



International Sustainable Development Research Society

I. Name and Location

The official name of the organization is the International Sustainable Development Research Society (ISDRS).

It constitutes itself by this Charter and the By-Charter. ISDRS was originally registered under the Societies Ordinance (section 5a(1), chapter 151, Law of Hong Kong) in Hong Kong in 08-05-2006. The current registration is indicated in the by-charter. This charter was formally approved by the membership SS/MM/2020.

II. Objectives

The objectives of the Society are as follows:

- To stimulate research contributing to knowledge and understanding of sustainable development and related issues and processes,
- To disseminate knowledge on sustainable development,
- To facilitate education on sustainable development,
- To stimulate discussions on sustainable development.

III. Membership, Followers and Annual Fees

Membership is open to both individuals and institutions according to arrangements in the by-charter. Followers (who do not pay a fee and are therefore not members) enjoy privileges as specified in the by-charter.

IV. Governance

The ISDRS governs itself at three distinct levels: Members, Board, and the Executive Committee.



A. Members

Members vote annually on at least two new members on the Board. Any member (whether individual or representative of an organisation with institutional membership) in their second consecutive year of membership is eligible for nomination for a board position.

B. The Board

The Board consists of 13-21 members. Diversity is targeted with respect to at least geographic, ethnic, gender and disciplinary background.

i. Responsibilities of the Board

The primary responsibilities of the Board are:

- To select the site for the annual meeting of the Society;
- To approve the terms and conditions governing the conduct of the annual conference, as specified in the memorandum of understanding
- To approve agreements/partnerships to be entered into by the Society;
- To approve the annual and special reports of the Secretary;
- To approve the annual and special reports of the President;
- To conduct the business of the Society in matters not delegated to the Executive Committee or an ad hoc committee;
- To abide by its own decisions, whether from a physical or virtual meeting;
- To establish its statutory committees (as given under IV):
- To approve the annual and special reports of the Treasurer and the Audit Committee



- To review the role and remuneration of the Board Assistant (if there is one) on an annual basis

In addition, it is expected that Board members will play an active role in ISDRS for example by serving as a topic group leader (see VI below).

ii. Membership of the Board

The term of membership is two calendar years from the 1st of January following the election. Board members will be able to extend Board membership twice, if re-elected, that is, the maximum term of Board membership is six years (unless elected to the Executive Committee).

Board members elected can only be removed during their term of office by a two-thirds majority of participating members at an annual meeting or on-line; this vote is only valid if at least a simple majority of the total membership participate in the voting.

As it sees fit, the Board may, at an annual meeting, nominate and elect Honorary Board Members for a defined term of time. However, Honorary Board Members have no voting rights and do not count in voting tabulations.

iii. Board Decisions

Decisions shall be made by the Board based on the rule of a simple majority (unless stipulated otherwise herein) of those in attendance during the decision-making at a physical or virtual meeting (a quorum consists of at least two thirds of the Board members). Votes can also be taken by an online poll, subject to the same conditions as meetings. All decisions shall be binding on the Board in subsequent deliberations until



modified or rescinded. In case of equally divided votes, a decision is postponed pending further discussion. When it comes to decisions about activities of a member of the Board, that member has no voting rights.

C. Executive Committee

i. Members

The Executive Committee shall comprise the Board members holding a major organisational role. These roles are President, a Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, a Director for Membership and a Director for Communications. The Executive Committee liaise with each other over operational matters that do not require a decision of the Board as specified in point IV B i, but report to the Board as specified in IV B i and as requested.

All Executive positions shall be individually elected among members of the Board by single majority and a participation of at least simple majority of the remaining Board members in the voting.

The Vice-President is elected by the Board with the assumption that the holder will become President after one term of two calendar years.

The President is elected with the assumption that the holder will become Past President after one term of two calendar years.

If the Vice President is not available to become the President, an existing member of the Executive Committee can be elected as President (this includes the President, who could be re-elected to the post for a second term).



If the President is not available to become the Past President the former Past President can serve a second term of two calendar years as Past President.

In cases of alleged misconduct, the Board has the sole power to remove an officer from her or his function by a vote of two-thirds of its voting members.

ii. Duties and Terms of the Executive Committee

The President is the official spokesperson and representative for the Society, in addition to overseeing day-to-day activities.

The Vice-President represents the President on occasions as required and is responsible for liaising with potential and current conference hosts on behalf of the Society and as requested by the President.

The Past President is expected to advise the Executive Committee in particular with matters relating to their previous experience as President, but is not a member of the Executive Committee.

Executing the functions of Vice President, President and/or Past President will extend the membership in the Board to a maximum duration of six (6) terms.

