



Developing Our Membership

Response to Consultation

Introduction

In November 2009, iRAP published a Consultation Document entitled *A Family of RAP Nations in Every Region: Developing our Membership*. The Association was formed just five years ago in 2005 and iRAP programmes have quickly been adopted in every region of the world. The Association is making it possible for the first time - for the public, policymakers, finance ministries and development banks - to understand the scale of what affordable, high return safety engineering can do to save lives.

The Consultation Document was published in anticipation that the UN would approve a Decade of Action for Road Safety and iRAP should plan for what lay ahead. The UN did subsequently approve a Decade of Action and iRAP's mission has since been articulated as creating a *world free of high risk roads*.

The rapid growth in RAP programmes across the world is underpinned with deep partnerships achieved within countries and between countries. Quick transfer of know-how and the willingness of those in one country to help a neighbour are at the core of our ethos. The Consultation Document proposed building on the successful growth of RAP programmes in developed countries, such as EuroRAP in Europe, which had created a formal Membership structure in which every type of stakeholder could find a place.

The Major Proposals

iRAP is registered as a not-for-profit company in England. The major proposals in the Consultation Document were that, subject to the views of the Charity Commission (who regulate charities in England) and legal advice:

- iRAP should apply for charitable status
- that the focus of our future development during the Decade of Action should be to work through a family of regional associations on the lines already established in Europe
- that a membership scheme should be drawn up and that scheme should allow national memberships for countries where there was not yet a Regional Association in place
- that the proposed Membership Classes should be:
 - Regional Associations
 - Civil Society organisations
 - Authorities
 - Supra National Organisations
 - Experts

Response to the Consultation

The Consultation Document was announced to all stakeholders through the distribution of our newsletter WrapUp and made available in English and Spanish on www.irap.org. Individual Copies were sent to key stakeholders such as development banks. The document was presented to meetings of global stakeholders in London and to regional stakeholders at meetings in Asia Pacific and Latin America. The proposals for an application for charitable status were discussed at a meeting of the Multilateral Development Banks.

The proposals had been prepared to meet the known needs of various stakeholders and were universally welcomed. Few formal written views were received, as stakeholders were in practice both content with what was proposed and content to make their views and support known during stakeholder meetings. The main points of discussion and clarification sought were:

- EuroRAP, AusRAP and usRAP sought confirmation that the proposals would not impact their position as self-governing entities.
- A number of national stakeholders sought confirmation that membership would be available for civil society organisations such as autoclubs and from national authorities before a Regional Association was established.
- Groups of Members (eg ASEAN countries; Latin American countries) discussed the practicality at the right moment of forming a Regional Association under the proposals.
- Any Membership fees would be likely to act as a barrier to road authorities in low and middle income countries.
- The multi-lateral Banks welcomed the proposal to apply for charitable status not least to assure their commercial community that the iRAP system of safety rating was being managed for public benefit.

Decisions

After careful consideration of the responses, the Board as proposed in the Consultation Document sought technical advice from lawyers.

The Board agreed that, subject to successful fundraising, it would focus on developing its regions as the main focus for executing iRAP programmes during the Decade of Action. It was decided this process should take whatever time was needed for regional champions and a de facto Association to emerge out of common interest.

The main legal advice received was that recent changes to English charity law had been made to assure public benefit and any governance change that might result in dilution of Trustee responsibility for this should be avoided. The lawyers recommended that iRAP's constitution be amended to empower Trustees to establish an iRAP Membership scheme which did not carry company law rights. This was also likely to be more flexible in the face of future developments. In addition, Board members noted a number of public stakeholders and international organisations would find it constitutionally difficult to participate in a Membership scheme if it carried company law responsibilities.

In late 2010, the Board approved a revised constitution prepared by lawyers that in their opinion would fully meet the needs of the Charity Commission and made an application for charitable status. Following an examination of the forward plans of the Association, iRAP was notified of the award of Charitable Status on 7th February 2011.

With advice from lawyers, the Board approved in late 2010 that an iRAP Membership scheme should be rolled out under the power provided in the newly approved articles.

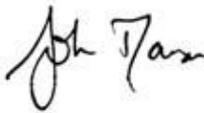
The Board also concluded that the introduction of an Associate Membership scheme would allow those who had yet to participate in the iRAP programme to register their support for iRAP aims and objectives.

The document *Regulations Establishing and Governing iRAP Members and iRAP Associate Members* has been placed on www.irap.org.

The Board directed that iRAP's Executive should ensure that the administrative costs of the iRAP Membership scheme should be proportionate and enable more efficient support for stakeholders as the RAP family grows.

The Board decided that the scheme should be rolled out such that there is opportunity for those stakeholders who wish to do so to make an application for iRAP Membership or iRAP Associate Membership prior to the UN Decade of Action for Road Safety beginning 11th May 2011.

Brenda King will act as iRAP Membership Scheme Secretary.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Dawson', is positioned above the typed name.

JOHN DAWSON
Chairman
18 February 2011