

Furthering the understanding, wise use and protection of groundwater resources throughout the world

MAY 2011

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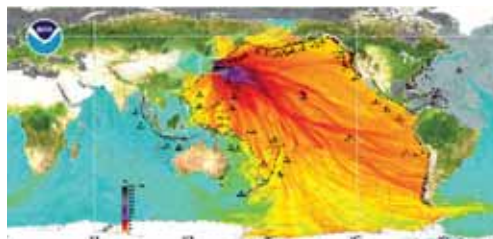
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**INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
HYDROGEOLOGISTS**

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI IN JAPAN



Global maximum wave amplitude
Credit: NOAA Center for Tsunami Research
<http://nctr.pmel.noaa.gov/honshu20110311/>

Like everyone else around the world, IAH members will have been horrified by the huge loss of life and the television pictures of the immense amount of damage and disruption caused by the earthquake and tsunami in north-eastern Japan. Immediately after the earthquake, IAH sent a message of sympathy and condolences to our friends and colleagues in Japan.

Since then, we have been in contact again with Professor Shimada, president of the Japanese chapter of IAH. He expressed his thanks on behalf of the chapter to the members of the Association and said that his own home in Kyushu is far from the affected area of Japan in northern Honshu and the Tokyo region. He says that:

“The Japanese Association of Groundwater Hydrology (I am also the vice president of this association) has started to prepare a tsunami damage survey in the coastal area known as the Sanriku coast. The geology of these coastal areas consists mostly of alluvial sediments along a narrow coastal plain which has been severely damaged by

the tsunami. Probably the groundwater in this alluvial aquifer has been contaminated by seawater infiltration from the ground surface. It will take several years or more to recover from this salt water intrusion”.

Presumably the agricultural soils of the coastal plain will also be severely affected. Professor Shimada also said that the Fukushima nuclear power plant is underlain by Tertiary sandstone and mudstone, and at the time of writing there is no information as to whether there has been any radioactive contamination of the groundwater of that area, but this could change.

We are sure that colleagues will continue to have our Japanese friends in their thoughts. Some IAH members may have undertaken post-tsunami work after the December 2004 event, and are invited to send any relevant reports or papers on their experiences to jshimada@sci.kumamoto-u.ac.jp to support them in their work.

SECRETARIAT

**Contact us... email info@iah.org
with your news, views or questions**

**Keep in touch... join the IAH
groundwater community at
<http://www.linkedin.com/>**

WORLD WATER DAY

22 March 2011, South Africa and Morocco events



The international observance of World Water Day (WWD) is a means of focusing attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for the sustainable management of freshwater resources. The initiative grew out of the 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro.

The theme changes annually. The World Water Day theme for 2011 was “Water and Urbanization”, promoted by UN-Water under the slogan “Water for Cities: Responding to the Urban Challenge”.

SOUTH AFRICA

The meeting in Cape Town focused on the impact of rapid urban population growth, industrialization and uncertainties caused by climate change, conflicts, and natural disasters on urban water systems.

Groundwater was considered to be “cross-cutting” in terms of its relevance to urban water sustainability and, as has become usual for UN-water events, it rarely achieved the attention it deserves on the global stage. Two important exceptions were sessions that included addresses by IAH representatives Ken Howard (myself) and Christine Colvin.

Ken gave a keynoter paper on “Challenges in Urban Groundwater Management” at a session convened by UNESCO designed to “draw attention to the ‘invisible’ dimension of water management in cities, and the vital role that groundwater plays which is frequently ignored”. This session also included a demonstration by Dubravka Pokrajac of “UGROW”, urban groundwater modeling software that accompanies a book (Pokrajac and Howard, 2010) which was highlighted at the meeting during the launch of the UNESCO-IHP Urban Water Series. For more information see: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0019/001910/191066e.pdf>.

Christine Colvin was heavily involved in a panel discussion of water in southern Africa that was convened by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) (South Africa). Christine drew attention to the Western Cape’s dwindling water resources and highlighted new groundwater resources (e.g. Cape Town’s Table Mountain Group Aquifer) as a potential solution. See <http://www.engineeringnews.co.za/article/groundwater-recharge-systems-suitable-for-rural-areas-2011-03-11>. Her findings were also prominently reported in the local press e.g. <http://www.capetimes.co.za/water-supplies-dwindling-fast-1.1045135>.

