications.

The objectives of applied research, scientific exchange, technology transfer and research management provide an umbrella for all IAHR endeavours. The scope of IAHR involves research, engineering applications and their interactions, to cater to the needs of both individual and corporate members. Hydraulics covers only one part of the water resources domain and most applications, developments, policies, and engineering works must consider all aspects of that domain. IAHR provides a basis for co-operation with other water-related associations, where common interests call for combined efforts in hydrology (IAHS), urban water (IWA), development of water resources (IWRA), coastal and maritime engineering, etc.

### Australian involvement

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions to IAHR.
- Five Australian organisations are corporate members: SunWater Technical Services, Hargrave-Andrew Library Monash, University of Queensland Central Library, Snowy Mountains Engineering Corporation and the University of Adelaide Acquisitions Department.

### Main programs

There are three Technical Divisions:

- Methods in Hydraulics – has 6 sub Sections;
- Applied Hydraulics – has 6 sub Sections;
- Geophysical Hydraulics – has 5 sub Sections.

## International Cartographic Association (ICA)

([www.icaci.org](http://www.icaci.org))

The mission of ICA is to promote the discipline and profession of cartography in an international context. ICA is the world authoritative body for cartography, the discipline dealing with the conception, production, dissemination and study of maps. A map is a symbolised image of geographical reality, representing selected features or characteristics, resulting from the creative effort of its author's execution of choices, and is designed for use when spatial relationships are of primary relevance.

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The aims of ICA are:

- to contribute to the understanding and solution of world-wide problems through the use of cartography in decision-making processes;
- to foster the international dissemination of environmental, economic, social and spatial information through mapping;
- to provide a global forum for discussion of the role and status of cartography;
- to facilitate the transfer of new cartographic technology and knowledge between nations, especially to the developing nations;
- to carry out or to promote multi-national cartographic research in order to solve scientific and applied problems;
- to enhance cartographic education in the broadest sense through publications, seminars and conferences;
- to promote the use of professional and technical standards in cartography.

The Association works with national and international governmental and commercial bodies and with other international scientific societies to achieve these aims.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

There are 78 member countries.

### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions to ICA.
- The Mapping Sciences Institute, Australia is a formal member of ICA.
- William Cartwright of the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology is the current Vice-President.
- Australian scientists are involved in the various ICA commissions.
- The 1984 ICA conference was held in Perth.

### **Main programs**

There are 19 ICA Commissions – Cartography and Children; Education and Training; Gender and Cartography; Generalisation and Multiple Representation; History of Cartography; Incremental Updating and Versioning; Management and Economics of Map Production; Mapping from Satellite Imagery; Map Projections; Maps and Graphics for the Blind and the Partially Sighted; Maps and the Internet; Marine Cartography; Mountain Cartography; National and Regional Atlases; Planetary Cartography; Spatial Data Standards; Theoretical Cartography; Ubiquitous Mapping; Visualisation and Virtual Environments.

## **International Council for Laboratory Animal Science (ICLAS)**

[www.iclas.org](http://www.iclas.org)

ICLAS is an international scientific organisation dedicated to advancing human and animal health by promoting the ethical care and use of laboratory animals in research worldwide. The aims of ICLAS are:

- to promote and coordinate the development of Laboratory Animal Science throughout the world and as a matter of priority in developing countries;
- to promote international collaboration in Laboratory Animal Science;

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- to promote quality definition and monitoring of Laboratory Animals;
  - to collect and disseminate information on Laboratory Animal Science;
  - to promote world-wide harmonisation in the care and use of laboratory animals;
  - to promote the humane use of animals in research through recognition of ethical principles and scientific responsibilities.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

There are 40 member countries.

### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions to ICLAS.
- The Australian and New Zealand Society for Laboratory Animal Science is a formal member and pays membership subscriptions.

## **International Cell Research Organisation (ICRO)**

[www.unesco.org/icro](http://www.unesco.org/icro)

The mission of ICRO is to foster, in close cooperation with UNESCO, the development of basic research in cellular and molecular biology, mainly by organising international training courses in various countries. By the end of 2003 ICRO had organised a total of 465 training courses, which took place in 80 countries, with the participation of about 12,000 students from all over the world. The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions. Membership consists of elected individual scientists only.

