

DOWAS NEWS

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and Establishment of the Young Researchers' Group

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Deep Ocean Water Applications Society

Development of the Student Membership System and
Establishment of the Young Researchers' Group

DOWAS Secretary General IMADA Chiaki

Beginning in fiscal year 2025, the Society has undertaken revisions to its Statutes and established new bylaws in order to clarify the student membership system and create an environment that is more accessible to students and early-career researchers. In addition, the Society has newly established the “Young Researchers’ Group.”

Research activities can often be solitary in nature. Encounters and connections among researchers, however, serve as important sources of support throughout a long research career. Cross-disciplinary interactions can provide new perspectives, and sharing information with peers who face similar challenges can lead to meaningful progress in one’s research. The Society believes that providing opportunities for such encounters and dialogue—especially from the early stages of a researcher’s career—plays a crucial role in nurturing future generations of researchers and in advancing scholarship.

In recent years, many academic societies have seen the emergence of “young researchers’ groups” in which younger members take the lead in organizing research meetings and study sessions. In line with this trend, our Society also recognizes the importance of creating mechanisms that allow younger researchers to engage proactively with the Society and to build their own spaces for academic interaction and learning. The newly established systems and the creation of the Young Researchers’ Group represent efforts to cultivate the next generation of leaders and to promote a more open and inclusive Society.

1. Clarification of the Student Membership System and Revision of Membership Fees

Although student members have previously existed in practice, their definition had not been clearly set forth in the Statutes. Through the recent revision, student members

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are now explicitly defined as “individuals enrolled in an educational institution who hold a valid certificate of enrollment or student ID” (Article 4).

Along with this clarification, the annual membership fee for student members has been revised. Previously, the fee was informally set at half the individual membership fee (2,500 yen). Under the revised Statutes, the annual fee is now clearly stipulated as 1,000 yen (Article 8). This revision aims to reduce the financial burden on students and encourage their participation in Society activities.

2. Establishment of Bylaws on Student Participation Fees for the Information Exchange Meeting

The Information Exchange Meeting held during the Annual Conference serves as a valuable opportunity for student members to interact with others. To promote easier participation, a new bylaw has been established stating that, in principle, the participation fee for student members shall be 1,000 yen.

3. Establishment of the Young Researchers' Group

To further support the development of the next generation and expand academic networking opportunities among members, the Society has established the “Young Researchers' Group.” At the preparatory meeting held on April 3, 2025, Board Member Ken Yasunaga was appointed as the inaugural coordinator. Moving forward, the Group will gather participating members and facilitate independently organized activities led primarily by younger researchers, along with opportunities for interaction within and outside the Society.

The Society aspires to provide an open and welcoming environment where students and early-career researchers can participate freely and deepen both their learning and connections. We hope that these initiatives will contribute to fostering future researchers and revitalizing the Society as a whole.

We sincerely appreciate the continued understanding and support of all our members.

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Enacted January 17, 1997
Partially amended April 24, 1998
Partially amended April 21, 2000
Partially amended April 1, 2006
Partially amended May 17, 2006
Partially amended May 23, 2008
Partially amended May 29, 2009
Partially amended May 28, 2010
Partially amended May 21, 2013
Partially amended May 23, 2014
Partially amended May 27, 2016
Partially amended May 24, 2018
Partially amended May 24, 2021
Partially amended May 21, 2025

Article 1 (Purpose)

The purpose of this Society is to promote research on the utilization of deep ocean water, disseminate and evaluate research outcomes, facilitate the exchange of information, and encourage interaction among members.

Article 2 (Name)

The name of this organization shall be the Deep Ocean Water Applications Society (hereinafter “the Society”).

Its office shall be located at the address of the Secretariat.

Article 3 (Activities)

To achieve the objectives stated in Article 1, the Society shall conduct the following activities:

- (1) Publication of a newsletter.
- (2) Organization of conferences.

