



## **IMRD Association**

### **Charter**

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## **Introduction**

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Studying the International Master in Rural Development (IMRD) exposes the students to a multicultural and interdisciplinary environment. The contact with many interesting people from all over the world helps broadening their view on rural development issues and concepts of the world in a whole.

The course promotes intercultural understanding and the generation and transfer of unique knowledge which are powerful assets and worthwhile to maintain in the future to support international development.

IMRD Association is born as a common idea from the IMRD students of the year 2005-2007, derived from the identification of needs for present and future professional and personal action, as well as from the recognition of the potential of the powerful networks that we are developing during our participation in the programme.

## **Vision**

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The members of IMRD Association believe in the values of human dignity and equality and engage themselves to promote a better living for people in rural areas and to foster the sustainability of rural areas.

It is the vision of IMRD Association that a worldwide network of IMRD graduates and students will benefit its members and preserve the opportunities the course gave to IMRD students in order support the values of the IMRD association members in diverse ways.

## **Mission**

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IMRD Association wants to serve as a platform to promote communication and exchange among former IMRD alumni, as well as in between alumni current students and the IMRD consortium. It seeks to create an IMRD identity among alumni and current students and aims to build lifelong relationships between its members for professional as well as personal reasons. IMRD association wants to promote the generation and flow of knowledge about rural development issues among its members and further strives to become recognized as a pool of professional rural development expertise.

## **Goals**

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- To maintain fluent and permanent communication among IMRD alumni as well as in between the universities of the consortium, students, alumni and professors of IMRD

- To keep members informed about current research on rural development, further education and working opportunities.
- To create a meeting point for discussions about rural development and to promote the generation of knowledge and exchange of ideas.
- To create a platform for discussion for current students to exchange information about issues surrounding rural development, IMRD course and students life.

## **Activities (2005-2008)**

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Activities
1.1 Creation of webpage 1.2 Newsletter launch
2.1 Career cell placement 2.2 Academic opportunities information and help
3.1 Creation of a forum in the webpage 3.2 Newsletter 3.3 Events such as conferences, guest lectures, etc. 3.4 Biannual seminar about a relevant rural development topic (this activity depends on the performance of the other activities)

## **Working Groups**

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To have an efficient performance and thinking on the division of responsibilities, the following work groups are proposed:

**INTERNAL AFFAIRS** – To keep the IMRDans informed of the happenings in the Association.

**EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** – To keep the contact with other entities such as IMRD Secretariat Gent, Erasmus Mundus Alumni Association, etc.

**WEBSITE** – To create and update the Association website containing:

- A database having CVs of all professors and students. This will help employers to seek suitable candidates against job openings that they might have in their organizations. Also, CVs will help to know the whereabouts of members and their professional interests and career.
- A web based discussion board- to carry out debates in the arena of rural development.

- A personal space for all- to put anything like files, photos, etc..
- A space to put documents related to IMRD subjects, rural development, etc.
- A lot of regularly updated links- about jobs, scholarships, funding opportunities, etc.
- A link to your EU-domain email server, which hopefully they will launch soon, so you will an email with something like ".eu"
- A link to the current IMRD yahoo group- if we retain it at all in future
- A link to pay your subscription fees online

NEWSLETTER – To be used as means of spreading information (articles, interviews, etc) concerning the master and rural development, as well as to enhance cohesion between people between different universities.

EVENTS – To organize events of interest to the IMRDans (guest lectures, entertainment, etc).

FINANCE AND BUDGET AFFAIRS – To budget association activities and resource management.

The workgroups are conformed by volunteers from all the universities of the IMRD Consortium, they have an internal communication and also communication with the other groups. The Secretary will coordinate.

There will be at least one meeting a month to discuss the advances of the Association and to revise the performance of it. The cooperation of all of the volunteers is expected on the realization of events and activities.

## **Statutes**

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### ***Generals***

Name: IMRD Association

Duration: as much time as the members are interested and willing to support the Association

### ***Members***

Member: Graduate from IMRD (Alumni)

Member with special status: Current students

Honorary Member: people out of the target group who is approved by the Association Executive Board.

The potential members (including those with special status) of the Association will include the IMRD alumni and current students of the four partner Universities (University of Ghent, Humboldt University of Berlin, University of Cordoba and Agrocampus Rennes) and the three satellite Universities (University of Pisa, University of Nitra and Wageningen University) of the IMRD Consortium.

They become members as soon as they pay the correspondent fee (at the moment: 10 € for the lifetime). The membership is voluntary.

### ***Funding***

The IMRD Association will be funded by three sources:

- A. Fees paid for membership
- B. Contribution from IMRD Board
- C. External funds

All the money for the funding of the Association will be used exclusively for the Association events and benefits. The Management Board will verify that this is true. Any member have access to the accountancy reports at any time.

### ***Association Coordination Structure***

The Association will be coordinated by the Coordination Committee (CC). The CC will be made up of five (5) volunteers who are elected for a one-year term by the members. These IMRDians volunteer to help coordinating and shaping activities, policies and the direction of the Association.

The committee consist of a chairperson (“President”), a vice-chairperson (“Secretary”), a treasurer and two more executive committee members.

The members of the Coordination Committee (CC) are elected on the general assembly at the annual meeting. Any current member will be allowed to vote, being nominated as well as make nominations. The election is anonymous.

The day-to-day business of the association is done by the different working groups that work on specific projects or tasks. Any member of the association (also members of the CC) can join one or more working groups. Working groups can be formed as required. Decisions have to be made by consensus.