

The Croatian National Chapter of IAH: Annual report for 2013

In May 2013 the Croatian National Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists held elections and Tamara Marković was elected President and Staša Borović as Secretary of the National Chapter. The Chapter has 34 members in 2013 as in 2012. For the first time in the last three years, the number of members did not decrease. In the last few years the membership has significantly declined as a consequence of the retirement of elderly members and the unfavourable economic situation in the country. The majority comes from academic institutions and they are mainly hydrogeologists, although a small portion of members are not strictly hydrogeologists.

In 2013 the main focus of the National Chapter was on preparation of an official request to host the 2015 IAH International Congress in Dubrovnik. The hosting of the conference was eventually given to the Italian National Chapter and the Croatian Chapter was encouraged to prepare request to host the 2017 IAH International Congress. The town of Dubrovnik was chosen as the venue of the conference because the Old Town of Dubrovnik is the priceless jewel of the Dalmatian coast and a world famous UNESCO World Heritage Site. Dubrovnik is also, without doubt, currently one of Europe's most fashionable conference destinations. A surfeit of modern facilities combined with unique activities for delegates make this a popular choice for event organisers.

The members of the chapter were focused on publishing the results of their scientific and professional work as well as participation in conferences and congresses:

- 1) At the Central European Groundwater Conference – Geothermal Applications and Specialities in Groundwater Flow and Resources in Morahalom Hunagry, organised by the Hungarian National Chapter, president and secretary of the Croatian Chapter participated with oral presentations. Also, the president of the Croatian Chapter made a presentation during the Introduction of Central European IAH National Chapters and participated in a Round Table discussion on Education in Hydrogeology.
- 2) At the 40th IAH Conference in Perth - Australia, organised by Australian National Chapter, the president of the National Chapter participated with an oral presentation and at the Meeting of National Chapter representatives.
- 3) At the 3rd International Conference – Water in Sensitive and Protected Areas in Zagreb, IAH members participated in organisation of the conference and held presentations.
- 4) The members also participated in a domestic professional and business conference.

Besides, lectures were organised at the Faculty of Mining, Geology and Petroleum Engineering and at the Croatian Geological Survey.

The chapter annual meeting was held in December. A professional lecture was delivered at the beginning of the meeting and it was followed by the report of the chapter council on activities in 2013 and plans for 2014.

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