## **International Council for Scientific and Technical Information (ICSTI)**

[www.icsti.org](http://www.icsti.org)

ICSTI offers a forum for interaction between organisations that create, disseminate and use scientific and technical information. ICSTI's mission cuts across scientific and technical disciplines, as well as international borders, to give member organisations the benefit of a global community. ICSTI seeks to reduce or eliminate barriers to effective transfer of information by:

- providing leadership in promoting recognition of the value of scientific and technical information to the world's economic, research, scholarly and social progress;
- promoting the value of scientific and technical information to the world's economic, research, scholarly, and social progress;
- enhancing access to and delivery of information for all constituencies in business, industry, academia, government and the public through the exchange of information and the sharing of experience among international peers;
- forging better relations among the different communities involved in information transfer, from generator to disseminator to user;
- being a forum for interaction among all participants in information flow.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

There are 8 Class A Full Members and 32 Class B Full Members of ICSTI. Class A Full Members consists of organisations with principal interests in either the generation or use of new scientific or technical

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information, or the coordination of activities within a geographical area or within a discipline. Class A includes organisations primarily representing the interests of scientific and technical information users, such as scientific unions, learned societies, national academies. Class B Full Members consists of organisations with principal activities in the collection, storage, organisation, or dissemination of scientific or technical information. Class B includes abstracting and indexing services, data centres and services, representatives of primary publishers, online vendors, networks, libraries, information centres, and also policy making bodies, sponsors and coordinators of information activities.

### **Australian involvement**

The CSIRO pays membership dues (Class B Full Member).

## **International Federation of Information Processing (IFIP)**

([www.ifip.or.at](http://www.ifip.or.at))

IFIP's mission is to be the leading international, apolitical organisation which encourages and assists in the development, exploitation and application of Information Technology for the benefit of all people. Its principal aims are:

- to stimulate, encourage and participate in research, development and application of Information Technology (IT) and to foster international co-operation in these activities;
- to provide a meeting place where national IT Societies can discuss and plan courses of action on issues which are of international significance and thereby to forge increasingly strong links between them and IFIP;
- to promote international co-operation directly and through national IT Societies in a free environment between individuals, national and international governmental bodies and kindred scientific and professional organisations;
- to pay special attention to the needs of developing countries and to assist them in appropriate ways to secure the optimum benefit from the application of IT;
- to promote professionalism, incorporating high standards of ethics and conduct, among all IT practitioners;
- to provide a forum for assessing the social consequences of IT applications; to campaign for the safe and beneficial development and use of IT and the protection of people from abuse through its improper application;
- to foster and facilitate co-operation between academics, the IT industry and governmental bodies and to seek to represent the interest of users;
- to provide a vehicle for work on the international aspects of IT development and application including the necessary preparatory work for the generation of international standards;
- to contribute to the formulation of the education and training needed by IT practitioners, users and the public at large.

IFIP was initially established under UNESCO.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

IFIP has 48 organisations as Full Members, three Corresponding Members and 11 Affiliate Members, representing countries from all regions of the world.

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### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership dues.
- The Australian Computer Society is a full member and pays membership subscriptions.
- Several Australians are involved in the various Technical Committees and Working Groups.
- The 1980 IFIP congress was held in Melbourne and the 1996 IFIP congress was held in Canberra.

### **Main programs**

There are 13 IFIP Technical Committees:

- TC 1: Foundations of Computer Science;
- TC 2: Software: Theory and Practice;
- TC 3: Education;
- TC 5: Computer Applications in Technology;
- TC 6: Communication Systems;
- TC 7: System Modelling and Optimisation;
- TC 8: Information Systems;
- TC 9: Relationship between Computers and Society;
- TC 10: Computer Systems Technology;
- TC 11: Security and Protection in IP Systems;
- TC 12: Artificial Intelligence;
- TC 13: Human-Computer Interaction.

## **Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA)**

[www.ifla.org](http://www.ifla.org)

IFLA is the leading international body representing the interests of library and information services and their users. It is the global voice of the library and information profession. IFLA is an independent, international, non-governmental, not-for-profit organisation. Its aims are to:

- promote high standards of provision and delivery of library and information services;
- encourage widespread understanding of the value of good library and information services;
- represent the interests of its members throughout the world.

### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions.
- The Australian Library and Information Association is Australia's formal Association Member.
- Alex Byrne of the University of Technology, Sydney is the current President-Elect.
- A number of Australian libraries are Institutional members.

