

Fellow and Honorary WIOMSA Members

According to the Constitution of the Western Indian Ocean Marine Science Association (WIOMSA) there are the following categories of memberships:

- (a) Individual membership: Shall be open to marine scientists and other professionals who are nationals of the countries of the Region involved in marine scientific and related activities in the Region.
- (b) Associate membership: Shall be open to marine scientists and other professionals from outside the Region involved in activities contributing to the objectives of the Association.
- (c) Student membership: Shall be open to individuals who are nationals of any of the member states of the Region and registered as a student at an educational institution recognized as such by the Association.
- (d) Institutional membership: Shall be open to any institution, company, agency, corporation or organization involved in activities furthering the aims of the Association and whose objectives are not in conflict with the aims of the Association
- (e) Fellow membership: Shall be awarded biennially to scientists (natural and social scientists) by the Association in recognition of outstanding work or significant contribution to coastal and marine science research in the Region.
- (f) Honorary membership: Shall be conferred biennially upon individuals who have rendered outstanding contributions to the conservation, management and sustainable development of the coastal and marine environment in the Region.

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 region. These awards are aiming at not only recognizing individual scientists/researchers and practitioners for their track record of achievement in the areas of expertise or operation, but also inspire outstanding and emerging scientists/practitioners and thereby cultivating the culture of competition for quality and excellence in the region. These awards will also raise the profile of the scientists and practitioners in the region as well as elevate awareness about their work to a wider audience.

These awards will be awarded by the Board of Trustees and will be announced and presented in a special event to be organized upon the completion of the nomination and selection processes.

Nominations should include candidates from a broad range of backgrounds, disciplines, and institutional settings. 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.

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 as well as nominations of the serving WIOMSA Board members are not accepted.

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.