

IAVCEI Executive Committee Proposal:

INVOLC: The International Network for VOLcanology Collaboration - A new network within IAVCEI

Background:

With the support of IAVCEI and IUGG, a new network of volcano scientists working in resource-limited contexts (primarily Lower-and-Middle-Income Countries - LMICs) has been initiated, in order to stimulate their enhanced participation and inclusion into the global volcanological community. Two key activities were organised in May-June 2019 that allowed formulation of the definition of the new network, its goals and activities.

First, an online survey was organised to seek input from the global volcanology community, particularly those based in LMICs, to gauge their experiences and challenges working in their context. We asked about experiences related to financing research, attending scientific meetings, publishing research, training opportunities, international collaborations, etc.

Second, a workshop *“Fostering developed-developing country partnerships for the advancement of global volcano science”* was held at the University of the West Indies St. Augustine Campus, Trinidad & Tobago. In total 25 participants from 20 different countries, primarily LMICs, came together to discuss challenges to undertake volcanology in a resource-limited context, as well as mechanisms to advance volcanology and inclusion of all volcano scientists into the international community. The discussions and outcomes of this activity are outlined in the Workshop Report - *Fostering Developing-Developed Country Partnerships for the Advancement of Global Volcano Science*. This proposal is a result of the recommendations from the workshop combined with feedback from the survey.

Network Name and Aim:

The proposed **name** for this network is the *International Network for VOLcanology Collaboration (INVOLC)*, with the overall **aim** of: *“Fostering Cross-Country Partnerships to Overcome Challenges in Resource-Constrained Settings for the Advancement of Global Volcanology”*. This definition deliberately includes partnerships between *any* nations and reflects the specific ambition to foster inter-regional partnerships between scientists working in resource-constrained contexts.

It is clearly understood that INVOLC’s mission should not conflict with that of existing regional networks, but rather function as a liaison body between these networks and facilitate the initiation of new regional networks where these are currently lacking, and where such new regional networks are deemed beneficial.

Network Goals:

1) **ADVOCATE** for inclusion of volcano scientists working in resource-constrained contexts into the international community;

- 2) **DEVELOP** best-practice guidelines and engagement protocols for international collaboration;
- 3) **IDENTIFY and ADDRESS** knowledge gaps and needs;
- 4) **COLLECT and DISSEMINATE** information on available resources (financial, educational, infrastructural, etc.);
- 5) **FACILITATE and PROMOTE** the exchange and sharing of knowledge and resources between countries; and
- 6) **IDENTIFY and HELP OBTAINING** funding resources facilitating the above-mentioned goals.

Network Structure:

Leadership

INVOLC will be steered by a **governing board of nine members**, one of who will serve as a chair. Six of the board members will represent each of the following geographical regions: 1) Caribbean; 2) Mexico – Central America; 3) South America; 4) Africa – Middle East; 5) SE Asia (Indonesia – Philippines); 6) SW Pacific Islands. Three additional board members are to be selected from any country. Another three advisory members will be invited from international organisations with a mission to promote the development of volcano science and/or risk mitigation in LMICs, and who have strong existing partnerships with several of these countries.

Region	Representative / Facilitator	Affiliation
Caribbean	<i>Victoria Miller (facilitator)</i>	Montserrat Volcano Observatory (UWI-SRC)
Mexico – Central America (ALVO)	Raúl Salguero	INSIVUMEH, Guatemala
South America (ALVO)	José Luis Palma	University of Concepción, Chile
Africa – Middle East	Gezahegne Yirgu	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
SE Asia (ACV – Indonesia / Philippines)	Supriyati Andreastuti	CVGHM, Indonesia
SW Pacific (MVN+)	<i>Esline Garaebiti Bule (facilitator)</i>	VMGD, Vanuatu
Additional member 1	<i>Victoria Miller (past chair)</i>	Montserrat Volcano Observatory (UWI-SRC)
Additional member 2	Karen Fontijn	Université Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium
Additional member 3	<i>TBC</i>	

Table 1: INVOLC governing board structure and transitional board regional representatives. The remaining transitional board members will be sought within the first six months after INVOLC's official inauguration (July 2019).

Method and Frequency for Selection of Leadership

The transitional board will sit for a period of two years following the official inauguration within IAVCEI. Following this the frequency of selection of working group will be every four years in the period immediately prior to the IAVCEI Scientific Assembly. Leadership selection will be by a process of online survey, or vote to ensure maximum participation by the community. During the Scientific Assembly the outgoing and incoming teams will initiate the handover process, with continuity provided by the second four-year term of the outgoing chair as an additional member.

Working Groups and Longer Term Network Activities

The governing board will oversee the functioning of thematic **Working Groups**: 1) Current Status; 2) Communication and Engagement; 3) Training; 4) Finance.