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## **Main programs:**

There are 8 Divisions, with 47 Sections under these Divisions:

- I. General Research Libraries;
- II. Special Libraries;
- III. Libraries Serving the General Public;
- IV. Bibliographic Control;
- V. Collection and Services;
- VI. Management and Technology;
- VII. Education and Research;
- VIII. Regional Activities.

Core Activities of IFLA are:

- ALP – Action for Development through Libraries Programme;
- CLM – Committee on Copyright and other Legal Matters;
- FAIFE – Committee on Free Access to Information and Freedom of Expression;
- ICABS – IFLA/CDNL Alliance for Bibliographic Standards;
- PAC – Preservation and Conservation;
- UNIMARC – IFLA UNIMARC.

## **International Foundation for Science (IFS)**

[www.ifs.se](http://www.ifs.se)

IFS is an NGO providing support to developing country scientists to conduct, in a developing country, relevant and high quality research on the management, use, and conservation of biological resources and their environment. IFS believes that the interests of both science and development are best served by promoting and nurturing the research efforts of young science graduates, who are at the beginning of their research careers. The IFS achieves its mission by identifying, through competitive grants and a careful selection process, young promising scientists and supporting them in their early careers to enable them to become established and recognised in national and international circles. Since 1974, IFS has provided support, mainly in the form of small research grants, to over 3,200 scientists in 100 developing countries.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

IFS has 135 Affiliated Organisations in 86 countries, of which three-quarters are in developing countries and one-quarter in industrial countries.

### **Australian involvement**

The Australian Academy of Science is a member and pays membership subscriptions.

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## International Federation of Societies for Microscopy (IFSM)

([www.ifsm.umn.edu](http://www.ifsm.umn.edu))

IFSM was created by ICSU in 1951 as a Joint Commission for Electron Microscopy, before becoming an independent federation in 1955. Its aims are to contribute to the advancement of Microscopy in all its aspects, and to further international cooperation between microscopists.

### Involved countries or organisations

There are 39 member countries.

### Australian involvement

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions.
- Australia is a formal member through the Australian Microscopy and Microanalysis Society Inc.

## International Institute for Applied System Analysis (IIASA)

([www.iiasa.ac.at](http://www.iiasa.ac.at))

IIASA is a non-governmental research organisation. It conducts inter-disciplinary scientific studies on environmental, economic, technological and social issues in the context of human dimensions of global change. IIASA's research scholars study environmental, economic, technological, and social developments. The research areas covered link a variety of natural and social science disciplines. The work is based on original state-of-the-art methodology and analytical approaches. The methods and tools generated are useful to both decision makers and the scientific community. Its goals are:

- to choose problems solutions for which will benefit the public, the scientific community, and national and international institutions;
- to address critical issues in an innovative manner;
- to provide timely and relevant information and policy analyses.

### Involved countries or organisations

There are 16 member countries.

### Australian involvement

The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions and Australia is not a member country.

### Main programs

- Research and Education;
- Energy and Technology - Dynamic Systems, Energy, New Technologies;
- Environment and Natural Resources - Adaptive Dynamics, Air Pollution, Forestry, Land Use, Radiation Safety;
- Population and Society - International Negotiation, Population, Risk, Modelling and Society;
- General Research - Rural Development;
- Young Scientist Programs.

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## International Union for Quaternary Research (INQUA)

([www.inqua.tcd.ie](http://www.inqua.tcd.ie))

INQUA was founded in 1928 by a group of scientists seeking to improve understanding of environmental change during the glacial ages through interdisciplinary research. INQUA's basic goal – promoting improved communication and international collaboration in basic and applied aspects of Quaternary research – is achieved mainly through the activities of its commissions and committees.

### Involved countries or organisations

There are 45 member countries.

### Australian involvement

- The Australian Academy of Science pays formal membership subscriptions.
- Several Australian scientists are involved in leadership roles in INQUA committees and activities.
- The 2007 INQUA congress is to be held in Cairns.

### Main programs

There are five Scientific Commissions – Coastal and marine processes, Palaeoclimate, Palaeoecology and Human Evolution, Stratigraphy and Chronology, and Terrestrial Processes, Deposits and History.

