



International Association of Hydrogeologists

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Vice president for the MENA Region

Annual report **2011-2012**

Since the last council meeting (Sept 2011), my activities as vice president of IAH for the MENA Region focused on the promotion of IAH in the Region and the preparation of the AIH/IAH Congress in Marrakech (IAH 2014).

A- Activities achieved

1- Promotion of IAH in the Region

During 2011-12, I pursued contacts made on various scientific occasions with hydrogeologists of the MENA region in order to push forward the creation of national chapters. The World Water Forum held in Marseilles offered an excellent opportunity for such contacts. However, things are moving slowly because of (i) the political context in most of the countries in the Region, especially the Arab countries and (ii) the financial difficulties, especially limitations for transferring hard currency out of the country. Among the communities of hydrogeologists contacted, those from Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Iraq and Palestine are keen on getting organized in an IAH National chapter.

2- IAH-2014 Congress

The proposal for organizing the AIH/IAH-2014 Congress in Morocco was accepted by the IAH Executive. During 2011-12, the event was discussed and adopted by the Moroccan Chapter of AIH. The following activities were accomplished:

- Creation of a Local Organizing Committee (OC) for the Congress,
- Setting the date and the venue for the congress,
- Preparation of a flyer and a poster for an initial announcement of the congress,
- Announcement the congress in the World Water Forum held in Marseille and in other international events (Germany, UNESCO..),
- Building a local partnership for the Congress with two major institutional organizations in the Morocco (Ministry of mines, Energy, Water and Environment and the "Institut de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement"). Several meetings have been held and a cooperation agreement is being prepared. Members of these organizations sit on the Organizing Committee,
- Preparation of an agreement IAH/IAH Moroccan Committee. A draft of this document was transmitted to IAH for approval,
- Designation by IAH of Professor Chambel to assist the OC in its activities,

Presently, and with the help of the OC, I am in the process of putting together a complete file on the Congress to be presented at IAH Council meeting to be held in Canada this September.

B- Perspectives for 2012-13

2012-13 is the most critical year for the preparation of the Congress. A schedule for important dates has been set by the OC based on IAH guidelines for preparing congresses. As a vice president, my main focus would be to accompany the OC (I am also a member of this committee) in respecting the schedule.

I will also pursue my contacts to promote IAH in the MENA Region, especially by creating country chapters.

I will also seek to establish link between IAH-MENA and other MENA organizations.