

Affiliated Local Societies and IOM3

Enhancing co-operation between IOM3 and its Affiliated Local Societies

1 Introduction

A number of organisations across different parts of the UK have chosen to affiliate with IOM3. These Affiliated Local Societies (ALS) are independent organisations with various legal structures and histories that share an interest with IOM3 in disseminating knowledge about materials, minerals and mining. Run by volunteers, they put on technical and social events in person and online for different audiences.

The Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining (IOM3) is the global network for the materials cycle, promoting sustainability and greater circularity in the extraction, processing and use of natural resources. A charity incorporated by Royal Charter, IOM3 is a professional engineering, environmental and scientific institution with four-fifths of its approximately 15 000 members based in the UK.

ALS activities are an important part of the fabric of IOM3 and of its ability to deliver its charitable purpose. Exposure to an ALS can often be the first major interaction someone has that brings them into the IOM3 orbit. Regional activities provide networking opportunities for members; technical events share and promote relevant knowledge; and many an Active Supporter and Volunteer for IOM3 cut their teeth in ALS activities. It is because of these strong links to delivery of its charitable purpose that IOM3 offers grant funding for these activities.

Feedback during the 2022 consultation with ALS indicated that some of them would welcome a clearer idea of how they could further support IOM3 and its strategy. This document has therefore been produced. It seeks to clarify how ALS might do that, and does not create any new obligations on ALS or IOM3.

2 Current arrangements

Regulation 4 of IOM3 sets out how organisations – including local societies – can affiliate with IOM3. The main requirement is the signature of an appropriate agreement that sets the terms of the relationship. For local societies, this is the Affiliated Local Society Agreement.

The current formal expectations of IOM3 and of the ALS are set out in the ALS Agreement. In summary:

2.1 Expectations of IOM3

- i. Support events financially;
- ii. Involve ALS representatives in discussions about the relationship;
- iii. Promote ALS events and, where appropriate, ALS membership.

- iv. Provide public liability insurance for IOM3-funded ALS events and, for agreed items, regalia insurance; and
- v. Provide mechanisms for the ALS governing body to communicate within itself and with IOM3 members with an interest.

IOM3 will also work with its elected regional representatives to ensure that they support ALS in their areas.

2.2 Expectations of the ALS

- i. Provide a programme of regular events that enables IOM3 members, ALS members and non-members to gain and share technical knowledge and to network;
- ii. Organise and run events in a manner that ensures attendees can have an enjoyable and fulfilling experience, regardless of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital or parental status, age, disability, race, religion or physical appearance;
- iii. Promote IOM3 membership to non-members;
- iv. Support and promote professional development;
- v. Report back to IOM3 on how the grant funding is spent; and
- vi. Use the communications facilities sensibly and in accordance with data protection requirements.

3 IOM3 Strategy

The materials, minerals and mining communities have a fundamental role to play in the transition of society, alongside the wider engineering and scientific world. From the materials to build renewable energy infrastructure to the mines producing the minerals necessary for the move to electric transport, the work of the members of IOM3 is fundamental. IOM3 has a unique place in this, supporting professional standards and recognition, sharing the necessary knowledge and information and providing networking and learning opportunities. In order to do this effectively, IOM3 needs to continue to meet the changing expectations of its current and future members. This means building on its existing strengths and recent innovations to provide modern, flexible services, quality technical content and value for money.

IOM3 has therefore set itself two strategic aims:

To support professionals in materials, minerals and mining to be champions of the transition to a low-carbon, & resilient resource efficient society

and:

To be the best professional membership body it can be

To deliver on these, IOM3 has four strands of work:

- **Membership**
As a professional membership body that delivers its charitable purpose via its members, nurturing those members is a core part of what IOM3 needs to do.
- **Content**
Quality technical content is of vital importance to the members of IOM3. Sharing this content is also one of the principal ways in which IOM3 fulfils its charitable purpose.
- **Professional Development**
Supporting professionals in materials, minerals and mining as they progress through their careers is an important role of IOM3. The training offering has been extended and work will continue to develop this further.
- **Influence**
Materials, minerals and mining are essential to almost all modern human endeavours. IOM3, through the expertise of its members, has a great deal to offer to a large number of public, policy and media debates. It has already started to increase its visibility and its activities in support of the positive role of professionals in materials, minerals and mining in the transition to a low-carbon, resilient and resource-efficient society, including through its outreach and education work.

In its work, IOM3 is seeking to promote greater equity, diversity and inclusion (EDI) in its membership, in its events and in sector employment. This is both because it is morally the right thing to do, and because if our sectors are to thrive in the future, then they need to be able to recruit from the widest pool of people possible. To do this successfully, a career in materials, minerals and mining needs to be seen as inclusive and welcoming to people from all kinds of backgrounds and approaches.

In its policy work, IOM3 is highlighting key issues for our sectors, including:

- Decarbonization of foundation industries (cement, ceramics, chemicals, glass, metals, paper) and their supply chains
- Availability of critical materials
- Responsible mining and Environmental, Social and Governance
- Skills, especially in exploration and mining
- Packaging reforms
- Developing a holistic UK strategy towards materials.

IOM3 also offers financial support to students and early career researchers through the IOM3 Education & Outreach Trust, which offers grants and bursaries.

4 ALS Support

ALS activities already support these strands in different ways. For example, technical events from every ALS support Content and Professional Development, and both the fact of these events and the work done at them highlight and support Membership. The work some ALS do in schools and student outreach supports Influence, such as the work of the Sheffield Metallurgical Engineering Association on delivering the Engineering Extravaganza events in South Yorkshire.

ALSs will also consider all aspects of materials in engineering and other applications, minerals and mining, not just those highlighted as key issues above, as subjects for technical and other meetings

ALSs could also support IOM3 in the following ways (for example):

- Further support and initiate school outreach activities by improving two-way communication with IOM3 activities in this work
- Have a closer relationship with Technical Communities (TCs) by co-sponsoring ALS and TC events
- Supporting different member groups:
 - Students and early career members through recruiting students to IOM3 and paying their initial membership fees, grants and bursaries, networking and learning. Organising local and regional heats of the Young Persons' Lecture Competition.
 - Mid-career members through networking, especially at face-to-face meetings, CPD and other technical knowledge, and the opportunity to give back through volunteering.
 - Retired members through enabling a continued connection to the sector as well as opportunities to give back through volunteering. Also, in maintaining Chartered and Incorporated qualifications by providing CPD certificates.
 - Support IOM3's charitable status by offering meetings and other activities (including speakers) to the public including non-members and those not in Materials, Minerals & Mining's professional and technical activities.