



International Association of Hydrogeologists

the World-wide Groundwater Organisation

IAH FORWARD LOOK 2011-2020: ACHIEVEMENTS AND PRIORITY ACTIONS

INTRODUCTION

The Forward Look initiative arose out of consultations with IAH members, Council and a meeting in Reading (UK) in 2010. In the resulting Action Plan, actions were proposed under five headings:

1. Education and academic development
2. Internal development of IAH
3. Informing and influencing global policy
4. Enhancing alliances with external agencies
5. Developing the science of hydrogeology



The actions were also divided into Priority Actions and Medium to Long Term Actions. A summary is available on the IAH website at:

<https://iah.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/forwardlookweb1.pdf>

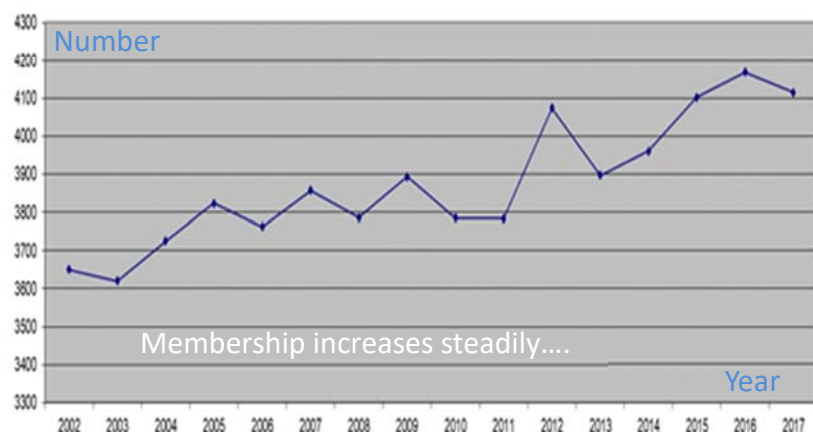


ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR

Much of the progress to date in this 10-year plan has been concerned with the Priority Actions. Major achievements include:

- Preparing a series of Strategic Overview papers (7 papers to date)
- Restructuring of Commissions and Networks
- Establishing an Early Career Hydrogeologists Network
- Updating the IAH rules to better reflect current practice
- Increasing membership to over 4,000, and increasing the number of National Chapters
- Launching the mentoring scheme
- Developing the new IAH website
- Increasing the size, quality and citation index of *Hydrogeology Journal*

Despite these successes, some priority actions have not been carried out or were probably over-optimistic. For example, it is unlikely that the aim to increase membership to 5,000 by 2020 can be achieved.



The longer-term actions in the Forward Look document are mainly concerned with enhancing alliances, influencing policy and developing groundwater science. Whilst progress has been made, this is less easy to measure.



Notable activities thus far include participation in high level international water meetings such as the World Water Forum in South Korea in 2015 and the Budapest Water Summit in 2016; the establishment of MOUs with organisations such as the African Groundwater Network and IGRAC; collaboration with UNESCO, FAO and the UN Global Environmental Facility (GEF) in the project “Groundwater Governance – A Global Framework for Action”; and attending the UN-Water meeting in 2017. IAH was also a co-founder of the Groundwater Solutions Initiative for Policy and Practice (GRIPP) and is a member of the GRIPP Core Group.



PRIORITY ACTIONS

There are 3 years left in the original plan period (which coincides with the remaining term of the present Council) and it is timely to identify a small number of priority actions for this period. Where the target date is given as September of a particular year, this is to coincide with Council meeting and the Annual General Assembly.

| | Target date |
|---|-------------|
| OBJECTIVE 1 – ENHANCE EDUCATION & ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT | |
| Add education pages to IAH website | Sept 2018 |
| Prepare two additional strategic overview (SO) papers, and prepare hard copies of existing SO papers for wider dissemination; consider feasibility of translating SO papers into other languages | Sept 2019 |
| Establish, with partners, IAH webinars, including webinars related to the SO papers and to Commission and Network activities | Sept 2019 |
| OBJECTIVE 2 – CONTINUE INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT OF IAH | |
| Diversify sources of income for IAH, including greater contribution from congresses | End 2018 |
| Introduce new sponsorship scheme | Sept 2018 |
| Increase overall membership by 10% (with 2016 as the baseline), including setting targets for regions | Sept 2020 |
| Provide increased services to members using enhanced website, such as advertising job and educational opportunities | Sept 2020 |
| Evaluate effectiveness of mentoring scheme and look to expand scheme | Sept 2018 |
| OBJECTIVE 3 – INFORM AND INFLUENCE GLOBAL POLICY | |
| Highlight role of groundwater in meeting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), especially SDG6, including promoting groundwater in integrated water resources management (IWRM) and river basin management plans globally | Sept 2020 |
| Target specific international organisations for raising awareness of groundwater issues | Sept 2020 |
| Work towards establishing an International Year of Groundwater or Aquifers | Post 2020 |
| Offer education and training to specific NGOs | End 2019 |
| OBJECTIVE 4 – ENHANCE ALLIANCES WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES | |
| Continue to establish MOUs with relevant associations | Ongoing |
| Build on relationships and outputs from the GEF Groundwater Governance project | Ongoing |
| OBJECTIVE 5 - ENHANCE THE DEVELOPMENT OF HYDROGEOLOGICAL SCIENCE | |
| Establish a panel to review frontiers in hydrogeology | Sept 2018 |
| Review strategy for book publication and implications of open access for Hydrogeology Journal | Sept 2018 |
| Seek additional ways to support the activities of commissions and networks | Sept 2019 |
| Review congress strategy, including whether we should hold more targeted hydrogeological science meetings in some years rather than broad multi-theme congresses every year | Sept 2019 |



LONGER TERM ACTIONS

The identification of longer term actions will be the responsibility of the next Council (which will be elected in 2020), working closely with our Commissions, Networks and wider membership. Any new plan will, to some extent, depend on how successfully the priority actions listed above have been achieved.



It will be especially important to make progress with those actions aimed at providing additional resources, through activities such as congresses, sponsorships and increased fee income from a larger membership.

OUR MISSION

is to further the understanding, wise use and protection of groundwater resources throughout the world



WE ENDEAVOUR

to raise awareness of groundwater issues and work with national and international agencies to promote the use of groundwater to ensure ready access to safe drinking water