## International Radiation Protection Association (IRPA)

([www.irpa.net](http://www.irpa.net))

The primary purpose of IRPA is to provide a medium whereby those engaged in radiation protection activities in all countries may communicate more readily with each other and through this process advance radiation protection in many parts of the world. This includes relevant aspects of such branches of knowledge as science, medicine, engineering, technology and law, to provide for the protection of man and his environment from the hazards caused by radiation, and thereby to facilitate the safe use of medical, scientific, and industrial radiological practices for the benefit of mankind. A major task for IRPA is to provide support for international meetings for the discussion of radiation protection. The International Congresses of IRPA itself are the most important of these meetings. These have been held about every four years since 1966. Further objectives are to:

- encourage the establishment of radiation protection societies throughout the world as a means of achieving international cooperation;
- provide for and support international meetings for the discussions of all aspects of radiation protection;
- encourage international publications dedicated to radiation protection;
- encourage research and educational opportunities in those scientific and related disciplines which support radiation protection;
- encourage the establishment and continuous review of universally acceptable radiation protection standards or recommendations through the international bodies concerned.

### Involved countries or organisations

There are 49 member countries.

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### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions.
- The Australasian Radiation Protection Society is Australia's formal member.
- The 1988 IRPA congress was held in Sydney.

## **International Society of Endocrinology (ISE)**

[www.endosociety.com](http://www.endosociety.com)

ISE was established in 1960 to advance the profession and to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of endocrinology information exchange at the international level. The vision of ISE is to be the key international clinical and research organisation working towards improving the care provided to people with endocrine diseases and towards finding prevention strategies for these diseases. The mission of ISE is to disseminate knowledge of endocrinology through coordinating and organising international congresses and conferences on endocrinology, by facilitating collaboration among national and international endocrine and other learned societies and qualified persons interested in endocrinology and by publication of books, reports, and other papers.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

ISE membership consists of 63 societies from 61 countries.

### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions.
- The Endocrine Society of Australia is Australia's formal member.
- The 2000 ISE congress was held in Sydney.

## **International Union of Forest Research Organisations (IUFRO)**

[www.iufro.org](http://www.iufro.org)

IUFRO is a voluntary, non-profit, non-governmental, international scientific body open to all organisations involved in forestry research. The mission of IUFRO is to promote international cooperation in forestry research and related sciences. Its objectives are attained through:

- promoting and facilitating an international dialogue on forest science and the role of forests in human welfare;
- collecting and disseminating scientific knowledge on forest ecosystems, their products and services;
- enhancing cooperation between forest research organisations and individual scientists by means of a global network;
- promoting the dissemination and application of relevant research results and expertise using publications, recommendations, information technologies, training courses, work shops, conferences and congresses;
- providing and promoting science input into policy-making;
- compiling state-of-knowledge reports;
- harmonising research terminology and techniques;
- addressing issues of regional and global significance with inter-agency or inter-disciplinary actions;

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- recognising outstanding work contributing to the advancement of forest science;
  - assisting developing countries or countries with economies in transition to strengthen their research knowledge and capability.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

IUFRO has more than 15,000 cooperating member scientists in over 700 member institutions in over 100 countries.

### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions.
- 24 Australian organisations are formal members, including government agencies (such as the Bureau of Rural Sciences), CSIRO Divisions, universities and CRC's.
- Several Australian scientists are involved in the various IUFRO Divisions and Task Forces.
- The 2005 IUFRO World Congress will be held in Brisbane.

### **Main programs**

IUFRO's activities are organised primarily through its eight Technical Divisions, 12 Task Forces and for Special Projects:

- Division 1 – Silviculture;
- Division 2 – Physiology and Genetics;
- Division 3 – Forest Operations;
- Division 4 – Inventory, Growth, Yield, Quantitative and Management Sciences;
- Division 5 – Forest Products;
- Division 6 – Social, Economic, Information and Policy Sciences;
- Division 7 – Forest Health;
- Division 8 – Forest Environment.

Task Forces:

- Task Force 1 – Environmental Change;
- Task Force 2 – Forests in Sustainable Mountain Development;
- Task Force 4 – Management and Conservation of Forest Gene Resources;
- Task Force 5 – Water and Forests;
- Task Force 8 – Science/Policy Interface;
- Task Force 9 – Public Relations in Forest Science;
- Task Force 10 – The Role of Forests in Carbon Cycles, Sequestration and Storage;
- Task Force 11 – Information Technology and the Forest Sector;
- Task Force 12 – Forest Biotechnology.

