

Wetland City Network Membership Guidelines

Purpose

The Wetland City Network contributes to the implementation of the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands through the collective efforts of local governments, local communities and other important stakeholders. It serves as a platform that (1) enables effective communication among Wetland Cities; (2) promotes information exchange on experiences and lessons learned in managing urban and peri-urban wetlands with respect to local policies; (3) facilitates dialogues to develop environmental and socio-economic cooperation among Wetland Cities; and (4) provides access to exchanges of resources among network members. These guidelines outline information on formal membership to the Wetland City Network.

Composition of the Wetland City Network

The Wetland City Network operates under a structure comprised of Wetland City Network Members (“Members”), the Wetland City Network Secretariat (“Secretariat”), and observers. Members refer to Wetland Cities that have formally joined the network; while, the Ramsar Regional Center – East Asia serves as the Secretariat of the network. Observers represent international, national and local government or non-government organizations that are formally recognized by the Members.

Wetland City Network membership process

Membership to the network by Wetland Cities is purely voluntary. With respect to this principle, Wetland Cities are obliged to submit to the Secretariat an official letter expressing their interest in joining the Wetland City Network as a Member. Upon receipt of the letter and acknowledgement by the Secretariat, Wetland Cities are automatically included in the official roster of Members.

Members may admit international, national and local government or non-government organizations to the network as observers. Potential observers are required to formally express their intent to be part of the network by registering with the Secretariat. To register, an official letter of intent and completed registration form must be submitted to the Secretariat at least six (6) months before each annual meeting of the Wetland City Network. Formal recognition as observer is granted by Members during annual meetings.

Validity, withdrawal and suspension of membership

Membership to the Wetland City Network is a continuing privilege of Wetland Cities and will remain valid unless a Member formally expresses its voluntary withdrawal through written notice. In the same light, membership of Wetland City Network Members that fail to renew their accreditation status will be automatically suspended.