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- (3) Publication of the Society's journal.
- (4) Other activities necessary to accomplish the Society's objectives.

Article 4 (Membership Categories)

The Society shall consist of five categories of members: Individual Members, Student Members, Honorary Members, Institutional Members, and Supporting Members.

- (1) Individual Members: Individuals who have an interest in the purposes and activities of the Society and who have joined it.
- (2) Honorary Members: Individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the Society's activities and who are recommended and approved at the General Assembly.
- (3) Institutional Members: Organizations or corporations that have an interest in the purposes and activities of the Society and that have joined it. Each Institutional Member shall designate a representative.
- (4) Supporting Members: Individuals, organizations, or corporations who agree with the Society's purposes and activities and support them through membership.
- (5) Student Members: Individuals enrolled in a university, graduate school, or equivalent educational institution, holding a valid certificate of enrollment or student ID.

Article 5 (Member Rights)

- (1) Members are entitled to participate in the activities of the Society. However, Supporting Members shall not have voting rights at the General Assembly nor the right to vote in the election of Directors.
- (2) Members shall receive the publications issued by the Society.
- (3) Student Members shall not have voting rights at the General Assembly.
- (4) Individuals affiliated with Institutional Members (e.g., staff, researchers, or students belonging to companies, institutions, research institutions, universities or equivalent educational institutions) may participate in the Society's various activities such as conferences, award programs, the Young Researchers' Group, and Information Exchange Meetings.

Article 6 (Admission)

Individuals or organizations wishing to become members shall submit an application form to the President and obtain approval from the Board of Directors.

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Article 7 (Withdrawal and Expulsion)

A member wishing to withdraw must submit a written notice of withdrawal.

2. A member who is in arrears for two years or more may be expelled upon deliberation by the Board of Directors.

Article 8 (Membership Fees)

Members shall pay the following annual fees:

- (1) Individual Members — 5,000 yen per year.
- (2) Student Members — 1,000 yen per year.
- (3) Institutional Members — 50,000 yen per year.
- (4) Supporting Members — 50,000 yen per unit per year (minimum 1 unit).
- (5) Honorary Members — exempt from dues.

2. Membership fees must be paid within the fiscal year.

3. If unavoidable circumstances prevent payment within the prescribed period, the member shall promptly notify the Secretariat. Upon approval by the Board of Directors, the payment deadline may be extended until the issue is resolved, during which the provision of Article 7 (2) shall not apply.

Article 9 (Officers)

The Society shall have the following officers:

- (1) One President.
- (2) Several Vice Presidents.
- (3) One Accounting Auditor.
- (4) Between 10 and 15 Directors.

Article 10 (Election of Officers)

The election of officers shall be conducted in accordance with the following provisions.

- (1) Directors shall be elected from among Individual and Institutional Members, numbering between 10 and 15.
- (2) The election of Directors shall be by secret ballot allowing multiple names to be written on a single ballot; each Institutional Member shall have one vote, equivalent to that of one Individual Member.
- (3) The President shall be elected by mutual vote among the Directors.

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- (4) The Vice Presidents shall be appointed by the President from among the Directors.
- (5) The President may appoint several additional Directors within the prescribed limit.
- (6) The Accounting Auditor shall be elected by mutual vote among the Directors.
- (7) If a Director becomes unable to fulfill his/her duties, the Board of Directors may recommend a replacement, subject to approval by the General Assembly.

Article 11 (Term of Office)

The term of office for all officers shall be two years, and reappointment shall not be precluded.

Article 12 (Duties of Officers)

The duties of Officers are as follows:

- (1) The President shall supervise all affairs of the Society and represent it.
- (2) The Vice Presidents shall assist the President and, in the President's absence, act on his/her behalf.
- (3) The Accounting Auditor shall audit the Society's accounts and report to the General Assembly.
- (4) The Directors shall constitute the Board of Directors, which deliberates and resolves matters concerning the management of the Society.

