

## Report 2012 of the IAH Italian Chapter

The Italian Chapter has been renewed at the beginning of 2012. The members of the Italian Chapter are: Marco Petitta (chair), Daniela Ducci (secretary), Giovanni Barrocu, Fulvio Celico, Paolo Cerutti, Antonio Dematteis, Paolo Fabbri, Dolores Fidelibus, Alessandro Gargini, Marco Masetti, Vincenzo Piscopo, Maurizio Polemio, Andrea Sottani and Viviana Re.

During the year, the Chapter organized six meetings (February 3, March 23, May 5, June 20, September 19 and November 23). The national Assembly was done in Bologna, on June 21, during Flowpath Conference. The new Chapter devoted his main efforts to increase the number of Italian members of IAH, who grew from 72 in 2011 to 127 in 2012 (+76%).

Several activities have been carried out on different topics, hereinafter summarized as follows:

- a) The Chapter has promoted a revision of the internal organization, which includes:
  - the realization of a web site of the Italian Chapter, launched in June 2012 ([www.iahitaly.it](http://www.iahitaly.it)), with several pages containing hydrogeological information;
  - the amendment of the statute of the Italian Chapter;
  - the activation of a new bank account.
  
- b) The Chapter has developed a series of activities with the aim of upgrading the role of the Italian delegation and the relationships with the IAH International:
  - designation of the Italian official representatives for each IAH Commission/Network; these actually include a chairman (Giovanni Barrocu, Network for Coastal Aquifer Dynamics and Coastal Zone Management) and two co-chairs (Alessandro Gargini, Network of Groundwater and Ecosystem, and Viviana Re, Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network);
  - attendance at the IAH Congress in Niagara Falls: about 20 Italian IAH members participated in the event, with more than 30 oral/poster presentations;
  - participation in other IAH sponsored congresses: Italian IAH members participated in the GwFR2012 (Prague, May 21-24), in the SWIM 2012 (Buzios, Brasil, June 17-21) and in the IGWC (Aurangabad, India, December 18-21).
  
- c) Moreover, the Italian Chapter has implemented some activities with the aim of promoting the knowledge in the hydrogeological field:
  - official co-organization of the Flowpath 2012 Conference, held in June 19-21 in Bologna, and organized by Alessandro Gargini, Alma Mater University of Bologna. About 180 hydrogeologists participated in the meeting, including people from Spain and Germany and key-lecturers as John Cherry, Beth Parker, Ramon Aravena and Nico Goldscheider;
  - acceptance of the request of sponsorship by the Journal "Acque Sotterranee", which since 2012 includes some pages related to the IAH activity;
  - proposal about a technical short-course on "Protection and Management of groundwater withdrawals", submitted to the National Professional Association of Geologists; the itinerant courses will start in the first half of 2013;

- collaboration and official sponsorship of a web course on “Fate and Remediation of Subsurface Organic Contaminants”, just started in January 2013, organized by University of Waterloo, ON, Canada and Hidroplan Company, Brasil;
  - set up of a new PhD Award, entitled to Prof. Gian Maria Zuppi, for PhD thesis in hydrogeology; the 2012 Award has been assigned to Dr. Nicolò Colombani, by the payment of travel and fees for participating in the IAH Congress of Niagara Falls;
  - establishment at national level of two Working Groups: GESTAG (Study of sustainable water management in tunnels, chair Antonio Dematteis) and IDROGEOLOGIA (Hydrogeology and Sustainable Use of Geothermal Resources in Italy, chair Daniela Ducci); the first group started its works during 2012, having a three-years goal to produce guidelines and best-practice documents; activities of the two groups will be developed during the next year;
  - support in a project for groundwater exploitation: Fulvio Celico (member of the Burdon Groundwater Network) is working with no-profit organizations for well drillings in Ethiopia.
- d) The Chapter has been involved also in the co-sponsorship of the following congress/conference/workshop;
- the hydrogeological session "Water resources and the hydrological cycle in relation to the geological context: the peculiarities of the Mediterranean area" at the National Congress of SGI (Italian Geological Society), September 18-20, Arcavacata di Rende (CS);
  - the workshop on “Sustainable Water Management in Tunnels”, organized by GESTAG WG during Geofluid Conference, Piacenza, October 4;
  - participation in the “Earth Week”, October 15-20, by talks of Marco Petitta at University of Rome La Sapienza and at Regional Professional Geology Congress of Marche Region.
- e) Finally, the Italian Chapter planned the 2013 activity, including conferences and meetings; at the moment, this is the schedule for the next year:
- co-sponsorship of the AIGA (Italian Association of Applied and Environmental Geology) Young Researchers Conference, Napoli, February 14-15 2013;
  - sponsorship of IDROVULC2013 Conference on volcanic aquifers, May 2013;
  - co-sponsorship (with SIGEA, Italian Society of Environmental Geology) of a workshop on thermal groundwater, June 2013, Acquappesa, Southern Italy;
  - organization for hosting the Darcy Lecture 2013 by NGWA (National Groundwater Association, USA), Prof. Dave Rudolph, in Rome, October 14, 2013; the Italian Chapter will organize in this day the national Assembly for 2013, including talks from the two WGs;
  - organization of the second edition of Flowpath conference in June 2014, Viterbo, by Vincenzo Piscopo.

Roma, January 31, 2013

Marco Petitta  
Chairman of the IAH Italian Chapter

