



Annual Report 2014

Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network (ECHN) of IAH

1. INTRODUCTION

The Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network (ECHN) was established during the reorganization of the commissions and working groups of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) on July 1st, 2011. The ECH Network aims to support hydrogeologists at the start of their professional careers and to promote their involvement in IAH affairs. The ECH Network focuses on information sharing, networking and strengthening the status of early career hydrogeologists within IAH.

2. ECH NETWORK AND ECHN STEERING COMMITTEE

After the IAH Congress held in Marrakech two new members joined the ECHN Steering Committee: Raquel Sousa (Portugal) and Sebnem Arslan (Turkey). In December 2014 Mr Ross Clark (Scotland) also joined the SC.

At December 2014 the ECHN Steering Committee was the following:

ECHN Executive: Re Viviana (ECHN Chair), Gillian Hurding and Matthys Dippenaar (ECHN Co-Chairs)

ECHN Task Team Members: Carlos Maldaner, Junzhi Wang, Lindsay McMillan, Matthew Currell, Raquel Sousa, Ross Clark, Sebnem Arslan, Tirza Contreras

ECHN Advisors: Mark Cuthbert and Judith Flügge

This amounts to 5 members from Europe, 2 from Asia, 2 from Americas, 1 from Africa and 1 from Oceania.

3. ACTIVITIES

3.1 Meetings of the Steering Committee

During the reporting period, steering committee meetings were held on February 13th, May 27th, July 29th and December 18th via Skype.



3.2 Sessions at conferences

3.2.1. IAH International congress

The 41th IAH Congress held in Marrakech, Morocco, from September 15 – 19, 2014, was a great success for early career hydrogeologists, encouraging their involvement in IAH matters, enabling networking and developing their professional careers. Thanks to the support of the Organizing Committee and IAH Central , the Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network of IAH (ECHN) was able to offer some outstanding events for interested junior hydrogeologists, including a dedicated early career hydrogeologist poster and oral presentation award, and a social function (organized with the financial support of the Organizing Committee and IAH Central).

Many offers were realized concerning the better promotion of early career hydrogeologists at the congress (<https://echn.iah.org/echn-2014-iah-congress>). These included:

- Highlighting ECHN delegates on congress badges
- Highlighting ECHNs with the ECHN logo in the power point presentation (ECHN logo was made available for download in the conference website) and stickers on poster presentations,
- Affordable accommodation alternatives (hostels) and shared room option for students (a list was made available for download at the conference website)
- A thematic session entitled “Being effectively succinct: Tips from the experts on presenting your research in 15 min or less”, organized in collaboration with Bruce Misstear (Speaker; IAH Vice President – Finance and Membership) and Karen G. Villholth (IAH Outreach Commission, co-chair together with Gillian Hurding from IAH-ECHN). T
- The active presence of ECHN SC members and the IAH booth during the whole conference and the organization of the IAH Book Exchange activity together with the IAH Secretariat.
- An annual meeting of the ECHN followed by a social event organized in collaboration with Hydrogeologists Without Borders- UK, attended by more than 80 participants¹.
- The Coolest Paper Award Celebration during the IAH AGM and ECHN AGM
- Early Career Poster Prizes (organized in collaboration with the OC), awarded during the closing ceremony to Kelley Swana (Department of Earth Science, Stellenbosch University - South Africa) and Abdelaziz Khomsi (Laboratoire des Géosciences des Ressources Naturelles, Faculté des Sciences Université Ibn Tofail - Kénitra, Morocco).

Also the website was constantly updated with ECHN activities and pictures during the whole congress.

¹ A detailed report of the AGM and Social Function was sent to IAH Council in October 2014



3.2.2. Other regional and national Congresses

During 2014 ECHN members attended different regional and national congresses where specific attention was paid to the involvement and support of ECHs, hence organized with the endorsement of ECHN:

- 5th International Field Workshop for Young Hydrogeologists, Sosnowiec, Poland, June 25-27, 2014 (<http://khgi.wnoz.us.edu.pl/warsztaty.html>);
- 5th International Students Geological Conference, which will be held at the Faculty of Science, Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary in April, 24-27. 2014 (<http://isgc2014.elte.hu/>)³;
- Flowpath 2014 - National Meeting on Hydrogeology, Organised by IAH Italian Chapter, Viterbo, Italy, 18-20 Jun 2014 (http://www.flowpath_2014.unitus.it).

Exchange of knowledge / Dissemination of Knowledge

Since the beginning of ECHN's activities, the LinkedIn group has been used as platform for information sharing and discussion. We post jobs and conferences announcements, we run polls and, during the IAH annual meetings we use it to promote special sessions and events. The profile of the group is regularly updated and Matthys Dippenaar continues his activity as owner of the subgroup, supported by Nelda Breedt and Tirza Contreras.

