

STRATEGIES FOR IIASA MEMBERSHIP

Overview of Membership to date (May 2013)

IIASA was created as a research institute to be a neutral bridge between east and west in 1972, and its mission as stated in the charter was to initiate and support collaborative and individual research in relation to problems of modern societies arising from scientific and technological development.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 which ended the cold war, the original purpose of the Institute was transformed, and the Council approved a new strategic plan for the Institute ‘Agenda for the Third Decade’, which defined the IIASA’s strategic goal “*to conduct international and interdisciplinary scientific studies to provide timely and relevant information and options, addressing critical issues of global environmental, economic and social change, for the benefit of the public, the scientific community, and national and international institutions*”.

In 1994, a ministerial conference renewed IIASA’s mandate as an independent scientific institution with a global perspective, and the IIASA Council approved a new 10-year strategic plan in January 2000 ‘IIASA Enters the Twenty-first Century’, which focused on new research themes—Energy and Technology, Population and Society, and Environment and Natural Resources, with a statement that “*IIASA’s long-term stability, both financial and political, depends on an increase in membership*”. From this date, IIASA systematically intensified its efforts to attract new members. As a result, IIASA was able to attract 11 new members since 2000.

IIASA’s current National Member Organizations (NMOs) from 20 countries are: Australia, Austria, Brazil, China, Egypt, Finland, Germany, India, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, The Netherlands, Norway, Pakistan, Russian Federation, South Africa, Sweden, Ukraine and the United States of America (see attached list), whereby two countries, Australia and Indonesia, have joined since February 2012.

Proposed Strategies for Expanding Membership

In June 2009, the IIASA Council approved the second 10-year strategic plan (2011–2020) for the second decade of the 21st century titled “Research for a Changing World” with its vision: “*IIASA will be the world leader in systems analysis to find solutions to global problems for the benefits of humankind*”.

In order to fulfill this vision, the Council adopted IIASA’s mission: “*IIASA provides insights and guidance to policy makers worldwide by finding solutions to global and universal problems through applied systems analysis in order to improve human and social wellbeing and to protect the environment*”.

Among so many competing global problems which require urgent solutions, the Council selected the three problem areas: Food and Water, Energy and Climate

Change, and Poverty and Equity as IIASA's main research areas for the second strategic plan. These research areas were chosen because they are so important to many national governments and international organizations around the world.

The Council also recognized that to address those challenges and successfully implement this strategic plan in this decade, it is vital for IIASA to attract top scientific talent and increased financial resources from NMOs.

In order to attract the best scientists from every part of the world—rich or poor, developed or developing nations—as well as increase program funding from NMOs, and to make the Institute a geographically well-represented and truly global institution, it is proposed to attract more countries to join the Institute. The aim is to have a maximum of 30 NMOs by 2020 and, at the same time, double the yearly NMO contributions (from €10 to 20 million). Currently, negotiations will start or have already started with the following 19 countries:

Africa: Kenya (NS¹) and Nigeria (S);

Asia: Vietnam (VA);

Latin America: Argentina (NS), Chile (NS) and Mexico (A);

Middle East: Iran (NS), Israel (NS), Qatar (A), Saudi Arabia (S), Turkey (S) and United Arab Emirates (S);

Former IIASA members: Canada (S), Czech Republic (A), France (S), Hungary (S), Italy (A), Poland (NS) and the United Kingdom (A→VA).

These target countries are proposed based on their interest in systems analysis, scientific and academic infrastructure, economic stability and their financial capability to contribute to IIASA's programs and the geopolitical relevance to IIASA's mission in the science policy interface.

IIASA will be looking for every opportunity to encourage these countries to join the Institute through NMO networks, diplomatic channels, and IIASA's national and international scientific contacts.

¹ NS = Not Started; S = Started; A = Advanced; VA = Very Advanced.