Regional Liaisons to Facilitate the Formation of Student Chapters and YP Committees

Purpose

A Regional Liaison program was formed to assist Water Environment Federation ® (WEF®) Member Associations (MAs) with the formation of student chapters and young professionals (YPs) committees with special attention given to the development of student chapters at colleges and universities and soliciting the involvement of young professionals. Ten regions were delineated with at least one WEF Student and Young Professional Committee (SYPC) member representing each region. This document further introduces the WEF YP Regional Liaison Program in which the WEF SYPC and MAs with fully functioning student chapters and YP committees may disseminate knowledge and construct a network to aid with the aforementioned formation.

Background

The WEF SYPC exists to stimulate student and YP involvement in WEF. Thereby, the Federation may foster the development of future leaders. The WEF SYPC is comprised of experienced and motivated students and YPs who are working to meet the substantiative task of fulfilling the WEF vision. The experience and leadership organized into the WEF SYPC can serve to aid in the further development of WEF SYPC, student chapters, and the attraction, development, and retention of YPs.

For a person new to WEF, the process of creating a student chapter or YP committee can be overwhelming. The WEF SYPC has taken on the task of streamlining this process. A task force was created within the Student Chapters subcommittee to design and implement a program that will help facilitate the formation of the student chapters and young professional groups.

Regional Liaison Program

The North American section was divided into 10 regional areas based on geographical size and WEF membership being careful not to split MAs consisting of more than one state. These regions and the liaisons are listed in Table 1. Each region will be represented by at least one member of the SYPC. This person will serve the role of a liaison to connect the student chapters and YP groups with the leadership of their MA as well as to the WEF resources needed to accomplish their goals. Furthermore, the liaisons will have additional responsibilities to help ensure the student chapters and MAs in their region are aware of WEF opportunities and developments. The specific duties of the liaison are described later in this document.

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Students & Young Professionals Committee

Taskforce Vision and Goals
The big picture for the taskforce is not only the implementation of the regional liaisons but the collection and processing of information regarding the state of WEF's student chapters and YP committees. This information will allow the SYPC to audit and assess the "health" of WEF in regards to these groups and address specific related MA needs. Additionally, the task force envisions an eventual exchange of information between MAs themselves targeted to help each other form and maintain their student chapters and YP groups.

Near-term goals include the completion of the survey used to evaluate the state of WEF's student chapters and YP committees and to collect specific information from the students and YPs such as activities and financing. Upon releasing the survey to the liaisons the next task will be to collect and process the data. Mid-term goals include addressing the issues discovered from the survey results. Long-term goals include resurveying, improving the liaison program, the sharing of success stories among the MAs, and the continued growth of the SYPC through the activities of new members.

Liaison Duties and Responsibility
The regional liaison will serve as the link between the existing and future student chapters/YP committees and the SYPC. They can also serve as a connection to the Federation via the SYPC or their own network. The liaison will have responsibilities to the SYPC as well so that there is a transfer of information. This information will allow the SYPC to assess the state of student chapters and YP membership and develop or modify programs to better meet the membership needs. The duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:
1. Know the MA leadership in their region and update the SYPC database with new contact information.
2. Know the student chapter and YP group leadership in their region and update the SYPC database with new contact information.
3. Know the SYPC and WEF resources available to help with the formation of student chapters and YP groups and be available to assist with the creation of groups.
4. Encourage MA leadership, and existing student chapters and YP groups to take advantage of their services.
5. Complete and submit to the SYPC a survey about the existing student chapters and YP groups in their region or facilitate in the collection of this information from the student chapters and YP groups directly.
6. Assess the interest, need, and feasibility of establishing new student chapters and YP groups in lacking MAs.
7. Disseminate SYPC information to the student chapters in their region.
8. Collect Student Chapter Annual Reports due May 1 and submit to appointed SYPC member.
9. Quarterly updates to the Student Chapters Subcommittee.

Liaison Criteria
The regional liaison shall be an active member of the WEF SYPC.

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