



NEWS AND INFORMATION

International Association of Hydrogeologists

The international groundwater organisation

Since 1956 a world-wide forum on the management of groundwater for the benefit of mankind and the environment

XXXVI IAH Congress, Japan

The thirty-sixth Congress of IAH was held at the end of October in the coastal city of Toyama, on the western side of Japan. The theme of the Congress was “Integrating Groundwater Science and Human Wellbeing”.



Nearly five hundred delegates, drawn more or less equally from within and outside Japan were warmly welcomed by Takakazu Ishii, the Governor of Toyama Prefecture. He outlined some of the “green” initiatives being taken within the Prefecture, making clear the importance of managing the utilised groundwater resources of the coastal plain and the danger of surface water flooding from the rivers emanating from Japan's central mountain ranges. He and several of his colleagues at the opening ceremony emphasised how proud the city was to host the Congress.

Following the opening ceremony there were two days of parallel sessions of presentations and posters in the excellently-appointed conference centre. In the

middle of the week the participants were treated to a choice of cultural excursions, which fortunately were not spoiled by the heavy rain showers which managed to appear just at the wrong time.



Field trip to Kanazawa-city

These were followed by further scientific presentations and posters and, on the Friday and Saturday, by special public symposia described in the next article (page 2). Associated with the Congress, meetings were held on the history of hydrogeology and of the IAH commissions on urban hydrogeology and managing aquifer recharge. There were also sessions within the programme on the *continued over*

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To join IAH please visit the web site and either join on-line or download the membership application form

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UNESCO Graphic programme and on UNESCO's work on groundwater in emergency situations.

The idea for the Toyama congress was conceived when IAH and UNESCO cooperated with IAH Japan in March 2003 to hold a "Groundwater Day" at the Kyoto World Water Forum. Since that date IAH Japan has worked energetically with groundwater professional groups in Japan, with geoscience and environmental educators in Toyama, with the Toyama prefectural government and with a range of national and local sponsors to put together the congress we have just experienced. Toyama is not well known to international visitors but it is a vibrant commercial and industrial centre with a passion about the protection of its environment which made it an excellent venue for the Congress. Thanks are due to

many people but we appreciate particularly the efforts of Ryuma Yoshioka (pictured below), the President of IAH Japan and Chairman of the Organising Committee, Hiromichi Ishibashi of the Japanese Association for Environmental Hydrogeology and



Yasuo Sakura, the initial chairman of the Organising Committee for their efforts in stimulating and organising a large collective effort from Japanese colleagues.

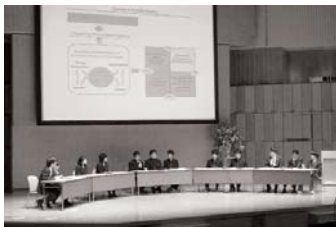
*Andrew Skinner
and John Chilton*

Open Forum at the IAH Toyama Congress

The Toyama 2008 Congress Organising Committee, following the tradition of a strong focus on fostering public dialogue by IAH Japan, set aside two days of the Congress for open sessions with local government, citizens and children.

The concept of the Toyama Congress was that there would be four days of technical sessions around selected themes, open only to registered attendees at the Congress followed by two "public" days, open to all. The first public day (Symposium 1 and 2) was targeted at a general and local technical audience and the second public day (Symposium 3) was targeted at citizens and youth.

Symposium 1 was a series of presentations on aspects of water management in Japan given by local academics and water managers. Here we learned about the special challenges presented by the geological setting and also the constraints of the legal code in Japan as applied to groundwater. Symposium 2 covered wider experiences of groundwater management including the two keynotes by IAH nominees - Stephen Foster (UK and retiring IAH President) and Ricardo Hirata (Brazil). The quality and diversity of these presentations led to an interesting exchange of views led by international commentators.



Discussion by High School students

Symposium 3 was in two parts. In the main auditorium the audience was local teachers, parents and other citizens and students from 3 high schools (age 15-16). At this session which lasted all day there was a keynote by Shabby Puri (newly elected Secretary General) on communicating groundwater issues, drawn from his experiences working within the UN system. This was followed by presentations by the 3 high school groups on water related projects, feedback on the projects from teachers and a structured discussion by the pupils on what their project work had taught them about environmental science and the role of the citizen in environmental management.

