



REPORT FROM REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA- 2017**1. Participation in IAH Commissions, Networks and Working Groups by IAH members from Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA)**

Responses of IAH members in SSA to join the various IAH commissions and networks have been encouraging and a number of members have expressed interest in joining the various commissions and networks. However, am currently aware of only two member from SSA that are members of the Working Group on Education and Burdon Network. Am not sure whether there is any other that has been admitted to other commissions and networks but more efforts will continue to encourage members to join.

2. Operationalisation of the Burdon Network activities

As the VP for SSA I have been actively involved in activities of IAH taking place in the region through the Burdon Network. Support provided through the Burdon Network to SSA has continued to include development of database on grey literature, development of Africa Groundwater Atlas, free books scheme and support to training courses and webinars, monitoring network data review. These have been used to promote IAH and have it appreciated by members of IAH. As the VP I use the benefits members get to inform them of incentive for joining the association.

3. Promotion of IAH membership in SSA

Membership promotion drive has been ongoing in Sub-Saharan Africa. As VP for SSA I always have promotional slides on IAH during presentations am invited to make on groundwater within and outside Africa. This was the case in the groundwater conference in Zambia in July 2017, meeting in July 2017 in Tanzania organised by the Africa Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) on re-activation of the Africa Groundwater Commission, and Ineson Lecture in the UK in October 2017.

Invitations to join IAH also continue to be made through groundwater related organisations such as AGWNET network and Rural Water Supply Network and also through IAH members directly indicating the benefits of joining IAH and the procedures to go through to join the association. As a result the number of IAH members from SSA has been increasing gradually. The membership by end of 2017 was 259 although it is slightly lower than that of 2016. A number of the members are sponsored by IAH. The membership drive will continue through various partnerships with other groundwater related organisations such as African Groundwater Network, AMCOW/AGWC etc

4. Support to establishment of new IAH National Chapters

As a follow up of this issues email contacts have continued to be made with Malawi, Tanzania and Zambia to reactivate plans for setting up national chapters but the responses have not been as good as expected. These efforts will continue and hopefully some achievements will be realized.

5. Attendance of Conferences and Congresses

As VP for SSA I attended a groundwater conference in Zambia in July 2017 and gave a keynote presentation on Groundwater Management in Sub-Saharan Africa. During the conference I gave brief background about IAH, its focus areas and benefits of joining the association. A number of participants expressed interest in joining IAH and requested for further information on how to become members.

I also attended a meeting in July 2017 in Tanzania organised by the Africa Ministerial Council on Water (AMCOW) on re-activation of the Africa Groundwater Commission (AGWC). During this meeting discussions were held regarding establishing a Secretariat for the Africa Groundwater Commission in either Kenya or Nigeria. However, AMCOW requested for technical support especially from groundwater professionals. IAH should therefore consider providing inputs and support in this regard.

Am an ambassador for the UK government-funded UpGro programme which has many initiatives ongoing in Africa and funded by the UK Government. In this capacity am responsible for providing continuous guidance to the UPGro research team on how to ensure that the research agenda links to practice and delivers policy guidance to policy makers in Africa. The research is progressing well and policy papers have started being generated by the research team

In my capacity as IAH Vice President for SSA and also UPGro Ambassador, I was invited to give the 2017 Ineson Lecture in the UK in October 2017 on Groundwater Development and Management in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Am also involved in GRIPP whose groundwater advocacy agenda is expanding across the world under the coordination of Karen Villholth.

I together with a number of groundwater professionals in Africa have developed a proposal to organise a groundwater summer school in Sub-Saharan Africa at which guidance on submitting research/academic papers, etc would be provided to participants. This will however be subject to availability of funding and therefore support from IAH to realise this dream would be appreciated.

I also planned to attend the annual Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists (NAH) conference in Nigeria in November 2017, following liaison with the organisers and IAH Secretariat but this was not possible because of limited funding to enable me participate.

6. Publicity and out-reach

In order to improve the profile of IAH and create synergy in promotion of groundwater activities in Sub-Saharan Africa contacts were maintained with a number of groundwater related programs in Africa namely the African Groundwater Network (AGWNET), IAH Burdon Network, UPGro, GRIPP, and AMCOW. Discussions have centred on possible joint training programs and other collaborative activities.

7. Capacity building in groundwater related courses

It had been proposed that resources be allocated in the IAH budget for at least one groundwater related training to be undertaken in one part of SSA (East Africa, West Africa, Southern Africa and Central Africa). This has not yet been realized due to limited funds. Such courses could be offered as part of support to establishment of a national Chapter and could be conducted in collaboration with other networks such as Capnet, AGWNET, AMCOW/AGWC to have many participants and raise additional resources.