

NEWS

DECEMBER 2025

& information

IAH - THE WORLD-WIDE GROUNDWATER ORGANISATION

Furthering the understanding, wise use and protection of groundwater resources throughout the world

In this issue:

IAH & other resources

Council news

Meeting & event reports

Chapters, commissions
& networks

Regular IAH
announcements & news



INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF
HYDROGEOLOGISTS



THANKS FROM THE MELBOURNE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The IAH 2025 Congress organising committee would like to say a big thank you to all that joined us in Melbourne, Australia. [Page 6](#)

Lección Magistral Emilio Custodio

We are pleased to announce a new lecture series in collaboration with AIH-GE that honours Emilio Custodio, an eminent hydrogeologist who was president of IAH between 2000-2004. Find out more about the call for lecturers inside. [Page 15](#)

World Water Day 2026: Water and Gender

The theme of next year's World Water Day (22nd March) is 'Water and Gender: Where water flows, equality grows'. In the run up to 2026, we spoke to Kathryn Pharr from the Community of Women in Water (CWIW). [Page 11](#)

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www.facebook.com/iah.org

IAH 2026

WORLD GROUNDWATER CONGRESS

53RD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



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1 DAY OF FIELD TRIP IN THE TOPIC OF
GROUNDWATER – A KEY MULTI-RESOURCE



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14-18 SEPTEMBER 2026



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Advertising & copy information

IAH News and Information is published 3 times a year. It is distributed as an insert in Hydrogeology Journal and is also published via IAH's website and email alerts. It reaches all members and supporters of the International Association of Hydrogeologists – around 11,000 people – and can also be freely downloaded by individuals worldwide for personal/not for profit use.

We accept commercial advertisements. Advertising rates are €300 per full-page advert and €200 per half page. These rates apply for one issue. If you take an advert in two successive issues then the third is offered free of charge.

Corporate members, supporters and sponsors are offered special rates. Contact us for more details.

We are also happy to consider groundwater related articles from our members and supporters.

Copy dates are 1 March, 1 June and 1 October.

Email info@iah.org for further details.

Introduction

It's been another good year for IAH – and I hope for you too.

We now have more than 5000 members, the number of corporate members continues to rise and with increasing numbers of student members we hope that we have the next generation of IAH's leaders on board.

Notable successes this year include our first Pan African Hydrogeology Congress, a hugely enjoyable World Groundwater Congress in Melbourne, a new publication from the Managed Aquifer Recharge Commission, 'Co-Managed Aquifer Recharge', as part of our Technical Insight Series, and further translations of papers in our Strategic Overview Series.

Next year we look forward to visiting Budapest for our annual congress, two new lecture series - 'Lección Magistral Emilio Custodio', in Emilio's honour; and an 'IAH International Groundwater Lecture Series' - and further global expansion of Hydrogeoday events in support of World Water Day.

We can also look forward to a new Executive Manager, as I prepare to hand over to a successor in the new year. Where have the last (nearly) 9 years gone, since I took over from John Chilton? There have been many highlights - and some challenges (Covid, debanking and updating IAH's Articles and governance amongst these...). It's great to see what has been achieved over the years through the combined efforts of IAH's members and groups, continuing to build on all that was done before. From a personal point of view the opportunity to meet members and 'rub shoulders' with the great and good in the groundwater-world across the globe has been an incomparable experience. Thank you to everyone!

I intend to be available for a while yet to help if needed, and I'm about to renew my membership to make sure I don't miss out on all that IAH has to offer. Hopefully you will want to continue as a member too and will encourage your colleagues to join.

In the meantime, and on behalf of the Secretariat, very best wishes to everyone for 2026!

IAN DAVEY

IAH EXECUTIVE MANAGER

From our Secretary General

Dear members, dear colleagues...

My previous article for the newsletter in 2023 focussed on the Indigenous Groundwater Declaration and IAH's Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Access (EDIA) policy. I'm revisiting the same themes in 2025, because they are important and timely. There were well attended conference sessions at the 52nd IAH congress in Melbourne on Indigenous groundwater and Socio-hydrogeology. Since then, Hydrogeology Journal has published (online only at present) an important paper on [Hydrogeology, European colonialism, local communities and First Peoples: moving beyond business as usual](#).

The article concludes with a call to action by the international hydrogeology community, as represented by IAH members:

'We suggest that a broader understanding and meaningful consideration of the social context in which we practice is essential for all hydrogeologists, regardless of their background or status. Although we cannot right past wrongs, we can shape a more positive relationship with First Peoples and local communities moving forward. Let us now embrace this opportunity to become open-eyed allies, building meaningful partnerships that propel us towards an expanded, more inclusive, and equitable practice of hydrogeology.'