A parallel half day event was held in an adjacent auditorium where some 100 younger school children (11-14) also made presentations on environmental project work (the presentations were "choreographed" and to a western observer were more like a school play than a science report but the science content was high and the commitment and enthusiasm of the children was impressive). Andrew Skinner (former Executive Manager of IAH) gave a talk at this session and presented prizes. The whole session was filmed by the local television company BBT, who were a sponsor of the event, and will be shown as an hour long feature in December 2008. At the end of the day the two groups came together for a finale which included showing some rough cut film of the younger children's presentations to the other audience. This was an excellent way to make the next generation environmentally aware and IAH Japan and their cooperating teacher community have set a standard which other IAH groups might wish to try to emulate.

Andrew Skinner

IAH Awards in Toyama



Willi Struckmeier receives the Presidents' Award from Stephen Foster

At the IAH General Assembly in the middle of the congress week, The Presidents' Award was presented to Willi Struckmeier. This award is given to those who have made an outstanding international contribution to groundwater science, and to furthering the Association and its mission. In presenting the award, the IAH President Stephen Foster reminded members that Willi clearly meets both these criteria - as a long-standing member of the IAH Council and Executive (Honorary Treasurer 1996-2004 and Secretary General 2005-08) and as the global champion of hydrogeological map-making for many years. In this latter cause Willi has been Chair of the IAH Commission on Hydrogeological Maps since 1982 and coordinated the production of the first Hydrogeological Map of Europe during the 1980s. The work of the Commission reached a peak during 2006-07 with the publication of the Hydrogeological Map of the World, which is an important communication tool for IAH advocacy on the global importance of groundwater resources and the need for more investment in their investigation, management and protection.

Honorary Membership of the Association was conferred on Andrew Skinner in recognition of his leading role in skilfully steering IAH through its transformation from a loosely formalised association into an established non-profit organisation. The citation also recognised his highly consistent and efficient service to IAH as Assistant Secretary General, Secretary-General from 1989 to 2004 and Executive Manager until this year. In all three posts, his guidance and wisdom has been greatly appreciated by National Chapters, Congress organisers and successive Councils for more than twenty years. Andrew's inspiration was for a

Professional Association embracing science, technology, management and social aspects of groundwater as essential human and environmental issues.

On behalf of Council and the membership, Andrew was also presented with a gift from Japan. In his response, Andrew told the members present that he was indeed honoured to be recognised in this way, and to join the exalted company of only Emilio Custodio and Jean Margat as the other members of IAH to receive the Presidents' Award and Honorary Membership. He wished the Association well, and urged us not to forget that our strength is in our broad representational base, and we should continue to strive for more members.

The General Assembly also resolved unanimously to award Honorary Membership to Emilio Custodio. As he was unable to come to Toyama, arrangements will be made to present this to him in Spain at the earliest opportunity.

IAH Distinguished Associate Award

IAH's Distinguished Associate Award for 2008 was presented to Chusei Yamada of Japan. This award is given annually to a person who, while not being a groundwater professional, has made an outstanding contribution to the understanding, development, management and protection of groundwater resources internationally. Chusei Yamada has had a distinguished career as both a lawyer and a diplomat, serving as Ambassador of Japan to the Conference of Disarmament and to Egypt and India and he is currently a special assistant to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in Japan.

Since 1992 he has been a member of the United Nations International Law Commission (ILC) to which he was re-elected to serve for a fourth consecutive term in November 2006. In 2003 he was appointed Special Rapporteur to study the topic of Shared Natural Resources, including transboundary groundwaters, oil and gas. In this capacity Ambassador Yamada has worked tirelessly to set out Draft Articles for the sound management of transboundary aquifers in which he had been strongly supported by the IAH Transboundary Aquifer Resources Management Commission, and Shamy Puri in particular.

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(IAH awards)

The work of providing a durable legal framework for transboundary groundwaters, which takes proper account of the scientific principles governing its occurrence and flow, is of great importance in ensuring the sustainable and peaceful management of groundwater resources in many parts of the world. The Association is pleased to acknowledge Ambassador Yamada's leadership and personal contribution with this award. It was the intention to present it to him at the Toyama Congress, but Ambassador Yamada was attending the 6th Committee (legal) of the UN General Assembly in New York to present and discuss the Draft Articles at the same time as the Congress. Instead it was presented at an ILC session in Geneva earlier in the year, and a video of the presentation there by Willi Struckmeier was shown at the IAH General Assembly in Toyama.



