

REACH Junior Global Advisory Panel

Terms of Reference

With funding support from the UK Department of International Development, a consortium led by the University of Oxford is implementing a seven-year research programme 'REACH: Improving water security for the poor'. The programme aims to integrate novel research that cuts across the traditional silos in water research into policy and practice to improve the lives of five million poor women, men and children. The project has three outputs:

1. Strengthened technical capacity in the design, delivery and monitoring of water security interventions by policy-makers, practitioners and change makers in Africa and Asia;
2. Development of a global science-practitioner partnership which establishes long-term water security observatories, driving and generating globally outstanding science to inform improved policy and practice; and
3. Effective management of the consortium

It is expected that the Junior Global Advisory Panel (JGAP) will advise on these outputs, and help to catalyse the delivery, impact and uptake of the programme's work. In the context of the implementation of this initiative, the JGAP, composed of a multidisciplinary group of up to 12 young professional experts (with no more than five years of professional experience upon appointment) from academia, industry, government and practitioners, has been established by the REACH Programme Executive Committee at the University of Oxford as an independent group, complementing the REACH Global Advisory Panel (GAP).

The JGAP will support the REACH Programme Executive Committee in the development and implementation of the various output activities; its terms of reference are as follows:

- to suggest innovative strategic directions and novel delivery methods to REACH through critical review of workplans, diagnostic reports and science plans as well as through interactive discussions;
- to promote and enhance the visibility of the programme among young water professionals via various concerted communication activities.

The JGAP will convene every March and September, mirroring the GAP meeting schedule. The JGAP will hold two sessions: the first will be facilitated by a postdoctoral researcher from the Oxford REACH team to encourage frank discussion of the documents provided; and the second will include members of the REACH Programme Executive Committee to discuss the JGAP's recommendations. All meetings (which will usually last two hours) are held via WebEx, a web conferencing system.

As an independent body, the JGAP will not have direct executive authority, but will be advisory and will make recommendations to the project. No remuneration can be offered to JGAP members.

The Programme Director and the REACH Project Management Team will coordinate, contribute to and follow up work in progress with the advisory group, aided by the JGAP Chair, to be appointed by the Programme Director. The REACH Project Management Team will assist as appropriate with the JGAP tasks.

Members of the JGAP will be recruited in two ways: (1) by nominations from the GAP members and their partner organisations; and (2) by open recruitment. Appointments must be confirmed by the Programme Director for an initial duration of two years. The duration may be extended or amended at the discretion of the Director and for specific needs of the project, with a maximum extension of up to three years. The nominations will be designed to develop a JGAP that consist of young high-potential practitioners, academics, consultants and policy-makers, with applicants selected both on merit and for development of a JGAP that offers balanced representation for regional interests, sectors and gender. Members of the JGAP are appointed as individuals to fulfil the role of the Panel, not as representatives of their particular profession, employer or interest group. Members are appointed on a personal basis, even when they may be members of stakeholder groups. If members declare an organisation's views rather than a personal view, they should make it clear at the time of declaring that view.

The role of the JGAP Chair will be nominated by the REACH Programme Executive Committee. The Chair (with administrative support from the REACH Project Management Team) will be responsible for:

- the operation and output of the JGAP, including planning the work programme, and assessing the workload to ensure that the volume of work does not compromise the rigour of the discussion;
- ensuring that members have any necessary briefing to enable them to fulfil their role and providing an appraisal of members performance as necessary;
- ensuring that every member of the JGAP has the opportunity to be heard and that no view is ignored or overlooked;
- ensuring that the full range of scientific opinion, including unorthodox and contrary scientific views are given a fair hearing and are taken into account appropriately;
- ensuring that the secretariat accurately documents the proceedings of the JGAP;
- ensuring that any significant diversity of opinion among the members of the JGAP is fully explored and discussed and if it cannot be reconciled is accurately reflected in the report and in any other communications;
- reporting the JGAP advice to the REACH Programme Executive Committee;
- representing the JGAP to the public or the media as arranged by the Secretariat (unless other specific arrangements have been made);
- providing an assessment of performance of individual JGAP members, on request, when they are being considered for re-appointment.