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Special Projects:

- IUFRO Special Programme for Developing Countries;
- SilvaVoc Terminology Project;
- IUFRO Special Project on World Forests, Society and Environment;
- IUFRO Special Programme on Global Forest Information Service.

## **International Union for Vacuum Science Techniques and Applications (IUVSTA)**

([www.iuvsta.org](http://www.iuvsta.org))

IUVSTA is an international federation of national vacuum organisations, whose purpose is to promote vacuum science and technology on an international level. This includes promotion of vacuum education and research, the establishment of international vacuum standards and the organisation of international congresses, conferences and workshops. It encourages the establishment of national vacuum societies or committees on vacuum in countries where no such national group currently exists.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

There are 30 national member societies.

### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions.
- The Vacuum Society of Australia is Australia's formal member society.
- Prof. John L. Robins was President from 1995-1998.
- No IUVSTA International Vacuum Congress has been held in Australia.

### **Main programs**

There are eight IUVSTA Divisions – Applied Surface Science, Electronic Materials and Processing, Nanometer Structures, Plasma Science and Technique, Surface Science, Thin Film, Vacuum Metallurgy, and Vacuum Science.

## **International Water Association (IWA)**

([www.iwahq.org.uk](http://www.iwahq.org.uk))

IWA was established in 1999 from a merger of the International Association on Water Quality (IAWQ) and the International Water Services Association (IWSA). It is an independent non-governmental organisation and its purpose is to exchange information and experience on all aspects, theoretical and practical, of water supply, wastewater, water quality and water quantity management.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

Over 100 countries and regions are represented in IWA.

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### **Australian involvement**

- The Australian Academy of Science does not pay membership subscriptions.
- The Australian Water Association is Australia's formal member.
- Several Australian scientists are involved in the various Specialist Groups.

### **Main programs**

The main activities of IWA include conferences, publications and information services, forums, task forces, interest groups (representing specific sectors of the water industry such as utilities, regulators, researchers, consultants and manufacturers), web-based knowledge networks, Regional Associations, Support for developing countries, and Specialist Groups (50 of them covering all important topics in the urban water management sector).

IWA is also involved in the Global Water Research Coalition – an international water research alliance of twelve world leading research organisations in affiliation with IWA.

## **Pacific Science Association (PSA)**

([www.pacificscience.org](http://www.pacificscience.org))

The objectives of the PSA are:

- to promote cooperation and communication in science and technology among the communities of the Pacific region;
- to review common scientific concerns and priorities in the Pacific Basin and to provide a multidisciplinary forum for discussion of these concerns through Congresses and Inter-Congresses and other scientific meetings;
- to stimulate study of scientific problems of the Pacific region directly affecting the prosperity and welfare of its people;
- to strengthen the bonds among Pacific peoples by promoting a feeling of cooperation among the scientists of all the Pacific countries.

Scientific Task Forces have been established to investigate interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary areas identified as relevant. Scientific Committees have been long-established to study and to stimulate solutions to important problems of Pacific interest.

### **Involved countries or organisations**

There are 20 member countries or regions.

### **Australian involvement**

The National Academies Forum is Australia's formal member organisation.

### **Main programs**

There are six Scientific Task Forces – Biodiversity, Energy, Global Environmental Change, Globalisation and Human Dynamics, Natural Disaster Reduction and Division of Resources for the Future. There are six Scientific Committees – Coral Reefs, Communicating Science and Science Education, Freshwater Sciences, Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences, Public Health and Medical Sciences, and Solid Earth Sciences.

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## Third World Academy of Sciences (TWAS)

([www.ictp.trieste.it/~twas](http://www.ictp.trieste.it/~twas))

TWAS represents the best of science in the developing world. Its principal aim is to promote scientific capacity and excellence for sustainable development in 'the South'. Its objectives are:

- to recognise, support and promote excellence in scientific research in the South;
- to provide promising scientists in the South with research facilities necessary for the advancement of their work;
- to facilitate contacts between individual scientists and institutions in the South;
- to encourage South-North cooperation between individuals and centres of scholarship;
- to encourage scientific research on major Third World problems.

Membership consists of elected individuals only. Scientists from Developed countries can only be associate members. Only one Australian scientist is an associate member.