

CONSTITUTION

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EPIDEMIOLOGY, SOUTH ASIA REGIONAL CHAPTER

Mission

The South Asia Regional Chapter of the International Society for Environmental Epidemiology (ISEE) is a territorial chapter with a minimum of fifteen members, as defined in the bylaws of the ISEE. As such, its purpose is to promote the goals and purposes of the Society with specific attention focused on local issues.

The ISEE provides a forum for the discussion of problems unique to the study of health and the environment. With membership open to environmental epidemiologists and other scientists worldwide, ISEE provides a variety of forums for discussions, critical reviews, collaborations and education on issues of environmental exposures and their human health effects. These include annual meetings, newsletters, workshops and liaisons with academic, governmental, inter-governmental, non-profit and business institutions.

Philosophy

As with the larger body of the ISEE, the South Asian Regional Chapter endeavors to foster the study of health and the environment, and encourages and supports the following:

- Epidemiological studies on the health effects of environmental exposures relevant to the South Asian Region
- Communication among epidemiologists, toxicologists, exposure analysts, and other environmental scientists and moral philosophers worldwide
- Innovative approaches to substantive or methodological problems and applications of environmental epidemiology
- The use of environmental epidemiology to inform public policy
- Involvement of scientists from developing countries in ISEE activities, reduced dues for members from developing countries and establishment of regional ISEE chapters throughout the developing world.

Definition of 'South Asia'

'South Asia' as defined here includes Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. The South Asian chapter holds a policy of inclusion of all Asian affiliates, however, and all neighboring countries would be most welcome to join. The distinction between South Asian and Asia as a whole has been drawn solely for logistical purposes (given that this region within Asia is home to over one billion people). The South Asian chapter welcomes all collaboration with members from all other Asian countries.

Membership

All ISEE members residing within or working extensively within the South Asian Region, as defined above, are automatically eligible to join the regional chapter. As with the

ISEE, any person with an interest and experience in Environmental Epidemiologic research shall be eligible for membership. The society encourages membership not only from epidemiology but also from such disciplines as exposure assessment and science, toxicology, biochemistry, and biostatistics among others.

Members who are residing within the region will be eligible for the subsidized rate for developing country scientists (i.e. ISEE members working extensively within the region but residing in a more developed country must pay the full registration amount). In certain situations where arrangements have been with ISEE in advance, membership fees may be paid in local currency to specified individuals who will then hold responsibility for transferring the money to ISEE.

Objectives

The regional chapter shall endeavor to fulfill several responsibilities, including:

1. Formation of an online / e-mail list serve for new and potential members
2. Maintenance of a webpage on activities of the South Asian Chapter and its members, to be updated every six months at a minimum.
3. Organization of a sub-workshop and/or side-meeting devoted to issues relevant to the South Asian region at each ISEE conference
4. Collaboration with the larger body of ISEE as well as other regional chapters to promote capacity building within and beyond the South Asian region
5. Organization of a regional meeting of the ISEE in the spring (so as not to conflict with the larger annual conference of the ISEE). This is anticipated to take place at least every two years, starting approximately one year after the official formation of the chapter.

Administration

Executive Council

The executive council members of the regional chapter shall be members of the regional chapter, elected individually by majority vote of the members voting by mail ballot unless the executive council decides otherwise, in which case the council members shall be elected by majority of those present at the annual meeting. (Note: we will determine positions once the chapter has been formed).

Communication

The regional chapter will maintain communication primarily via e-mail, discussion listserv, electronic newsletter, telephone conference calls, and the webpage. In addition, in-person meetings will also be held by members whenever possible, with locations and times to be approved in advance by the executive council.