

Activity report from Jun Shimada as IAH Regional Vice-president of Asia, 2012-2015

1 2012-2013.03

In August 2012 the IHP Beijing office notified IHP-Japan to nominate the UN-water best practice award for the Asian area. We discussed in the IHP-Japan committee to suggest the long term groundwater management activities in the Kumamoto area, Japan for this nomination. Jun Shimada arranged the Kumamoto nomination with the help of the groundwater management section of Kumamoto City government and applied for this award for 2013. In March 2013, Kumamoto City's groundwater management activities were selected as the 1st prize of this award (<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/winners2013.shtml>). This is the first winner of this prize from Japan, but this is also the first win for groundwater practice all over the world. This was shown in the IAH news in May 2013.

In March, Kumamoto University prepared a groundwater symposium on the African continent within the framework of the environmental leader programme for their PhD course, and the former president of IAH, Dr. Willi Struckmeier was invited to give a key note speech. Jun Shimada also have a talk about the sustainable groundwater management activities in the Kumamoto area which can be evaluated as the best practice award of UN-Water 2013. (<http://www.gelk.info/blog/archives/date/2013/03>)

In March 2013, Jun Shimada was invited to University of Manila at Deliman to have a talk about groundwater management practice and also promoted the environmental leader programme of Kumamoto University. We also discussed with the professors of hydrogeology there for future collaboration in groundwater research and IAH regional groundwater conferences or workshops.

2 2013.04-2014.03

In April 2013 six Thai delegates from the Groundwater Division visited the Kumamoto area to meet with Jun Shimada and discussed the possibilities for groundwater management using rice paddies which has succeeded in the Kumamoto area. Jun Shimada gave a talk about the groundwater management practice of Kumamoto and also took them for a half day groundwater field trip around Kumamoto area.

In August 2013, UN-Water's best practice award celebration symposium was held at Kumamoto City with the invitation of UN delegates and Kumamoto awards members including Professor Jun Shimada.

(http://www.kumamoto-waterlife.jp/kiji/pub/detail.asp?c_id=1&id=111&pg=1&mst=0&wd=)

At the Perth congress of IAH in 2013 young Japanese research staff won the Early Career Network (ECN) poster awards at the 40th IAH congress. The best poster presentation prize went to Makoto Kagabu from Kumamoto University who is a research staff member of our project. As he could not stay until the closing ceremony to receive the prize, Dr. M. Nishigaki, president of the IAH National Chapter of Japan, receive his prize instead.

The UN-Water best practice award for 2014 ceremony was held at the UN University in Tokyo in March 2015 (<http://www.un.org/waterforlifedecade/ceremony2014.shtml>) and following from that ceremony, many of the UN delegates visited Kumamoto City to attend the International Water Forum at Kumamoto at March 22, 2015 and also to see the active groundwater management practices done at this area. (http://www.kumamoto-waterlife.jp/kiji/pub/detail.asp?c_id=1&id=112&pg=1&mst=0&wd=) Jun Shimada has been strongly supported for the success of these activities.

3 2014.04-2015.03

In April 2014, Jun Shimada was invited to the Korean Institute of Geology and Mineral Resources (KIGAM) to give a lecture there and also to see the potential for hosting the IAH regional conference in 2015 and also to discuss on the possibility of the IAH General Assembly and Congress nomination for 2018 or after.

In July 2014, IAEA was in contact with Jun Shimada to arrange appropriate delegates for the IAEA Fukushima workshop concerning the groundwater related problems there. I have discussed this matter with the relevant Japanese groundwater professionals and recommended some of them to attend the IAEA workshop on Fukushima groundwater issues held in September 2014 in Vienna. (http://www-naweb.iaea.org/napc/ih/IHS_FNPP.html) The summary report of this workshop can be found at (http://www-naweb.iaea.org/napc/ih/documents/other/Meeting_Summary_%20Final.pdf)

In November, Jun Shimada was invited to the Sam Sam Ratulangi University, Manado, Indonesia to give a keynote speech on the successful groundwater management in the Kumamoto area. (http://efcecm.unsrat.ac.id/?page_id=18) I also discussed with the Indonesian groundwater hydrologists there about the potential for cooperative activity on groundwater issues including conference and research activities.

4 2015.04-2016.05

In April, 2015, the IAH Korean National Chapter organized an IAH regional conference at Cheju Island including two days conference with the Korean Soil Science Society Annual meeting and one day field trip to visit volcanic groundwater spots including spring water bottling factory and SGD around Cheju Island.

(<http://www.iah2015jeju.com/PresentationSchedule/OralPresentation.do>). I attended the conference as Asian vice president of IAH, also Dr. Antonio Chambel was invited as a representative from the IAH Executive. There were several international keynote presenters including Japan and also around 10 international participants. The conference was well managed and gives a good reputation to the chapter for their hosting possibility of a future IAH Congress.

Soon after the Cheju conference, the World Water Forum was held at Taegu, Korea, in April 2015 and Jun Shimada attended as a representative from the Japanese Association of Groundwater Hydrology relating to the Kyushu days activities at the Japan booth of that forum, which described the groundwater resources and related management of Kumamoto area including a promotion video. (<http://www.mizutomidori.jp/movie/en.php>)

In April, and continuing for a one months period, huge earthquakes and continuing 1500 quakes have affected the Kumamoto area and nearly 50,000 houses have been seriously damaged and around 50 people have been killed by these quakes. As the Kumamoto City has been well known for its groundwater resources, this quake has somehow affected the groundwater regime including the springs and hot springs around the Kumamoto area. As we have well established and managed groundwater monitoring networks, we intend to analyze the monitoring records and to consider the possible reaction to revive local groundwater resources after the quake activity declines.

(https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2016_Kumamoto_earthquakes)

Jun Shimada

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