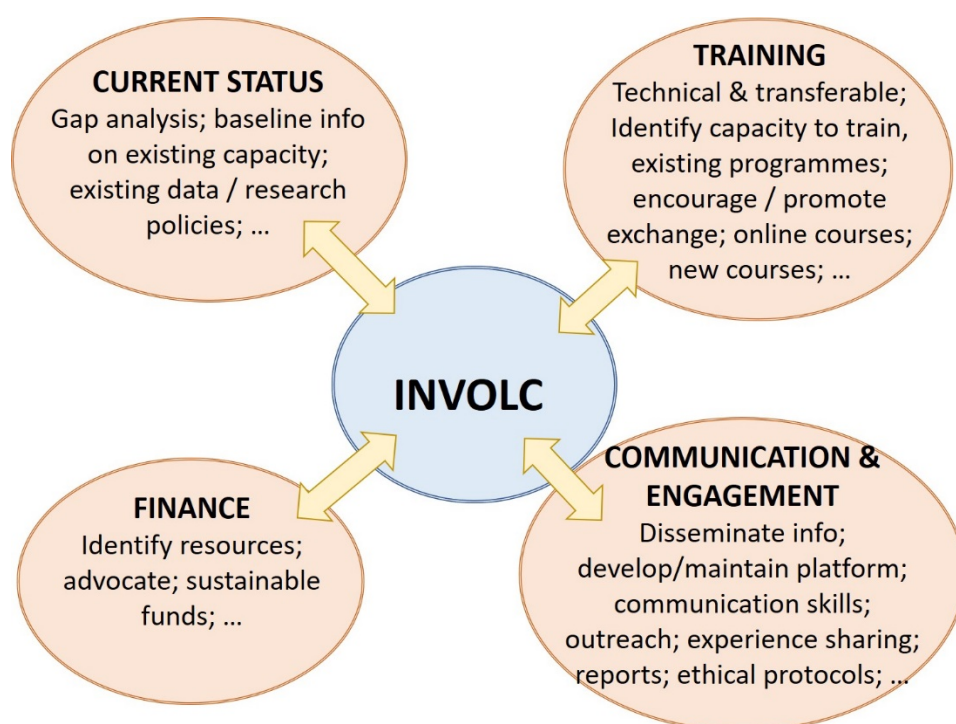


Figure 1: Proposed Thematic Working Groups Within INVOLC and their key contributions. For a more detailed listing of activities under each Working Group, refer to the Workshop Report - Fostering Developing-Developed Country Partnerships for the Advancement of Global Volcano Science.

Network Membership

INVOLC membership will be open to anyone who perceives themselves as working in a resource-constrained context that imposes challenges towards integration into the international volcanology community, and regardless of employment status or affiliation mandate, i.e. inclusive of both academia and government institutions. Because INVOLC is suggested to be a network within IAVCEI, this may cause conflict related to IAVCEI membership. For this reason, INVOLC will specifically seek to promote the inclusion of

volcanologists from LMICs into the IAVCEI framework by 1) communicating the benefits of IAVCEI membership to network members; and 2) providing recommendations to IAVCEI on how to make IAVCEI membership more attractive, e.g. through advocating for fee-waivers for membership.

Prioritised Initial Activities:

- Draft report to be sent to workshop participants by 21st June 2019; feedback requested by 5th July 2019; report sent to IAVCEI by 12th July 2019
- Presentation of proposed INVOLC structure and functioning to IAVCEI Executive Committee during IUGG General Assembly, 15th July 2019 (TBC)
- Provide a draft of engagement protocols to IAVCEI Executive Committee and request feedback, July – September 2019
- Promotion of workshop outcomes via IAVCEI Newsletter, IAVCEI website, conference meetings etc. by 15th August 2019
- Set up of communication platform – e.g. IAVCEI website, VHub, IAVCEI Newsletter, VolcanoList, Twitter account, by 15th October 2019
- Specific regions (incl. Africa / Middle East, and possibly SW Pacific) to apply for UNESCO IGCP funding to launch regional volcanology related activities and set up a regional volcano network, by 15th October 2019
- Wider call for INVOLC members – after inauguration and initial tasks are complete
- Population of working groups (ongoing – with initial members for each working group by November 2019)
- Finalisation of transitional board composition within 6 months of IAVCEI inauguration (January 2020)

During the initial transition period of two years, priority will be given to working group “Current Status”, with a focus on benchmarking the existing status of volcanology in each relevant country. In addition, working group “Communication and Engagement” will work on establishing an efficient communication channel to enable recruitment of INVOLC members.

A second major task for Working Group “Communication and Engagement” is the development of best-practice guidelines for international collaboration. A draft of such guidelines will be presented to IAVCEI and, if received positively, will be further developed into a more detailed document for future endorsement and promotion by IAVCEI.

Proposed IAVCEI Support:

Proposed ways that IAVCEI can support the network during the start-up period could include:

1. Development of a short (1-2 page) document outlining the current IAVCEI activities including those undertaken through commissions, for those that are unfamiliar with the work being undertaken e.g. those that attend meetings infrequently/new members. Ideally this would include a brief summary of the main benefits of membership to promote increased membership in LMICs (a shorter more tailored version of website).

2. Provide feedback on the draft engagement protocols produced during the workshop with a view to developing a more detailed document for endorsement and promotion by IAVCEI
3. Promotion of the network via IAVCEI website and newsletter
4. Support for an online communication platform for the network e.g. IAVCEI website
5. Financial support for initial activities e.g. networking events / workshops
6. Support to negotiate with Bulletin of Volcanology (or other journals where more applicable e.g. Journal of Applied Volcanology) for i) reduced publication fees for scientists in developing countries (tiered to include low & upper middle income countries, not just low income) and fee waivers to include open-access, ii) mandatory data citation for publications (similar to author consent, observatories/data owners would need to give consent), iii) development of short-format papers to promote publications in data-sparse regions (refer to workshop report for more details)
7. IAVCEI membership fee waiver, for scientists in developing countries
8. Facilitating transparency for the distribution of IAVCEI conference travel grant allocations to ensure fair distribution – e.g. proportional by region
9. Travel grants for conferences, not limited to students / ECRs, to ensure that the senior people in LMICs, who are more likely in charge of managing volcanic crises etc., can also participate
10. Facilitate collaboration between institutions, for instance a focus on sharing laboratory and other data collection facilities