Although this is framed in the context of First Peoples, this approach applies across the board to all our activities and is why the Socio-Hydrogeology network is such an important aspect of IAH's work. The Socio-Hydrogeology network, with the strapline 'Break the Bias', also encompasses the EDIA working group and is leading IAH's contribution to World Water Day 2026 which will focus on water's role in gender equality.

While reading the paper, I discovered that my background is WEIRD (Western Educated Industrialized Rich Democratic), but that FPIC (free, prior, and informed consent) is increasingly being adopted in major water projects as UNDRIP (United



Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples) principles are implemented globally. Although acronyms like these provide a shorthand for those in the know, they also raise a barrier to access for new audiences, especially those whose first language is not English, and add difficulty for translators. Sometimes the original acronym is adopted internationally, such as DNAPL which appears in the title of the Groundwater Project's new Spanish version of Pankow and Cherry's classic book "SOLVENTES ORGANOCOLORADOS DENSOS y Otros DNAPL en el Agua Subterránea", instead of 'líquidos densos en fase no acuosa'.

Like the Groundwater Project, IAH is continually trying to widen access to its publications by providing translations of key documents, especially the popular SOS (Strategic Overview Series) papers, into a wide range of languages, as well as abstracts in five languages in Hydrogeology Journal. There's no limit on the languages that would be useful and more volunteer translators are always needed.

We are delighted that IAH now has more than 5000 members and remind you that this provides even more opportunities for active members to participate in IAH's worldwide activities, national chapters, commissions and networks, conferences, and webinars. Our greater numbers and efforts make IAH's voice more powerful and effective internationally, promoting the crucial role of groundwater in achieving the sustainable development goals.

Jane Dottridge

Secretary General

IAH Council Meeting

The Council meeting was held in Melbourne during the 52nd IAH World Groundwater Congress, and opened with confirmation of the agenda and no conflicts of interest. Minutes from the 2024 meetings were approved, with ongoing actions to monitor student-to-full-membership transitions.

The 2024 financial report showed stable finances. Key costs included support for low-income delegates and increased editorial stipends. Mid-2025 updates indicated reduced HJ royalties, establishment of an annual donation to The Groundwater Project, a congress surplus and generous donation received from Davos, and interest earnings from a deposit account.

Membership discussions focused on regional engagement and validating Associate Student memberships. It was recommended that fees should remain unchanged, with a final decision to be made by members at the AGM. This will be reviewed again next year, for the 2027 fees.

Strategic updates highlighted progress in member engagement, education, diversity, communications, and

outreach, while noting the need for better information flow between national chapters and the Secretariat. Two new lecture series were approved, namely the *Lección Magistral Emilio Custodio*, and the IAH Lecture Series.

Governance updates confirmed Charity Commission approval of two revised Articles, with a further confirmation vote to take place at the AGM. The Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network reported strong global activity and discussed structural alignment with national chapters.

Updates were presented for congresses planned in Budapest (2026), and Guadalajara (2027). Hydrogeology Journal reported improvements in editorial processes and visibility.

Awards for 2025 were confirmed, and updates were given on Commissions and Networks, including several mandate renewals and closure of the Network on Fractured Rock Hydrogeology. The meeting concluded with the announcement of the Executive Manager Ian Davey's planned retirement and forthcoming recruitment.



The Council members in Melbourne after the Council meeting. Pictured from left to right are Luis Camilo Suescún Casallas, Jane Dottridge, Sarah Bourke, Teodóra Szöcs, Aqeela Parker, A.K Sinha, David Kreamer, Grant Ferguson, Ian Davey and Julian Conrad.

The World Groundwater Congress 2025, Melbourne



IAH2025

15–19 September 2025
MELBOURNE • AUSTRALIA

Groundwater now and for the future

The IAH 2025 Congress organising committee would like to say a big thank you to all that joined us in Melbourne, Australia. Over the week of the 14-19 September we celebrated a range of great workshops and fascinating fieldtrips to thought provoking key note addresses and many interesting presentations and posters. And, of course, a killer 'disco' gala dinner!

The groundwater community continued the work addressing critical issues related to drinking water, agricultural water and mining requirements in an increasing resource constrained world experiencing a changing climate. The increasing acknowledgment of indigenous values of groundwater and, more importantly, direct indigenous participation in research, teaching and engagement was a highlight. We continue to learn as western and indigenous scientists walk together on this journey.

