

Economic Commission for Europe
Committee on Sustainable Energy
Expert Group on Resource Management
Twelfth session

Geneva and online, 26-30 April 2021

Item 11 of the provisional agenda

Communications, promotion and outreach

Resource Management Young Member Group Proposal

Prepared by the

Expert Group on Resource Management (EGRM) Communications Working Group

Group Title: Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG)

A subgroup of EGRM

Context:

With increasing greenhouse gas emissions leading to climate change, the resource industry, especially the fossil fuel industry, faces unprecedented challenges. The young generation is starting to lose interest in working in the resource sector, in particular some specific resource industries. EGRM and its Bureau have received many requests and expressions of interest from various sectors or groups worldwide on how to educate the younger generation on sustainable development and management of resources, communicate with young members and get them involved earlier, and guide them to use the United Nations Framework Classification for Resources (UNFC) and the United Nations Resource Management System (UNRMS) as tools for future sustainable resource development. All these requests demonstrate significant interest from a range of sectors/industries and the urgent need to involve participation of young students and professionals, as well as the need for education and communication with young member communities.

Objective:

The Resource Management Young Member Group (RMYMG), a subgroup of EGRM, is established to utilize the perspectives and skills of young professionals to develop and apply UNFC and UNRMS (e.g. each EGRM working group will have a young member with a one- to two-year term), and to provide a platform to educate young students and professionals on the importance of sustainable resource management and how to apply UNFC and UNRMS to develop energy and mineral resource endowments to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),

Potential Influenced Size of Resource Management Young Member Community:

The potential size of the Resource Management Young Member Community is enormous. The scope of the group scope includes young members from the range of resource industries or sectors: oil and gas, renewable energy, nuclear energy, minerals, injection projects, groundwater, and anthropogenic resources. The estimated size of the potential network is **more than 100,000 young members worldwide**. The following is information on the number of young members from various global professional societies. The Society of Petroleum Engineers (SPE) has 23,722 active members age 35 and under and has 201 SPE Sections and 401 student chapters around the world¹.

The American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) has over 8,000 student members². The Society of Exploration Geophysicists (SEG) has 1,800 student members³. The International Hydropower Association, International Solar Energy Society, International Geothermal Association, World Wind Energy Association, and World Bioenergy Association all indicate they have young professional and student members, but the number of such members is not available in the public domain.

The influential size of the young member community in the resource industry is vast. Establishing a young member group for communication within the young community will profoundly impact future generations and future resource development.

RMYMG has contacted about **eight universities and two local sections** from North America and Europe. All of them show great interest in establishing university student chapters and local young professional sections, including Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Imperial College London, Toronto University, University of Geneva, University of Texas at Austin, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, University of Houston, University of Mining and Geology St. Ivan Rilski, Young Professional London Section and Young Professional Houston Section.

Functions:

The RMYMG facilitates professional and educational development through networking events, technical discussions and product demonstrations, lectures, project site visits, community outreach, and mentoring opportunities. It also builds a strong relationship and connection with international and local young member committees of other societies, such as the SPE Young Member Committee.

Stakeholders:

