

**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS - IAH
BRAZILIAN CHAPTER (AIH-BR)**

CONSTITUTION

CHAPTER I

DEFINITION AND AIMS

Article 1. The International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) is a scientific and educational charitable organization for scientists, engineers, water managers and other professionals interested in the fields of groundwater resource planning, management and protection.

Article 2. The name of the chapter shall be the Brazilian Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, identified by the acronym AIH-BR.

Article 3. The Brazilian Chapter shall operate within the framework provided by the Articles and Rules of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and by this Constitution.

Article 4. The Brazilian Groundwater Association (ABAS) will host the Brazilian Chapter of the IAH.

Article 5. The Brazilian Chapter of IAH shall report their decisions to the Brazilian Groundwater Association – ABAS.

Article 6. The Brazilian Chapter of IAH shall have as its aims:

- I.** Representation of the Brazilian members in the activities of IAH, especially in the international activities;
- II.** Promotion of activities which further groundwater science including the organization of international, national and regional scientific and technical meetings and field visits;
- III.** Promotion of groundwater issues in Brazil and acting as a link between the international community and groundwater professionals in Brazil;

- IV.** Collaboration with other groups in Brazil concerned with national and international groundwater related activities.

CHAPTER II

MEMBERS

Article 7. Affiliation to ABAS, IAH and the Brazilian Chapter of IAH is optional under the Brazilian Constitution. The person concerned shall show the interest in being connected to these entities.

Article 8. Consider will be:

- I.** Members of the IAH: individuals or legal entities who pay a membership fee directly to IAH under its Rules.
- II.** Associates of ABAS: students, individuals or legal entities who pay a membership fee in accordance with ABAS's Constitutive Rules;
- III.** Affiliates of ABAS: individuals or legal entities who are registered with ABAS;
- IV.** Full members of the Brazilian Chapter of IAH:
 - a)** Brazilian members of IAH if they reside in Brazil or if they work overseas but their permanent domicile is in Brazil; and
 - b)** Resident members of other countries who expressly show their interest in being members of the Brazilian Chapter.
- V.** Affiliates of the Brazilian Chapter of IAH:
 - a)** Associates and affiliates of ABAS who have not paid the membership fee to the IAH.

CHAPTER III

RIGHTS

Article 9. Full members of the Brazilian Members of IAH are entitled to:

- I.** Participate in the Brazilian Chapter of the IAH with voting rights;

- II.** Vote for, and be eligible for, the committee of the Brazilian Chapter;
- III.** Enjoy the benefits offered for IAH; including
- IV.** Discount registration at IAH conferences.

Article 10. Associates and affiliates of ABAS are entitled to:

- I.** Enjoy the benefits established by ABAS;
- II.** Be admitted as an Associate of the Brazilian Chapter of IAH;
- III.** Participate in meetings of the Brazilian Chapter of IAH, but without voting rights; and
- IV.** Discount registration at IAH events.

Article 11. Membership of the Brazilian Chapter is automatic for Brazilian members of IAH. There is no need to show interest.

Article 12. Only members of the IAH and, at the same time, Associates of ABAS are entitled to stand for election to the National Committee of the Brazilian Chapter of IAH.

CHAPTER IV

MEMBERSHIP FEE

Article 13. Members of the Brazilian Chapter of IAH shall pay the membership fee directly to the international secretariat of IAH.

Article 14. Membership of ABAS is payable directly and in accordance with the provisions of this entity.

CHAPTER V

ADMINISTRATION

Article 15. A Chairperson and a Secretary are mandatory roles for the formation and maintenance of the Brazilian Chapter of the IAH.

Article 16. The Brazilian Chapter shall be managed by a National Committee, composed of at least a Chairperson and a Secretary and up to 10 (ten) directors.

Article 17. The National Committee must consist of:

- I. A Chairperson and a Secretary, duly elected; and
- II. Serving members of the Council of IAH resident in Brazil, if they wish;

Article 18. Other positions will be created by the Chairperson and the Secretary when necessary for the effective operation of the Brazilian Chapter and will depend on the electoral process stipulated in Chapter VIII of this Constitution.

CHAPTER VI

NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Article 19. The National Committee's responsibilities are:

- I. To comply with and enforce the objectives defined in Article 6 of the present Constitution;
- II. To submit an annual report of its activities and accounts at a meeting of its members each year.
- III. To send a copy of the report and accounts to the IAH Secretariat, in accordance with IAH Rules for National Chapters.

CHAPTER VII

SECRETARY'S RESPONSIBILITIES

Article 20. The Secretary's responsibilities are to:

- I. Arrange meetings, prepare minutes of meetings and carry out other general administrative work as necessary;
- II. Advertise vacancies on the National Committee each year;
- III. Organize a ballot of the Committee;

- IV.** Manage the funds belonging to the Chapter and present regular (normally annual) accounts.

CHAPTER VIII

ELECTIONS

Article 21. Those eligible for election are the Brazilian Members of IAH if they reside in Brazil, or Members who work overseas but who have their permanent domicile in Brazil.

Article 22. The elections will be held through ballot. Each member of IAH shall have 1 (one) vote;

Article 23. The terms of office begin on the day of the election;

Article 24. The Chairperson shall serve for a three-year term, which will be renewable for a maximum of a second mandate; the Secretary shall serve for one three-year term, which is renewable for a maximum of 4 consecutive mandates.

CHAPTER IX

VACANCY

Article 25. If the Chairperson position is vacant, the Secretary shall organize a ballot of the membership within sixty (60) days from the date of vacancy to elect a new Chairperson.

Article 26. If the Secretary position is vacant, the Chairperson shall organize a ballot within sixty (60) days from the date of vacancy to elect a new Secretary.

Article 27. If both the chair and Secretary positions are vacant, then the Brazilian Members of IAH shall organize new elections immediately to fill these posts.

Article 28. In the case of one or more other vacant positions on the National Committee:

- I.** It will remain vacant until the next election, if not essential to the maintenance and management of the Brazilian Chapter; or
- II.** A new election can be organized by the Secretary.

CHAPTER X

MEETINGS

Article 29. The Chairperson will preside over meetings of the Brazilian Chapter and the National Committee.

Article 30. The Brazilian Chapter shall meet at least once per calendar year and more frequently if requested by the members of the Chapter.

Article 31. The National Committee may choose to meet more frequently, depending on the number and type of activities organized by the Committee on behalf of the Chapter.

Article 32. Each member of the Chapter shall have one vote.

Article 33. Decisions will be made by a majority vote with the Chair having the casting vote if necessary.

Article 34. A quorum shall consist of 5 (five) members of the Brazilian Chapter.

Article 35. If a quorum cannot be achieved, business may continue, but the next meeting of the Chapter at which there is a quorum shall ratify decisions made at the non-quorate meeting.

CHAPTER XI

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 36. The cases of omission in this Constitution shall be resolved by the National Committee.

Article 37. Either of the two associations, ABAS or IAH may, at any time, request the dissolution of the National Chapter if either considers that the Chapter is not meeting its original objectives.

Article 38. Unless otherwise determined by majority vote of all members of the Chapter, upon dissolution of the Chapter any residual assets of the Chapter shall pass to the ABAS or to its successor body.

Article 39. Changes to this Constitution may be made upon the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the members of the National Chapter.