Thank you to all attendees, our sponsors, workshop and field trip leads, session chairs and our professional conference organiser, ICMS, for creating such a positive event. Thank you to the Technical Committee (core and extended) for reviewing the huge number of abstracts.

Good luck for the team from Budapest as they now start to prepare for IAH2026.

Organising Committee: Ben Hall, Kelly-Jane Wallis, Tara Taylor, Matthew Currell, Wendy Timms, Betty Carrara, Erin McIntosh, Heath Pawley, Ellen Kwantes and Riley Nicholason.



“ My experience at the 52nd IAH Groundwater Congress



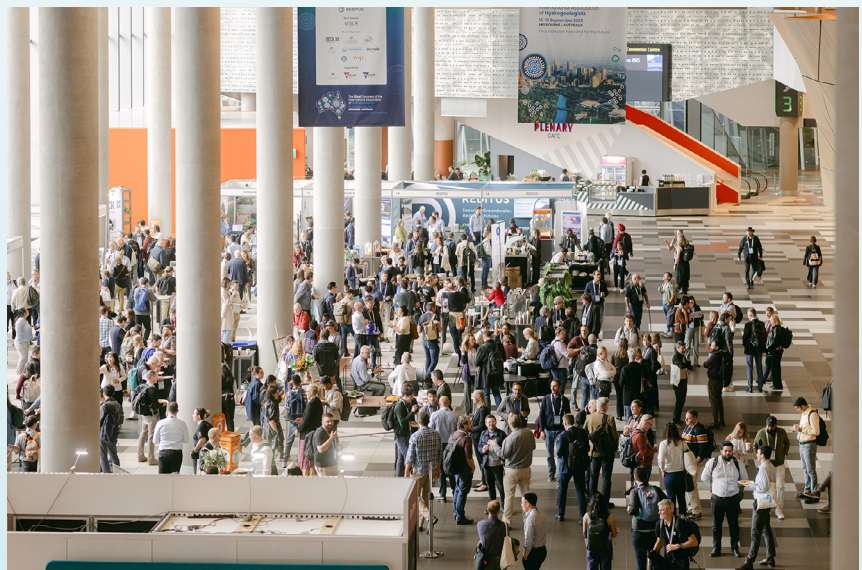
The 52nd IAH Congress offered an excellent opportunity to learn about several innovative and key concepts in sustainable groundwater management at the regional and global scales. Lectures from the eminent hydrogeologists were fruitful and impactful. Furthermore, the Congress Welcome Reception, ECR/Student Networking Function, and Gala Dinner provided a platform for networking with researchers, exchanging research thoughts, and gaining insights from the experiences of senior hydrogeologists. As an early-career researcher, I believe that the 52nd IAH Congress provided an exclusive platform for young and early-career researchers to present their research and develop connections with researchers across the globe.

Ashwani Kumar Tiwari

Assistant Professor, School of Environmental Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, India

Read more about Ashwani's Melbourne experience at <https://iah.org/about/stories/my-experience-at-the-52nd-iah-groundwater-congress-in-melbourne-australia>.

”



Awards

Congratulations to this year's IAH award winners, who were announced at the General Assembly during the annual congress in Melbourne in September.

Presidents' Award: The IAH Presidents' Award is given annually to a member who has made outstanding international contributions to groundwater science and to furthering IAH's mission to promote understanding and management of groundwater resources for the benefit of humankind and the environment. This year's recipient is Wendy Timms.

Honorary Members: IAH accords the title of Honorary Member to those who have given exceptional services to the Association over a long period. The candidates are elected, following a recommendation by Council, by a vote of the General Assembly of the Association. This year's recipients are Makoto Taniguchi and Bradley Moggridge.

Distinguished Associate Award: The IAH Distinguished Associate Award is presented to a person who is not a groundwater professional but has made an outstanding contribution to the understanding, development, management and protection of groundwater resources internationally. This year's award is given to Rebecca Nelson.

Applied Hydrogeology Award: IAH's Applied Hydrogeology Award is presented to "a groundwater professional who has made an outstanding contribution to the application of hydrogeology, preferably in developing countries or in support of international development". Nominations are invited in March of each year from IAH members and are reviewed by an independent panel. In 2025 the award was given to Abhijit Mukherjee and Fridtjof Ruden.



