

DDE Member Organizations

Status Analysis and Engagement Strategy

*A Formal Analytical Report on the Current State of DDE Governing Council
Membership*

DDE Secretariat International Relationships | August 2026

Executive Summary

This report presents a comprehensive analysis of the current status of 28 DDE GC member organizations. Based on recent status surveys, member organizations have been classified into four categories: Active (12 organizations, 42.9%), Confirmed but Non-Active (6 organizations, 21.4%), No Response (8 organizations, 28.6%), and No Representative (2 organizations, 7.1%).

The findings indicate that while a plurality of member organizations maintain active engagement with the DDE program, nearly **one-third** have not responded to status inquiries, and **two organizations** lack designated representatives entirely. The active membership spans a diverse range of institutions, including national geological surveys, international scientific associations, and regional coordinating bodies, with notable representation from Asia and emerging engagement from Africa and South America.

This report provides detailed classification analysis, regional and institutional distribution insights, and seven strategic recommendations aimed at further activating DDE member engagement, re-establishing contact with non-responsive organizations, and strengthening the overall governance framework of the DDE Governing Council.

1. Overview of DDE Member Organizations

The DDE Governing Council currently comprises 28 member organizations, encompassing national geological surveys, international scientific commissions and associations, regional coordinating bodies, and academic institutions. These organizations collectively represent the global geoscience community and serve as the foundational governance body for the DDE program.

Member organizations are drawn from diverse geographic regions, including Asia, Europe, Africa, South America, and international bodies with global mandates. The membership includes both long-established international associations, such as the International Mineralogical Association and the International Palaeontological Association, and national geological surveys from countries including China, India, Brazil, Argentina, Iran, Korea, Russia, Colombia, Pakistan, and Zimbabwe.

Status Category	Count	Percentage	Description
Active (Blue)	12	42.9%	Highlighted in blue; actively engaged in DDE activities
Confirmed	6	21.4%	Acknowledge DDE membership but not actively engaged
No Response	8	28.6%	Did not respond to status inquiry

Status Category	Count	Percentage	Description
No Representative	2	7.1%	No designated representative listed
Total	28	100%	—

2. Status Classification Analysis

The data reveals a notable polarization. While 18 organizations (64.3%) have confirmed their DDE membership status, only 12 of these (42.9% of the total) demonstrate active engagement as indicated by blue highlighting. The remaining 6 confirmed organizations acknowledge their membership but show no evidence of active participation. Meanwhile, 8 organizations (28.6%) did not respond to the status inquiry at all, and 2 organizations (7.1%) have no designated representative.

3. Active Members Analysis

The following 12 organizations are classified as active members, as indicated by blue highlighting in the source document. These organizations have confirmed their DDE membership and demonstrate ongoing engagement with DDE activities.

No.	Institution	Representative	Status
1	Commission on the Management & Application of Geoscience Information	Harvey Horleifson (Chair)	Confirmed
2	Commission for Geological Map of the World	Manuel Pubellier (President)	Confirmed
3	China Geological Survey	Zhong Ziran (Director)	Confirmed
4	International Lithosphere Program	Hans Thybo (President)	Confirmed
5	CCOP (Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia)	Yongzheng Ma (Director)	Confirmed
6	Young Earth Scientists Network	Elyvin Nkhonjera Chawinga (President)	Confirmed
7	Geological and Mining Survey of Argentina	Pablo Johanis (President)	Confirmed
8	Geological Society of Africa	Gbenga Okunlola (President)	Confirmed
9	Geological Survey of Iran	Hanieh Bakhshae	Confirmed

No.	Institution	Representative	Status
10	Geological Survey of India	Snigdha Ghatak	Confirmed
11	International Geoscience Education Organization	Nir Orion (President)	Confirmed
12	Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society	Rose Ndong	Confirmed

The active membership is characterized by strong representation from national geological surveys (6 of 12: China, Argentina, Iran, India, Nigeria, and the CCOP regional body), alongside international commissions and associations (4: CGMW, IMA-affiliated Commission on Geoscience Information, International Lithosphere Program, and IGEO), the Young Earth Scientists Network, and the Geological Society of Africa. This composition reflects the DDE program's dual foundation in national survey institutions and international scientific organizations.

4. Non-Responsive and Inactive Members

Eight member organizations did not respond to the status inquiry, representing 28.6% of the total membership. Additionally, two organizations currently have no designated representative. These ten organizations collectively account for 35.7% of the membership and represent a significant gap in DDE governance engagement.

