

# INTERNATIONAL GEOTHERMAL ASSOCIATION



NGO in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and **Partner** of the European Union for the Renewable Energies

IGA home page: [www.geothermal-energy.org](http://www.geothermal-energy.org)

## Western Pacific Regional Branch

### ***Background***

To date there has been only one Regional Branch of the IGA operative, in Europe. It has provided a close regional focus for members with common interests not only geographically but also in terms of similar types of geothermal resources and technical applications, with a strong focus on direct use and lower enthalpy resources.

The IGA Bylaws allow for the formation of other Regional Branches where there is sufficient interest and a minimum of 50 members or two affiliated organisations willing to apply.

Discussions have been going on for several years on the formation of a Western Pacific Regional Branch. The individual affiliated country Associations of New Zealand, Indonesia, the Philippines, Japan and China have agreed that a Regional Branch should be formed. Those countries in total comprise about 530 members of IGA, greatly exceeding the 50 member threshold (though not all of them would necessarily want to join the Regional Branch, see below).

The Board of the IGA at its last meeting in Brussels in April agreed to the formation of the Western Pacific Regional Branch and I have been appointed as the first Chairman and have been tasked by the Board to set up the Branch.

### ***Reasons for a Western Pacific Regional Branch***

1. There are common interests in the region in the use of high enthalpy resources for power generation, (although in China that applies to only certain parts of the country and there is also a strong interest there in lower enthalpy resources and direct use).
2. There is tradition of co-operation between several of the countries in the region for geothermal development. For example during the period of rapid geothermal development in the 1980's and 1990's, there was a high degree of participation by New Zealand and Japan in geothermal research and development in Indonesia and the Philippines. With the maturing of the geothermal industries in those countries it is now much more of a partnership role, but strong linkages remain.
3. As well as the five core countries named, formation of a Regional Branch would also permit individual members of IGA in countries where there is an interest in geothermal but which do yet have a geothermal association to join. Countries in that category include Papua New Guinea, Fiji, the Solomons, Vanuatu, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and Australia. I understand that Korea and Malaysia do have geothermal associations, but they are not yet affiliated to IGA. IGA Bylaws require definition of a specific geographical area for the Regional Branch to cover, as is set out under "Practicalities"

- below. People from other countries within the proposed region, such as Cambodia or Samoa are also welcome to join if they have an interest in geothermal. .
4. All of the five core countries concerned currently individually hold at least annual geothermal conferences or seminars. It is proposed that under the aegis of the Regional Branch, one of those conference be named as the Regional Branch Conference for that year, on a rotating basis. That will foster closer relationships and give a boost to international participation in the conferences. However each conference will remain self-funding, as it is at present. The NZGA and Auckland University will be holding the NZ Geothermal Workshop in November 2006 ,with the theme of “The Pacific Rim”, and with the agreement of the organisers it can serve as the first of the Regional Conferences.
  5. As a group with over 500 members the Regional Branch will be in a better position to attract funding from regional and international agencies than can the individual member associations.

### ***Current Status and Issues***

The Western Pacific Regional Branch has been established by IGA, but does not yet have a defined membership, a governing Forum, or any By-Laws. I will organise those over the coming months, with the intention of holding an Annual General Meeting in Auckland in association with the Geothermal Workshop in November 2006. The initial governing Forum appointed at that time will serve until the next IGA election are held in 2007.

The Regional Branch needs to be a legal entity and have its own finances. Because the Regional Branch needs to be a legal entity, it must be registered in at least one country in the Region (but it can be registered in more than one). For consistency with IGA it will initially be registered as a incorporated society in New Zealand which is a comparatively simple process and will not attract tax. For convenience therefore the registered office of the Regional Branch should initially be located in New Zealand.

Because the Regional Branch will levy a fee, and more generally because some members of IGA in the region may not wish to participate in the Regional Branch, membership of the Regional Branch will be voluntary rather than automatically including all members of the IGA in the geographical area concerned. An important task for the affiliated organisations will be to identify which members in their organisation wish to join the Regional Branch.

The founding members of the Western Pacific Regional Branch for IGA will be those members of the affiliated national Geothermal Associations of Indonesia, Japan, the Philippines, China and New Zealand who opt to join the Regional Branch, plus other member of IGA living working within the geographical area defined who wish to join.

The geographical coverage of the Western Pacific Regional Branch is the area outlined by joining the national boundaries of: Thailand, China, Japan, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia and Indonesia, and all other countries within that area.

Initially at least I do not foresee any need for a large amount of finance, and propose that the membership fee for the first year be set at US \$5 per individual, or tens times that in the case of corporate membership (if any).

Some of the five core founding countries has appointed representatives for the purpose of forming the Regional Branch, as follows:

China: Dr. Tingshan Tian: [taints@mail.cigem.gov.cn](mailto:taints@mail.cigem.gov.cn)

New Zealand: Jim Lawless: [Jlawless@skm.co.nz](mailto:Jlawless@skm.co.nz)

Japan: Toshihiro Uchida : [uchida-toshihiro@aist.go.jp](mailto:uchida-toshihiro@aist.go.jp)

Indonesia: Alimin Ginting: [aliming@unocal.com](mailto:aliming@unocal.com)

I assume, but do not have formal confirmation of the fact, that the Philippines will be represented by Tony Yee.

The IGA By Laws require that the Chairman of the Regional Branch Forum, which is the 5 to 7 person governing body of the Regional Branch, be elected by the IGA Board immediately upon formation of the Branch. I have been elected as Chairman.. The Forum members are then elected by the Regional Branch, and the Forum members internally elect Officers, which means that I will be calling for nominations from the affiliated organisations of Forum Members. Note that the Chairman of the Forum does not have to be an IGA Board member, but if not he/she becomes an ex-officio IGA Board member upon election. Similarly the Forum members do not have to be IGA Board members.

I propose that for simplicity until the By-Laws are agreed upon, membership list are compiled and an election can be held, for the first term the Forum membership should be the representatives that have been nominated by five founding countries. Howe, I am open to suggestions if anyone wants a different procedure.

**Chairman:** Jim Lawless