



Membership of the Regional Meteorological Society and IFMS & Creating New NMSocs

During the last two Summits of the African Meteorology Professionals organized by IFMS in December 2020 and February 2021, we saw a lot of interest in support of the creation of African Meteorological Society which, fortunately, we have now achieved. We are also planning to assist in the creation of the Asian Meteorological Societies consisting of the Region 2 countries and ASEAN countries.

For any country to become a full member of their Regional Meteorological Society (RMS) and IFMS, you must have a National Meteorological Society (NMSoc) in your country.

IFMS believes that all countries – no matter how big or small can have an NMSoc. This has become possible due to the existence of IFMS, RMSs and NMSocs with which you can partner and take advantage of their activities. The existence of tools (WebEx, Zoom, Google Meet, etc.) for conducting Virtual Meetings/Conferences/ Webinars has made it possible for even the smallest countries to have a meaningful NMSoc and engage with other societies for creating capacity in their country. Prime example of the paradigm that even the smallest countries like Andorra with a population of approximately 77,000 is a member of WMO and also has an NMSoc with 15 members. It participates very meaningfully in the activities of the European Meteorological Society (EMS).

IFMS is assisting in creating NMSocs around the world. Please approach us for assistance to create your own NMSoc with membership from Public, Private and Academic (PPA) sectors which will become your door to the Global Weather Enterprise.

In Africa: Existing National Meteorological Societies: Ethiopian, Sudanese, Tanzanian, Kenyan, South African and Uganda are members of IFMS. Congratulations!

In addition, we have the following societies in Africa which are **not members of IFMS** and **we would strongly urge them to become members of IFMS fraternity**: **Nigeria, Algerian, Egyptian and Mauritius.**

The Membership Form is available at the following site. Please complete it:

<https://ifms.org/ifms/index.cfm/about-ifms/membership-application/?button=Become+a+Member>

After filling the form send a message to the following addresses that you have done so.

ifms.collaboration@gmail.com with cc to: ethiopianmetsoc@gmail.com and ha@info-electronics.com

Countries interested in creating National Meteorological Society (NMSoc):

Many other countries are also planning to create their own society and they are in touch with IFMS. Other interested nations are advised to write to the email addresses provided above for assistance.

We held a Webinar for creation of National Meteorological Society on April 7, 2021 which was very well received. In the near future, we plan to hold the same Webinar in English and French.

Annex A provides the steps to create NMSoc. We will help you in every possible way, not only to create an NMSoc but also to strengthen it.

Please send us the name and contact information of the person(s) we should be contacting to start NMSoc in your country.

**NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETIES ARE YOUR BEST DOOR TO GWE
TO PARTNER WITH STRONG SOCIETIES TO CREATE CAPACITY IN YOUR COUNTRY.**





ANNEX A

Why have a National Meteorological or Hydrometeorological Society?

1 Introduction

This document presents the advantages of having a **National Meteorological or Meteorological and Hydrological-Society (NMSoc – abbreviation includes both)** in your country. Usually, such societies are started and financially supported by the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (**NMHS**). NMHSs draw many advantages from such societies e.g., they promote the profession of meteorology through such societies and they get the assistance of a Volunteer-based organization to do so. NMHSs can also use the assistance of NMSocs in capacity building through Education and Training (**E&T**), conferences, Webinars, mentoring youngsters, etc. Here are some of the advantages which members of such societies draw from their membership making it a win-win situation for the members, NMSocs and NMHSs.

2 Case for having a National Hydro-Met Society (NMSoc)

The **National Hydro-Met Society (NMSoc)** provides a forum for hydro-met professionals to interact with each other and exchange information, ideas about their profession and stay abreast with related Science and Technology. Recently, we have created a Regional Meteorological Society (African Meteorological Society). In order to reap its benefits and also those provided by IFMS, you must have an NMSoc in your country. Here is the list of some of the additional advantages provided by an NMSoc to its members which will kick-in as a part of the development of a new Society:

1. **Enhance your network:** We all know that networking is key for the movers and shakers of the community. Making connections is critical, and joining associations gives countless opportunities to connect on a local, and as an eventual member of the International Forum of Meteorological Society (**IFMS**), even on a global level. For most people, creating professional relationships is important, and joining a group allows you to have a sense of security and trust. From this, you are able to support and help one another in reaching your professional goals.

Most such organizations have an **Annual Conference** which in today's world can be in Cyber space or in person or a combination of the two. This is an opportunity for you to mix and mingle with others in your field in both professional and leisure settings. There is also often a job fair where you can make contact and stay up to date with the very people who hire – even if they're not hiring right now. In fact, some people find recruiters follow their career and stay updated when you stop by their booth at the job fair. They may be keeping an eye on you until they are ready to finally offer you a job.

