



# INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS

## **2011 Report Asia Regional Vice President**

Because of the rapid depletion of surface water reservoirs, groundwater is emerging as a safe and secure source of water supply in the Asian region, which hosts a large part of the world's population and is facing acute shortages of water supply in many areas. Groundwater is often the only source of water supply in rural areas for domestic as well as agricultural purposes. Against this background, the Government of India has initiated many nationwide schemes for the development and management of groundwater resources with the help of several departments of central and state governments, academic institutions and NGOs.

Several national and international seminars were organized to disseminate knowledge of sustainable development and management of groundwater resources. For example, an international conference on sustainable water resources management and treatment technology was organized at CSIR-National Environment and Engineering Research Institute at Nagpur, India from 19-22 January 2011. Another national conference on "Geosciences and water resources for sustainable development" was organized by the Association of Hydrogeologists of India from 11-12 February 2011. I attended both the seminars with two purposes: presentation of research works and propagation of the objectives of IAH in my capacity of IAH Vice President. The 5<sup>th</sup> International Groundwater Conference (IGC12) on "Assessment and Management of Groundwater Resources in Hard Rock Systems" is planned during 18-21 December at Aurangabad, India. I have convened a 90 minutes session in the IGC 12 for IAH members from India and abroad to discuss IAH related regional issues in order to strengthen its activities in the region. This session is likely to be attended by Professor Ken Howard.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India and the National Geophysical Research Institute under the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research have jointly initiated an ambitious programme of aquifer mapping for the entire area of India. I am participating in this project as an "Area Party Chief" of one of the sites near Nagpur in the volcanic Deccan Trap region selected for this purpose. An NGRI-AHI National Hydrology Lecture Award was initiated to honour a hydrologist who has made significant contributions in the field of basic and applied hydrological science including groundwater. The award will be given every year on World Water Day. This year Professor V.C. Kulandaiswamy was the recipient of this award.

The "China-Asean groundwater resources and environment" international conference prepared by the land and resources ministry of the Peoples' Republic of China was held in Guangxi Nanning on 19 December 2011. The aim of the meeting was to enhance China's and the other Asian countries groundwater resource development and utilization and geological environment protection ability. Another seminar on "Evolution of Groundwater System in Large-size River Basins" was held in September 25-30, 2011 by the Geological Society of China to address groundwater problems due to overexploitation of groundwater in the North-China Plain.