

MINUTES
HYDROPOWER SUSTAINABILITY GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING #29 (video conference call)
15 June 2020 (11:00-13:00)

Attendees	Apologies
<p>Roger Gill (Chair, hydropower owners/operators)</p> <p>Pedro Sirgado (alternate, hydropower owners/operators)</p> <p>Richard Taylor (Chair, hydropower suppliers/consultants)</p> <p>Jürgen Schuol (alternate, hydropower suppliers/consultants)</p> <p>Jian-hua Meng (Chair, environment/conservation organisations)</p> <p>James Dalton (alternate, environment/conservation organisations)</p> <p>Daniel Menebhi (Chair, advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Geir Hermansen (alternate, advanced economy country governments)</p> <p>Sunil Poudel (alternate, emerging economy country governments)</p> <p>Lesha Witmer (Chair, social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Jiwari Abdullah (alternate, social impacts/project affected communities)</p> <p>Ruth Tiffer-Sotomayor (Chair, financial institutions)</p> <p>Elisa Jianliang Xiao (alternate, financial institutions)</p> <p>Eddie Rich (ME)</p> <p>Joao Costa (ME)</p> <p>Alain Kilajian (ME)</p> <p>Amina Kadyrzhanova (ME)</p>	<p>Shi Guoqing (Chair, emerging economy country governments)</p>

Agenda Item	Minutes
HSGC 29.1 Welcome and apologies	The Chair welcomed those attending and opened the meeting. The Chair confirmed the meeting was quorate.
29.2 Agenda	<p>The agenda was accepted.</p> <p>The Chair raised topics as AOB.</p>



<p>29.3 Status of actions from last meeting</p>	<p>The minutes of the last meeting were approved, and the status of outstanding actions were discussed.</p> <p>ME and a committee member were asked to follow up on communication with IGA about the status of the Geothermal Sustainability Assessment Protocol.</p> <p>ME confirmed that the Charter updates made clear that the HSAP is the standard-setting document, and clarified the derivative status of the HESG and HGIIP. The HSGC accepted the updated Charter and Terms and Definitions.</p> <p>Decision 1: The HSGC accepted the updated Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council Charter and the updated Terms and Definitions document. It was noted that the HSAP remained the standard-setting document for the sustainability assessment of hydropower projects.</p>
<p>29.4 Working group on Global Standard for Sustainable Hydropower</p>	<p>ME provided an overview of nominations received for the working group on Global Standard for Sustainable Hydropower and welcomed other HSGC members to join. ME added that the working group would focus on methodology for developing a standard and not on technical issues.</p> <p>A committee member raised questions on the decision-making power of the working group and the ability of accredited assessors to join the group. ME clarified that the working group was an advisory group to provide recommendations to the HSGC and not a decision-making body. ME informed that the ME had had conversations with Accredited Assessors and an Accredited Lead Assessor expressed interest in participating in the working group. ME encouraged the involvement of experts from different backgrounds for a balanced and informed process.</p> <p>Two committee members expressed interest in joining the working group.</p> <p>Decision 2: The HSGC agreed to establish a working group on Global Standard for Sustainable Hydropower based on the established Terms of Reference.</p>
<p>29.5 Update to chamber modus operandi</p>	<p>ME presented the updated template modus operandi to the HSGC and requested chamber representatives to tailor the template and share it with the ME.</p> <p>A committee member noted that some chambers had individual and organisational members and that the current template was not clear on how the organisations were represented. ME agreed to that the individual modus operandums should clarify how organisational members choose their representatives.</p> <p>The Chair encouraged the HSGC after the updated template has been received to update their individual modus operandum documents and share them with the ME by end of August.</p> <p>Decision 3: The HSGC requested the ME to confirm the updated template modus operandi for chambers. Following the template, the HSGC agreed to update their individual modus operandum documents on the basis of the latest version of the template. Chamber Chairs were encouraged to consult one another to promote consistency and simplicity.</p> <p>Action 1: The ME to confirm the updated template modus operandi for chambers with suggested edits and share on Basecamp.</p>
<p>29.6 Remote assessments</p>	<p>ME provided an overview of the remote assessment paper.</p> <p>Committee members expressed concerns regarding quality of stakeholder engagement and site assessments, and suggested using local experts to conduct site visits and interviews. Committee members also expressed concerns over validation of assessments</p>