2. **Professional Development:** As a part of their activities, many NMSocs offer professional development via courses, workshops, publications, Conferences and information on their website shared only with members. They also keep members up to date on industry trends and how to deal with them. Professional organizations offer news and print coverage of their



annual conferences which can provide some very useful information. Many NMSocs provide communications tools such as Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, WhatsApp, etc. for members to stay in touch and develop discussion groups.

3. **Broaden your knowledge:** As a Professional organization, as you develop, you can offer courses, seminars and/or lectures to keep yourself and your members up to date on the latest industry innovations, research and trends. Staying informed on your industry's trends will only help you in the long run and will put you one step ahead of the competition!
4. **Professional Accreditation / Certification:** Some NMSocs have Professional Accreditation/ Certification Programs which are very useful for ensuring the quality of professionals in your country. An Accreditation and or certification provides you recognition and confidence that your employers and peers can appreciate.
5. **Mentoring:** Mentoring is the cornerstone of many NMSocs when it comes to working with younger members. You may never get in the room with someone at the top of your field, for a very long time. But many NMSocs have the ability to pair you with someone much more experienced.
6. **Become a mentor:** Giving back can be the greatest reward and benefit. Participating in forums, chat groups or discussion boards sponsored by an association is also a great way to grow your network. This allows you to use your peers as sounding boards and often make some great friends with the same interests as you.
7. **Scholarships** For the youngest of members (high school and college), scholarships may be the primary reason to join a professional organization. Many offer scholarships to the new members studying to enter the field.
8. **Take charge of your career:** Many NMSocs help their members find jobs, or at the least, offer up job listings that other members may be offering. Associations often have job listings online or in print available only to their members. This is a great way to find targeted job postings for your area of interest. Take advantage of these career resources.
9. **Build a better resume:** Many organizations have career resources available such as tips on effective resumes or cover letter writing. Listing your association membership on your resume is impressive to current or future employers as it shows that you are dedicated to staying connected in your profession.
10. **Be a Leader:** Professional associations give you an opportunity to develop your skills as a leader, and this is important not only for your personal growth, but for your growth in your firm.
11. **Make a new friend:** Once we graduate from school, we all know how hard it is to get out and meet new people and make a new friend! Use professional networking groups as an opportunity to escape the norm and meet new people that may give you a reason to come out of your shell a bit more and have fun.
12. **Give back to the community:** There are plenty of organizations that coordinate socially conscious initiatives to support community efforts to educate public on various issues related Global Warming or disasters caused by weather events.



13. **Strength in Numbers:** We live in a day and age where establishing a presence in any given career field often demands working long hours in the office and bringing work home when the doors close. At the end of the day, you may have ideas for cultivating partnerships, yet not feel up to shouldering all the responsibility to organize them. In a community organization, you have access to an established support system of experienced people who are motivated to get things done. The battle is half-won!
14. **Stay Inspired and Stay Motivated:** Members learn to love what they do! They may not even know that they love something, but it's important to be proactive about things they discover on the journey.
15. **Participation in International efforts:** Only NMSocs can become members of the International Forum of Meteorological Societies (**IFMS**) through which its members can connect with International Professional Circles. IFMS will also help in the development of the new NMSocs with its continued support.

In addition, having a NMSoc will help in your stronger participation in the **Global Weather Enterprise Initiative** of WMO and avail the services of IFMS to guide you how to create a Forum in your Society for discussion between the PPA Sectors to strengthen collaboration.

3 Financing National Hydro-Met Society (NMSoc)

Although most of the people running such organizations are volunteers, finances are required for some staff, some events and some of the above stated Value Propositions to be provided to its members. Normally such organizations are financially supported by the NMHSs as well as the following sources:

- 1) Reasonable Membership Fee with special consideration for students
- 2) Fee for Conferences
- 3) Donations by individuals and by Private Sector organizations related to the profession.

4 Conclusions

In order to strengthen and grow the profession of meteorology in your country, it is important to have a NMSoc which can give all the advantages listed to its members listed above.

It is obvious that this effort will require considerable work to establish a society in your country, but IFMS will assist you by providing guidance and pairing you with some existing member society near your country.

With strong effort by WMO in strengthening Global Weather Enterprise (GWE) by increasing collaboration between the Public, Private and University (PPA) Sectors, the NMSocs can provide an important forum for such discussions. IFMS will provide you guidance on that aspect.

In conclusion, we strongly urge you to start a National Hydro-Met Society in your country to strengthen and grow the profession of Hydro-Meteorology.