The Secretary oversees the governance and administrative procedures of the Society, represents the Treasurer on occasions as required and supports the President and Vice-President in the day-to-day operations of the Society. In particular the Secretary should assist in discussions with potential and confirmed Partners and other third-party organisations.

The Director of Membership monitors the membership, also for the reports for Board meetings and annual meetings, liaises with actual and potential institutional members



and individual members, as well as identifies and prepares proposals for strategic and practical membership development.

The Treasurer is responsible for the financial procedures of the Society, ensures the formation of the Audit Committee and represents the Secretary on occasions as required and monitors and prepares financial reports for the Board and participates in financial planning.

The Director of Communications is responsible for producing the Society newsletter. Additional co-editor(s) of the newsletter may be appointed by the Board, but are not members of the executive (and need not be members of the Board). The Director of Communications is also responsible for devising and updating the Society's communications policy and for overseeing the website.

The Secretary, Treasurer and/or Director of Membership and or Director of Communications can be re-elected for two terms of two calendar years, which extends the membership in the Board to a maximum duration of six (6) terms. If there are any legal requirements for a given executive office to be held by a person resident in a certain country, an additional term of office may have to be allowed in order to find a suitable candidate or a more suitable location to base the Society.

Once Board members have concluded their term(s) of office in the Executive Committee they can be re-elected by all members for one term, provided that the maximum of six (6) terms is not surpassed. Holding an executive role (or Past President) overrides the requirement for re-election to the Board, in order to allow for continuity and planning.

In light of the multiple operations of the Society, the Society's office needs to be housed in an institutional setting that supports the Society's activities and is willing to negotiate a remunerative scheme acceptable to all parties. At its annual meetings, the Board pre-



approves normal operating expenditures for the Society's office to enable payment on a timely basis.

V Committees

The ISDRS has three statutory Committees which are:

- A. Election Committee
- B. Audit Committee
- C. Best Paper Award Committee

The procedures governing these Committees are specified in the by-charter. Further Committees can be constituted by the Board on an ad-hoc basis.

VI Meetings

a) Meetings of the Board

The Board of the ISDRS shall meet once a year to coincide with the annual conference. On occasion and as circumstances dictate, the Board may hold additional meetings (following consultation with Board Members to select the date) for its deliberations and decisions. Such meetings would usually be virtual. These meetings will be called and conducted by the officers of the ISDRS.

b) Annual meeting of the members

During the annual conference, there will also be a Members' meeting. At this meeting the President provides a summary of the annual report and plans for development; members are encouraged to offer feedback about the objectives of the Society and its operations, role and focus in addition to offering their own suggestions for the consideration of the Board.



VII. Topic Groups for the Annual Conference

Consistent with its purpose as a research Society and in recognition of the demands posed by sustainable development, the Society will diligently strive to establish and maintain an overarching set of thematic topic groups corresponding to themes or tracks that can be used to organize the annual *call for papers* that precedes each conference. Because the ISDRS is a research Society, the continuous need for critical self-reflection on research endeavours is encouraged. Suggestions for revisions to themes or tracks are welcome at any time, in particular as items for discussions at the annual Members meeting. Themes and tracks for the annual conference have to be approved by the Board, with the conference host having the option to inset additional tracks relating to the selected overall theme for that year's conference.

The leaders of the topic groups are invited by the Board.

VIII. Publications

Congruent with its second objective, the dissemination of knowledge, the ISDRS will endeavour to work with the publishers and editors of reputable journals whose purpose is to advance, enlighten, or scrutinize the field of sustainable development. To further this effort, all direct dealings with editors and publishers should be conducted in a transparent manner that avoids any conflict of interests, whether perceived or real.

IX. Honorary Members of the Society

In order to recognize exemplary individual contributions to the Society, the Board may, at its discretion, designate a special status to those who have contributed to its establishment and development or made a notable contribution to sustainability in either academia or implementation. This designation shall require a majority vote of the



Board members at its annual Board meeting. The website of the Society will reflect this special status through a designated display that discusses the designated individuals and their contributions.

X. Amendments to this Charter and the By-Charter

This Charter can be amended by a two-thirds majority of the participating members, this vote can be held online or during the annual meeting, and is only valid if at least a simple majority of members participate. Potential amendments to the Charter have first to be approved by the Board (two-thirds majority of participating members, with a minimum participation of a simple majority of Board members).

The By-Charter is concluded by a two-thirds majority of the participating Board members with a minimum participation of a simple majority of the Board members, and can be amended by the same rules in its annual meeting (in virtual meetings or online balloting).