Ambassador Chusei Yamada receiving the IAH Distinguished Associate Award 2008 at a ceremony in Geneva in July 2008. Willi Struckmeier (then Secretary General and now IAH President) hands over a special issue World Hydrogeological Map showing transboundary aquifers while Shammy Puri, Chairman of the IAH Transboundary Aquifer Resources Management Commission and now IAH Secretary General, looks on.

IAH Executive

Calling all Members!

IAH "News and Information" is *your* newsletter. We welcome articles from everyone involved with IAH, from individual members and corporate supporters through to National Chapters, Commissions and Working Groups. Remember, our key aim is to improve our members' understanding of groundwater issues and support its better management - the newsletter can be an excellent means to support this. Wherever you are in the world we want to know about your plans and achievements! In particular we are very happy to add your events to our conference listing on the website and in the newsletter, and to feature short articles promoting them beforehand and longer articles reporting on them afterwards.

In the next twelve months we will be dedicating time to the development of "News and Information" - indeed you may have noticed that some changes are already being made. If you have any articles for the newsletter or any suggestions for its improvement please contact John Chilton, via email jchilton@iah.org.

We look forward to hearing from you during 2009.

Advertising and Copy Information

IAH News and Information is published 3 times a year in 170mm x 240mm page format. It is distributed as an insert in Hydrogeology Journal and reaches all members and associated members of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and subscribing members of the Geological Society of America - totalling over 4,000. Some 45% of the membership is in Europe.

Advertising rates are €600 per full-page advert and €450 per half page. These rates apply for one issue. If you take an advert in two successive issues then the third is offered free of charge. Corporate sponsors and corporate members of IAH are entitled to 50% off the above rates.

Copy must be provided electronically - please contact knicholson@iah.org for acceptable formats. You will be invoiced for payment in euros or at the equivalent rate in sterling or US dollars when the advertisement is agreed.

Copy dates are 1 March, 1 July and 1 November each year.



President's Column - At the Time of Hand-Over

From your outgoing president...

By the time this column appears in your in-tray I will have handed over the baton to your incoming President at the IAH Congress in Toyama. I must take this opportunity, therefore, of formally wishing the new IAH President, Council, Executive and Secretariat all the best in their endeavours to serve our Members and to advocate the 'groundwater cause' during 2008-12.

Some significant progress has, I believe, been made by the outgoing IAH Executive and Council during 2004-08, of which probably the most important are that:

~ IAH is now universally recognised by the 'international water community' (and indeed by our own members) as the Worldwide Groundwater Association – an international non-governmental organisation (INGO) for all groundwater specialists with hydrogeology as the 'core science' but not the only relevant discipline;

~ we have considerably expanded the output, improved the quality and broadened the geographical coverage of our *Hydrogeology Journal* to become the premier regular international publication on groundwater resources and hydrogeological science;

~ we have substantially improved the policy outreach and sector exposure of the IAH in Europe (through our partnership with the EC-Groundwater Working Group), in Africa (through the efforts of the Burdon Network and the Kampala Conference of June 2008) and in Asia (through the on-going sequence of congresses and conferences: Beijing, September 2006; Toyama, October 2008; Bangkok, February 2009 and Hyderabad, September 2009);

~ we have had some memorable gatherings – from 2006-08 the memories of Dijon, Beijing, Lisbon and Kampala, in particular, will remain with me for the rest of my years.

I do hope the groundwater fraternity in the Americas, amongst whom I have many close friends, will forgive me for what might be viewed as relative neglect. During the Presidency of Emilio Custodio special effort was placed (understandably and successfully) into promoting IAH activities in those regions and so when I took over the reins from him

there were strong arguments for focusing special attention on Asia and Africa beyond our already well-established centres of activity.

I wish to thank you all for your support to the Association and to me personally over the past four years – and to make very special mention of Andrew Skinner and Christine Watson (now the outgoing Executive Manager and Assistant respectively) and to Cliff Voss (the *Hydrogeology Journal* Managing Editor) in gratitude for their exceptional efforts on your behalf and in my support during throughout this time.

Stephen Foster

NB: The incoming president, Willi Struckmeier, will commence a regular column in the next newsletter.

Expo 2008 - A Very Big Splash for Water

EXPO ZARAGOZA, SPAIN, SEPTEMBER 2008



In the first week of September the then IAH President, Stephen Foster, followed the UN Secretary General, the “Spanish Royals” and tens of thousands of other visitors to the site of ExpoAgua 2008. The Expo is located in a large meander of the braided River Ebro in the city of Zaragoza and is adorned with a range of architecturally diverse and spectacular pavilions, including the emblematic Pabellon Puente itself bridging the river. It certainly represents a very different way of broadcasting the importance of water to humankind, compared to other more introspective global events such as the World Water Fora, focusing primarily on the general public and younger generation.

