



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

GROUNDWATER NEEDS GOOD GOVERNANCE

Unless governance of groundwater is improved, human society will not obtain the full worldwide benefit from the significant advances that have recently been made in the scientific understanding of groundwater. That is the conclusion of a proposal for a Medium Size Project prepared by IAH for the World Bank, as Implementing Agency, for the Global Environment Facility (GEF). The project proposal was developed with the input and support from many UN agencies, NGOs, the GEF and the World Bank and recommends that the World Bank lead a cooperative programme supported by the GEF and a consortium of co-funders to implement a global project to promote the enormous benefits that better governance of groundwater would bring. It also identifies the need to elevate dialogue on groundwater management to the political level and for a global communications strategy for awareness raising for political leaders and decision makers at all levels on the strategic importance of their hidden and inadequately managed groundwater assets.

Background to the initiative

Groundwater plays a central role in the provision of water-supply for the rural and urban population, industrial development and irrigated agriculture, as well as being vital for sustaining numerous aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems. Groundwater is an

integral part of the water cycle - with a pervasive influence across basins and landscapes, sustaining ecosystems and biodiversity whilst contributing to human health and socio-economic development. An unprecedented increase in the utilization of groundwater has occurred in the last few decades.



Green Revolution - Powered by Groundwater

This drastic change has been called 'the silent revolution', since it has occurred virtually unnoticed, in an unplanned and uncontrolled way, in many countries. The economic benefits have been great but the report warns that they may not be sustained.

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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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Good groundwater governance embodies technical, economic, legal, social, institutional and administrative structures, and the associated policy base required to ensure the responsible management and protection of groundwater resources. It must be sustainably financed and effectively engage all stakeholders (including public authorities and private users) in the decision-making process. There must be adequate information provision and action at a range of scales, from the user community level to the national policy level.

Although technical knowledge of groundwater has advanced considerably over the past few decades, this has had little influence on public policy and resource management and has not featured much in global, national or local water policy debates. A significantly increasing awareness of the value of groundwater as a critically important natural resource is needed to support the development of a global strategy for enabling good governance of groundwater. What is needed is a broad coalition to foster change, support policy reforms and promote sustainable groundwater management.

Project proposal

The project recommended to the GEF is to develop a 'Global Framework of Action'. This would comprise a menu of policy options for improved groundwater governance in different hydrogeologic and socio-economic settings founded on good science and current best practice. Their application would enable sound governance of groundwater and facilitate the implementation of local actions for their improved management and protection. The target audience of the project would include:

- the national political decision-making level
- international/regional funding and investment agencies
- user community representatives (water user groups, civil society groups and NGOs).

The project working group achieved a large measure of consensus among UN water-related agencies and other partners on the appropriate content and best approach for the project. At a meeting during the 2006 Stockholm Water Week agreement was reached on the need for, and priority of, thematic studies to refine the policy messages on governance needs as the following:

- Local groundwater management agencies & partnerships - staffing needs and sustainable finance
- Conjunctive use of groundwater & surface water - opportunities, impediments and institutions
- Factoring-in groundwater needs for sustaining ecosystems

- Promoting groundwater-friendly land management to enhance recharge rates and improve recharge quality
- Macro-economic trends affecting groundwater demand - notably the energy nexus
- Managing urban groundwater - key issues and way forward
- Groundwater management in land drainage - soil waterlogging and salinisation control
- Improving, valuing and sustaining national and local groundwater databases
- Aquifer storage roles and vulnerabilities in coping with accelerated climate change.

These priority themes should be supported by an innovative and robust outreach strategy to maximise political exposure for project outputs, and to increase significantly awareness of the value of groundwater as a critically important natural resource and the socio-economic opportunities that sustainable groundwater development and management provide. This strategy includes:

- the use of a communications specialist to ensure that the key project documents are appropriately designed and worded in line with their proposed dissemination
- a High Level Panel on Groundwater Policy to deliver key messages at the political level and provide the platform for developing the political debate
- a series of political outreach conferences (held in association with major regional political meetings) to enable high-level delivery of policy messages focused to regional variables.

