

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IAH NETWORK ON GROUNDWATER IN URBAN AREAS (IAH-UGN) FOR 2014



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Co-Director positions, although advertised, remained open throughout 2014.

Activities and outputs during the calendar year 2014

The “Networking” function of the IAH-UGN continued throughout 2014. Various discussions were held regarding the appointment of one or more new Directors, but nothing had been finalised by the end of the year. While this situation was less than satisfactory, it did not appear to affect the stream of networking activities which continued unabated.

1) In February, 2014, I was invited to Singapore to present a keynote paper entitled “Challenges in managing groundwater in cities” at the Asia-Pacific Water Forum PUB WaterHub PUB H2O Seminar Series (February 19th, 2014). Work with my IAH-UGN colleague Jimmy Jiao on the Singapore “Expert Panel” continued.



2) In September, I attended 5th Colombian Hydrogeology Congress in Medellin, Colombia, giving an opening address on “Groundwater and the world’s growing cities” (“V Congreso Colombiano de Hidrogeología – I Seminario Internacional sobre Temáticas Actuales en Hidrología Subterránea”. Medellin, Colombia. September 24-26, 2014.) Discussions were held on the role of groundwater in cities, the importance of governance, and the contribution that the Colombian National Chapter of IAH could make to emerging urban groundwater problems in South America.

3) I also visited Xi’an China, in September to attend the 5th International Academic Conference on Water Security in Arid and Semi-Arid Regions. I gave a keynote on “Urban-rural conflicts over groundwater – the role of governance” which was published in the conference proceedings. More importantly, I spent considerable time with IAH-UGN colleagues in Xi’an discussing recent initiatives in Asia to develop a “New Silk Road”. We began work on a publication re: potential impacts of such an initiative which was submitted to “Science”.

4) The 2014 IAH Congress was held in Marakesh, Morocco. We did not hold an urban groundwater session at this meeting and neither did we organise a meeting of the IAH-UGN (very few IAH-UGN members were present). Discussions were held with representatives of the Korean National Chapter regarding options for a Korean Congress and the urban groundwater sub-themes that could be involved.

5) By way of compensation for the lack of urban groundwater in Marakesh, the US National Chapter of IAH organised several sessions at the 2014 GSA Annual Meeting which was held in Vancouver, British Columbia (19–22 October 2014). Session #17 was titled “Assessing Vulnerability of Water Supply Wells from Wastewater: Sources, Contaminants, Tracers, and Pathways”, and I gave the opening address on behalf the IAH-UGN, on “Sustainable management of groundwater supplies in urban and peri-urban areas (Paper #17-1.).

6) The Wolf, L., Howard, K.W.F. and Kralisch manuscript entitled “Innovative [urban] groundwater management” was completed. However, the proposed publication by Burn, S., Gray, S. and Begbie, D. for which the manuscript had been prepared, was cancelled. Work began on rewriting the manuscript for journal submission.

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