MOROCCO

in further celebration of World Water Day, the Moroccan Secretariat of State in Charge of Water (SEE) with the support of the Moroccan IAH Chapter organized on March 22 in Rabat a workshop on the theme “together for the preservation of groundwater



World Water Day - Morocco workshop participants

“ Presided over by the Secretary of State in charge of Environment, Mr. Jamal Mahfoud and the President of IAH, Professor Willi Struckmeier, and attended by nearly a hundred water resource specialists from the public administration, the University and the private sector, the workshop offered a precious opportunity to debate the issue of groundwater management and protection. The participants pleaded for rational utilisation of groundwater, increasingly scarce and yet vital for social and economic development of our societies.

Water, despite its scarcity, constitutes a paramount lever for development and environmental protection. In Morocco, as in the case of most MENA countries, groundwater is the main source of drinking water supply for rural and urban areas. It also supports irrigation for growing crops both for local consumption and high value crops for the export market. However, groundwater is subjected to massive exploitation and suffers from persisting drought. Water levels are dropping rapidly in many aquifers and water quality is deteriorating due to untreated urban sewage infiltrating from watercourses and to the massive use of fertilizers and chemical products in agriculture.

The workshop focused on how to deal with these challenges and identified the main areas that should comprise a road map for a national strategy for the preservation and sound management of

groundwater. The areas deal with:

- Improving our knowledge about groundwater systems: this includes efficient monitoring of pertinent quantitative and qualitative parameters, mapping of aquifer systems, groundwater information systems;
- Restoring and protecting aquifers: this includes management of demand and supply, aquifer recharge, wastewater treatment;
- Promoting research and training;
- Promoting best practices in the area of groundwater governance, including community participation, well-defined mandates of water resource organisations and authorities, promoting and implementing water law, organizing and monitoring the well drilling sector.

Recommendations regarding these areas will be considered in the elaboration of a national strategy on groundwater. The participants also recommended; (i) the creation of a groundwater forum on the web to serve as a space for exchange and discussion of experiences and knowledge in the area of water resources. (ii) organizing a similar workshop in 2012 but extended to the MENA Region and (iii) considering the idea of creating a working group within IAH for some of the aspects debated.

IAH EXECUTIVE, FEBRUARY

As has now become the custom, the IAH Executive met at UNESCO in Paris on 10-12 February. During the meeting we had a useful session with UNESCO staff to review collaboration between IAH and the seventh phase of IHP, to explore opportunities for further cooperation and to learn about the preparations for the eighth phase of the programme, with IAH members Jaroslav Vrba (Czech Republic) and Callist Tindimugaya (Uganda) closely involved as participants in the task force working on the outline themes for the new programme.

Amongst a very long list of agenda items, the financial performance of the Association in 2010 was reviewed. Overall membership was down about by 150 from the previous year, and membership income slightly down, investment income almost nothing in the present financial climate, royalty income from Springer higher than expected and there was an unexpected return to IAH at the beginning of 2010 of a €17,000 share of the operating surplus of the Hyderabad joint convention held in September 2009. Routine recurrent administrative expenditure on salaries, travel and printing was much as budgeted, as was the cost of the Forward Look meeting in Reading.

As a result, the preliminary end-of-year account shows a small operating deficit of €2000, smaller than that set in the budget for 2010. Nevertheless, this achieves our overall objective of ending the year with a modest operating deficit which reflects our efforts to increase expenditure on improving services to members, and helps us to slightly reduce our accumulated surplus of funds. We can and will be doing more in this direction during 2011. The accounting information has gone to our accountants and the full accounts will appear as usual in the annual and summary reports and be presented at the Annual General Assembly which will be held in September in South Africa.

Progress on the updating of the IAH member database was also reported to the IAH Executive. The database has been improved to include the ability to seek additional information from members, and those who have renewed their membership online will have been invited to provide this. Some of this extra information will be useful as a basis for some of the proposed Forward Look activities, and some is required by Data Protection legislation. Without getting too technical (it is not at all my area of expertise), we had been recommended by our website developers Samui to make the database fully web-compliant and more secure in a web-based system using MySQL.

The target was to have this completed for the 2011 renewals, and we have achieved this, but with a short delay in sending out the renewal invitations. Our thanks go to Membership Secretary Sharon Warden for her patient attention to detail in the liaison with Samui to get the complexity of the IAH membership structure and renewals process fully incorporated into the new system.

JOHN CHILTON, IAH SECRETARIAT



UPDATE ON THE FORWARD LOOK

Members will be curious to know what has been happening in recent months with respect to the IAH Forward Look, following comprehensive reports in the last two newsletters. A draft report on the meeting at Reading University was presented to Council in Krakow and then revised to take account of comments received from meeting participants and those who completed the questionnaire. There were some delays in this process which was somewhat slower than anticipated, but the revised report was tabled at the meeting of the IAH Executive in Paris in February 2011 and subsequently submitted for the approval of Council. The final report is now available on the IAH website.