The invitation to our President was mobilised via the IAH-Spanish National Group, and his presentation on “Groundwater for Life and Livelihoods in Sub-Saharan Africa” came from El Faro, a consortium of primarily Spanish water-sector NGOs underwritten by the Expo Authority. It formed part of a week-long series of invited talks on “The Basic Human Right to Potable Water and Sanitation”. In his talk Stephen stressed:

- the extreme natural variability of rainfall in many parts of Africa (even compared to Southern Spain), and the consequent major role for groundwater storage in mitigating drought and addressing the UN-MDGs for domestic water-supply;
- the importance of hydrogeological science and improved engineering for keeping down the unit cost of water-supply provision through the siting, constructing and operating of millions of successful waterwells;

- the currently very low level of irrigation and the need to reduce the risk of capital investment in groundwater-irrigated agriculture, particularly at the small-scale;
- the exceptional rate of urban population growth and potential role of groundwater to meet escalating urban water-supply demands and the quality hazards associated with in-situ sanitation, unless both are carefully coordinated.

Stephen also commented afterwards that the venue, pictured, was unquestionably the most original (and amongst the most difficult) at which he had ever spoken in a water-sector career spanning more than 40 years. As the photos show the El Faro Pavilion is, in effect, a giant two-storey (reinforced) mud rondavel, which has been designed to be washed naturally by the waters of the Ebro River when these rise following winter rainfall and removal of a temporary gabbion - leaving hopefully only good memories of the ExpoAgua in the summer of 2008.



IAH Executive

Commission on Mineral and Thermal Waters meets in Turkey

The IAH Commission on Mineral and Thermal Waters (CMTW) met from 30 August to 7 September in Turkey, reports its Chair, Werner Balderer. The programme for the visit started at the Istanbul Technical University, Maslak Campus with a business meeting of the Commission on 31 August, followed by a scientific symposium over the next two days. This was devoted to presentations of the scientific work of the members of CMTW and invited Turkish colleagues, and during these two days, 17 speakers presented topics of hydrogeology, isotope-hydrology, hydrochemistry, mineral waters, geothermal exploration and medical geology (see below). An introduction to the scientific aspects of the following four days of the technical excursion was also given.



The group of CMTW participants

The following scientific presentations were made:

- Werner Balderer and Tolga Yalcin: *Overview of Geothermal Systems in Western Turkey based on isotope and chemical investigations/Introduction to the Technical Excursion*
- Roberto Carella: *A new thermal spa in northern Italy: "Premia"*
- Jozsef Deák: *Role of environmental isotopes in mineral and thermal water research*
- Jozsef Deak and Árpád Lorberer: *Origin of surplus CO₂ in the thermal karstic waters of Budapest – New results of complex hydrogeology and isotope hydrology investigations*
- Umit Demirel: *Fluorosis problems in drinking water in some districts of Turkey*
- Elissavet Dotsika: *The origin of thermal waters in Greece*
- Ruey-Chy Kao, I. Sh. Ibrahimova: *Origin of arsenious waters and their influence on environmental aspects of human health*
- Zeki Karagüzel: *Health Aspects of Thermal Waters in Turkey*
- Fatima Zohra Kedaid: *Algeria Geothermal Resources*

- John Moore: *Springs in Natural Forest, California, USA*
- Daniel Marcin: *Origin of mineral waters in the tectonic zones of the Magura Unit (NE Slovakia)*
- Kostadin Shterev: *Coastal hydrogeothermal systems (fields) in the Aegean Sea*
- Andrew Shug: *Evidence from the mixing zone; drilling in the ascension zone*
- Natalia Vinograd and Adam Porowski: *Hydrogeology and origin of mineral waters of Staraya Russa spa, Northwestern Russia*
- Galip Yuce: *The hydrochemical characteristics of geothermal waters in the vicinity of Eskişehir Region*
- Erdogan Yüzer: *Water Resources of Metropolitan City of Istanbul and their Protection*

The itinerary for the excursion encompassed 12 sites. Heading westwards from Istanbul along the northern shore of the Marmara Sea towards the Dardanelles, the group of 12 commission members, 5 potential members and 7 guests, in total representing 14 countries, first visited the historical site of a World War I Battle at Eceabat and then crossed by small boat to Canakkale and visited the historical city of Troya.

