

## How to become a member

### Mission

Assistive technology (AT) is an essential solution for millions of people, yet there are significant global challenges to providing these technologies. Some of these challenges are unique, but many more are shared across nations and cultures.

The International Alliance of Assistive Technology Organisations (IAATO) is a non-profit informal association of legally established membership organisations from different countries or world regions.

Our Mission is to advance the field of assistive technology (AT) and rehabilitation engineering (RE) to benefit people with disabilities and functional limitations of all ages.

As International Alliance members we are committed to working towards equitable and reliable access to assistive technology through research, policy advocacy, educating people and organisations within and outside of the field, teaching, training, and knowledge translation. To reach our mission we promote communication and information exchange, support each other's efforts, and speak with a more unified voice on international issues.

Interested organisations are invited to contact the Alliance to discuss membership. Members of the Alliance all participate in the process of defining annual Plans of Action.

### List of IAATO board members:

AAATE - Luc de Witte – E-mail: l.p.dewitte (at) sheffield.ac.uk

ARATA - Natasha Layton - E-mail: president (at) arata.org.au

RESJA - Takenobu Inoue - E-mail: inoue-takenobu (at) rehab.go.jp

RESKO - Inhyuk Moon - E-mail: inhyukmoon (at) gmail.com

RESNA - Mary Ellen Buning - E-mail: me\_buning (at) mac.com

TREATS - Shih-Ching Chen - E-mail: csc (at) tmu.edu.tw

### Chairs:

Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf. E-mail: hoogerwerf (at) aaate.net

Roger O. Smith. E-mail: rogeros (at) me.com.

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS

## Rules for joining the IAATO

Any Organisation sharing the IAATO mission and vision, meeting the membership criteria - and willing to engage in the commitments involved - can apply to become a member of the Alliance.

The Organisation interested in joining the Alliance will have to:

- Prepare an application letter (see template in annex) stating its adherence to the IAATO mission and rules. The application letter should have the Organisation's letterhead and be signed by an authorised representative;
- Prepare a concise one-page profile explaining the nature and the mission of the Organisation. Being an Alliance based on mutual trust factual information such as number of members will not be checked, but the information will be made available on the IAATO website for community control;
- Email the application and profile to the Alliance chairs [hoogerwerf (at) aaate.net & rogeros (at) me.com]

The Alliance chairs will evaluate the application in relation to the IAATO objectives and membership criteria, asking the organisation's representative for additional information if needed.

The chairs will inform the Alliance Board about the assessed applications. The Board will take the applications to the first General Assembly with a recommendation for their approval or not.

Following approval by the General Assembly, the IAATO chair sends out the acceptance letter.

After acceptance, the new member is registered on the IAATO website (under construction).

## Membership

The following forms of membership are offered:

### Full membership

Full membership is open to legally established **membership organisations** that recognize the role of Assistive technology (AT) and/or Rehabilitation engineering (RE) in improving the quality of life and well-being for people, in particular, people with a disability or those who are aging.

They share the following characteristics:

- a. **Advancing AT/RE is their main reason of existence** and their main area of interest.
- b. They have an explicit **non-for-profit interest in advancing AT/RE**.
- c. They are membership organisations themselves; members may be individuals working with AT or independent institutions/organisations with interests in AT/RE from industry, services, research, academia, consumers of technology, national or international funders, or a mixture of these.
- d. They have at least 50 registered and voting members.
- e. They have an elected board that administers the organisation.
- f. They have a minimum of activities going on (e.g. training activities, conferences, publications, other member services)
- g. They represent AT/RE interests nationally, regionally, or globally to decision-making bodies, etc.

### Candidate Membership

Organisations that have the ambition to become full members but that do not meet all the criteria for full membership yet, can apply for Candidate Membership.

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS

## Affiliate Membership

Affiliate membership is open to any interested **membership organisation** that conducts activities surrounding AT/RE, even if these are secondary to other activities, or commercial in nature. Affiliate members have no voting rights.

## Annual fees

The annual membership is based on three criteria: type of membership, number of members and country of registration.

<i>Annual fees in US Dollars</i>	Candidate members	Full members			Affiliate members
		50-99 members	100-299 members	more than 300 members	
High income countries	40	80	175	300	100
Middle/Low income countries	20	40	100	150	50

## Annex: Template application form for IAATO membership

<Letterhead of the Organisation>

IAATO

*For the attention of the chairs*

*Evert-Jan Hoogerwerf & Roger O. Smith*

Our organization <name of the Organisation>, based in <town, country, registered address>, represented by <name of authorized representative> <role>, applies to join the IAATO as

- A full member
- A candidate member
- An affiliate member

We herewith declare the following: <cancel what is not relevant>

- a. Advancing AT/RE is/is not *<please choose>* our organisation's main reason of existence and our main area of interest;
- b. We have an explicit non-for-profit interest in advancing AT/RE;
- c. We are a membership organisation ourselves;
- d. We currently have \_\_\_\_ registered and voting members;
- e. We have an elected board that administers the organisation;
- f. We have regular activities going on such as *<please elaborate>*
- g. We represent AT/RE interests nationally, regionally, or globally *<please indicate level(s)>* to decision-making bodies, etc.

As part of our institutional mission, we share the objectives of the IAATO.

We are ready to engage in the commitments arising from being members of the IAATO, including our active participation in the Alliance initiatives, contributing to dissemination activities and public awareness related to the Alliance results, providing useful material for the Alliance website and newsletters, and supporting the prestige of the Alliance at the highest level worldwide.

We are aware that the Alliance has very limited budget available for supporting members in participating in the Alliance.

We are prepared to engage in the above commitments at our expenses, as we recognize the value for our Organisation to participate in this network of expertise with international coverage. We are willing to pay the membership fee as established by the board of the Alliance.

# INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE OF ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATIONS

We will ensure respect of the intellectual property of the material made available by other members; we also guarantee that we will not make any unauthorized use of the IAATO brand, and recognize the full right of the Alliance to exclude us from the alliance in case of unfair actions or infringements.

Our authorised person representing our organization in the Alliance is <name> <role> <email> <phone>. Our contact person to be indicated in the Alliance website and in any Alliance communication material is <the same / or name-role-email of the other person>.

We attach a concise one-page profile of our Organisation, which provides the basic data and facts on our mission and activities<sup>1</sup>. Any additional information can be found in our website <URL>.

We hope to be accepted in the Alliance and look forward to your decision.

<Name of the authorized representative>

date and place

<Signature>

---

<sup>1</sup> Please attach specific documentation or include web-links to documents that bring evidence to what you declare, in particular regarding points a and b of the membership criteria (e.g. statutes, articles, annual reports, etc.).