A third dimension, identifying the importance of the regional variation of key issues and policy needs would be pursued through a series of Regional Consultative Fora implemented with partner agencies. While these fora would be held on a regional geographic basis, their agenda will be focused variously around key groundwater thematic areas that have greatest influence in the region concerned :

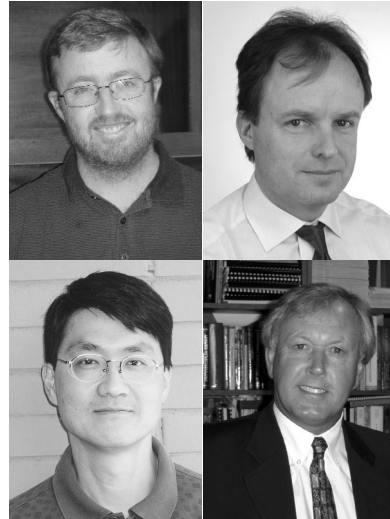
- role of groundwater in urban water-supply security
- role of groundwater in irrigated agriculture and food production
- role of groundwater in supporting basic rural water-supply and livelihoods
- role of groundwater in sustaining aquatic and/or terrestrial ecosystems
- importance of land conservation for groundwater.

Working arrangements for the study

The project proposal development began in April 2006 and was completed in January 2007. The World

Bank is the Implementing Agency on behalf of the GEF for the project and promoted a broadly-based cooperative programme amongst the UN system agencies and relevant international NGOs. In addition to the GEF a number of agencies have emerged as potential co-funders, such as the Bank Netherlands Water Partnership Program, International Atomic Energy Agency, UN Environment Programme, UN Food and Agriculture Organisation and the World Meteorological Organisation. Other agencies (including the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, UN Development Programme, World Health Organisation, UNICEF, World Water Council and the Global Water Partnership) have confirmed their support in principle. There has been much wider interest expressed in this project, for example by NGOs working in the field of water. The estimated project cost over three years is \$2.4-2.8M. The proposal development cost \$50,000 plus in-kind contributions from IAH and partners.

The proposal was developed by IAH through its subsidiary company WorldWide Groundwater Ltd using a core team of four experienced groundwater professionals from different continents under the guidance of senior members as Study Directors. The work was done by IAH in furtherance of its mission to promote improved management of the world's groundwater resources.



Members of the project team (top left/clockwise) Brent Usher (South Africa), Kevin Hiscock (UK), Ken Howard (Canada), Ricardo Hirata (Brasil)

The proposal is currently being assessed by the World Bank and the partner agencies before it is submitted to GEF for funding.

Succession Plan for the IAH Secretariat

Andrew Skinner, the IAH Executive Manager, has told the IAH Council and Executive that he wishes to give up executive responsibility within the Association no later than the 2008 Congress in Japan, bringing to an end over 20 years of honorary work managing IAH in various capacities.

In order to give time to effect a smooth and phased transfer of responsibility the Executive of IAH want to appoint a new Executive Manager early in 2008 and are beginning the search now. It is a part time appointment but will for the first time be salaried. There is a preference, to facilitate the transfer, that the person be located in the United Kingdom where the office facilities of IAH are based but this is not an overriding requirement.

More details of the job and information on how to express an interest can be found at <http://www.iah.org/News/2007/068.html>

Support our Sponsored Member Scheme

IAH runs a successful sponsored membership scheme whereby professionals in developing countries who do not have the personal resources to pay their own fees are able to enjoy the benefits of IAH membership through the generosity of another member. Some members sponsor people they know, perhaps because they trained them or met them on overseas projects, but the majority give their sponsorship anonymously to deserving candidates identified by IAH. The commitment is normally for 5 years. Every year the International Office receives many appreciative comments from sponsored members which often illustrate that more than just the sponsored individual benefit from membership of IAH. At the moment we have a waiting list of deserving candidates and urgently need more members directly or through national chapters to commit to support the scheme.

For details of how to support this IAH initiative see <http://www.iah.org/msponsor.htm> or contact the IAH office (swarden@iah.org).

President's Column FROM THE WATER TABLE

FROM CONGRESSES AND COMMISSIONS TO PUBLICATIONS

After the euphoria of a memorable 50th Anniversary Year, the IAH Executive had to get down to some serious thought about various longer term issues at its Annual Review and Planning Meeting in UNESCO, Paris on 29-30 January 2007 - one of which was scientific output. A key question in this regard is how can we most effectively turn congress proceedings and commission discussions into successful book publications, accepting the business background of a 'rapidly changing world' of publishing? In this editorial I would like to reflect on this topic.

