

Commission on “Groundwater and Climate Change”, Report for 2007

Co-Chairmen:

- Nico Goldscheider, Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- Ian Holman, Cranfield, UK

Homepage: A new homepage is under the process of construction allied to our change in status and re-focussing of efforts. The link on the IAH homepage will be updated soon.

1) Changes in organisation and team of leaders

In 2007 and early 2008, our group experienced several important organisational changes:

Our colleague and founding co-chairman Arie Issar, Israel, has retired from his positions. We thank him for the good cooperation and his friendly, active support of our group.

In February 2008, the IAH Executive Committee approved a proposal to upgrade our Working Group (founded in 2003) to a Commission. IAH also approved our approach of having a team of leaders instead of just one or two chairpersons. Therefore, we intend to include up to three additional chairpersons as replacement of Arie and to further strengthen our activities.

As of now, Richard Taylor (UK) will join and reinforce our team of chairmen. Two other colleagues have been approached recently and a response is awaited.

2) Activities in 2007

Ian Holman and fellow Working Group member Kevin Hiscock (UK) organised a session on the theme of “Groundwater: Climate change implications” at the 200th Anniversary Conference of the Geological Society of London on 10-12 September 2007.

The most important activity in 2007 was the preparation of conferences for 2008:

Richard Taylor (UK, new Co-Chairmen since June 2008) and Callist Tindimugaya (Uganda) prepared the Conference on “Groundwater & Climate in Africa” that takes place in Kampala, Uganda, 25-28 June 2008. The conference is supported by IAH, UNESCO, SADC (South Africa Development Community), AMCOW (African Ministerial Committee on Water), IAHS and several other organisations. Selected papers from the proceedings will be published in a special issue of *Hydrological Sciences Journal* in October 2008.

For details see: www.gwclim.org/

Chinese members of our group contributed to the conference “Climate Change: The Karst Records (KR5)” at the University of Chongqing, China, 2-5 May 2008.

Walter Dragoni and Balbir S. Sukhija have edited a book entitled “Climatic Change and Groundwater” with 13 contributions from different teams of authors, mostly case studies from different countries and climatic regions. The book has been published in February 2008.

A national working group on groundwater and climate change has been established in Switzerland in 2007, chaired by Marc Schürch, Federal Office for the Environment. Nico Goldscheider is also member of this group, acting as a link between this group and the Commission. The group is currently compiling a database of long-term records (> 50 years) from springs and monitoring wells all over Switzerland. The Swiss group also organises conferences and field trips in 2008 focusing on groundwater and climate change.

Nico Goldscheider & Ian Holman, 17 May 2008