

Report 2013 of the IAH Italian Chapter

The Italian Chapter has been renewed at the beginning of 2012. In 2013, the members of the Italian Chapter were: Marco Petitta (chair), Daniela Ducci (secretary), Giovanni Barrocu, Fulvio Celico, Paolo Cerutti, Antonio Dematteis, Paolo Fabbri, Dolores Fidelibus, Alessandro Gargini, Francesco La Vigna (since September 2013), Marco Masetti, Vincenzo Piscopo, Maurizio Polemio, Andrea Sottani and Viviana Re.

During the year, the Chapter organized four meetings (February 14, May 22, September 5 and October 14). The national Assembly was done in Rome, on October 14, during the Darcy Lecture. The new Chapter devoted significant efforts to increase the number of Italian members of IAH, who grew from 127 in 2012 to 151 in 2013 (+20%), starting from 72 in 2011.

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

a) Internal activities:

- the implementation of the web site of the Italian Chapter, launched in June 2012; (www.iahitaly.it), with several pages containing hydrogeological information and data;
- the submission of the candidature to host the International 2015 IAH Congress in Rome; the proposal has been positively examined by the IAH Council in June 2013; consequently, the Italian Chapter is in charge to organize the official IAH Congress in September 2015 in Roma; an Executive Committee has been designated, including Marco Petitta, Alessandro Gargini, Daniela Ducci, Fulvio Celico, Paolo Cerutti and Vincenzo Piscopo, members of the Chapter;
- the Executive Committee for AQUA2015 IAH Congress has carried out monthly meetings since July 2013;
- organization of the IAH day, on October 14 2013, hosting in Rome the Darcy Lecture, the Annual Assembly and the Working Group meetings;
- visit of the IAH Council Delegate Prof. Bruce Misstear, Rome November 18, for the preliminary discussion about the possible location for Rome 2015 IAH Congress.

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:

- attendance at the IAH Congress in Perth: more than 10 Italian IAH members participated in the event, with about 15 oral/poster presentations;
- participation in other IAH sponsored congresses: Italian IAH members participated at the CEG Conference (Mórahalom, Hungary: "Geothermal Applications, Specialities in Groundwater Flow and Resource", May 2013), including the meeting of the Central European Chapter and at the "International Symposium on Hierarchical Flow Systems in Karst Regions" (Budapest, Hungary, September 2013).

c) Moreover, the Italian Chapter has implemented some activities with the aim of promoting the knowledge in the hydrogeological field:

- confirmation of the sponsorship by the Journal "Acque Sotterranee"- "Italian Journal of Groundwater", with the inclusion of 2 pages-news dedicated to the IAH activity;
- collaboration with the Journal "Bollettino degli Esperti Ambientali"
- collaboration with the Special Issue dedicated to Groundwater by the European Geologist Magazine (n°35), edited by EFG (European Federation of Geologists);

- confirmation of a collaboration and official sponsorship of the second edition of the web course on "Fate and Remediation of Subsurface Organic Contaminants", started in January 2012, organized by University of Waterloo, ON, Canada and Hidroplan Company, Brasil;
- activities of the two existing Working Groups: GESTAG (Study of sustainable water management in tunnels, chair Antonio Dematteis) and IDROGEOTER (Hydrogeology and Sustainable Use of Geothermal Resources in Italy, chairs Daniela Ducci and Paolo Cerutti); other three WGs have been established during the National Assembly in October: BURDON ITALY (cooperation projects with no-profit organization for developing countries, chair Fulvio Celico), KARST (fractured and karst aquifers) and COASTAL AREAS (chair Giuseppe Sappa);
- submission of a proposal for a Special Issue of the International Journal "Environmental Earth Sciences", dedicated to "Karst in Mediterranean areas", to be realized in occasion of the IAH 2015 congress in Rome.

d) The Chapter has been involved also in the co-sponsorship of the following congress/conference/workshop;

- co-sponsorship of the AIGA (Italian Association of Applied and Environmental Geology) Young Researchers Conference, Napoli, February 14-15 2013;
- co-sponsoring the IdroVulc2013 Conference on Volcanic Aquifers in Central Italy, 16 -17 May in Orvieto, Central Italy, organized by Roma3 University and Umbria Region;
- organizing a session on "WATER - Quantitative assessment of groundwater resources: standard methods, new developments and open problems", at the IX edition of FIST Geotalia Conference (Italian Federation of Earth Sciences) , Pisa, September 2013
- hosting the Darcy Lecture 2013 by NGWA (National Groundwater Association, USA), Prof. Dave Rudolph, in Rome, October 14, 2013;
- co-sponsoring the National Conference on Geothermal Application, "Geotermia a bassa entalpia prospettive di sviluppo del sistema a ciclo aperto (GWHP) dall'esperienza nazionale al livello locale", organized by SINERGEO in Vicenza, November 8, 2013;
- co-sponsoring a Conference on Mineral Waters, organized by GEAM, Torino Nov. 27 2013.

e) Finally, the Italian Chapter planned the 2014 activity, including conferences and meetings; at the moment, this is the schedule for the next year:

- technical short-course on "Protection and Management of groundwater withdrawals", the first edition of this itinerant course has been scheduled for May 2014, in Milan, in collaboration with the Regional Geologist Professional Association (delegates Paolo Cerutti and Marco Masetti);
- organization of the second edition of Flowpath conference, 18-20 June 2014, Viterbo, by Vincenzo Piscopo, hosting the second edition of PhD Award, entitled to Prof. Gian Maria Zuppi, for PhD thesis in hydrogeology;
- organization of the 42nd IAH International Congress in Rome, 13-18 September 2015.

Roma, May 31, 2014

Marco Petitta

Chairman of the IAH Italian Chapter