4.1 No-Response Organizations (8)

No.	Institution	Representative	Status
1	International Association of Sedimentologists	Cathy Hollis (President)	No response
2	International Palaeontological Association	Roger Thomas (President)	No response
3	Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources	Lee Pyeong Gu (President)	No response
4	International Association of Hydrogeologists	Teodora Szocs (President)	No response
5	International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment	Vassilis Marinos (President)	No response
6	Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (ROSNEDRA)	Evgeny Kiselev	No response
7	Geological Survey of Pakistan	Adnan Alam	No response

No.	Institution	Representative	Status
8	National Center of Excellence of Geology, University of Peshawar (NCEG)	Liaqat Ali	No response

Of particular note is that several major international scientific associations — including the International Association of Sedimentologists, the International Palaeontological Association, the International Association of Hydrogeologists, and the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment — have not responded. These organizations represent disciplines directly relevant to DDE's scientific mission, and their non-engagement warrants targeted follow-up.

4.2 Organizations Without Representatives (2)

The Geological Survey of Colombia and the Zimbabwe Geological Survey currently have no designated representatives listed. For these organizations, the DDE Secretariat should initiate contact through institutional channels to identify appropriate representatives and re-establish communication.

5. Regional and Institutional Distribution Analysis

The 28 member organizations can be analyzed along two dimensions: geographic region and institutional type.

Geographically, the membership spans Asia (7 organizations: China, India, Iran, Korea, Pakistan, and the CCOP regional body), Europe and international associations headquartered in Europe (12 organizations, including several major international scientific associations), South America (3: Argentina, Brazil, Colombia), Africa (3: Nigeria, South Africa/GSA, Zimbabwe), and global/international bodies. The Asian contingent shows the highest engagement rate, with 5 of 7 Asian organizations (71.4%) classified as active members. In contrast, the European-headquartered international associations show a lower engagement rate, with only 3 of 12 (25.0%) classified as active.

By institutional type, national geological surveys constitute the largest single category (11 organizations), followed by international scientific associations and commissions (12 organizations), national scientific societies (2), regional coordinating bodies (1), and academic institutions (1). National geological surveys show a relatively high engagement rate, with 6 of 11 (54.5%) classified as active, while international associations have a lower rate of 3 of 12 (25.0%).

6. Key Findings

Finding 1: Engagement is concentrated among national geological surveys and Asian institutions. The active membership is disproportionately composed of national geological surveys (6 of 12 active members) and organizations based in or affiliated with Asia. This suggests that the DDE program's engagement strategy has been more effective with survey institutions and in the Asian region than with international associations.

Finding 2: Major international scientific associations are under-engaged. Several prestigious international associations — including the International Association of Sedimentologists, the International Palaeontological Association, the International Association of Hydrogeologists, and the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment — did not respond to the status inquiry. Their disciplines are directly relevant to DDE's scientific mission, and their non-engagement represents a significant gap.

Finding 3: One-third of the membership is unresponsive. With 8 organizations not responding and 2 lacking representatives, 35.7% of the Governing Council membership is effectively disengaged from DDE governance processes. This limits the representativeness and legitimacy of Council decisions.

Finding 4: Confirmed but non-active members represent an opportunity. Six organizations have confirmed their DDE membership but are not yet actively engaged. These represent the most immediate opportunity for activation, as they have already indicated willingness to remain affiliated with DDE.

Finding 5: Two organizations require complete re-establishment of contact. The Geological Survey of Colombia and the Zimbabwe Geological Survey have no designated representatives. Re-establishing institutional contact with these organizations should be a priority.

7. Recommendations for Further Activating DDE Members

7.1 Targeted Outreach to Non-Responsive Members

The DDE Secretariat should initiate a structured outreach campaign to the 8 non-responsive organizations and 2 organizations without representatives. This should include: (1) direct communication from the DDE Chair or Secretariat to the institutional leadership; (2) a formal deadline for response (e.g., 60 days); (3) follow-up through alternate channels, including regional DDE representatives or partner organizations; and (4) a clear articulation of the benefits and obligations of DDE membership. For organizations that remain non-responsive after the outreach period, the EC should consider formal review of their membership status.

7.2 Engagement of Confirmed but Non-Active Members

The 6 organizations that have confirmed membership but are not actively engaged should receive targeted engagement plans. This includes: assigning a DDE liaison to each organization; inviting their representatives to participate in specific DDE Working Groups or Task Groups aligned with their disciplinary expertise; and offering them roles in upcoming DDE events, such as IGC 38. The objective is to transition these organizations from passive membership to active participation within 12 months.

7.3 Strengthening Engagement with International Scientific Associations

Given the low engagement rate among international scientific associations (25.0%), a dedicated strategy should be developed for this category. This could include: establishing formal Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with key associations; creating joint scientific sessions at respective association congresses; involving association representatives in DDE-ISI program design; and offering DDE-associated publication and data-sharing opportunities that align with each association's disciplinary interests.

7.4 Annual Membership Status Review

The DDE Secretariat should implement an annual membership status review process, requiring all member organizations to confirm their representative, update contact information, and report on their DDE-related activities. Organizations that fail to participate in the annual review for two consecutive years should be subject to EC review, potentially including reclassification of membership status or formal suspension.