The main goal of IAH books from the outset was to provide definitive specialist works of reference for groundwater professionals and post-graduate students on aspects of resource planning, management and protection. In the second half of 2006 Ian Simmers retired as our Managing Book Editor and the Executive wholeheartedly thank him for many years of stalwart service. Under Ian's guidance the IAH Books Series (now published by Taylor & Francis) developed under two banners - International Contributions to Hydrogeology (commission-related, thematic volumes of limited authorship) and Selected Papers on Hydrogeology (fully-edited, post-congress compendia of related papers).

Between the 'ICH' and 'SP' Series a total of 32 volumes have appeared to date - but, as Ian will testify, it has always been a challenge to maintain a steady and predictable flow of valuable and topical titles. From the standpoint of both IAH interests and publisher's requirements, a steady output of 3-4 books per year (capable of generating respectable sales and sustained interest in Series titles) is needed - as opposed to just a single book one year and six in the next.

The 'editorial baton' has now been passed to Nick Robins and the Executive ask that all IAH Members

(and especially the Commission Chairs) give him every support in developing a book publication strategy for the coming years. A number of questions arise in this regard :

- Should IAH be publishing regional groundwater reviews, and if so should this be on an ad hoc or systematic basis with a defined role for the Regional Vice Presidents? A start has been made here with two very different volumes on Sub-Saharan Africa in the 'pipeline' - given the high social priority of groundwater use in that region;
- Should IAH be more proactive in 'commissioning' book titles where the Editor has identified a market niche?
- What type of scientific publication is more valuable to our membership - the 'methodological cookbook' or the 'authoritative review'?
- Can we achieve closer co-operation between Congress Organisers and Commission Chairs to deliver clearly focused, scientifically balanced but topical book manuscripts?

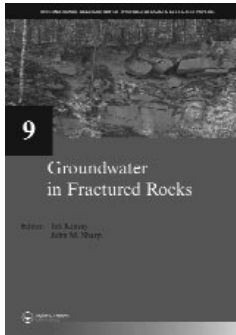
The Executive concluded that we need to review the status of our scientific output in general (aside from, but not overlooking, the highly successful Hydrogeology Journal) and our approach to book publishing in particular - with a view to facilitating new initiatives and stronger alliances in this area. It has thus been agreed to hold a 'special structured discussion' in plenary session at the 35th Congress in Lisbon, Portugal on 19 September 2007. A number of individual (active) Members, together with all Commission Chairs and Vice Presidents will be approached to lead this discussion, which will also feature Jiri Krasny (Science Coordinator) and Nick Robins (Books Managing Editor). We need your input on this important topic for the future of the IAH.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2007

Notice is given that the 2007 annual meeting of the International Association of Hydrogeologists will be held at Faculty of Sciences, University of Lisbon, Edificio C3, Campo Grande, Lisbon, Portugal on Wednesday 19th September 2007 at 11.00 hours. All members of the Association who have fully paid their subscriptions for the current year are entitled to attend and participate in the proceedings. Guests are welcome.

New IAH Publications - 60% Discount to IAH Members

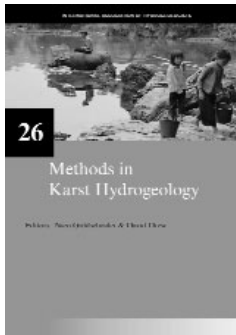
SP9 Groundwater in Fractured Rocks (publication date 30 April 2007)



Jiri Krasny & John M Sharp (ed) 2007.
ISBN: 9780415407458
Price to IAH members (with 60% discount): £39.60
List price: £99.00

This title comprises forty-four papers by authors from twenty-two countries who presented papers at the Groundwater in Fractured Rocks International Conference in Prague in 2003. It investigates crucial issues about the hydrogeology of fractured environments, including sustainable groundwater development, groundwater protection and management, new and improved approaches to the investigating hydrogeology of fractured systems, understanding hydrogeologic properties on a local and regional scale, and the quantitative and qualitative aspects of groundwater flow and solute/contaminant transport.

