



Formalizing our Partnerships

MOUs add meaning and create value

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Memos of Understanding (MOUs) play an important role for IRWA, connecting us to local Departments of Transportation, Federal Agencies in the United States, and now with affiliates in Europe and the Continent of Africa. MOUs define our relationships and create value through collaboration with our partners.

In many instances, MOUs pave the way for deeper relationships. For example, our MOU with the South African Right of Way Association (SARWA) led to creating IRWA's Chapter 83 in South Africa, which already has over 160 members. Through the efforts of Chapter 83, IRWA recently welcomed Chapter 84 in Nigeria, and the potential for membership growth across Africa is enormous. As we work to serve the needs of these new chapters, plans for creating IRWA Region 11 will be presented at the Annual Board of Director's Meeting in June 2014.

Two years ago, we formed an alliance with the Compulsory Purchase Association (CPA) in the United Kingdom. Since then, their representatives have attended IRWA's Annual Conferences, and we have held workshops in the UK. Our most recent MOU involves the Institute for Underground Infrastructure (IKT). Located near Dusseldorf International Airport in Gelsenkirchen, Germany, IKT is a neutral, independent,

non-profit research, testing and consulting institute funded by 130 municipalities and 70 companies in Europe. It works on issues impacting the construction of underground pipes and networks for gas, water and wastewater, offering highly specialized and cutting-edge research and testing technologies in a practical, application-oriented manner.

Together, we are sharing information with engineers and other underground infrastructure professionals through monthly webinars, and we regularly engage experts from multiple countries exchanging ideas, sharing best practices and building connections between public and private organizations on three continents (see article on page 30). We are building a body of knowledge that will be available through the IRWA University on our website. Check it out!

Of course, we never take for granted the Association's longstanding partnerships, such as the one we enjoy with the Federal Highway Administration, which provides our members with a direct link to updates on MAP-21 and the Uniform Relocation Act. On March 26, 2014, our Annual Federal Agency Update will be held in Washington, DC. One of the topics will feature MAP-21 implementation across agencies, along with a Hill Briefing for congressional infrastructure stakeholders nationwide. Details are available on IRWA's website.

Our newest partners include the Compulsory Purchase Association in the United Kingdom and the Institute for Underground Infrastructure in Germany.



MOUs add meaning to our organization and drive member value as we set the standard for infrastructure real estate practice on a global scale. You can expect more partnerships as we grow and connect with more professionals through IKT, CPA, SARWA and our Federal partners. Together, we are Current. Credentialed. Connected.