7.5 Regional Engagement Strategy

Regional engagement strategies should be tailored to address geographic patterns in participation. For Asia, where engagement is strongest, the focus should be on deepening collaboration and leveraging existing relationships. For Europe, targeted outreach to international associations is needed. For Africa and South America, membership expansion and capacity-building support should be prioritized, building on the active engagement of the Geological Society of Africa, the Argentine and Brazilian surveys, and the Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society.

7.6 Integration with DDE-ISI and WTG Restructuring

Member organization engagement should be integrated with the broader DDE-ISI reform and WTG restructuring process. Member organizations should be invited to nominate representatives to the restructured WTG clusters, participate in cluster advisory boards, and

contribute to DDE-ISI program milestones. This creates a direct mechanism for member engagement through scientific collaboration rather than purely governance participation.

7.7 Communication Platform and Information Sharing

The DDE should establish a dedicated member communication platform (e.g., a secure online portal or regular bulletin) that provides: regular updates on DDE activities and milestones; opportunities for member participation in projects and events; access to DDE data products and scientific outputs; and a forum for inter-member collaboration. Consistent and structured communication will help maintain engagement and reduce the rate of non-response in future status reviews.

8. Conclusion

The current state of DDE Governing Council membership presents a mixed picture. On one hand, 12 organizations (42.9%) are actively engaged and 18 organizations (64.3%) have confirmed their membership status. On the other hand, 10 organizations (35.7%) are either non-responsive or lack representatives, indicating a significant gap in governance engagement that requires systematic attention.

The findings suggest that engagement is strongest among national geological surveys and in the Asian region, while international scientific associations and European-headquartered organizations show lower participation rates. This pattern indicates that the DDE program's value proposition may be more compelling to national survey institutions than to international scientific associations, and that targeted strategies are needed to address this imbalance.

The seven recommendations proposed in this report provide a structured framework for addressing these gaps: from targeted outreach to non-responsive members, to engagement of confirmed-but-inactive organizations, to integration of member organizations into the DDE-ISI and WTG restructuring processes. Implementation of these recommendations, combined with an annual membership review mechanism, would significantly strengthen the engagement and effectiveness of the DDE Governing Council.

As the DDE program advances toward IGC 38 in 2028 and the global implementation of DDE-ISI, a fully engaged and representative Governing Council will be essential to the program's credibility and scientific impact. The time invested in reactivating and strengthening member relationships now will yield returns in organizational cohesion and scientific collaboration for years to come.

No.	Institution	Representative	status
1	Commission on the Management & Application of Geoscience Information	Harvey Horleifson (Chair)	Confirmed
2	Commission for Geological Map of the World	Manuel Pubellier (President)	Confirmed
3	China Geological Survey	Zhong Ziran (Director)	Confirmed
4	International Association on the Genesis of Ore	Reimar Seltmann	Confirmed

No.	Institution	Representative	status
	Deposits		
5	International Association of Geomorphologists	Sunil Kumar De (President)	Confirmed
6	International Association for Mathematical Geosciences	Dionissios T. Hristopulos	Confirmed
7	International Association of Sedimentologists	Cathy Hollis (President)	No response
8	International Palaeontological Association	Roger Thomas (President)	No response
9	International Lithosphere Program	Hans Thybo (President)	Confirmed
10	Korea Institute of Geoscience and Mineral Resources	Lee Pyeong Gu (President)	No Response
11	Coordinating Committee for Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia	Yongzheng Ma (Director of the CCOP Technical Secretariat)	Confirmed
12	International Mineralogical Association	Hans-Peter Schertl (President)	Confirmed
13	International Association of	Teodóra Szócs (President)	No response

No.	Institution	Representative	status
	Hydrogeologists		
14	International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment)	Vassilis Marinos (President)	No response
15	Young Earth Scientists Network	Elyvin Nkhonjera Chawinga (President)	Confirmed
16	Geological and Minig Survey of Argentina	Pablo Johanis (President)	Confirmed
17	Geological Society of Africa	Gbenga Okunlola (President)	Confirmed
18	Geological Survey of Iran	Hanieh Bakhshae	Confirmed
19	Geological Survey of India	Snigdha Ghatak	Confirmed
20	International Geoscience Education Organization	Nir Orion (President)	Confirmed
21	Geological Survey of Brazil	Alexandre Silveira de Oliveira	Confirmed
22	Nigerian Mining and Geosciences Society	Rose Ndong	Confirmed

No.	Institution	Representative	status
23	Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (ROSNEDRA)	Evgeny Kiselev	No response
24	Russian Geological Research Institute (VSEGEI)	Oleg Petrov	Confirmed
25	Geological Survey of Colombia	-	-
26	Zimbabwe Geological Survey	-	-
27	Geological Survey of Pakistan	Adnan Alam	No response
28	National Center of Excellence of Geology, University of Peshawar (NCEG)	Liaqat Ali	No response