Matthys Dippenaar is the owner of the subgroup, while Junhzi Wang replaced Nelda Breedt as former administrator, joining Tirza Contreras.

The network supports the information sharing possibilities for early career hydrogeologists, and is providing a support network for members to discuss and develop ideas or schemes at LinkedIn. The network is actively recruiting new members from this platform, supported by the newly established Facebook page (administered by Gillian Hurding).

The new ECHN website was launched in 2014 (<https://echn.iah.org/>) and administered by Carlos Maldaner. This represent another step towards the more effective involvement of Early Career Hydrogeologists within the association, while promoting networking and information exchange at local and international level. Website access statistics for 2014 are presented in Figure 1.

² IAH also gave a financial support for the organization of this event. A separate report was sent by the congress organizers.

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Audience Overview

1 Jul 2014 - 31 Dec 2014

All Sessions
100.00%

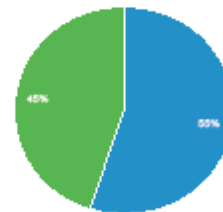
Overview

Users



Sessions 1,213	Users 667	Page Views 3,646
Pages/Session 3.01	Avg. Session Duration 00:03:03	Bounce Rate 46.74%
% New Sessions 54.99%		

New Visitor **Returning Visitor**



Country	Sessions	% Sessions
1. United Kingdom	196	16.16%
2. Germany	104	8.57%
3. Italy	102	8.41%
4. Turkey	90	7.42%
5. Canada	89	7.34%
6. Morocco	81	6.68%
7. Tunisia	73	6.02%
8. United States	49	4.04%
9. Russia	39	3.22%
10. Ghana	37	3.05%

Figure 1. Website access statistics for 2014.



In the spirit of lifelong learning the website will be constantly updated and improved, thanks to the great job of our webmaster, Carlos Maldaner.

As part of our commitment with Knowledge exchange, ECHN is an active component of the IAH Working Group on Education Materials. Viviana Re is actively contributing to the working group since its establishment in 2013 and Matthys Dippenaar also joined at end 2014.

4. ECHN Branches

The ECHN National Groups allow ECH's to network and share technical information with other hydrogeologists in their own country and/or city. Examples of events include technical presentations, hydrogeological tours or socializing with local/national experts in the field of hydrogeology. In 2014 a new ECHN national branch was created in Italy and information concerning the creation of new branches worldwide is available on the ECHN website (<https://echn.iah.org/echn-national>).

5. COOLEST PAPER AWARD:

In 2014 the first edition of the coolest paper award was launched (<http://echn.iah.org/coolest-paper>) with the aim of energizing the early career hydrogeologist community and encourage the discussion of new and existing papers. The definition of 'cool' has been deliberately left open to interpretation to inspire a wide range of nominations and voting. The competition was divided in two phases. A nomination period where we asked ECH to nominate any hydrogeology paper published (online or in volume) during 2013 in any peer-reviewed journal that inspired with its originality, creativity, thoroughness or any other criteria. In the second phase we asked ECH to vote for the nominated papers. The winner of the competition was announced on the ECHN website and ECHN LinkedIn, while the award ceremony took place during the Annual General Meeting.

The winner of the competition is Dr Sebnem Arslan from the Department of Geological Engineering, Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey, with the paper Arslan, S., Yazicigil, H., Stute, M., & Schlosser, P. (2013). Environmental isotopes and noble gases in the deep aquifer system of Kazan Trona Ore Field, Ankara, central Turkey and links to paleoclimate. *Quaternary Research*, 79(2), 292-303.

Dr. Arslan received a free IAH membership for one year, one free book from the IAH book series and was invited to present the winning paper during the congress (More details at: <https://echn.iah.org/2014-coolest-paper>).

6. MISCELLANEOUS

During 2014, ECHN has contributed several articles to IAH "e-News" and "News and Information" publications.



7. Outlook

During 2015, the following issues will be addressed by ECHN:

- **IAH Congress 2015, Rome, Italy.**

For the IAH Congress 2013 the following items will be addressed:

Low-cost ECH accommodation, ECH labeling (in the handbook, on badges, etc.), specific short courses, ECH best presentation prize, ECH co-chairs for technical session, ECH representative in scientific committee, organization of the joint ECHN-HJ joint session, ECHN annual meeting and social event.

- **In close cooperation with IAH Secretariat support the development of a mentoring program and creation of the ECHN website**
- **Realization of the first Hydro Holiday in collaboration with the University of Strathclyde (Scotland).**

Viviana Re

on behalf of the Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network

July 2015