



The Union of International Associations (UIA)

L'Union des Associations Internationales (UAI)

Since its foundation in 1907 as the Central Office for International Associations, the Union of International Associations (UIA) has focused on documenting the nature and evolution of international civil society.

UIA is a non-profit, independent research institute, a repository for current and historical information on the work of international associations. UIA documents the work of international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and inter-governmental organizations (IGOs) and promotes the public awareness of their activities. UIA's focus today is on promoting the internationality of these organizations and in representing the collective views of international bodies.

UIA collects, hosts and provides up-to-date, reliable information on global civil society and maintains the most comprehensive source of information on international associations, their activities and concerns, and their meetings activities.

UIA's objectives

- Facilitate the development and efficiency of non-governmental networks in every field of human activity – especially non-profit and voluntary associations – considered to be essential components of contemporary society
- Collect, research and disseminate information on international bodies, both governmental and non-governmental, their interrelationships, their meetings, and the problems and strategies with which they are concerned
- Experiment with meaningful and action-oriented ways of presenting such information to enable these initiatives to develop and counterbalance each other creatively, and act as a catalyst for the emergence of new forms of associative activity and international co-operation
- Promote research on the legal, administrative and other problems common to these international associations, especially in their contacts with governmental bodies
- Contribute to a universal order based on principles of human dignity, solidarity of peoples and freedom of association and communication

UIA database and UIA online resources

The UIA online database is continuously updated by an expert editorial team. Priority is given to information received from the organizations themselves, which is checked against additional sources to present a reliable picture of a dynamic situation.

The UIA database comprises

- comprehensive descriptions of over 69,000 international organizations active in all fields of human endeavour the world over and throughout centuries of history
- over 460,000 international meetings of these organizations, from 1850 into the foreseeable future
- over 95,000 profiles of and 700,000 links to World Problems Issues, Global Strategies Solutions, Human Values and Human Development

Access to the database

The wealth of information can be accessed through UIA's online resources

- Yearbook of International Organizations (subscription-based)
- International Congress Calendar (subscription-based)
- Encyclopedia of World Problems and Human Potential (publicly accessible)

- Open Yearbook (free, public access version of Yearbook of International Organizations)
- Open Calendar (free, public access version of International congress Calendar)

UIA's subscription-based online resources are also available via libraries and other public institutions and through Associate Membership of UIA.

UIA relevance to global issues

In the current world and looking forward, UIA's interlinked databases on international organizations, international meetings, and world problems and solutions are a powerful tool for understanding the complexity of global issues and the policy environment that can foster effective action.

UIA maintains a record of the foundation, history and existence of associations and initiatives which are no longer active. In many cases dating through the late 1800s and first half of the 20th century, UIA's information is the only collective record of the life of these organizations.

A continuous cooperation with UNESCO on the research and documentation of the non-governmental organizations (NGOs), foundations and similar institutions maintaining official relations with UNESCO is illustrative of the type of collaborative project in which the UIA participates.

UIA relevance to associations

In addition to its role as an information clearinghouse and research institute which promotes the visibility of international organizations worldwide, UIA also offers associations a range of services and support:

- UIA's Annual Associations Round Table promotes and facilitates the work of international associations by providing training and networking opportunities
- Publication and free delivery of UIA's monthly newsletter "World of Associations News" presents topics of interest to associations and promotes their activities
- Customized contact data delivery facilitates global networking between associations
- Customized data-streaming is available in constantly updated live data feeds on organizations and their meetings
- Bibliographic recording of studies on international non-profit organizations and international activity, and of publications of international organizations
- Organization of training opportunities especially tailored to the needs of associations
- UIA remains in regular contact with FAIB, IAPCO, EFAPCO, ICCA, ESAE, ASAE and other partner associations to grow mutual interests
- Periodical surveys on association meeting activities published as the UIA Survey on Meetings of International Organizations
- UIA's International Meetings Statistics Report, published annually
- Associations' news is published and disseminated via the UIA website

UIA relevance to researchers

The work of the UIA is of particular interest to academic researchers in a wide range of disciplines including:

- Political Science
- Sociology
- International Relations
- Peace Studies

The UIA works with universities and research institutes around the world and frequently assists graduate and post-graduate students with their research and data needs.

UIA relevance to the meetings industry

In its earliest work the UIA quickly recognized the importance of international meetings and congresses to international association life. This recognition has led to a decades long engagement with what is now known as the meetings industry. UIA also initiated the first international meetings of this industry, which led to the creation of a number of trade groups such as AIPC, AIIC, AITC and IAPCO.

UIA currently offers collaboration and partnership with entities in the meetings industry in the format of an Associate Membership. The main focus of this collaboration is promoting the networking between association and industry bodies.

UIA Associate Members

- receive an exclusive early copy of UIA's International Meetings Statistics Report
- have online access to UIA's International Congress Calendar and, with a Premium Membership, to Yearbook of International Organizations
- receive an exclusive copy of the UIA Survey on Meetings of International Organizations
- are invited to participate in UIA Associations Round Tables
- may post their news relevant to associations on the UIA website
- may maintain their own page on the UIA website
- receive support from UIA in their networking with international associations by customized contact data delivery
- may order a customized data-streaming in constantly updated live data feeds on organizations and their meetings
- are invited to participate in UIA's training sessions
- upon request, can receive professional advice about networking opportunities with associations

(Status of document: October 18, 2017)