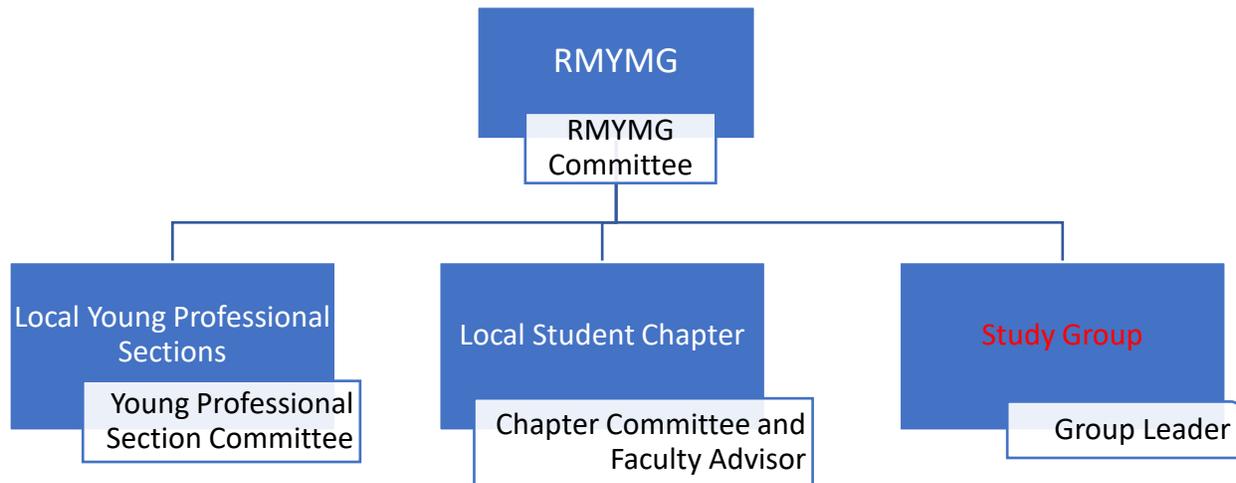
Major stakeholders will include the United Nations, governments, industry, universities, financial institutions, professional societies, etc.

Organization structure:

RMYMG, which is a subgroup of the Expert Group on Resource Management, will be organized as per the structure in the figure provided below. The RMYMG will be overseen by a Committee that reports to and provides an update on its activities at least annually to the EGRM Communications Working Group and to the EGRM at its annual meeting. EGRM will approve the annual report and future work plan of RMYMG. RMYMG will be composed of many local young professional sections and student chapters. Each young professional section or student chapter will have a local committee and report directly to the RMYMG Committee. The qualification for establishing a section or student chapter is 10+ active members. In addition to the local section or student chapter, individual or small study groups are encouraged. One or more experienced EGRM members could be assigned by the Communications Working Group as mentors of the local chapters or study groups. Each EGRM Working Group will have an RMYMG member for a period of one to two years to bring their skills and perspectives to help the Working Group develop UNFC and UNRMS and for the young professional to learn in depth how EGRM and the Working Group functions and how UNFC and UNRMS can be applied in practice. Each local section/chapter is required to submit an annual report to the RMYMG Committee.

Challenges and UN Support needed:

Educational or promotional communication material for the young member: educational and/or promotional material is essential for establishing a new member group or a new local group. RMYMG will need training materials developed for workshops based on discussions within the EGRM Communications Working Group. Such materials are not yet available as they would need to be tailored for young members. Appropriate educational and promotional materials targeted for young members on the objective and mission of EGRM, UNFC, UNRMS, sustainable resource management, etc., are essential. Who and how these materials will be prepared and translated into the needed languages needs to be resolved.



Financial support: funding may be a constraint for establishing a new young member group. It is understood that financial support from the UN is currently not an option, therefore, the young member group would need to be run in a low-cost and decentralized format and/or seek sponsorship. The RMYMG Committee as the central point, will provide general guidelines to local sessions or chapters. Local student chapters and local young professional sections will be responsible for their financial costs related to organizing activities. It is also understood that all universities will offer a fair amount of funding for student club activities and initiatives. They may also raise money and obtain financial sponsors from local companies or organizations. In addition, they will work with other professional societies' local sessions or student chapters with global resources and support to organize events.

Communication tools, coordination, and material support: Although the UN may not be able to provide much or any financial support, a communications tool is needed (i.e., website, zoom, etc.), coordination support from UN staff to communicate with EGRM, the Bureau or other EGRM subgroups to set up mentoring and lecture programmes at global, regional and local level, education/communication materials, etc.

References:

¹https://www.spe.org/about/docs/SPE%202018%20Year-End%20Membership%20Summary_02.20.19.pdf

² <https://www.aapg.org/about/aapg/overview>

³ <https://seg.org/Portals/0/SEG/About%20SEG/Annual%20Reports/2019%20Annual%20Report.pdf>
