

IAH Karst Commission – Annual Report for 2014

Relevant activities of the IAH Karst Commission (KC) are reported and documented on our website: www.iah.org/karst. This report summarizes the most important highlights:

The International Conference “Karst Without Boundaries” took place from June 11 to 15 in Trebinje (Bosnia & Herzegovina) with a mid-conference field trip to Popovo Polje and Dubrovnik (Croatia) and a post-conference excursion to the Bay of Kotor (Montenegro). The KC held its annual meeting during this conference and was strongly involved in the preparation, organization and implementation.

For details please visit DIKTAS at <http://diktas.iwlearn.org/>

The conference was organized in the framework of the DIKTAS project in partnership with IAH, in collaboration with the Hydropower System Trebisnjica (Bosnia & Herzegovina) and the University of Belgrade (Serbia), with support of UNESCO, the IGRAC Centre and GWP-Med. The event brought together 155 scientists, engineers and stakeholders from 45 countries and five continents. All conference presentations and posters were published in a book of proceedings edited by three members of the KC and distributed to the attendees, and various professional and academic institutions and libraries.

At this conference, the “Young Karst Researcher Prizes” 2014 were awarded to Milan Radulović (Montenegro), Sebastian Schmidt (Germany) and Adam Toth (Hungary).

Prior to the conference, the 1-week international course and field seminar “Characterization and Engineering of Karst Aquifers” (CEKA) was also held in Trebinje, Bosnia & Herzegovina, from June 3 to 10. The course was organized by the Centre for Karst Hydrogeology at the University of Belgrade in cooperation with other regional institutions, with partnership of the DIKTAS project and financial support of UNESCO. The course was attended by 21 participants from 11 countries, and lectured by 10 professors, out of which 7 members of the KC, which was strongly involved in the preparation and organization of this course.

The 7th edition of “Hydrokarst”, an international training course on karst hydrogeology, took place in October 17, 2014, in Malaga (Spain). Among the lecturer were the KC members Bartolome Andreo and Andreas Hartman.

The Karst Commission has also accomplished several publication projects. Two more articles of our series “Reviews in Karst Hydrogeology” were published, each time with clear reference to IAH and the Karst Commission:

Hartmann A, Goldscheider N, Wagener T, Lange J, Weiler M (2014) Karst water resources in a changing world: Review of hydrological modeling approaches. *Reviews of Geophysics*, 52(3): 218–242.

Fiorillo F (2014) The Recession of Spring Hydrographs, Focused on Karst Aquifers. *Water Resources Management*, 28: 1781–1805.

A book on “Hydrogeological and Environmental Investigations in Karst Systems”, edited by B. Andreo, F. Carrasco, J.J. Durán, P. Jiménez and J.W. LaMoreaux, was published by Springer. Many KC members contributed as editors and/or authors.

The second special issue of the German SCI journal “Grundwasser” on karst hydrogeology was also published, with contributions from German, Austrian, Swiss and US American KC members: <http://link.springer.com/journal/767/19/1/page/1>

KC members have proposed and chaired several karst-related sessions at the EGU meeting in Vienna (April 2014) and the AGU fall meeting in San Francisco (December 2014). Neven Kresic was invited keynote speaker and chaired a session at the XVIII Brazilian Congress on Ground Water in Bello Horizonte (October, 2014), and was also an invited keynote speaker at the Annual Groundwater Conference of the Irish Group of IAH (April 2014); both keynotes were on various aspects of karst hydrogeology and karst water resources utilization including references to KC activities.

Work on the KC project “World Karst Aquifer Map” (WOKAM) progressed well. The project is financially supported by IAH and UNESCO and part of the WHYMAP series. The Scientific Advisory Board of WOKAM held its second meeting on April 12-13, 2014, in Karlsruhe. For details please check the project website at <http://www.agw.kit.edu/english/wokam.php>

The KC also continued to organize two international lecture series dedicated to karst hydrogeology: The “Karlsruhe Karst Lectures” included three presentations in 2014, by Barbara Mahler, Zoran Stevanovic & Tim Bechtel; the Edward Aquifer Distinguished Lecture Series included presentations Ira Sasowsky & Robert Brinkmann.

Nico Goldscheider (Germany)

Neven Kresic (USA) & Jiang Guanghui (China)