

<p style="text-align: center;">BCH Belgisch Comité voor Hydrogeologen</p>		<p style="text-align: center;">CBH Comité Belge des Hydrogéologues</p>
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2013 Report of the Belgian National Chapter of the IAH

The “Comité Belge des Hydrogéologues” (CBH) in French and “Belgisch Comité voor Hydrogeologen” (BCH) in Dutch, CBH-BCH, acts as the National Chapter of the IAH in Belgium.

In 2013, the number of members of the CBH-BCH increased to 95 individual members, including the delegates of 4 corporate members.

In 2013, the Council of the CBH-BCH was composed of 14 elected members and gathered four times (on 18/01/2013, on 23/03/2013, on 20/06/2013, and on 15/10/2013) in order to plan and coordinate the committee’s activities.

The 2013 General Assembly of the CBH-BCH took place on January 18, 2013. It was hosted by Vivaqua in Brussels, one of the major drinking water suppliers in Belgium.

During 2013, the following activities were organized by the CBH-BCH:

1. Annual Conference

Following the General Assembly, Dr. Tanguy ROBERT (Université de Liège) held a lecture on “Hydrogeological processes in fractured and porous media: insights from geophysical case studies”.

2. Study day 2013

The study day 2013 of the CBH-BCH took place on June 7th, 2013 in Ghent. Its theme was “Hydrogeochemical characterization and modelling”. Six presentations were given in the morning at the Department of Geology and Soil Science of Ghent University. The presentations covered topics ranging from reactive transport modelling around ATES wells, multiscale applications of multivariate statistics to understand pollution-induced geochemical processes in groundwater, modeling of geochemical and biological reactions in groundwater, and case studies on the role of cation exchange in the evolution of a large contaminant plume, and on the elevation of natural radioactivity as a result of phosphate extraction.

The last presentation of the morning introduced the afternoon field trip, at a large former dump site of gypsum. The waste caused groundwater contamination and significant hydrogeological investigations were conducted prior to depollution. The site is now currently in a final depollution phase.

34 people took part in the study day.

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3. Reference book on Belgian aquifers

In 2009, the CBH-BCH has endeavoured the publication of a reference book on Belgian aquifers. The book is divided into a series of chapters, each corresponding to an important aquifer of Belgium. Several specialized issues are also tackled in the book, such as geothermal applications, mineral waters, production and distribution, surveillance networks, regional-scale groundwater modelling, groundwater rebound in abandoned coal mines, or groundwater-related problems in constructions works.

The book is edited by Kristine Walraevens and Alain Dassargues. In 2013, the book was in its final publication stages, with most of the chapters being finalized and undergoing reviewing and editing. The official release date is June 6th, 2014.

4. Contacts with other scientific organizations

Contacts are maintained with other organizations promoting earth sciences (UBGL, SBGIMR, Geologica Belgica) to promote cooperation and synergies.

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