After an overnight stay at Kale on the shores of the Dadanelles, the tour party visited the thermal spring and spa of Kestanbol (pictured right, Na-Cl type water with about 20 g/l of dissolved solids and a water temperature of 65°C) and the Tuzla geothermal area (Na-Cl type water with about 60 g/l of dissolved solids and a water temperature of 98°C).



View of the borehole used by the Kestanbol spa. The tubes are hidden by thick travertine deposits produced by the leaks of thermal brine water. The colour is due to iron precipitations.

From these two thermal brine spring sites, the party moved southwards to the Gulf of Edremit to reach the Güre Afrodite Spa near the City of Edremit. The modern thermal spa is situated near an ancient spa site which is currently under archeological excavation. The thermal water is of Na-SO₄ type with a temperature of 60°C, and is to be used firstly for a geothermal plant (under construction) and then cooled to about 37°C for balneology purposes.

On the third day, the party headed north and eastwards from Kale along the southern coast of the Marmara Sea. The first stop was at the Kirkgeçit thermal resort near Biga. The thermal water discharges from a natural spring and is also extracted by boreholes. It is also of the Na-SO₄ type, has a relatively low mineralization (electrical conductivity 523 mS/cm) and a temperature of up to 53°C at the pumped well. Some members of the party took the opportunity to take a thermal bath.

The next destination was the thermal resort of Gönen. The hot thermal water of this area is used for heating by a large geothermal plant (one of the first economically operated in Turkey) and also for balneology. The party stayed overnight at Bursa.

On the last day of the trip the party was able to visit some of the famous Turkish baths in Bursa, such as

the Yeni Kaplica and Karamustapha spa and later in the morning took a trip to the region of Mount Uludag to visit the Uludag Mineral Water Facility. After an impressive visit to the bottling plant and the captured mineral springs, the party was treated to an excellent meal in a natural park. On the way back to Istanbul, passing the Gulf of Gemlik, the group had an opportunity to visit the historic spa of Yalova which is constructed in the byzantine – ottoman style. The water here flows naturally along a small creek, yielding a temperature of 80°C. This water which is captured for the thermal spa is of Ca-SO₄ type with a total mineralization of about 1.5 g/l.

After this last technical visit, the tour crossed the Marmara Sea at Yalova by ferry, finally returning to Istanbul by crossing the Bosphorus bridge. The next CMTW meeting will be held in September 2009 in Cairo.

Werner Balderer

The IAH Book Series

The blue backed International Contributions to Hydrogeology (ICH) book series and the green Selected Papers (SP) book series are familiar to IAH members the world over. The ICH series is a set of popular generic titles aimed at a wide international readership. The SP series is a collection of thematic books containing selections of papers from a variety of venues including selected extended papers from IAH Congresses. Both series are published on our behalf by CRC Balkema within the Taylor & Francis Group, and are available to members at a 60% discount. IAH underwrites the scientific integrity of each book proposal while Taylor & Francis takes on the commercial risk - a system that works well for both IAH and the publisher.

However, ensuring that both of these series regularly bring out attractive books to augment our catalogue is a demanding task for our books Editor-in-Chief, Nick Robins. Nick has been busy at the Toyama Congress promoting the book series and a variety of exciting titles are in preparation and under consideration. These include a volume on the history of hydrogeology as well as a new venture which will be a collection of essays describing selected, perhaps

slightly contentious, hydrogeological terms in the form of a quasi-encyclopaedia.

Many of the ideas and much of the material for the ICH and SP book series have traditionally originated from our Commissions and Congresses respectively. We need to maintain and strengthen these linkages, but the IAH book series are your books for you to publish in as well as to subscribe to. It is important that members of the Association let Nick know what book themes they would like to see published and what themes should be championed. Perhaps a regional compilation, for example, lessons learned in recent Australasian hydrogeology, or perhaps a review of modern geophysical techniques appropriate to groundwater development and management might be appealing. Whatever your hydrogeological persuasion, please talk to our books Editor-in-Chief (nsro@bgs.ac.uk) and feed him your thoughts. Nick is always looking for new authors, editors and champions and for new ideas. And if you would like to prepare a short essay on a hydrogeological term, let him know as well and he can pass on your interest to the editors of the new encyclopaedia.

