Creation and aims

The Pacific Science Association is an international, non-governmental, regional scientific organization uniting scientific bodies, industrial corporations and individual scientists of different countries bordering the Pacific.

The Organization was founded at the First Pan-Pacific Scientific Conference, which was held in Honolulu, Hawaii, in 1920. The scientists from Australia, the United Kingdom, Hawaii, Canada, China, New Zealand, the United States, the Philippines and Japan met to 'outline scientific problems of the Pacific region and to suggest methods for their solution, to make a critical inventory of existing knowledge and to devise plans for future studies'.

The aims of the Association, as mentioned in its statutes, are 'to initiate and promote cooperation in the study of scientific problems relating to the Pacific region, more particularly those affecting the prosperity and well-being of Pacific peoples; to strengthen the bonds of peace among Pacific peoples by promoting a feeling of brotherhood among the scientists of all the Pacific countries'.

Membership

Membership of the Association is open to all countries or appropriate areas, lying within or bordering the Pacific Ocean, and to those countries with special interests in the region that possess a competent scientific body to act as the Representative Institution and that wish to become members and are prepared to pay the appropriate annual dues.

Association Statutes stipulate four categories of membership: country membership (Adhering Organizations), institutional membership (Institutional Members), corporate membership (Corporate Members) and individual membership (Member Scientists). 

Adhering Organizations. Membership by countries or appropriate areas within or bordering the Pacific Ocean or with special interests in the region, each represented by its principal scientific organization.
Institutional Members may be represented by National Research Councils and societies interested in the same objectives as the Association.

Institutional Members can delegate one representative to the Pacific Scientific Congress, and have the right to make proposals and to coorganize regional and special meetings.

Member Scientists of the Association are scientists interested in the scientific problems of the Pacific and corresponding publications. Individual scientists can attend meetings of the Association (they are awarded a discount of the registration fee) and receive publications.

Corporate Members are industrial firms and corporations having business interests in the Pacific and in the objectives of the Association.

As of January 1981, Adhering Organizations of the following countries were members of the Association: Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, Cook Islands, Ecuador, El Salvador, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam (USA), Hawaii (USA), Hong Kong, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Okinawa (Japan), Papua New Guinea, Peru, Republic of China (Taiwan), Republic of Indonesia, Republic of Korea (South), Republic of Panama, Republic of the Philippines, Republic of Singapore, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Thailand, Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, USSR, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, USA.

In addition, the scientific institutions of Burma, Denmark, India, Netherlands, Norway, Sri Lanka and Sweden were Honorary members.*

Structure

PSA consists of the Council, which is called the 'Pacific Scientific Council', Executive Committee, Standing Committee on finance, Committee for Scientific Activities, Scientific Committees and Secretariat. The President of the Association, who is also President of the Congress, serves as Chairman of the Council.

The Pacific Scientific Council is the leading organ of the Association. It consists of 10–25 regular members. Members of the Council are appointed by the Adhering organizations. The term of office of a regular member is fixed by

*At the XIVth Pacific Science Congress (1979, Khabarovsk, USSR), the category of Honorary Member Country was abolished. Former Adhering Organizations in this category were invited to become Institutional Members