



PRESS RELEASE

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**KOMMUNENES INTERNASJONALE MILJØORGANISASJON
LOCAL AUTHORITIES INTERNATIONAL
ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANISATION**

KIMO UPDATES WEB PRESENCE

KIMO International has recently undertaken a complete redevelopment of its website, including a new URL: www.kimointernational.org, to keep its web presence as up to date as the original pioneering site was in 1994. KIMO was one of the first environmental organisations to have a website and that innovative and forward-looking approach has been continued in the new site which offers a range of new features to members and non-members alike. New features include a special news section, a calendar of KIMO events and other events where KIMO has an interest. New features specifically for members include online draft minutes and accounts along with the ability to download agenda items in a compressed format. For non-members there is ability to register online and receive updates on KIMO's work in any of our area's of interest. Other features from the old site, such as links to all KIMO members, KIMO Networks pages and KIMO reports and publications have been continued.

A KIMO spokesperson stated that "The new website, which was developed by Shetland based Shaw Marketing and Design and 4QL, would prove itself to be a useful tool for members and an excellent platform for promoting KIMO in the future by providing a modern face for the organisation"

KIMO Background

KIMO is an international association of Local Authorities and associated organisations, which was formally founded in Esbjerg, Denmark, in August 1990 to work towards cleaning up pollution in the North Sea. The idea for the organisation originally came from Vågsøy Kommune in Norway. Vågsøy had been concerned since 1985 about the proposals for further nuclear fuel reprocessing at Dounreay, which they saw as a threat to their fishing industry. The widespread seal deaths in the North Sea in 1988 and the spread of toxic algae bloom up the west coast of Norway in the same year brought home to them that the threats to marine life in the North Sea extended well beyond radioactive discharges. They also realised that any action taken to clean up the North Sea could only be effective if it was co-ordinated on an international basis and decided to contact some other local authorities to form a nucleus of an international group.

The other founder members - Shetland Islands Council, Grampian Regional Council and Esbjerg City Council - were selected at that time on the basis that they shared with Vågsøy a

common interest in protecting their fishing industries. From this modest localised start KIMO has grown in size and in terms of its aims and objectives. It now has over 128 members in the UK, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Faeroe Islands, The Netherlands and The Republic of Ireland with associate members in Germany and the Isle of Man representing over 6 million people. Its remit now includes the Irish Sea and the North East Atlantic.

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