ICH26 Methods in Karst Hydrogeology (publication date: 31 May 2007)



Nico Goldscheider & David Drew
ISBN: 9780415428736
Price to IAH members (with 60% discount) £33.60
List Price: £84.00

Karstified aquifers are a major source of drinking water. Most standard textbooks on hydrogeology make little mention of the peculiarities of karst groundwater systems in terms of their behaviour and the methods most appropriate to their investigation.

The aim of this book is to describe methods that are appropriate for use in karst terrains. These include methods that are basic to all hydrogeological studies, such as hydraulic investigations, hydrochemistry, geophysics, isotope chemistry and modelling, with the emphasis placed on their application to karst systems. Other techniques such as speleological investigation, i.e. the direct exploration of aquifers, are not applicable to non-karstic areas, but are of major significance in karst investigations. Water tracing is a fundamental tool for karst investigations but is less frequently used in non-karst hydrogeology. The various chapters of this book are written by experts in all the different methods. Most of the chapters are multi-authored, and the authors include hydrogeologists experienced in evaluating a variety of karst environments that together provide a balanced view of all the karst methods.

This is the first book devoted to describing methods of groundwater investigation appropriate to karstic systems and is intended to be of use to practising hydrogeologists with no special training in karst-oriented methods.

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

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

The series editor for IAH is Nick Robins nsro@bgs.ac.uk

National Chapter News

The Bulgarian National Chapter of IAH has changed its governing board to introduce your members to the running of the Chapter. The new President of the National Chapter is Dr Pavel Pentchev (pentchev@mgu.bg). The new Secretary of the National Chapter is Mrs Boryana Deneva (boryana_deneva@yahoo.co.uk). The founding President and long time IAH member Prof. Michail Galobov is now Honorary President of the Chapter.

John Chilton has completed his term as President of the UK National Chapter and is replaced by Jane Dottridge (jdottridge@btinternet.com). At the same time Willy Burgess, formerly Secretary of the UK Chapter takes over from Mike Rivett as Chair of the Hydrogeology Group of the Geological Society.

Arsenic in Groundwater

The Netherlands Chapter of IAH organised a one-day symposium in conjunction with the Netherlands Hydrological Society and with sponsorship from UNESCO on 29 November 2006 in Utrecht on the global dimension of arsenic in groundwater and drinking water. The full proceedings will be published in due course but a summary report and PowerPoint slides can be found at <http://www.iah.org/News/eNews/2007/067.html>

Groundwater and Climate in Africa

Current monitoring and assessments of the impacts of climate variability and change on water resources commonly exclude groundwater. This omission is of particular concern in Africa where current usage and future adaptations in response to climate change and rapid population growth place considerable reliance upon groundwater to meet domestic, agricultural and industrial water demands. A recently announced conference, supported by IAH, to be held in Kampala, Uganda in June 2008 seeks to bring together water and climate scientists from research/academic institutions, government departments, and the private sector as well as representatives from international agencies, donors and consortia in order to share knowledge and expertise, and thereby improve current understanding of the impact of climate variability and change on groundwater resources in Africa. Details at: <http://www.gwclim.org/>

Hydrogeology Time Capsule

IAH is commencing a pilot initiative to preserve for

posterity information about pre-eminent individuals in the theory and practice of our science. The initiative is being driven by two of Hydrogeology Journal's Managing Editors Craig Simmonds of Adelaide, Australia and Philippe Renard of Lausanne, Switzerland and was backed at the last meeting of the IAH Executive in Paris. The "time capsule" will be centred around video interviews in which pre-eminent hydrogeologists are interviewed for posterity and in which they provide reflections on their personal careers and the careers of others they knew personally who may no longer be living. The videos will be accessible for download from a dedicated IAH sponsored web site to provide a legacy for the scientists and students of the future and be used in educational courses internationally. This proposal is to establish a pilot project to establish the viability of the approach with a view to seeking sponsorship to develop a critical mass of interviews that reflect the discipline and profession worldwide. Work has already begun on the pilot and the web site will be announced shortly.

Book discounts for IAH members

You are reminded that, as an IAH member, you are entitled to a 20% discount on all books published by Springer and purchased on-line. To take advantage of this offer you need to follow the link from within the Members Area of the IAH web site www.iah.org. You will need your membership number and password to enter the site. If you do not have these to hand instructions for retrieving them are provided on the site.

