MISSION STATEMENT

The International Affairs Committee (IAC), founded in 1989, works to advance the contributions of public works to humanity’s sustainability and well-being and raise awareness of APWA’s role in facilitating the international exchange of ideas, programs, services and technologies among public works practitioners and like-minded organizations worldwide.

OBJECTIVES

The principal objectives of the International Affairs Committee are to:

1. Manage APWA’s participation in the Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program, including solicitation and review of applications, recommendation of selection and funding of fellowship recipients;

2. Promote and encourage international public works exchange programs, training materials/educational resources and best practices with existing partnerships, new collaborations, and like-minded organizations;

3. Facilitate an international platform of public works officials to discuss and promote effective and innovative public works technologies, operations and best management practices in public works;

4. Advise APWA leadership on opportunities to provide APWA products and services outside of the United States and assist as requested to pursue such opportunities, for example in education and credentialing of public works practitioners;

5. Communicate and collaborate with like-minded organizations that focus on international humanitarian efforts where public works professionals can assist in the sustainability of communities or natural disaster recovery.

ACTIVITIES

Coordination and Management of the Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program

The IAC shall maintain the Jennings Randolph International Fellowship Program Review Task Force comprised of five members of the IAC. Their primary responsibility shall be the review of the Jennings Randolph International Fellowship applications for that given year which align with APWA strategic goals and technologies.

The review of the applications will result in the IAC recommendation of individuals being named as Jennings Randolph International Fellows and alternates, which are submitted to the Eisenhower World Affairs Institute for confirmation.

Create a platform (PWX presentation, Reporter article, social media campaign social media gallery during the public works study tour on the APWA international web page) so that Jennings Randolph International Fellows can share their stories and the impact of their public works study tour with the APWA membership.

Coordination and Management of Internal Collaboration
The IAC and APWA’s Technical Committees will collaborate to identify technologies in other countries and strategize how to bring these technologies to APWA members. They will also work with the APWA Reporter Editor to provide an international perspective on upcoming articles in the monthly magazine. In addition, the IAC will prepare international articles for the APWA Reporter and materials for use by APWA’s local and regional chapters on public works issues, technologies, and best management practices outside North America.

Collaborate with APWA Technical Committees on webinar programs, face-to-face meetings at PWX on public works issues, technologies and best management practices outside North America.

Coordination and Management of International Partnerships

The IAC shall manage the five formal international partnerships. The partnership agreements shall be evaluated, every two years, and a recommendation made to the APWA Board of Director’s as to whether the partnership agreement should remain in place at that time. For those recommended to continue, a work plan will be established that will outline the outcomes of the collaboration between the two organizations. This will include identifying international industry trends, and emerging technologies that will produce an educational program (e.g. webinar, brochure, informational video, publication, etc.). Additionally, the IAC may also bring forth new partnerships, with like-minded or humanitarian organizations, to the APWA Board of Directors.

APWA is also a member of the International Federation of Municipal Engineering (IFME). IFME seeks to foster international exchange of information, innovations, skills and experiences between municipal and public works engineers worldwide. APWA’s collaboration with IFME, provides a broader means to enhancing global exchange beyond APWA’s formal partnerships.

Coordination and Management of International Exchange Programs

Emphasis will be to develop educational programs featuring emerging technologies for APWA members and international public works professionals; in addition, they will work with APWA chapters interested in hosting international public works professionals in their communities.

Identify international speakers for PWX and the North American Snow Conference.

APWA International Ambassador Program

The IAC shall manage the APWA International Ambassador Program at PWX annually. This program allows international PWX attendees to be paired up with APWA members. The goal of the program is to help the international guests’ network with fellow public works professionals and provide a better overall PWX experience.

ORGANIZATION

Chair: The Committee Chair shall be appointed by the APWA President-Elect. The Chair is responsible for overall direction and management of the Committee. The term of office for the chair shall be one year. An individual member of the committee may serve as committee chair for no more than two years of their potential six-year term (three two-year terms) on the committee but must be appointed by the president-elect in order to serve a second year as Chair.

Members: The APWA President-Elect appoints up to seven members who may serve up to three, two-year terms. In addition, the IAC consists of ex-officio non-voting members representing APWA’s formal international partners, as well as APWA’s appointed member to IFME.

Corresponding Members: The Committee Chair may designate any number of corresponding members for purposes of liaison and creating sub-committees and task forces. Corresponding members shall be kept apprised of committee activities and be invited to submit
comments/suggestions for committee consideration. Corresponding members do not have voting privileges and shall not be reimbursed for travel to attend committee meetings.

**FINANCIAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT**

The IAC will meet one day prior to PWX. Expenses for this trip to PWX are not reimbursable. The IAC may also meet for a one-day planning meeting in the spring. These expenses are reimbursable. Generally, this committee meets via conference call monthly for approximately one hour per call. Administrative support shall be provided by APWA staff.

Each member of the IAC will also be asked to also participate in a sub-committee/task force, which will meet via conference call as needed. Additional commitment will be based upon commitment of committee members to various assignments.

**REPORTS**

A written summary of each meeting shall be prepared by the staff liaison and be provided to all committee members. Committee updates may also be requested periodically for submission to the APWA Board of Directors and its Executive Committee via the At-Large Director. The committee shall also submit a year-end report on progress toward achievement of committee goals and objectives for the year.

The committee will also submit a year-end review article for publication in the APWA Reporter and will encourage its members and international partners to submit articles on public works issues, solutions, emerging technologies and best practice management strategies from around the world for the APWA Reporter.

**CHARTER CHANGES**

Amendments to this Charter require a majority vote of the committee members present at a regularly scheduled meeting and are subject to approval by the APWA Board of Directors.

**Date of Board Approval:** June 23, 2017. **Amended charter approved:** September 6, 2019.