In the meantime, Secretary General Shammy Puri has produced a draft action plan for 2010-2020 based on this report. This takes the ideas and proposals laid out in the Forward Look report and ranks them according to their priority for IAH, characterises them for short, medium or long term action and provides some preliminary estimates of likely financial resource requirements and possible financial returns to the Association from their implementation. The draft was extensively discussed at the recent Executive meeting in Paris, and will be made available for IAH members.

As a result, it is proposed by the Executive that the

activities to be pursued with highest priority in the short term will be:

- i) improving the IAH website and the services, benefits, resources and communications to members provided by the website;
- ii) improvements to IAH congresses and conferences;
- iii) strengthening the profile of IAH's national chapters and improving communications with and between chapters and the support provided to them.

The first two of these are likely to require significant investment of time and funds by the Association. Both will commence with a review of the current services and benefits provided to members and modes of operation, and both are likely to require the establishment of working groups to carry out these reviews and make recommendations. For the first, an on-line survey has already been set up (see IAH website news article http://www.iah.org/news_current_popup.asp?id=114 and follow the link), and for the third a detailed questionnaire has recently been distributed to our national chapters. Watch the website and newsletter for further updates.

JOHN CHILTON, IAH SECRETARIAT

REFORM OF THE IAH COMMISSIONS

Meanwhile the reform of the IAH commissions is proceeding as planned. An application form for new commissions and networks was prepared at the beginning of the year by Ken Howard. Proposals submitted by the March 31 deadline will be evaluated in April and May so that approved continuing or new groups can be established to become active from 1 July. A full report will be given by Ken in the summer edition of the newsletter.

HONORARY DEGREE FOR JOHN MOORE

John Moore, President of IAH from 1993 to 1996, has been awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Science from Ohio Wesleyan University. John graduated from that university in the 1950s and, following military service, worked in the USGS for nearly 30 years and was an adviser to the US EPA and the US Congress. In addition to being President and Life Member of IAH, John has been president of the American Institute of Hydrology and a Life Member of the NGWA. IAH offers its congratulations to John.



MEDIA FOCUS

A selection of groundwater features from around the world

In response to suggestions from members to feature news of groundwater as well as news of IAHR, starting from this issue we are including some extracts from topical news stories from around the world, with the links to the original material. Obviously we can devote some time and effort to scanning the internet for such stories, but the time of the Secretariat is limited, and we would welcome contributions from members.

Email articles/associated links to knicholson@iah.org. We will seek reprint permissions as necessary.

News Hawk Review: Japan Earthquake a Reminder About Importance Of Groundwater Protection

The devastating 9.0 earthquake off the east coast of Japan has many of us thinking about earthquake safety, the safety of nuclear power plants and other issues. Add groundwater storage to the list. It was revealed that the Japanese quake actually temporarily impacted some groundwater supplies in the U.S., most notably in the states of Texas and Virginia. Groundwater managers were amazed at the impact the Japanese earthquake had on their groundwater. For instance, the Edwards Aquifer in Texas, which supplies water to about 1.7 million people in and around San Antonio, witnessed its [water] surface fluctuating wildly for about two hours after the Japan earthquake struck on March 11. [Water] Levels rose by one foot and continued to oscillate afterwards.

31 March 2011, <http://newshawksreview.com>

<http://newshawksreview.com/japan-earthquake-a-reminder-about-importance-of-groundwater-protection/42305/>

Tourism Concern launches Water Equity in Tourism campaign

Campaign group Tourism Concern has launched a new campaign demanding action to protect the water rights of communities living in tourism destinations in the face of increasing competition from the tourism industry. The Water Equity in Tourism Campaign (WET) will open up a critical debate around whether tourists' water consumption should continue to have priority over the needs of local communities.

14 December 2010, Tourism Concern

<http://www.tourismconcern.org.uk>



Daily Telegraph (UK): Plans for Europe's largest super-dairy have been shelved after objections from the Environment Agency

The [UK] Government's environment watchdog opposed the plans on the grounds that waste from the facility could leak into the ground and pollute an aquifer that provides drinking water.

16 February 2011, Daily Telegraph newspaper

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/earthnews/8328927/Plans-for-mega-dairy-scrapped-amid-fears-for-the-environment.html>

Suggestions welcome! Email news item and link to knicholson@iah.org

Sudan Tribune: Jonglei state - Severe water crisis hits Ayod County

Severe water shortages have hit Ayod County, located about 100 miles north of Jonglei state capital Bor, the area commissioner told Sudan Tribune Monday. Thoi Chany Reat, the Ayod County commissioner attributed the escalating problem to failure by concerned authorities to repair over 10 boreholes, which broke down in the area. The situation, he added, has affected thousands of residents and those who recently returned to the south from the north of the country ahead of and since the regions referendum on independence.