Groundwater Data in Europe

The European Commission and the European Environment Agency took advantage of World Water Day on 22nd March to draw attention to the available sources of information on water in Europe. The target is to have a comprehensive and shared data and information management system for water across Europe by 2010. The system is called WISE - Water Information System for Europe which now exists in embryo form through the following portal <http://water.europa.eu>. The European Environment Agency will continue to operate its Waterbase as part of this system. This contains timely, reliable and policy-relevant data collected from EEA member countries' monitoring systems. Details of available groundwater datasets are available at: <http://dataservice.eea.europa.eu/dataservice/metadetails.asp?id=987>



XXXV Congress of the IAH Groundwater and Ecosystems Lisbon, Portugal 17 - 21 September 2007

The IAH 2007 Congress will debate the subject of Groundwater and Ecosystems and other related hydrogeological, ecological, biogeochemical, modelling and economical issues within the five-day core of short-courses, presentations, discussions and poster sessions. The congress hopes to bridge scientific disciplines and integrate knowledge in an international context.

"Early bird" registration closes on 31 May 2007

Key events at the Congress:

12-16th September Congress Courses

16th September History of Hydrogeology Workshop
(for further details see <http://www.iah.org/hofh.htm>)

17th September Opening Ceremony

19th September IAH General Assembly and Plenary Meeting on Science and Outreach

19th September Afternoon Field Trips

20th September IAH Council

20th September Gala Dinner

22nd-29th Congress Field Excursions

For further details visit <http://www.geo.ua.pt/aih-gp/iah2007> or e-mail iah2007@gmail.com



XXXVI Congress of IAH Integrating Groundwater Science and Human Well-being Toyama City, Japan 26 October - 1 November 2008

The congress will address, in the context of groundwater development and management, human security, environmental security, food security and climate change. It will provide a forum for discussion between groundwater specialists and other disciplines recognising the importance of these issues in ensuring a sustainable society and in preserving human well-being.

Toyama is an industrial city in a spectacular location built on massive alluvial fans fed from the 3000 metres high Japanese Alps and descending another 1000 metres to the sea floor in the Sea of Japan. Groundwater is important for both the economy and the environment in the region and the Toyama Prefecture is setting an example for groundwater management in Japan.

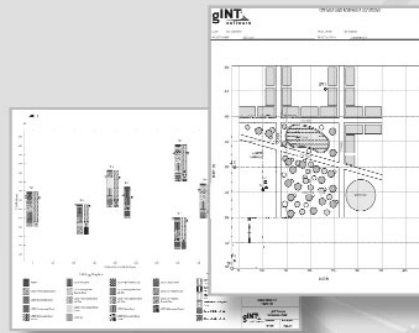
For further details visit <http://www.envr.tsukuba.ac.jp/~IAH2008/> or e-mail: ysakura@faculty.chiba-u.ac.j