Nick Robins and John Chilton



Conference Listing

Summary details of conferences with e-mail or web addresses are given below. For a fuller list of conferences and more details, including links to web sites visit www.iah.org/confs/

We are happy to accept information concerning upcoming groundwater events from organisers - email knicholson@iah.org with full details.

2009

16-21 Feb. Bangkok, THAILAND. IGS - TH 2009. International Symposium on Efficient Groundwater Resources Management: The Challenge of Quantity and Quality for Sustainable Future. Web: <http://www.igsth2009.com>

20 Feb. Sydney, AUSTRALIA. 4th Annual Water Symposium. Web: <http://www.legalwiseseminars.com.au/>

17-20 Mar. Adelaide, AUSTRALIA. Workshop on Water Recycling via Aquifers. Email: peter.dillon@csiro.au

20-23 Apr. Vienna, AUSTRIA. HydroEco'2009. 2nd International Multidisciplinary Conference on Hydrology and Ecology: Ecosystems Interfacing with Groundwater and Surface Water. Web: <http://www.natur.cuni.cz/hydroeco2009/>

8-10 Jun. Panama City, PANAMA. Groundwater for the Americas. Organised by National Groundwater Association. Sponsored by IAH. Web: <http://www.ngwa.org>

8-10 Jun. San Francisco, USA. 6th IWA/GRA Specialized Conference on Assessment and Control of Micropollutants/Hazardous Substances Control in Water. Organised by International Water Association and the Groundwater Resources Association of California. Web: <http://www.grac.org/micropol.asp>

24-28 Aug. Santa Rosa, ARGENTINA. VI Congreso Argentino de Hidrogeología y del IV Seminario Hispano-Latinoamericano. Organised by Grupo Argentino de la Asociación Internacional de Hidrogeólogos. Email: viconahi@gmail.com or aih_ge@aih-ge.org

7-12 Sep. Hyderabad, INDIA. Sustainable development and management of groundwater resources of hard rock terrains. Joint IAH/IAHS International Convention combining 37th IAH Congress and 8th IAHS Scientific Assembly. Email: iahs@ensmp.fr or w.struckmeier@bgr.de

23-26 Sep. Plitvice Lakes, CROATIA. Sustainability of the Karst Environment - Dinaric Karst and Other Karst Regions. Email: jadranka.pejinovic@gs.t-com.hr

2010

24-26 Mar. Agadir, MOROCCO. Integrated Water Resources Management and Challenges of the Sustainable Development. Organised by IAH Moroccan Chapter. Email: lbouchau@yahoo.fr

Congress in Hyderabad

Professor Rai, chair of the organising committee, made a presentation at the General Assembly in Toyama about the preparations for the joint IAHS/IAH Convention in Hyderabad in September 2009. This will be the 8th Scientific Assembly of IAHS and the 37th Congress of IAH. Preparations are well in hand, and we urge you to put the dates in your diaries. He reminded us that the abstract deadline for the IAH Symposia is January 31st 2009, so get thinking, all you hard rock hydrogeologists!! Further details, including the topics of the symposia can be found on <http://appliedhydrology.org/iahs/> or in the first circular which was distributed with Hydrogeology Journal.

IAH Plans for Future Congresses

The schedule for future congresses is becoming clear. Following from Hyderabad, the 38th Congress will be held in Krakow, Poland from 12 to 16 September 2010. Stanislaw Witczak made a brief presentation on behalf of the organisers to the Toyama General Assembly about their plans, informing us (among other slightly more hydrogeological factors) that the city centre has the greatest concentration of restaurants and bars in Europe! The first circular will be distributed to members with Hydrogeology Journal in the usual way early in 2009. The congress for 2011 is planned for early September in Dublin and, in the enforced last-minute absence of the Irish chapter representatives, "honorary Irishman" Nick Robins made an impassioned plea to the Toyama General Assembly for us all to join him there. The 40th Congress in 2012 will take place in Canada. Further details of all of these will appear on the IAH website and in subsequent newsletters, so there is plenty to look forward to.

Election of New IAH Council

Elections for the Council of the Association are held every four years, and 2008 has been election year. The process started in January 2008, when the opening of nominations was announced in the Newsletter, eNews and on the web site. Nominations closed on 31 May and were published at the end of June. Election papers were distributed by mail and e-mail from 1 September 2008. Postal voting was extended to 21 October 2008 because of a mailing problem and electronic voting closed on 28 October 2008. The results were announced by the returning officer, Andrew Skinner, at the General Meeting of the Association on 29 October in Toyama. This will have been one of Andrew's last major tasks for IAH, and we should thank him, Sharon and Kellie for the efficient running of the election process.

