



As staff of CIMH travel around the Caribbean, many receive queries about (i) what is the CIMH currently doing, (ii) What has become of their former lecturers, and (iii) in some instances what has become of some of their fellow students..?

### *1. Motivation for a CIMH alumni association*

The frequent quest for information described above makes it clear that many alumni of CIMH are still interested in the organization and, in some cases, extremely passionate about their alma mater. Some persons have also expressed an interest in assisting the CIMH in various ways but lack a clear understanding of current entry points into CIMH and the specific needs of the CIMH and its students.

Providing structured entry points into CIMH as well as providing information on needs points to the requirement for a structured mechanism that links CIMH and former students. In many academic institutions such links, partially or wholly, are supported by alumni associations.

This discussion has focused on alumni seeking entry points into CIMH. However, the CIMH and its students can derive significant benefits by reaching out to alumni who may (i) have access to resources that support partnership and collaboration as well as shareable knowledge and knowhow, (ii) be able to provide employment and placement for current students, (iii) be able to provide mentorship to students and (iv) be able to support fund raising activities.

As a result, given the CIMH's large number of alumni, and the potential benefits that can be derived from a stronger relationship between CIMH and its alumni, the CIMH Alumni Association has been established to provide tangible benefits to alumni and the CIMH.

### *2. History of alumni associations and their benefits*

The purpose of any association is to foster a spirit of loyalty and to promote the general welfare of the organization. Alumni associations exist to support the parent organization's goals, and to strengthen the ties between alumni, the community, and the parent organization.

A vibrant alumni association requires:

- The enthusiasm and willingness of several individuals who are willing to take on the organizational initiative and sustain it.
- The interest of a reasonable nucleus of alumni and friends of the organization to participate in the association's activities.

**Objectives:**

A vibrant alumni association which will offer:

1. Career services. This can include presence at job fairs and circulating of job postings but can also create its own workshops to assist in resume preparation, and other online resources.
2. Mentorship programs.
3. A place to exchange ideas and views

To provide benefits to the hydro-meteorological community and support social networking:

1. As an association with a vast network of professional contacts.
2. To connect with others who could be a great resource for informational interviews and introductions.
3. To build professional relationships over the long-term.