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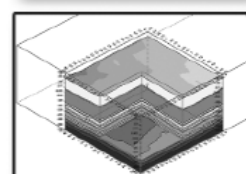
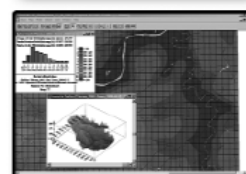
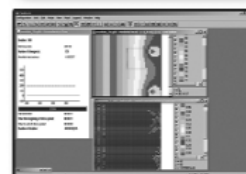
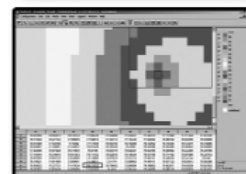
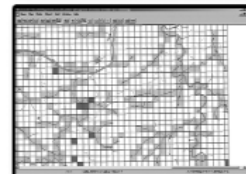
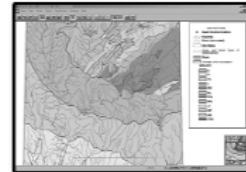
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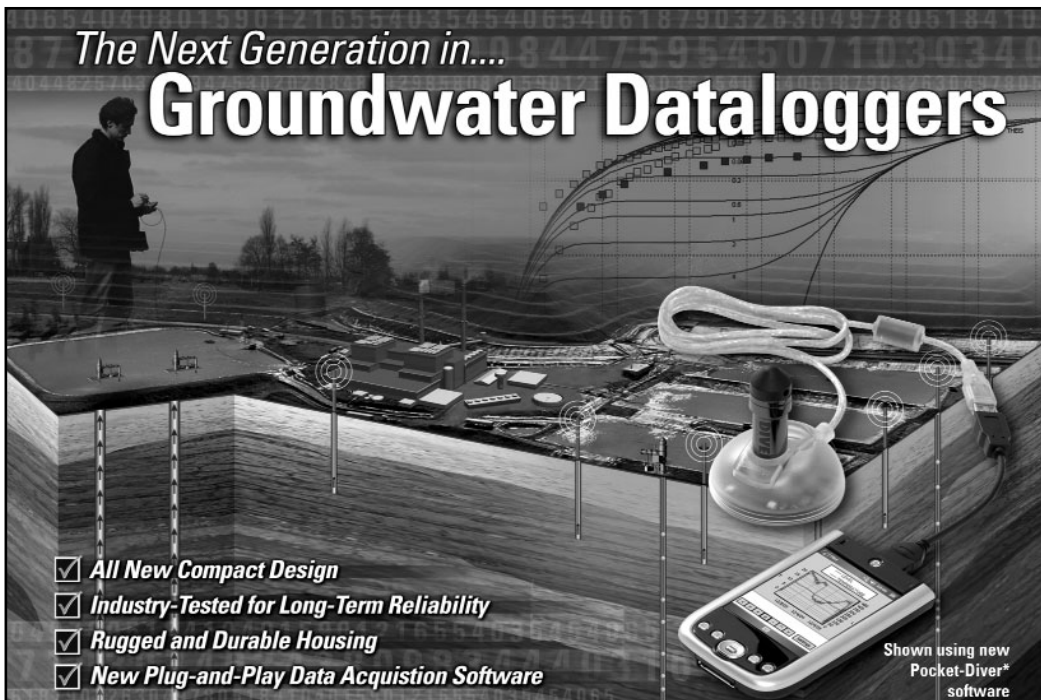


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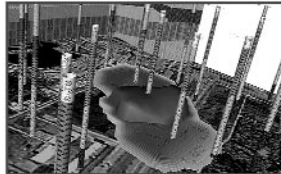
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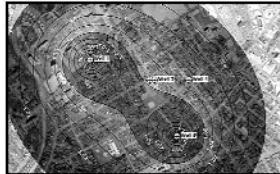
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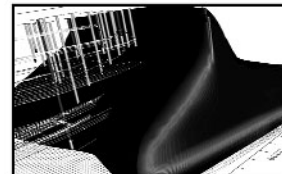
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Conference Listing

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/

2007

May 21 - May 25 Vienna, AUSTRIA International Symposium on Advances in Isotope Hydrology and its role in the Sustainable Management of Water Resources
Web: <http://www-pub.iaea.org/MTC/Meetings/Announcements.asp?ConfID=151>

May 22 - May 25 Acapulco, MEXICO American Geophysical Union Assembly. Session H14 Challenges to the Management of Groundwater Resources in Coastal Karst Aquifers in Developing Countries.
Web: <http://www.agu.org/meetings/ja07/>

May 27 - May 31 Cagliari, Sardinia, ITALY IMWA Symposium 2007: Water in mining environments
Web: <http://www.imwa.info>

Jun 1 - Jun 1 San Francisco, U.S.A. Groundwater Law Conference Web: <http://www.grac.org/law.asp>

Jun 7 - Jun 9 Belgrade, SERBIA Groundwater management in the Danube and other large river basins
Web: www.jcerni.org/activities/conferences/iwa2007/home.html

Jun 7 - Jun 8 Antwerp, BELGIUM 3rd European Conference on MTBE and other Fuel Oxygenates
Web: <http://www.vito.be/english/events>

Jun 13 - Jun 17 Tampere, FINLAND 5th International Water History Association (IWHA) Conference "Past and Futures of Water. E-mail: tapio.katko@tut.fi Web: www.envhist.org

Jul 9 - Jul 13 Perugia, ITALY IAHS Symposium at the IUGG General Assembly Web: <http://www.iugg2007perugia.it>

Jul 31 - Aug 5 Kunming, CHINA 12th International Symposium on Water-Rock Interaction (WRI-12)
Web: www.wri12.org