7 February 2011, <http://sudantribune.com>

<http://www.sudantribune.com/Jonglei-state-Severe-water-crisis,37908>

C.D. Howe Institute: Threats to Groundwater Supplies in Canada Require Coordinated Response

Better oversight of Canada's groundwater resources is required in the face of numerous challenges, according to a study released today by the C.D. Howe Institute. In "Protecting Groundwater: The Invisible and Vital Resource" James Bruce, recently chair of the Council of Canadian Academies Expert Panel on Groundwater, assesses present and emerging threats and makes recommendations for better groundwater management in Canada. Challenges for groundwater management, the author says, include energy issues, such as the uncertain impact of shale gas "fracking," slow recharge rates of aquifers, agricultural intensification, and contamination. Canada has yet to experience large-scale over-exploitation of groundwater resources and its groundwater remains of good quality. Bruce says the time is right, however, for establishing the legal, regulatory and management systems, along with the necessary monitoring provisions, to overcome the threats to groundwater.

10 February 2011, C.D. Howe Institute

http://www.cdhowe.org/pdf/Backgrounder_136.pdf

British Geological Survey (BGS): Data on Hydrogeology in SADC region

The British Geological Survey (BGS) has just released its archive of technical literature on the hydrogeology of southern and east Africa to the public. This is a huge repository of unpublished data, reports, papers, manuals and maps which describe the hydrogeological work that has been undertaken in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region in the 20th century. The information can be downloaded free of charge.

22 February 2011, BGS

<http://www.bgs.ac.uk/sadc/index.cfm>

US Geological Survey (USGS): Water Regionally Abundant in Great Lakes Basin, but not Always When and Where it's Needed

Though the Great Lakes are the largest freshwater system on Earth, the basin has the potential for local shortages, according to a new basin-wide water availability assessment by the U.S. Geological Survey. For example, though groundwater pumping has had relatively little effect on water in the basin as a whole, pumping in the Chicago and Milwaukee areas has caused local groundwater levels to decline as much as 1,000 feet. Moreover, if pumping were to increase as anticipated in the region, water levels in these areas are estimated to decline an additional 100 feet by 2040.

7 February 2011, USGS

<http://www.usgs.gov/newsroom/article.asp?ID=2694>



Report courtesy of Media Global

SUDAN STILL NEEDS WATER

We have quoted this short article from the region in its entirety to preserve its character, even though we might not have written it quite like this. Providing groundwater for rural communities in difficult terrains remains the real test of a hydrogeologist's training and experience, and we would be interested to receive more news of a practical nature from those working in such situations.

JOHN CHILTON

Only 37 percent of Sudan's population has access to clean water, making it extremely hard to grow food, and give families the resources they need to live. This problem is particularly acute in the southern area of Sudan, which is mostly desert with temperatures reaching over 120 degrees [49° C] in the dry season. Now that southern Sudan has broken away from the north, getting citizens access to clean water poses even more challenges.

The non-profit organization Water for Sudan is working to bring water pumps to the most isolated parts of the country. Water for Sudan's team, searches for aquifers beneath the ground in the southern area of the country and negotiates with village leaders on how the water will be shared once the pump is built.

What makes Water for Sudan especially unique is how it tries to build their wells at least 500 feet [150m] below ground. At this depth, the pipes have better access to the aquifers and can supply water year round. The United Nations, estimates that each new pump, brings 1,500 litres of water per day to villages in what was (since the referendum) Africa's biggest country.

South Sudan is a land locked country run by village elders dispersed around the state. There are few roads; the easiest way to go between villages is by helicopter. Water for Sudan's activities do more than bring water to the newly formed country; the organization's efforts will help assist southern Sudanese in the building of the schools and hospitals needed for the new country.

President of Water for Sudan, Salva Dut, was one of the

Lost Boys of Sudan, which is the name given to a number of young Sudanese who fled Sudan after violence struck their village. Water for Sudan has raised close to \$2 million dollars to bring water to Sudan.

This group built their first wells in 2005, and has since erected 85 wells in southern Sudan. Chris Moore, Chairman for Water for Sudan, told MediaGlobal Dut "will go to a neighboring village, maybe its 20 miles away maybe its 5 miles away, and he'll look for a line of tall trees. And that line of tall trees is good evidence that the aquifer is reasonably close to the surface."

