



ASOCIACIÓN COLOMBIANA DE HIDROGEÓLOGOS

International Association of Hydrogeologists IAH
CHAPTER COLOMBIA
Colombian Association of Hydrogeologists, ACH
ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES 2009

The main activity of the Colombian Association of Hydrogeologists during 2009 was the organization and leadership of the III Colombian Congress on Hydrogeology, between July 5 and 10, 2009, in Bogota. According to the expressions of some of the professors who were invited to participate in the conference program, this was an "outstanding meeting". There were more than 200 participants. The full scientific program consisted of a two-day short course field hydrogeology, a geologic field trip, keynote speakers, technical exhibits, and technical presentations during a week. Drs. John Moore (IAH past president) and Dr. Joel Carrillo (IAH president of the Mexican chapter) led a field hydrogeology short course that consisted of one day to discuss theory and a second day to conduct field measurements. Dr. Stephen Foster (IAH past president) and them made also keynote presentations.

The opening of the congress was chaired by the minister of environment, Dr. Carlos Costa Posada, and the Director of IDEAM, Dr. Ricardo Lozano. We also had the direct involvement of teachers Sergio Serrano, Monica Aragon and Carlos Molano, and besides a select group of professors of hydrogeology and invited consultants who presented excellent papers on various topics of research in hydrogeology and its relationship to the environment, modeling and groundwater management, based on projects that have been conducted in Colombia and neighboring countries of north, central and south America.

The III Congress was notable for the organization, the beautiful convention center, and the dedication of members of the committees, which have left high the name of our association. In addition and as a result of the congress, we have a seed capital with which we will develop other academic events in the future.

The association currently is working on the creation of working committees to carry out the academic program for the years 2010 and 2011 and for the preparation of the Latin American Congress on Hydrogeology, to be held in Colombia in 2012. We are also forming a committee to support the authorities in response to the emergency caused by El Niño, which has brought severe drought to most of the country and has affected water supplies of many communities. We hope to receive international support for these tasks.

The ACH will be responsible for leading from now on hydrogeology congresses, promoting courses, conferences and academic activities, inside his task of tending the integration of specialists around the Colombian Association of Hydrogeologists, which will be the focus of scientific endeavor and labor issues of groundwater.

MARIO VALENCIA-CUESTA
President
ACH