Aug 13 - Aug 15 Bowling Green, Kentucky, U.S.A. International Conference on Karst Hydrogeology and Ecosystems. Web: <http://hoffman.wku.edu/karst2007/k2007.html>

Aug 25 - Aug 28 Amman, JORDAN (TO BE CONFIRMED) International Conference: Sustainable Development and Management of Water Resources in Palestine
Web: www.waterconference-ps.org

Sep 9 - Sep 13 Copenhagen, DENMARK International Conference on Calibration and Reliability in Groundwater Modelling Web: <http://www.polytec.dk/modelcare2007/>

Sep 16 - Sep 20 Tartu, ESTONIA WETPOL 2007 - 2nd International Symposium on Wetland Pollutant Dynamics and Control. Web: <http://www.geo.ut.ee/wetpol2007>

Sep 17 - Sep 21 Lisbon, PORTUGAL Groundwater and Ecosystems E-mail: iah2007@gmail.com
Web: <http://www.geo.ua.pt/aih-gp/iah2007>

Sep 17 - Sep 20 Lille, FRANCE Clays in Natural & Engineered Barriers for Radioactive Waste Management
Web: www.lille2007.com

Sep 18 - Sep 19 Sacramento, U.S.A. 26th Biennial Groundwater Conference and 16th Annual Meeting of GRA
Web: <http://www.grac.org/am07.asp>

Sep 21 - Sep 24 Lisbon, PORTUGAL Symposium on Mineral and Thermal Waters in Hard Rock Terrains: Their Occurrence and Origin Web: www.hrock2007.uevora.pt

Oct 15 - Oct 17, Hydro 2007
Web: <http://www.hydropower-dams.com>

Oct 16 - Oct 19 Almeria, SPAIN Technology of Seawater Intrusion into Coastal Aquifers (TIAC '07) International Symposium on Coastal Aquifers and Desalination Plants (SIACODE'07) Web: www.eegs.org

Oct 16 - Oct 18 Paraná, ARGENTINA V CONGRESO NACIONAL DE HIDROGEOLOGIA Aguas Subterráneas: Producción de Alimentos y Abastecimiento Urbano
Web: <http://www.fca.uner.edu.ar/congreso/>

Oct 21 - Oct 24 Ottawa, CANADA 8th Joint CGS/IAH-CNC Groundwater Conference Web: www.ottawageo2007.ca

Oct 28 - Nov 2 Phoenix, ARIZONA 6th International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge - ISMAR6
Web: www.ismar2007.org

Nov 12 - Nov 15 Basel, SWITZERLAND CAIWA2007 International Conference on Adaptive and Integrated Water Management.
Web: www.usf.uos.de/projects/caiwa/index.htm

Dec 2 - Dec 7 Freemantle, WESTERN AUSTRALIA Groundwater Quality 2007 - Securing Groundwater Quality in Urban and Industrial Environments
Web: <http://www.clw.csiro.au/conferences/GQ07/>

2008

Mar 31 - Apr 3 Adelaide, AUSTRALIA 2nd International Salinity Forum - Salinity, Water and Society - Global Issues, local action Web: www.internationalsalinityforum.org

Apr 15 - Apr 17 Adelaide, AUSTRALIA WATER DOWN UNDER 2008 Web: www.waterdownunder2008.com

Jun 25 - Jun 28 Kampala, UGANDA Groundwater and Climate in Africa.
Web: <http://www.gwclim.org>

Sep 1 - Sep 4 Montpellier, FRANCE XIIIth IWRA World Water Congress
Web: <http://www.wwc2008.msem.univ-montp2.fr>

Sep 15 - Sep 18 Prague, CZECH REPUBLIC HydroPredict'2008 -- International Interdisciplinary Conference on Predictions for Hydrology, Ecology and Water Resources Management: Using Data and Models to benefit Society E-mail: mchill@usgs.gov or karel.kovar@mnp.no

Oct 8 - Oct 10 Athens, GREECE 8th International Hydrogeological Congress of Greece
Web: <http://iah-hellas.geol.uoa.gr>

Oct 13 - Oct 19 Lahore, PAKISTAN 20th International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) Congress
Web: <http://www.icid.org>

Oct 26 - Nov 1 Toyama City, JAPAN 36th Congress of IAH; Integrating Groundwater Science and Human Well-being.
Web: www.envr.tsukuba.ac.jp/~IAH2008