Before the pump is built, village elders are brought in to discuss how the water will be distributed. Having the Sudanese voice their opinion on the matter is important so they can take ownership of the well, and make sure it is maintained and still working when Dut continues to the next village. Moore explained that the organization will try to dig as many as 20 pumps within the 6 months before the dry season. Reaching the aquifers to build the water pumps is an important step to build the new nation. Moore said that the process "is going much more smooth then we frankly hoped for" and "there's very positive steps going forward about what happens next, they're very optimistic."

In 2006, 56 percent of southern Sudanese were drinking out of boreholes and unprotected wells. Salva and his team have been working to make sure this won't be the future for Sudan. Now that the election has taken place, water will be an important element that thousands of Sudanese lack. The referendum is only the first step in a long road the south will have to take in forming the new nation. It's citizens will need to build from the ground up and make sure they have the necessities they need, including water, to grow a prosperous country.

26 February 2011, <http://www.mediaglobal.org>
http://www.mediaglobal.org/article/2011-02-26/sudan_still_needs_water

EARLY CAREER HYDROGEOLOGISTS' NETWORK

Latest on an exciting new initiative for IAH

For the sustainable development of the science and application of hydrogeology and to promote the involvement of hydrogeologists at the start of their professional careers in all IAH activities, an Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network (ECHN) has been established.

Following a meeting at the IAH Congress in Krakow, Poland in 2010 (as reported in the December newsletter) a group of nine junior hydrogeologists, chaired by Dr. Judith Flügge of GRS in Braunschweig, Germany, has begun work to:

- provide a support platform by networking junior hydrogeologists;
- enhance information sharing possibilities amongst the network and beyond;
- bring an early career perspective to the attention of the older, longer-established members of the Association.

Efforts are already underway to introduce the network to young/early career hydrogeologists via social and professional networks and electronic and print media.

Additional supporting steps to be developed by ECHN will include job advertising, opportunity-

sharing forums, master classes and webinars to pass on experience and to bring young/early career hydrogeologists together. The network will also provide a means of presenting early career perspectives related to the activities which will be developed under the IAH Forward Look initiative, such as IAH web services, conferences, publications and commissions. The group has applied to become a formally recognised network of IAH.

The next Early Career Hydrogeologists' meeting will be during the International Groundwater Conference being held from 19 to 21 September 2011 in Pretoria, South Africa. We invite hydrogeologists who are still studying and are at the start of their professional careers to come along to discuss the current involvement of young hydrogeologists in IAH.

JAY KRISHNA THAKUR, EARLY CAREER HYDROGEOLOGIST NETWORK

The network is open to all IAH members, without hierarchical constraints, who are starting their professional career irrespective of their age limit. Join via the IAH LinkedIn sub-group Young/Early Career Hydrogeologists. For further information contact judith.fluegge@grs.de or m.cuthbert@bham.ac.uk.

IAH WEBSITE SURVEY

Your opinions wanted to help shape IAH's website

During IAH's Forward Look review processes over the last 12 months, consistent messages have been received from our members urging improvements in structure, navigation and content of the Association's website.

Some improvements have already been made, but we want to do much more, so we are seeking your opinions as a user or potential user of IAH's website. The survey is open to all, whether or not you are a member of IAH - we hope that improved website services will help attract new members. All responses will be treated anonymously and together will help shape IAH's website developments in the future. The more responses we receive, the better, so thank you in advance for taking part in the survey.



Go to http://www.iah.org/news_current_popup.asp?id=114

EL SALVADOR

Congress report and news of a potential new chapter for IAH



image courtesy of www.wikitravel.org

At a glance - facts and figures

The week was organised by the Net CARA (the Spanish acronym of Centro America – Water Resources) and took place in San Salvador, El Salvador

The programme included:

Workshops on “Aquifer Contamination” and “Integrated Management of Water Resources in Centroamerica”

A congress “Hydrogeology and Water Resources in Centroamerica”

A groundwater forum

A meeting to discuss the creation of an IAH Chapter in Centroamerica

A week long string of meetings and events, including a congress entitled “Hydrogeology and Water Resources in Centroamerica” was organised in San Salvador, El Salvador, in February.

The whole week was organised by the Net CARA (the Spanish acronym of Centro America – Water Resources), a nonprofit organization set up in 1999 under the leadership of the Canadian Universities of Calgary and Waterloo and with the participation of three universities in Central America, UCR (Costa Rica), USAC (Guatemala) and UNAN (Nicaragua). In 2005 two more universities joined the Net: UES (El Salvador) and UNAH (Honduras) and in 2007 the USFX (Bolivia) also joined.

