



World Organization of Volcano Observatories (WOVO) - Charter

WOVO is an IAVCEI network of - and for - Volcano Observatories worldwide, *sensu latu*. Any institution engaged in volcano monitoring (hereafter, an 'observatory'), especially those with a formal mandate for providing scientific advice to the authorities and/or warning the public about hazardous volcanic activity, can become a member. WOVO meetings (both virtual and in-person) are open to non-members. Leadership of member observatories are recommended to be IAVCEI members (at individual level) in order to have full access to IAVCEI information. Each member observatory should establish an active contact person and set up a generic email address to facilitate contacts as staff turns over.

Goals

Within the mandate of IAVCEI, WOVO aims to:

1) **Connect** members

- a. Stimulate communication, cooperation, and training among observatories, as well as connection of observatories with other institutions, e.g. universities, research institutes, international organisations.
- b. Develop and maintain volcano monitoring reference materials, including a directory of members, and existing monitoring networks (the latter, coordinated closely with GVMID: <https://wovodat.org/gvmid/home.php>).
- c. Organize meetings to coincide with IAVCEI Scientific Assemblies, General Assemblies and Cities on Volcanoes conferences and additional meetings to focus on a specific theme, describe progress on WOVO initiatives, and/or allow participants to discuss recent experiences or eruption responses.

2) **Support** members

- a. Support good practices for observatory activities and operations including dissemination of software, templates, and reporting standards.
- b. Upon request, make the best effort to help member observatories to find temporary scientific reinforcement, e.g. equipment, staff, computational capacities.

3) **Advocate** for members

- a. Facilitate implementation of any formal requirements or agreed standards promoted by key international stakeholders (e.g., World Meteorological Organization (WMO), International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO),

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and other United Nations (UN) bodies).

- b. Be the reference body for observatories when discussing/establishing protocols and funding policies with international organisations such as World Meteorological Office (WMO), ICAO and the UN.
- c. Refer governments, international organisations, and others seeking assistance in volcano monitoring to the appropriate member.

WOVO programmes

WOVO has three principal programmes to carry out its goals:

- **Volcano Observatory Best Practices (VOBP)** organizes periodic international workshops that bring together staff from the world's observatories to share experiences and recommend practices to optimize operations and response to eruptions and unrest. Currently, these meetings are funded and overseen by scientists at INGV, and the USGS/USAID through its Volcano Disaster Assistance Program (VDAP). Additional funding and partners will be welcomed.
- **WOVOdat** is a comprehensive global database on volcanic unrest aimed at understanding pre-eruptive processes and improving eruption forecasts. WOVOdat is currently hosted, funded, and managed by scientists at the Earth Observatory of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University. It strives to collect, archive and serve data to all WOVO participants.
- **Cross-disciplinary initiatives such as the Volcanic Ash and Aviation Hazards (VAAH), which** is a program that represents and advocates for observatories within the aviation and meteorological communities. It is currently funded and managed autonomously by scientists from individual observatories with coordination from the Iceland Meteorological Office (IMO) and strong connection with the WMO and the VAACs. This can be opened to other hazards such as marine warnings, tsunami, rainfall input to lahar alerts, etc.

WOVO Executive Leadership Team

WOVO will be led by an **Executive Leadership Team (ELT)**, consisting of

- a chair
- the leads from the WOVO programmes
- a secretariat
- up to four at-large members representing observatories from around the world

The **WOVO Secretariat** consists of one or more IAVCEI councilors. It carries out many of the logistical and organizational goals of WOVO that are outlined under Goals (above), and that would not normally fall within the traditional roles of the three programmes. For example, the secretariat receives and coordinates requests for assistance from WOVO members, prepares and shares documents, organizes meetings, promotes online and other communications between member observatories, writes minutes, keeps a record of activities and initiatives by the programmes, and maintains the updated directory of observatories.

The **term-length of the ELT** is four years, aligned with that of the IAVCEI Executive Committee. The tentative intent is for the ELT to be a mix of elected (e.g., chair, secretariat) and nominated members (e.g., the current core program leads - based on the number and nature of the core WOVO programmes per term), and additional regional representatives to ensure a suitable overall geographical representation in the ELT.

The ELT will aim at meeting in person at least once a year, complemented by quarterly online meetings.

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