



IAH-SHG Socio-Hydrogeology Network

Annual Report 2019

IAH-SHG was officially launched as a new network of the International Association of Hydrogeologists at the International IAH congress held in Malaga (Spain) in September 2019 (Figure 1).



New Network: **Socio-Hydrogeology (IAH-SHG)**

Aims

- bridging the gap between science and society
- promoting the integration of hydrogeology and social scientists
- including local perspectives into hydrogeological assessment
- highlighting the importance of (science) communication
- connecting hydrogeologists working at the interface between science and society

Steering committee

Director: **Viviana Re**, Italy
Co-Director: **Shrikant Limaye**, India
Theresa Frommen, Germany



Get in touch and find out how to join:

- Friday, 1st coffee break, location: IAH Booth
- <https://sociohydrogeo.iah.org> (soon online)

Contacts: viviana.re@unipi.it, sdimaye@gmail.com, theresa.frommen@hu-berlin.de

Figure 1. Image prepared for the IAH-AGM to introduce the new network and to welcome participation to IAH-SHG.

The first IAH-SHG activity at the congress was the projection of the 52-min documentary “Pani Check – Join the Sisterhood of Water”. This movie reflects the experience of a case study in Jaipur, India, on participatory groundwater management conducted by Theresa Frommen. The idea of participatory groundwater management is to involve women from poor urban areas in finding solutions for the water problems in their community. The documentary by the filmmaker Katalin Ambrus shows how illiterate women who have never seen even a thermometer in their lives learn how to check water for pH, Fluoride or Nitrate. It illustrates, how the scientist Theresa stumbles over the challenges of working in the social



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structures of Indian communities and what happens when an innovative and well-intentioned research idea meets the realities of a poor community who is asking for quick visible results. At the end, it reveals how the results are in fact also visible in the community.

In the last months of 2019 the IAH-SHG steering committee (SC) members worked on the finalization of the Network website (<https://sociohydrogeo.iah.org/>) and logo (**Figure 2**), both to be launched in the first half of 2020. An E-Mail account was set up, too (iah.shg@posteo.de).



Figure 2. Network logo.

The logo was designed by Maximilian Nölscher, based on a concept of the IAH-SHG SC, and aims at emphasising the idea that hydrogeologists should also consider the social impacts of their investigations, hence the “people behind a well”.

Overall, we tried to design a logo as much gender neutral as possible and avoiding a misrepresentation of human body.

Furthermore, networking activities, like contacting and informing a wide range of interested people on the progress of SHG, and conference planning activities, e.g. for IGC in India, FH-DGGV in Germany, GEOETH&GWM’20 in Portugal, were undertaken.

January 2019

Viviana Re & Theresa Frommen
