

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022  
Press Release

**The Federation of International Hemp Organizations (FIHO) announces the start of its activities**

After months of coordinated work between global hemp industry associations, FIHO finally opens its doors to lead the industry into a new era.

Based on the recent advances and renewed global interest in hemp as an industrial commodity, a group of hemp industry associations worldwide got together to discuss the creation of a global entity with the mission to bring together industry leaders, market expertise, and resources to speak with one voice on hemp issues at the global level and to identify and create opportunities to scale sustainable hemp production, marketing, and trade to benefit the global hemp industry, consumers, and the environment.

FIHO, as a global organization committed to the hemp sector, will work to advance the global production, consumption and trade of industrial hemp and provide an unparalleled platform that promotes research, development and innovation, standards harmonization, regulation, knowledge dissemination, and awareness creation.

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022, the interim Directors gathered for the first interim Board meeting and selected the elected interim Officers. The election process resulted in the following:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name of elected official</b>	<b>Region</b>
Board Chair	Ted Haney	CHTA, Canada
Board Vice-Chair	Daniel Kruse	EIHA, Europe
Treasurer	Geoff Whaling	NHA, USA
Secretary	Hongliang Ding	CHA, China

The following committees were established:

<b>Committee</b>	<b>Name of elected official</b>	<b>Region</b>
Communication and Engagement Committee Chair	Lorenzo Rolim da Silva	LAIHA, Latin America
Policy and Regulation Committee Co-chairs	Lorenza Romanese Erica McBride Stark	EIHA, Europe NHA, USA
Research, Standards, and Sustainability Committee Chair	Keith Jones	CHTA, Canada

Other directors that compose the Interim Board:

<b>Position</b>	<b>Name of elected official</b>	<b>Region</b>
Interim Director	Charles Kovess	AIHA, Australia
Interim Director	Gaurav Dixit	UHA, India
Interim Director	Hunter Buffington	NIHC, USA
Interim Director	Jason Fung	CHA, China
Interim Director	Joseph Hickey Sr.	KYHA, USA
Interim Director	Kyle Bingham	THGA, USA
Interim Director	Patrick Atagi	NIHC, USA

We are very happy to have reached a broad understanding on the goals and roles together as a global organization working to promote hemp and turn it into a mainstream global agricultural commodity integrated with multiple different industrialization streams.

Ted Haney, interim Board Chair said “This work is the result of months of meetings and high-level discussions among the members. Considering the long experience and high degree of knowledge of our member parties, we can safely conclude that the global hemp industry is destined to achieve greatness under the direction of FIHO. We are working to provide the conditions the hemp industry needs to flourish for everyone on earth, promoting inclusion, diversity and social and environmental responsibility.”

FIHO expects to have a fully operational structure, including all the required framework to welcome new associates on Q3/2022. The information necessary for the inclusion of newcomers will be released to the general public over the next few months.

For more information:

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