Two workshops started the week, one dedicated to “Aquifer Contamination” with 63 participants, and the second dedicated to “Integrated Management of Water Resources in Centroamerica” (IMWRCA) with the presence of 28 participants. The mid-week Congress was attended by 107 participants. Following this a “Groundwater Forum” took place in the morning with 34 participants and in the afternoon a meeting was held to discuss the creation of an IAH Chapter of Centroamerica, with 27 participants.

The Pre-Congress Workshops were based on presentations from invited speakers and the Congress was partially organised with invited speakers introducing key topics and presentations by young master’s students with interesting investigation projects, many of them working closely with specialists of other countries as supervisors.



El Salvador: conference participants

The Post-Congress forum about groundwater was based on a talk by Ricardo Hirata, followed by a discussion between six groups concerning the organisation, legislation and current situation of water resources in the Central American countries.

The event was also supported by IAH and Vice-President Antonio Chambel represented the Executive. His role was to make a presentation in the IMWRCA Workshop (Contamination by hydrocarbons in porous and fractured media), to talk about IAH organisation and responsibilities just before the end of the Congress, and to coordinate the meeting dedicated to the creation of an IAH Chapter of Centroamerica. This task was one of the main objectives of this visit and, after some discussion, a team of three participants, Valeria Delgado (Nicaragua), Roberto Ramirez Chavarria (Costa Rica) and Mario Guevara (El Salvador), was formed. They will be responsible for contacts with the representatives of members of all the Central American countries, to increase the number of members in the region, to maintain close contact with the Executive of IAH, to establish rules for

the future new chapter of IAH and to organise democratic elections of the committee of the new chapter in a year's time.

During the Congress, one ordinary member and 22 students registered with IAH, the latter asking for support. The Spanish and Portuguese Chapters have kindly agreed to support for two years the fees of 10 and 7 respectively of these students, which IAH greatly appreciates, and IAH centrally will support the other 5 and will try to extend further support to students in other Central American countries. Other senior members will join IAH using our website in the next months.

**ANTONIO CHAMBEL,
VP FINANCE & MEMBERSHIP**

On behalf of IAH, Antonio will closely follow the initiative of our Central American members and their efforts to create this Chapter and we congratulate our members in the region for this initiative.

JOHN CHILTON

Articles welcome - email jchilton@iah.org

NATIONAL CHAPTERS' QUESTIONNAIRE

IAH has just over 40 national groups of varying sizes and levels of activity, and which have grown up in different ways over many years and operate rather independently of each other and of IAH centrally. One of the consistent themes coming from the Forward Look questionnaire and the meeting in Reading, from the meeting of National Chapters in Krakow and from general discussions with IAH members is that our national groups could be given more prominence and could provide improved benefits to members. Moreover, we could do much more to improve communication between chapters and between chapters and the central Secretariat, and the central Secretariat could provide more support to national groups.

During these discussions it also became clear that the IAH Executive and Secretariat does not have even basic information about chapters – for example which of them have newsletters, websites, formal constitutions. We could also do much more to ensure the best ideas can be transferred between chapters and that chapters can support each other. We have decided, therefore, as a first step to collect this information by means of a questionnaire which has been circulated to chapters for completion by 31st May.

The results will be circulated to all chapters, reported to Council in South Africa in September and also discussed at the meeting of National Chapter representatives at the conference in South Africa. We hope the information and ideas submitted will be the basis for a much more active network of national chapters. Please encourage your national committee to complete the questionnaire!

JOHN CHILTON AND KELLIE NICHOLSON, SECRETARIAT

GEF GROUNDWATER GOVERNANCE PROJECT

After a lengthy process of preparation, negotiation and revision, a GEF (Global Environment Facility) project on groundwater governance finally got underway at the beginning of 2011. This is a three year project executed by FAO in partnership with IAH, UNESCO and the World Bank, with a total GEF funding of 1.75 million US dollars and substantial co-funding contributions from the partners. The overall objective of the project is to define groundwater governance, assess the current global experience of the way in which groundwater use, protection and management is governed and to develop a framework for action for the governance of groundwater. The project steering committee of FAO, IAH and UNESCO met in Rome in February to get the project underway. One of the principal tasks for IAH within the project will be to prepare thematic papers on various aspects of groundwater management, and there will be opportunities for IAH members to be involved in this work. Watch the IAH website for further news.

JOURNAL EDITORS MEET IN PARIS

The Hydrogeology Journal Editorial team of Cliff Voss, Shemin Ge, Jimmy Jiao, Maria Schafmeister, retiring Philippe Renard and his replacement Vincent Post, Technical Editorial Advisor Sue Duncan, Journal Administrator Suzanne Schemann and IAH Executive Manager John Chilton met in Paris in early December 2010. Two full days were devoted to detailed discussions of matters relating to the journal. The photo shows the group shivering in the unusual snowy conditions which prevailed even in the centre of Paris.

