



## **REPORT FROM SEGUN ADELANA – VICE-PRESIDENT, SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

The year 2011 witnessed the official preparation and hosting of the International Groundwater Conference of the IAH in Pretoria from 19 to 21 September on “Groundwater: Our source of Security in an Uncertain Future”. This meeting gathered several hundreds of participants from all over the world, mainly groundwater scientists, managers and planners, hydrologists and geotechnical engineers but with stronger appeal to water professionals, environmental scientists, journalists, economists, public-sector officials and others working at the front line of service delivery, national resource management and governance. A wide variety of papers were delivered on topics including Climate change and drought, dealing with uncertainty, getting the message across, exploration and water supply, reserve and licensing, water quality - changing trends, groundwater and the environment, merging science and policy, groundwater regulation and governance. The conference also housed the 2011 Council and Annual General Meetings of the association.

Other activities in the year and coordinated efforts include: (1) keeping and consolidating links between IAH and the AGW-NET, which is a long-term effort aim at enhancing hydrogeology and groundwater sciences in Sub-Saharan Africa; (2) collaboration with Hydrogeology without Borders, through the Burdon Groundwater Network, on M.Sc. Hydrogeology programs as it contributes to making groundwater qualifications more accessible; (3) continued efforts directed towards membership drive and establishment of National chapters through the Sponsored Membership Programme and twinning making IAH and groundwater profession more prominent on the African scene; and (4) free groundwater book distribution in Africa supported by Burdon Groundwater Network.

Annual activities included the meetings and conferences in various countries alerting Government and authorities on the importance of groundwater and the need to include it in management policies: The Biennial Groundwater Conference in South Africa held jointly with the International Groundwater Conference in September; Annual Conference of the Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists was held in November; the Ethiopian Association of Hydrogeologists; Uganda and the Namibian Hydrogeological Association.