

USSD COMMITTEE FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CHARTER

Approved by the Board of Directors on 7/22/15

COMMITTEE DESCRIPTION

The main role of the USSD Committee on Young Professionals is to increase membership and active participation of young professionals, those 35 years of age and under, in USSD. While not a technical committee, the committee encourages and facilitates young professional participation across all aspects of the USSD organization to improve their members' professional/technical development and networking opportunities. Improving these capabilities is achieved by increasing participation in technical committees, authoring papers and poster presentations, planning and organizing committees, and social/networking events.

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The Young Professionals Committee has been established by the Board of Directors of USSD in 2013. The Young Professionals Committee is charged with attracting young professionals to USSD and increasing active participation of young professional members within USSD. The Committee plans events for conferences to increase active participation and reinvigorate USSD as an organization. The primary event organized by young professionals is the networking social, which provides an informal opportunity for its members to network and develop mentoring relationships with USSD Board Members, USSD Committee Chairs, and seasoned professionals who support increasing young professional participation. Further, the committee assists in promoting young professional issues of ICOLD. The Committee keeps the general membership informed of its activities and its member's accomplishments through the Newsletter, input to the committees section of the USSD website, and in the organization and execution of periodic workshops and/or panel discussions. The Committee shall also collaborate and/or assist with other committees in developing and promoting education and training activities under the four imperatives of the 2014-2017 Strategic Plan; Advocate, Educate, Collaborate, and Cultivate.

BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

This is the newest USSD committee. Networking socials of young professionals started informally as dessert receptions in 2010, spearheaded by Manoshree Sundaram. The committee was originally chartered in 2013, chaired by Amanda Sutter. In 2013, USSD hosted the ICOLD conference which featured two young professional events, a meeting of the YEF (young engineers forum), and a networking social for all ICOLD member countries. The 2014 USSD Conference featured a lunch presentation by Amanda Sutter and Emily Schwartz (Vice-Chair) on the importance of young professionals; and also a networking social which had a significantly larger turnout than prior years.

RESPONSIBILITIES

This committee is responsible for promoting young professional participation and planning YP events at the annual conferences.

CHAIR, AND VICE CHAIRS AND RELATED RESPONSIBILITIES

Chair: Amanda Sutter
Vice Chair: Brandan Vavrek
Vice Chair: Emily Schwartz
Vice Chair (Mentoring): TBD

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Specific goals and objectives for a three year period beginning in 2014:

Advocate:

1. Encourage current Young Professional members to attend USSD meetings and conferences and actively participate by joining technical committees.

Educate:

1. Encourage paper writing and presentations from young members through advertisement of the young professional paper award.
2. Promote involvement of Young Professionals through the use of USSD publications, presentations, and workshops.
3. Provide an opportunity for knowledge transfer and prepare USSD for the next generation, ensuring the long term future of USSD.

Collaborate:

1. Encourage chairpersons of other committees to attend Young Professional functions to introduce their committees to the Young Professionals and offer inclusion in committee activities.
2. Achieve representation on all technical committees, at least one Young Professional per committee.

3. Provide an opportunity for the younger professionals to connect with each other and seasoned professionals to enable sharing of experiences.

Cultivate:

1. Solicit comments and suggestions from Young Professional members to improve their experience.
2. Work with annual meeting organizing committee to ensure that there are events for Young Professionals to meet and network with each other.
3. Recruit new young members.

MEMBERSHIP

Amanda Sutter, Chair
Brandan Vavrek, Vice Chair
Emily Schwartz, Vice Chair

The membership of this committee is constantly in flux. Since this is the committee for young members, new members are constantly joining and members age out. Also, being less experienced, the same members are not always able to attend meetings.