The number of submitted papers remains above 300 each year, with about 150 of them being accepted for publication. The total number of around 1900 printed pages in eight issues per years was agreed to be a suitable overall size for the journal. The SCI impact factor had risen since 2000-2002, dropped a little to around 1.1 in 2007 and 2008, rising again to 1.42 in 2009. Achieving a balance between the desire for a high impact factor and the wish to maintain a broad geographical spread of content and authors is a challenge, but was agreed to be important. It is highly desirable to maintain the impact factor above 1.0 and in the same range as comparable journals.

Other issues discussed included the importance to the journal and its impact of good theme issues and review articles, ways of making the journal more attractive by including short articles on new technologies and techniques, historical notes, back-to-basics reviews, discussion of unsolved issues in groundwater science and educational articles. The core editorial team has little spare time on top of their already substantial commitments, and time and energy from amongst the pool of Associate Editors is needed to take these ideas forward. There was also a useful discussion of the scientific scope of the journal. Overall, the meeting produced very useful discussions and fed them back into a series of operational improvements for implementation or consideration. The length of time to publication has decreased and the SCI rating has risen since the May 2009 editorial meeting, and the Association is fortunate to have Cliff and his team to maintain the high quality of our scientific journal.

JOHN CHILTON, IAH SECRETARIAT



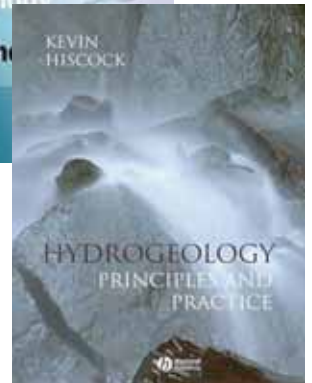
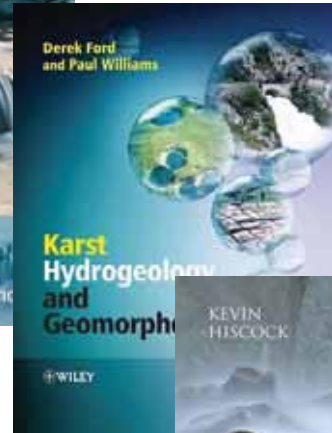
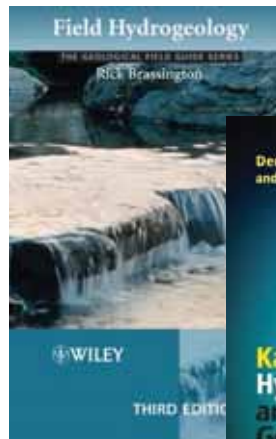
Left to right - Shemin Ge, Vincent Post, Maria Schafmeister, John Chilton, Sue Duncan, Suzanne Schemann, Cliff Voss and Jimmy Jiao

MEMBER DISCOUNTS ON BOOKS

We are pleased to announce that IAH members are now entitled to a 20% discount on all Wiley-Blackwell titles. This is good news for members, as the company has a large catalogue of excellent books of direct interest to groundwater professionals. Browse online at <http://www.wiley.com/>, and enter the IAH promotion code from the “members only” book discount part of our website when ordering to receive your discount.

We have always had a substantial member discount of 60% on our own IAH book series from Taylor and Francis, and a 20% discount on books from Springer, the publishers of our Hydrogeology Journal. This new agreement is part of our continuing efforts to improve benefits to IAH members.

NICK ROBINS AND JOHN CHILTON



Wiley-Blackwell titles include:
Karst Hydrogeology and Geomorphology, ISBN: 978-0-470-84997-2;
Field Hydrogeology, 3rd Edition, ISBN: 978-0-470-01828-6;
Hydrogeology: Principles and Practice, ISBN: 978-0-632-05763-4

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AN AFRICAN EXPERIENCE

Invitation to attend our international conference

Groundwater: our source of security in an uncertain future

REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN for the conference which will be held from 19 to 21 September at the CSIR International Convention Centre in Pretoria (48 km from Johannesburg) and is organised by the GROUNDWATER DIVISION (GWD) of the Geological Society of South Africa (GSSA) in association with IAH.

The conference is aimed at groundwater scientists, managers and planners, hydrologists and geotechnical engineers and will also be of interest to water professionals, environmental scientists, journalists, economists, public-sector officials and others working at the front line of service delivery, natural resource management and governance. Over 200 papers from all five continents have been accepted for presentation in plenary, parallel and poster sessions. There will be an accompanying exhibition of services and products, a full social programme, daily sightseeing trips for companions and one-day delegate outings to nearby places of interest.

