

# International Hydropower Association

The International Hydropower Association (IHA) addresses the role of hydropower in meeting the world's growing water and energy needs as a clean, renewable and sustainable technology. With members active in more than 80 countries, IHA is a non-governmental, mutual association of organisations and individuals. Its membership is open to all those involved in hydropower.

Formed under the auspices of UNESCO in 1995, as a forum to promote and disseminate good practice and further knowledge about hydropower, today IHA has a Central Office based in London and a representative office in South America. In addition, IHA currently has consultative and/or observer status with all United Nations agencies addressing water, energy and climate change.

The Association is governed by a Board, which comprises 18 elected members, up to six co-opted members and one Executive Director. The IHA President and up to six Vice Presidents are selected from the elected Board members.

## IHA Mission

IHA aims to advance sustainable hydropower's role in meeting the world's water and energy needs by:

- Championing continuous improvement and sustainable practices
- Building consensus through strong partnerships with other stakeholders
- Driving initiatives to increase the contribution of renewables, especially hydropower

## IHA Key Initiatives

- Sustainability
- Energy
- Water
- Climate Change
- Markets and Investment



## Hydropower Sustainability

In addition, IHA pursues a range of initiatives on hydropower sustainability, including its work through the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum (2008 – 2010) on developing an enhanced sustainability assessment tool to measure and guide performance in the hydropower sector - the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Protocol. The Forum, comprised a multi-stakeholder body including social and environmental NGOs (Oxfam, The Nature Conservancy, Transparency International, WWF); governments (China, Germany, Iceland, Norway, Zambia); commercial and development banks (members of the Equator Principles Financial Institutions, The World Bank); and the hydropower sector, represented by the IHA. The Forum is now in the process of evolving into a permanent Governance Entity for the Protocol. The Protocol was formally adopted by IHA in November 2010 and consequently, a major opportunity now exists for leading hydropower organisations to clearly demonstrate sustainability performance.

The Association is also addressing the possible role and contribution of hydropower to Climate Change mitigation and adaption through the UNESCO/ IHA GHG Research Project. One of IHA's most active partnership initiatives relates to the International Renewable Energy Alliance, which brings together leading agencies representing bio, geothermal, hydropower, solar and wind.