The 1238 votes cast, 97% of which were by web, represents a 34% response, a significant improvement from 24% in 2004, and good for the health of the Association. Full results are shown on our website at <http://www.iah.org/elect08/results.htm>.

The retiring Council was thanked by the outgoing president at the General Meeting (and elsewhere in this newsletter). The new Council will serve until 2012, and we wish them well in their endeavours on behalf of IAH, and the Secretariat looks forward to continuing close working relationships with Council. New council members present in Toyama met briefly at the end of the conference week and several potential initiatives are already under discussion.

IAH Commissions

Jiri Krasny, long-time chair of the IAH Commission on the Hydrogeology of Hard Rocks has advised us that he would like to step down as Chair. We thank Jiri warmly on behalf of the membership for his 15 years of guidance of the productive work of this Commission. Jiri informs us that, after discussion with colleagues who have participated in the work of the Commission, it has been agreed that Professor Georgios Stourmaras of the University of Athens will take over as Chair. He has pledged to dedicate time and energy to keep the Commission working effectively, and we extend our welcome to him in this role.

The science base of IAH has always been its Commissions, some of which have a long history of activity and publication. However, we need to ensure that there are strong linkages between the work and the outputs of the Commissions, the Congresses and the Book Series. This will certainly

be the case for the Hyderabad Congress, but we need to work to maintain and build these links. The Commissions were briefly discussed at the first meeting of the new Council in Toyama. Professor Ken Howard, the new Vice President for Programme and Science Coordination will wish include consideration of these issues in his tenure, and it will be on the agenda for the meeting of the IAH Executive to be held at UNESCO in Paris in early February. Watch this space.

Top Honour for IAH Editor

For the first time in its 552 year history, the University of Greifswald, Germany has elected a woman as President of the Senate. Professor Dr. Maria-Theresia Schafmeister was recently elected as President with a vast majority. In this very old university, female students have been enrolled only since 1918. In 2006, Maria became the first and only female professor in the Senate. Now she leads it.

The Senate (12 Professors, 12 Students, 6 academic and 6 technical members) decides on fundamental management questions that

steer the university, including its budget and regulations. The Senate elects the University's Rektor and his 2 Pro-Rektoren (President and Vice Presidents). An additional task, requiring political care and diplomacy, is to review decisions made by the Rektor.



Maria holds the Chair of Applied Geology and Hydrogeology at the Institute of Geography and Geology. She was an Associate Editor of Hydrogeology Journal from 1999 to 2001, and has been a Managing Editor since 2005.

IAH is extremely pleased to report this great honour for one of its hard-working editors, so please join us all in congratulating Maria on her success!

IAH Council Meets in Toyama

The outgoing IAH Council held its last meeting in Toyama and the new Council met briefly towards the end of Congress week. There were no major decisions to be made on the rules of the Association or fees (set last year in Lisbon), and the report and accounts for 2007 have already been circulated, but some of the issues discussed included:

- Membership at the end of September stood at 3768, close to the record level of 3857 at the end of 2007. Much of this modest growth has come from some of the higher income countries, which is essential for the long-term professional and financial viability of IAH. This reflects the efforts of National Chapters in France, Australia, Norway and the Netherlands to encourage new members and chase up non-renewals, for which we are very grateful and which the Executive will strive to extend. In preparation for the upcoming renewal round and to encourage further recruitment, the Secretariat needs to develop a more strategic approach to targeting high-income countries, learning from the experience of the National Chapters mentioned above, assisting National Chapters with recruitment literature and information, and improving communications with and services to members. The table below shows recent membership trends by region, emphasising the need for us to pay greater attention to promoting membership in the Middle East and North Africa and in Eastern Europe, and in recovering losses in Latin America. We would also be happy to receive any suggestions and advice from the membership on this issue.