	<p>and availability. Committee members noted the advancements in technologies, such as drones and satellites for images.</p> <p>A committee member noted the possibility of conducting certain assessment activities online but highlighted the importance of visual evidence and social interactions for official assessments.</p> <p>Another committee member shared that Sarawak Energy has released a tender for an official assessment in Q3-Q4 2020. The member added that Sarawak Energy was in the process of appointing IHA Accredited Assessors for this assessment.</p> <p>A committee member proposed that remote assessments should only be used for provisional assessments with final assessments requiring field investigations.</p> <p>Another committee member noted that remote assessments could be a good option to continue generating income from assessments.</p> <p>A committee member expressed concerns over brand image and integrity of remote assessments. The member added that the ME needed to consider data storage, access rights to the data and compliance with data protection laws.</p> <p>Another committee member noted that any assessments had limitations and encouraged the use of modern technology to fill those gaps. The member added that local communities could be given more time to prepare for assessments.</p> <p>A committee member proposed to find a way to conduct pre-assessments remotely, but not take decisions on official assessments until a site visit.</p> <p>ME highlighted the importance of keeping momentum of assessments and maintaining the reputation of the tools. ME clarified that Accredited Assessors had provided their concerns, which were reflected in the paper. ME added that the paper addressed risks related to legality and brand image and included the option of using independent local experts to conduct site visits and interviews. ME also mentioned that Accredited Assessors would assess the feasibility of remote assessment on a project-by-project basis.</p> <p>The Chair suggested the inclusion of a mandated safeguard requirement for verification of the final assessment and suggested a quality control check by the HSGC.</p> <p>Action 2: The ME to update the proposed methodology for conducting HSAP and HESG assessments remotely to take into account concerns of the HSGC members and share an updated version via Basecamp.</p>
29.7 Update to online training / Sustainable Hydropower Training Institute	<p>A committee member requested the ME to amend the funding sources for G-res training. HSGC noted the update to online training / Sustainable Hydropower Training Institute.</p>
29.8 Update to SECO and Norad projects	<p>HSGC noted the update to SECO and Norad projects.</p>
29.9 FPIC launch and upcoming webinar with AAs	<p>HSGC noted the FPIC launch and upcoming webinar with AAs.</p>
29.10 Any other business	<p>The Chair requested the ME to prepare a Decisions Register and save it on Basecamp.</p> <p>The Chair requested that the HSGC reopen the Chair selection process.</p> <p>Action 3: The ME will develop a shortlist of candidates for the HSGC Chair position and share with the nominations committee.</p>



	<p>ME provided an update on the progress of IHAS' collaboration with IUCN, WWF and UNESCO WHC to develop guidance on hydropower development affecting World Heritages Sites and Protected Areas. A committee member suggested to reach out to the Alliance for Water Stewardship.</p> <p>ME provided an update on discussions with CBI on remaining issues, including mitigation thresholds, language on climate adaptation and resilience, and the treatment of pumped storage. ME added that the technical working group meeting would take place next week and the CBI Board meeting on 7 July for an 'in principle' agreement (full agreement to be confirmed at future meetings). A committee member added that the working paper on adaptation and mitigation language was planned to be completed by end of June.</p> <p>A committee member encouraged the ME to respond to the small hydropower campaign. The member invited the ME to contribute to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development on water-energy thematic scheduled to take place on 7-16 July 2020.</p> <p>Action 4: The ME to follow up with a committee member regarding small hydropower campaign.</p> <p>ME informed the HSGC of an upcoming engagement survey to be sent out to Council members.</p>
<p>29.11 Summary of decisions and actions</p>	<p>Decision 1: The HSGC accepted the updated Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Council Charter and the updated Terms and Definitions document. It was noted that the HSAP remained the standard-setting document for the sustainability assessment of hydropower projects.</p> <p>Decision 2: The HSGC agreed to establish a working group on development of Global Standard for Sustainable Hydropower based on the established Terms of Reference.</p> <p>Decision 3: The HSGC requested ME to confirm the updated template modus operandi for chambers. Following the template, the HSGC agreed to update their individual modus operandum documents on the basis of the latest version of the template. Chamber Chairs were encouraged to consult one another to promote consistency and simplicity.</p> <p>Action 1: The ME to confirm the updated template modus operandi for chambers with suggested edits and share on Basecamp.</p> <p>Action 2: The ME to update the proposed methodology for conducting HSAP and HESG assessments remotely to take into account concerns of the HSGC members and share an updated version via Basecamp.</p> <p>Action 3: The ME will develop a shortlist of candidates for the HSGC Chair position and share with the nominations committee.</p> <p>Action 4: The ME to follow up with a committee member regarding small hydropower campaign.</p>



**Hydropower
Sustainability**
Governance Committee