



Partnership for Advancing the Transition to Hydrogen

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PATH: Partnership for Advancing the Transition to Hydrogen *The International Coalition of Hydrogen Associations*

Vision

PATH is a not-for-profit international coalition of hydrogen associations that seeks international cooperation to help advance the transition to hydrogen as a carbon-free energy carrier and a solution to environmental and energy issues.

Mission

PATH's mission is to help national hydrogen associations be effective industry organizers and enablers, with strong engagement of academic and other stakeholder interests, for the national interests of their countries, and for the benefit of worldwide industry collaboration.

Activities

PATH will help industry, academia and other national interests raise the international visibility of hydrogen as a solution to environmental and energy concerns, with benefits to national and local economies, through a specific set of activities supported by sponsorship funding:

- PATH can **help countries form hydrogen associations**, if they have none, by sharing the organizational practices of other associations. PATH helped establish a hydrogen association in Mexico by conducting a workshop, sponsored by APEC, and can help in Australia, New Zealand and other countries important to hydrogen equipment sellers. This would be a sponsored activity with funding from the country or other interested organizations.
- PATH will **provide international recognition to all PATH associations** for their engagement with worldwide hydrogen activities, enhancing their stature in their own countries. No funding is necessary
- PATH can create learning opportunities to **share best association management, governance and program practices** so that all associations may be most effective in achieving their national interests. This activity will be funded through sponsorship of the PATH website and PATH events like the WHEC Meeting of Association Executives.
- PATH can **help associations publish and communicate good information developed by other associations**, sharing information in areas such as communications and outreach, student education, and safety codes and standards. Funding for this activity would need to be principally through the sponsorship of the PATH website. Examples of shared information include the following:
 - Fact sheets
 - Public education products like the National Hydrogen Association (U.S.) H2 and You program and its developing Hydrogen Energy Story
 - National program summaries

- Journals and newsletters
- Models for engaging country political and industry leaders
- Legislation for implementing hydrogen policy
- PATH can **announce and maintain a calendar of events and project opportunities** in PATH countries for the use of members of the national associations, on its sponsored website, including:
 - Annual conferences
 - Topical forums
 - Procurement and project opportunities
- PATH can **create a speakers bureau with a listing of champions within each country** to assist associations in creating meeting agendas with speakers from other countries. Website sponsorship will need to support this activity.
- PATH can help members of associations connect to implement **student and professor exchanges**. PATH was the linkage that facilitated a student exchange from Argentina to Canada. This activity would be supported by companies and agencies that desire international student and professor collaboration in hydrogen.
- PATH can continue to conduct **periodic meetings of the association executives** at key international and national conferences like WHEC, Japan's Fuel Cell Expo and the National Hydrogen Association (U.S.) Conference and Expo. The purpose of these Executive Meetings will be to share information on topical issues of greatest interest to PATH associations. Industry sponsorship will be sought.
- PATH can expand its **database on projects, association programs and other data** on topics of greatest interest among PATH associations, enhancing the ability of associations and their members to make things happen within their own countries. This activity will be conducted principally through the PATH website and electronic communications, supported by website sponsors/advertisers.
- PATH can conduct **international information gathering and dissemination projects**, funded by foundations and multilateral government organizations that need hydrogen industry, academic and government information from around the world. The Sourcebook on Hydrogen, funded by APEC was a past example of this.
- PATH could **help raise funds and develop projects of multi-national interest** if such an opportunity arises with the funding to develop the project.

Membership

The national association of each country may apply to be a member of PATH, with only one association per country. It is the responsibility of that association to represent all hydrogen interests within their country. If a country does not have an association, the member may be an appropriate institute or government agency, although it is PATH's goal to have an industry-oriented association created when circumstances warrant. PATH associations are encouraged to communicate with and engage state/provincial and similar organizations within its country. Associations of national associations, like the European Hydrogen Association, are eligible for PATH membership but not eligible for election to the Executive Committee.

Organization and Governance

PATH will be governed by the General Assembly composed of a representative of each association. A Board of seven Directors elected by the General Assembly will conduct management oversight, conduct routine business, and make recommendations to the General Assembly for actions and votes of the General Assembly. A Chairman and

Vice Chairman of the Board, with two-year terms, will be elected by the Board and will be the visible, public leaders of PATH. Representatives of multi-country associations are not eligible for election to the Board of Directors. General Assembly and Board of Director business will be conducted as much as practical to allow those with a travel constraint to participate with the use of electronic, telephone or written communications, so that participating in PATH business does not require travel.

To encourage each national association to join PATH, dues have been indefinitely suspended. Funding of administrative and management support will be through sponsorship of key activities by international companies and other organizations that support PATH's mission. This funding is likely to happen by businesses if creating new and strengthening existing hydrogen associations, possibly associations they already support, are viewed as important by the companies, or if the specific event or activity is of interest to particular companies.

The Secretariat of PATH will continue to be provided by Technology Transition Corporation, a U.S.-based firm in Washington, DC through its Management and Technical Services Agreement with PATH, an agreement that can be modified or terminated annually. To ensure a non-U.S.-centric organization, in the next five years, election of the chair of PATH is encouraged to be from a country besides the U.S. PATH is "owned" by its associations and TTC is its contractor.

Related Organizations

- The **International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy** is an intergovernmental organization for coordinating programs and sharing information on national efforts among 16 countries and European Commission. PATH will propose an affiliate relationship with IPHE to expand the international reach of the associations by helping provide association-generated information to IPHE and to assist IPHE in engaging industry and academia at a worldwide level.
- The **International Association of Hydrogen Energy** is an organization to share scientific information among researchers around the world. PATH will discuss information sharing with IAHE.
- The **International Energy Agency – Hydrogen Implementing Agreement** is an important Europe-based organization to develop collaborative research and information exchange among its 17 members. PATH will discuss the potential for a mutually useful relationship with IEA-HIA to share information.