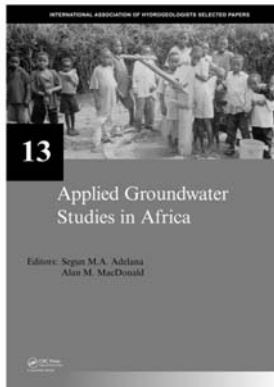
IAH Membership by Region (end year figures except 2008)

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Sub-Saharan Africa	165	167	159	206	202	204	197
North Africa and the Middle East	75	77	86	84	78	90	90
Asia	243	218	218	238	265	263	288
Australasia and the Pacific	389	426	455	502	477	496	488
Eastern Europe	242	217	235	338	351	365	353
North America	754	720	697	704	695	685	673
Latin America and the Caribbean	309	300	300	213	211	207	195
Western Europe	1473	1496	1573	1539	1485	1545	1484
Total	3650	3621	3725	3824	3763	3857	3768

- The number of sponsored members now stands at 193. There can be no doubting the value of the scheme, both to the Association and to the sponsored members themselves. Meeting some of them in Kampala brings home how much the often rather professionally isolated hydrogeologists appreciate the benefits of membership. These international benefits could be greatly enhanced by the local benefits of social and technical meetings arising from the development of new National Chapters. To this end, the Secretariat and the Vice President for Southern Africa are following up initiatives from Kampala to promote new chapters in Malawi, Zambia and Tanzania. Council pledged to redouble its efforts to further increase sponsored member numbers by vigorously taking up the actions agreed in Lisbon.
- Council received encouraging reports from Nick Robins (Editor-in-Chief of IAH books) and from Cliff Voss (Executive Editor of Hydrogeology Journal). 2008 will have seen three new books in print. Several others are in preparation, and Nick is actively pursuing some new ideas from Toyama and also looking to the membership and the Commissions for ideas (see page 8). The Journal continues to go from strength to strength, with two new managing editors appointed in 2008 - Shemin Ge from the USA and Jimmy Jiao from Hong Kong. Craig Simmons and Bridget Scanlon have come to the end of their terms, and Maria Schafmeister and Philippe Reynard continue. Even with eight issues per year and a planned total of 1650 printed pages, there remains a backlog of accepted papers, and Council discussed ways of trying to overcome this.

IAH Executive

New IAH Publications - 60% Discount to IAH Members

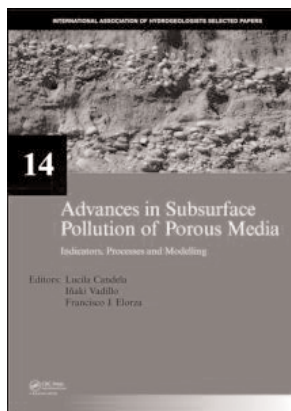


Applied Groundwater Studies in Africa *Segun M.A. Adelana & Alan M. MacDonald*

September 2008: 246x174: 474 pp: HB: ISBN 978-0-415-45273-1:
IAH-membership price: £24.00

Groundwater is Africa's most precious natural resource, providing reliable water supplies to many people, and the potential to supply many more. However, sustainable groundwater development is not a trivial task. It depends critically on an understanding of hydrogeology and skilled people to make informed decisions on how best to develop and manage groundwater. Scant attention has been paid to the systematic gathering of information on groundwater resources in the past few decades, with the result that data are patchy, knowledge is limited and investment is often poorly targeted.

This book aims to bridge the knowledge gap. The 29 chapters are written both by practitioners and researchers (mainly from within Africa) and are based on experience from recent and ongoing projects. It highlights the variety and complexity of issues surrounding the development and management of groundwater resources across Africa, and provides a snapshot of groundwater research in the early 21st century. The book will inform practitioners within Africa as well as the wider international community working towards better water coverage in Africa and elsewhere.



Advances in Subsurface Pollution of Porous Media – Indicators, Processes and Modelling (IAH Selected Papers on Hydrogeology, volume 14)

Lucila Candela, Inaki Vadillo & Francisco J. Elorza

October 2008: 246x174: 240 pp: HB: ISBN 978-0-415-47690-4:
IAH membership price: £23.60

This book of selected papers will fill the gap of the necessity to develop a high level of knowledge of the processes concerning common and emergent contaminants through their passage from soil to groundwater. It presents new methodologies and indicators to reach a better understanding of biogeochemical processes as a basis for environmental models. The combined use of the understanding of processes and models' prognosis will inform researches and water managers and will provide the possibility for better management and preservation of water resources.

The book will be a valuable reference for graduate students, researchers and professionals in government and public institutions, and for those interested in soil and groundwater contamination in various aspects.

IAH books are published for IAH by Taylor and Francis pub.NL@tandf.co.uk

IAH members can order books at a discount by using the form at <http://www.iah.org/iahbalkema.htm>

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