



CONSTITUTION of the World Materials Research Institute Forum

as revised by the 4th General Assembly, Shenyang, China, May 25, 2011

Establishment

The World Materials Research Institute Forum (WMRIF) is a non-profit organization comprising a coalition of independent public research institutes that are committed to the scientific and technological development of materials science (technology and innovation) around the world. WMRIF was established by NIMS in Tsukuba, Japan. The Secretariat of WMRIF is at the location of the President's institute. The WMRIF was launched in 2005 when a number of research directors of recognized scientific materials institutes around the world decided during two meetings held at NIMS, Tsukuba, Japan to:

- combine their efforts and participate in the global debate on materials science;
- stimulate the involvement of the international scientific research community and to promote contact between research and industry/society;
- found the World Materials Research Institute Forum.

Objectives

The WMRIF is an independent international association that was established to:

- represent the best interests of its members;
- advocate the positions of the world's materials scientists;
- provide support and services to its constituent members.

The goal of WMRIF is to establish a common voice for materials scientists from around the world.

Mission statement

The WMRIF is a platform for institutes that provides a common forum to:

- provide scientific advice on materials¹ science;
- stimulate worldwide involvement of active players from public research institutes in the design and implementation of materials science and technology activities;
- promote the collection and exchange of materials research and management data among institutions;
- promote the future training of excellent materials scientists and the creation of global institutions of distinction.

Activities

To achieve its mission of providing A Common Voice for Materials Sciences in the World, the WMRIF shall:

- provide expert insight on the importance of long-term materials research as a continuous source of innovation and both technological and market leadership;
- campaign to adapt funding provisions;
- campaign for frontline issues related to the organization and planning of research, including the development of research infrastructure and structured careers for young scientists;
- monitor and contribute to public policies in the material science fields and research programs at a global level through recommendations and consensus positions;
- work to improve public engagement and public understanding of materials science and contribute to the science and society debate, including its ethical aspects.

¹ "Materials" should have a wide definition: this in the framework of the modern multi-disciplinary principle. It should cover chemistry as well as materials-related physics, engineering and biosciences.

To achieve its mission related to materials research the WMRIF shall:

- develop mechanisms for the interchange of researchers among WMRIF institutes;
- execute research programs of international scope, interest and importance;
- develop ways to accommodate scientists in the international environment and to motivate international scientists employed in materials institutions;

To achieve its service mission, the WMRIF shall by means of electronic infrastructure:

- collect and disseminate information on research policies and programs at global, national and regional levels and assist its members where appropriate;
- promote communication with the media, policy-makers, public interest organizations and other stakeholders at a national and global level;
- support member organizations in their communication with policy makers;
- provide information and advice to international organizations such as the IAEA, IEA, OECD, UNESCO, ITER, VAMAS and to national and regional governmental bodies;
- build a visible profile for global materials research.

Agenda

The WMRIF agenda is set by its member research institutes. The long-term agenda of the WMRIF is to promote worldwide scientific and technological development in the field of materials science and technology and to achieve scientific excellence and a better world economy and welfare in a global society. The activities of the WMRIF will include issuing statements on world materials science policy subjects, participating in international materials research programs and making contact with industrial and economic actors, etc.

Membership

- Participation in the WMRIF is open to research institutes from all over the world that are active in the field of materials science.
- The criteria for membership are active participation in the WMRIF's activities, including human, infrastructural and financial resources.
- Members will profit from all the rights and benefits of WMRIF participation in research projects and voting on the decision-making processes, but must also comply with the implied duties.
- New admissions to the WMRIF must be nominated by at least two members of the General Assembly to the secretariat and be accepted by the General Assembly.
- Applicants will sign the WMRIF Founding declaration and send it to the WMRIF Secretariat. Upon approval by the WMRIF Presidential Board the General Assembly will be informed and the applicants will be guests of WMRIF. At the following General Assembly Meeting the applications for membership will be decided by the members of WMRIF.
- Exclusion of a member must be decided by a majority of the members during the General Assembly.
- Material research institutes nominated for membership receive observer's status for a limited period.