Several IAH meetings are scheduled to take place during the conference:

- IAH's formal meeting of Council, and its Annual General Meeting (AGM)
- Meeting of IAH's National Chapters and groups
- Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network - open to all (as featured on page 9 of this newsletter)
- IAH side meeting on the Global Environment Facility (GEF) project on groundwater governance together with UNESCO and FAO

This will be a conference not to be missed by anyone in groundwater or hydrogeology and certainly no one should miss out on the very exciting three-day post-conference field excursion which will be led by groundwater experts, and will include trips to a coalfield, a water treatment plant treating acidic mine water,

a gold mine, historic mines in the hills along with sightseeing trips to the Bourke's Luck Potholes, Mac Mac Falls and the Blyde River Canyon, and featuring a dinner in the bush, a game drive in the world-renowned Kruger National Park, a visit to a microbrewery in trout country and overnight stops at the Old Coach Road Guest House and the Hippo Hollow Country Estate!

IAH and GWD members are entitled to a reduced registration fee as are 'early birds' who register before 31st July 2011. The world-class conference facility can seat 500 delegates, so registrations will be accepted on a first-come first-served basis. Visit the Conference webpage: <http://gwd.org.za/gwc2011/home> or email confplan@iafrica.com.

The conference is planning a substantial commercial exhibition, and interested potential exhibitors should contact the Conference Secretariat by email via confplan@iafrica.com for further details and a booking form.

We look forward to seeing you in South Africa in September this year!

2011 conference website:

<http://gwd.org.za/gwc2011/home>

It is the intention of IAH that funding will be made available to provide partial support to a number of participants from developing countries whose papers have been accepted for presentation. If you would like to be considered, please contact the IAH Secretariat at jchilton@iah.org.

2011

9-12 June

Zloty Potok, POLAND. The Impact of Human Activities on Groundwater. II International Field Workshop for Young Hydrogeologists. Organised by Student's Association of Hydrogeologists "AQUA", University of Silesia, Sosnowiec, Poland. Email: awitkows@us.edu.pl

15-17 June

Toledo, SPAIN. 2011 International SWAT Conference. Email: gerencia@fcihs.org Web: <http://www.fcihs.org>

19-25 June

Albena, BULGARIA. 11th International Multidisciplinary Scientific Geo-Conference and Expo - SGEM 2011. Web: <http://www.sgem.org>

11-14 July

Lisbon, PORTUGAL. Global Conference on Global Warming. Web: <http://www.gcgw.org/gcgw11/index.php?conference=gcgw&schedConf=gcgw11>

22-24 July

Zhengzhou, CHINA. International Conference on Water Resources Management and Engineering (ICWRME2011). Sponsored by IAMSET (International Association of Management and Engineering Technology) et al. Web: <http://www.icwrme.org/>

8-9 August

Los Angeles, USA. Groundwater: Cities, Suburbs, and Growth Areas (#5026). Organised by NGWA. Web: <http://info.ngwa.org/events/5026aug11.cfm>

21-27 August

Stockholm, SWEDEN. Stockholm World Water Week. Web: <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

1-3 September

Besançon, FRANCE. H2Karst, the 9th Conference on Limestone Hydrogeology. Organised by Universities of Franche-Comté (France) and Neuchâtel (Switzerland). Email: h2karst.besancon@gmail.com

14-17 September

Zaragoza, SPAIN. Iberian Congress on Groundwater: Management challenges for the 21st Century. Organised by IAH Spanish Chapter, Zaragoza University, Ibercaja, Ebro River Basin, Aragon Water Institute, Spanish Geological Institute, WASA-GN, IAH Portuguese and French chapters, and FCIHS. Web: <http://www.aih-ge.org>

19-21 September

Pretoria, SOUTH AFRICA. Groundwater: our source of security in an uncertain future. GSSA/IAH Conference. Organised by Groundwater Division of GSSA and IAH. Web: <http://www.gwd.org.za/gwc2011/home>

[For a fuller list of conferences and more details, including links to websites visit www.iah.org/confs/](http://www.iah.org/confs/)

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

CONFERENCE LISTINGS

ADVERTISING AND COPY INFORMATION

IAH News and Information is published 3 times a year and distributed as an insert in Hydrogeology Journal. It reaches all members and associated members of the International Association of Hydrogeologists and subscribing members of the Geological Society of America – a distribution of around 4000 individuals.

Advertising rates are €300 per full-page advert and €200 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 June and 1 October.