

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
Western Pacific Regional Branch
to the 2nd AGM
7 March 2007, Manila, Philippines

The first Annual General Meeting of the Western Pacific Regional Branch (WPRB) of IGA was held in Auckland in November.

Key activities at the first AGM were as follows:

1. Formalisation and ratification of the By-Laws
Formalisation and ratification of the membership of the Forum, as follows:

Jim Lawless	New Zealand	Chairman
Alimin Ginting	Indonesia	
Glen Golla	Philippines	
Toshi Uchida	Japan	
Tingshan Tian	China	
Kevin Brown	New Zealand	Treasurer
2. Establishment of schedule of fees
3. Agreement of the location and timing of 2007 AGM and Regional Conference
4. Appointment of Permanent Committees

Subsequent and forthcoming activities are as follows:

1. Establishment as an Incorporated Society. Application has been made to register the Regional Branch an Incorporated Society in New Zealand. This has proven more troublesome than expected and at the time of writing has not been accomplished, but we expect progress soon
2. Opening a bank account. Application has been made to open a bank account in Auckland. This cannot proceed until the incorporation is accomplished.
3. The IGA Board have formally approved the WPRB By-Laws and Schedule of Fees for 2007.
4. Establishment of membership lists. Official membership lists of the WPRB have been established for Japan, China, New Zealand and the Philippines, and other countries in the Region who do not have affiliated organisations, but are not yet available from Indonesia. The Philippine association has agreed to join the Regional Branch en masse, in the other countries approximately half of the eligible persons have joined so far. The official lists have been sent to the IGA secretariat. The current number of members is 447, but that is without Indonesia.
5. Invoicing for annual fees. Statements have been sent to each of the relevant affiliated organisations as to the amount of annual membership fees to be collected. Those are due to be paid by the end or March, 2007.
6. Visit by Chinese delegation to New Zealand. A number of Chinese geothermal experts under the leadership of Dr Keyan Zhang will be visiting New Zealand in April 2007. We have arranged for them to give an update in Auckland on geothermal energy use in China, as a WPRB event.
7. Election of Forum. The election of Forum members for the next 3 years will proceed after the IGA Board election is completed in June 2007, since it is the IGA Board who select the Chairman of the WPRB, and there is a considerable advantage in the Forum members as far as possible also being IGA Board members.
8. The Indonesian Geothermal Association has agreed to host the 2008 WPRB AGM and Regional Conference in Bali, but a date has yet to be set. It will be in the first half of 2008.

Overall, we have made reasonable progress in getting the Regional Branch established but have not proceeded as quickly as I would have liked. Once we have the incorporation completed and are able to handle finances we can start being more pro-active.

Future activities. Things being considered once the WPRB is up and running include:

- A website (with links to IGA etc)
- A Regional newsletter
- A register of members, possibly including a skills database
- A Regional Trade Directory, which could be a source of funding
- Educational seminars, similar to the European Branch Summer Schools, if external funding can be obtained. There has been discussions within the New Zealand Geothermal Association as to possible topics that could be offered. It would be good to get suggestions from other countries also. Even if we do not do anything earlier, at the latest we will hold a Short Course at the 2008 Regional Conference.
- Scholarships

Other suggestions are very welcome.

Jim Lawless
Chairman

Jakarta, 22 February 2007

