

Call for nominations of Fellow and Honorary members

BACKGROUND

WIOMSA is inviting nominations of candidates for the WIOMSA Fellow and Honorary members program. Fellow and Honorary memberships are awarded to individuals in recognition of their exemplary/ outstanding/ distinguished contribution with respect to development of marine science research in the region and/or problem-solving and actions geared towards improving management of coastal and marine environment in the Western Indian Ocean (WIO) region.

These awards are designed both to recognize individual scientists/researchers and practitioners for their track record of achievements, to inspire outstanding and emerging scientists and practitioners and cultivate a healthy competition for quality and excellence in the region. The awards also raise the profile of the scientists and practitioners in the region and raise awareness about their work to a wider audience across the globe.

The awards will be accorded by the Board of Trustees and will be announced and presented during the Ninth WIOMSA Symposium to be held in South Africa in October 2015.

These are the Fourth Honorary and Fellow membership awards to be issued to outstanding individuals in the region. The first awards ceremony was held during the Fifth WIOMSA Symposium held in Durban, South Africa in October 2007, where Prof Olof Linden attained the first Honorary membership award, while Profs Mats Bjork and Yunus Mgaya, Drs Tim McClanahan and David Obura were conferred Fellow membership. In 2009, the awards went to Profs Ian Bryceson and Chantal Conand for Honorary membership and Dr James Kairo, Prof Matthieu Le Corre and Prof Gilbert David for Fellow membership. In 2011, the awards went to Dr Magnus Ngoile (Honorary) and Dr Nyawira Muthiga (Fellow).

We encourage you to think broadly when considering your candidates. Please note that these awards are open to anyone involved in research, capacity building, conservation and management of coastal and marine environment in the WIO region. These include individuals from the physical and social sciences, including fields such as oceanography, economics, environmental law and policy, as well as engineering, natural resource management, advocacy and conservation education, and communications.

Descriptions of the nomination process and nomination forms are attached. It is important to read these before determining your nominations. The deadline for submission of nominations is **31 July 2015**.

We hope you share our commitment, interest and enthusiasm to award different stakeholders working in our coastal and marine environment.

ELIGIBILITY

Fellow membership

Fellow members will be selected based on their contribution to marine science (with respect to research and education) in one or more of the following ways:

- Recognized exceptional scholarly activity and/or exceptional service to the scientific community at the national, regional and international levels.
- Significant leadership in individual's field of specialization

The Fellow should have an International and a Regional-wide recognition.

Eligibility for Fellow membership

To be eligible for Fellow membership, the nominee must fulfil the following:

- Consistently publishing a number of high quality peer reviewed papers during the past five years that makes the greatest contribution to advancement in marine sciences;
- Played a key/leading role in the initiation of a number of research projects;
- Attracted external (to the WIO) and international funding for the executing of projects in the WIO region
- Made a significant contribution to promoting inter- and trans-disciplinary research through a number of projects;
- Has a track record of contributing to the training of emerging scientists
- Satisfy at least one of the following:
 - Citizen or Resident in the WIO region
 - Have spent at least 5 years in the WIO region actively engaged on research related to Marine Sciences or in directing, teaching or training of persons in the field of marine sciences in the region

Honorary membership

Honorary Membership is conferred upon individuals who have rendered a notable service to marine science development in the Region including improving management of coastal and marine resources in the region.

Eligibility for Honorary membership

To be eligible for an Honorary membership, the nominee must fulfil the following:

- Played a key role in the initiation of important programmes/projects that have made a significant impact towards poverty alleviation in the coastal communities and towards conservation of coastal and marine environment;

- Provided leadership that have contributed to significant improvement of management of coastal and marine environment
- Contribute significantly in the management process as well as policy formulation at the local, national, regional, and global levels.
- Made a significant contribution to human capital development
- Raise significant funding to support research, conservation and development efforts in the region

The Honorary membership is open to individuals from within and outside the region.

NOMINATION

Anyone can nominate up to two individuals for each of the awards. All nominations shall be made using the provided forms. Please note that individuals may be nominated in more than one award. The nomination form is very simple and requires you to provide your reasons for nominating the candidates for the awards. The information in the form serves as a recommendation for the candidate.

Self-nominations or nominations by family members will not be accepted. Serving WIOMSA Board members and former awardees are not eligible for nomination.

Nominees will be contacted directly by the WIOMSA Secretariat and requested to provide additional information about themselves and their activities.

SELECTION

Awardees are chosen according to the following two-step process:

- i) Formation of the Selection Advisory Committee. The WIOMSA Board of Trustees constitutes a three-member Selection Advisory Committee, which will review the submissions of all nominees and recommend to the Board who should be awarded the Fellow or Honorary membership. In most of the cases, members of the Committee have been the current Honorary and Fellow members.
- ii) The recommendations of the Selection Advisory Committee, together with appropriate documentation, are referred to the Board, which shall select and announce the selected Fellow or Honorary members.