Article 13 (Secretariat)

The Society shall maintain a Secretariat.

Article 14 (General Assembly)

The General Assembly shall consist of a Regular General Assembly and an Extraordinary General Assembly and shall be deemed valid when attended (including proxy attendance) by at least one-fifth of the total number of Individual and Institutional Members, counting each Institutional Member as equivalent to one Individual Member.

2. The Regular General Assembly shall be convened once annually by the President.
3. An Extraordinary General Assembly shall be convened by the President upon request of at least one-third of the Individual and Institutional Members, or when deemed necessary by the President. Each Institutional Member shall count

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as one Individual Member.

4. The following matters must be approved by the Regular General Assembly:
 - (1) The activity report and financial statement for the preceding fiscal year.
 - (2) The activity plan and budget proposal for the current fiscal year.
 - (3) Other matters deemed necessary by the Board of Directors.
5. Resolutions of the General Assembly shall be made in accordance with the following provisions:
 - (1) By a majority vote of attending members; in case of a tie, the chair shall decide.
 - (2) Voting rights shall be held by Individual and Institutional Members.
 - (3) Each Individual Member has one vote; each Institutional Member has one vote, equivalent to one Individual Member.

Article 15 (Board of Directors)

A quorum of the Board of Directors shall consist of a majority of the Directors present.

2. The Board shall deliberate and decide on matters concerning the operation of the Society.
3. The Board shall consist of the President, Vice Presidents, the Accounting Auditor, and Directors.
4. The Board shall be convened and chaired by the President.

Article 16 (Fiscal Year)

The fiscal year of the Society shall begin on April 1 and end on March 31 of the following year.

Article 17 (Accounting)

The assets of the Society shall consist of the following items.

- (1) Membership fees.
 - (2) Donations.
 - (3) Other income.
2. The annual budget shall be prepared by the President prior to the start of each fiscal year, approved by the Board of Directors, and adopted by resolution of the General Assembly.

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3. The financial statement shall be prepared promptly after the close of each fiscal year by the President, accompanied by the Accounting Auditor's report, and approved by the General Assembly.

Article 18 (Society Award)

Individuals or organizations that have made significant contributions to the promotion of deep ocean water utilization research or other activities of the Society shall, following deliberation and approval by the Board of Directors, be awarded the Deep Ocean Water Applications Society Award.

2. A Selection Committee for the Award shall be established to select the recipients.

Article 19 (Amendment of the Statutes)

Any amendment to these Statutes must first be proposed to the Board of Directors and subsequently approved by a majority of the attending members (including proxies) at the General Assembly.

Supplementary Provisions

1. The Society is established on January 17, 1997.
2. The initial officers of the Society, notwithstanding the provisions of Article 10, shall be appointed by the founding committee members, and their term of office shall be from the date of establishment to the day of the first Regular General Assembly.
3. The initial activity plan and budget for the founding year shall, notwithstanding Article 14, be determined at the founding General Assembly.
4. The first fiscal year of the Society shall, notwithstanding Article 16, extend from the date of establishment to March 31, 1998.
5. The Secretariat is located at Kochi University, Monobe-otsu 200, Nankoku City, Kochi Prefecture, and is discontinued as of the 2010 Regular General Assembly.
6. From FY 2010, the Secretariat is located at Osaka Prefecture University, 1-1 Gakuen-cho, Naka-ku, Sakai City, Osaka Prefecture, and is discontinued as of

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the 2014 Regular General Assembly.

7. From FY 2014, the Secretariat is located at Tokyo University of Marine Science and Technology, 4-5-7 Konan, Minato-ku, Tokyo, and is discontinued as of the 2016 Regular General Assembly.
8. From FY 2016, the Secretariat has been located at Saga University, 1 Honjo-machi, Saga City, Saga Prefecture.

Note: The Bylaws on participation fees for Information Exchange Meetings (enacted May 21, 2025) are published separately as a PDF document.

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