Organization, management and governance structures

The organizational, management and governance structure of the WMRIF has been designed to optimize integration at a supra-national level and in this manner the scientific and technological resources provided by each participating institute can be organized most efficiently. The organization chart is attached as Annex 1. The size, multidisciplinary character, scope and longevity of the WMRIF necessitate efficient management to identify potential bottlenecks and problems, to evaluate results, to eventually re-orient materials research programs and to promote possible partnership expansion. The management structure is kept at the simplest possible level to be compatible with the

complexity of the tasks to be executed and with the range of distinct expertise provided by the different research institutes. The structure of the WMRIF will be continuously adapted as growth takes place.

WMRIF - Decision-making and advisory bodies

A summary of a possible decision-making structure and relationships between the different boards, committees and tasks of the most important organs are:

- supervision by the General Assembly;
- direction by the presidential board of the Forum.

WMRIF affairs are conducted through the secretariat.

General Assembly

The General Assembly is composed of the directors, or their nominees, of all WMRIF institutions and has the overall responsibility for the success of the Forum, as its decision-making body. It generally meets every two years when the assembly of partners will discuss the innovation of the MSE R&D activities and be informed of strategic decisions, science and technology achievements and the current administrative, legal and financial status by the presidential board. The assembly will create and dissolve research working groups. General items for the General Assembly are:

- accepting new members and excluding current members;
- approving reports;
- ratifying changes to the constitution.

Presidential Board

The presidential board is responsible for the activities and affairs of the WMRIF and is the official representative of the WMRIF in its dealing with authorities and other organizations. The chairman of the presidential board (the president) shall call and chair meetings of the board and the executive committee. The presidential board is composed of a core of directors nominated by the General Assembly. The board elects its president and two vice presidents from among its members. Former Presidents of WMRIF with outstanding merits for WMRIF can be elected as Honorary President. The president has the right to nominate additional participants in the meetings of the presidential board. The period of office of the president and vice presidents is four years. The role of the presidential board can be summarized as follows:

- appointing the secretariat;
- formulating fundamental policies, proposals and general strategy of the WMRIF;
- controlling the scientific and technical progress (milestones and deliverables) and the administrative status;
- preparing strategic decisions, such as consortium modifications;
- appointing an independent auditor;
- developing all general management instruments and decision-making processes.

The presidential board shall meet at least once a year and remain in close contact with the secretariat and especially with its director.

Secretariat

The secretariat is organized by the president on the basis of their scientific, managerial and administrative capabilities and an awareness of international issues. The period of office of the secretariat is the same as that of the president. The secretariat shall:

- assist the General Assembly, the presidential board and the advisory board;
- implement the scientific decisions made by the General Assembly and presidential board;
- manage the joint program activity structure;
- propose the allocation of funds;

- prepare planning, monitoring and progress reporting;
- oversee all administrative aspects of running of the WMRIF;
- conduct the daily business and coordinate the activities of the WMRIF;
- keep a minute book of all transactions and minutes of all meetings;
- prepare and distribute an agenda for all meetings and prepare and distribute the minutes after meetings;
- prepare documents required by the presidential board;
- provide an annual report for the presidential board,
- have the authority to sign for purchases and administrative documents required for the day-to-day running of the WMRIF.

Procedure of replacing members with functions

If a member with functions can no longer act a substitute is recommended to the Presidential Board who will inform the members of the General Assembly and ask for their consent. The formal voting will be done at the following General Assembly meeting.

Financial Matters

Members must cover all their own expenses for WMRIF activities and members must contribute to the WMRIF in respect of human resources. The WMRIF shall accept donations subjected to approval by the presidential board, provided that the independence of the WMRIF is not compromised or directly affected thereby.

Meetings

Meetings with a proper agenda shall be convened by the secretariat, subject to the approval of the presidential board.

Cooperation with third parties

The presidential board may decide to form alliances with other organizations to promote the views of and advance the WMRIF's mission.

Language

The language of the Forum for all statutory, working and other communications is English.

Amendments to the Constitution

Alterations to the constitution must be endorsed by at least two-thirds of the General Assembly. Proposed amendments must be sent to the secretariat at least three months before a General Assembly.

Editorial changes to the document may be done by the secretariat.

Resignation from the WMRIF

An institution can resign simply by sending a letter to that effect to the Presidential Board.

Dissolution of the WMRIF

In the event of dissolution of the Forum, the secretariat shall submit a resolution to the General Assembly. Dissolution of the WMRIF shall require the approval of two-thirds of all member organizations represented at a General Assembly meeting.