Wendy Timms
Presidents' Award



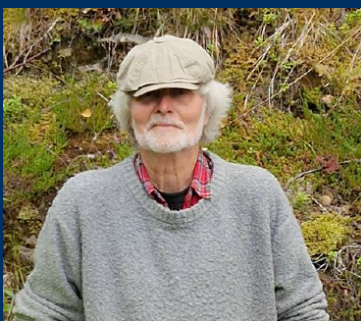
Bradley Moggridge
Honorary Member



Makoto Taniguchi
Honorary Member



Abhijit Mukherjee
Applied Hydrogeology Award



Fridtjof Ruden
Applied Hydrogeology Award



Rebecca Nelson
Distinguished Associate Award

World Water Day 2026: Water and Gender

The theme of next year's World Water Day (22nd March) is '*Water and Gender: Where water flows, equality grows*'. In the run up to 2026, we spoke to Kathryn Pharr from the Community of Women in Water (CWiW) about the importance of women in the water sector - today and for the future.

Did you know in the UK alone, the Office of National Statistics is going to need to hire hundreds of thousands of new employees to address the future challenges related to water issues and the retirement of the baby boomers? When it comes to the retirement numbers, some estimate that this retirement will be 30-50% of water operators alone. This employee gap is happening globally. So we need to hire more people.

But did you also know that women are globally (and in many countries including the UK) 20% or less of employees working on water resources and water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) systems (including utilities)? Compare that to the reality that women are ~47% of the global paid workforce. These numbers tell us that women need something more to stay and advance in a sector that needs them now more than ever given the massive skills and employee gap emerging. That "something more" requires the sector to address the types of visible and invisible barriers restricting women from staying and advancing in these jobs.

The Community of Women in Water (CWiW) provides

access to and support from women working to solve water issues and seeks to improve gender equality through meaningful connections and knowledge-sharing. We aim to amplify women's contributions to solutions to water-related challenges by strengthening their learning and networks to lead, support, and teach others.

The Community started as a way of bringing together women working on water resources and WASH systems to support each other and share experiences and knowledge. This kind of community is critical for the kind of support the sector needs right now to attract, keep and advance women in the sector as part of the work to ensure communities and countries have sustainable water resources and WASH systems.

To successfully address water challenges from local to global levels, the water sector needs more women to participate and to lead. Research from a range of sources (including McKinsey studies) demonstrates that diverse teams are more innovative and generate more financial returns for a company. Women need support to take on formally recognized leadership roles and become a bigger portion of those working on water challenges. This support needs to come from both men and women to expand and maintain the number of women in the water sector. What can you do to support more women in the sector?

CWiW Website: <https://cwiw.org/>

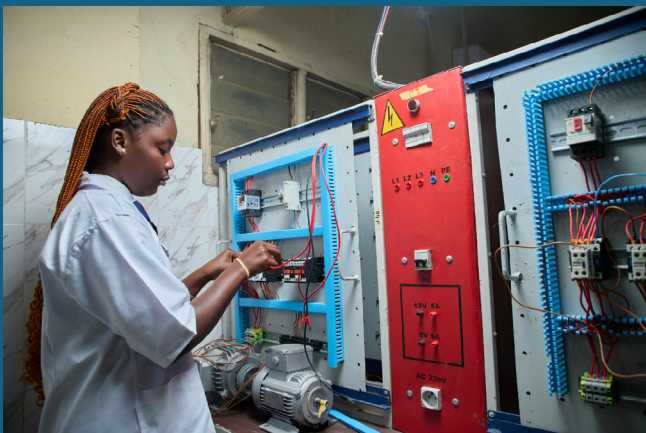


Photo credit: Mickael Ange Konan via Pexels



Photo credit: Ju.Stocker via panchita-choththanawarapong

Hidrogeodía /Hydrogeoday 2026: A message from the Spanish National Chapter

We are beginning the preparations for the next edition of Hidrogeodía. We encourage new participants to host their own events.

In 2026, the 9th edition of Hydrogeoday will be held on 21 and 22 March. This event aims to promote Hydrogeology and is organised close to World Water Day (March 22). Hydrogeoday is an initiative promoted by the Spanish Group of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (AIH-GE), with the collaboration of Public Research Organisations and Universities. The event consists of dissemination activities that are open to the general public, free of charge, and guided by hydrogeologists.

We kindly request your collaboration. This year, we hope to achieve even greater participation than in previous editions and to expand the event to as many locations around the world as possible. Therefore, we invite you to act as local organisers in your respective countries. We encourage you to join us and enjoy this experience. Each year, more countries get involved; this year Hydrogeoday events took place in Andorra, Bolivia, Colombia, Mexico, Peru, Portugal and South Africa. Along with Botswana, Brazil and Ecuador, this makes a record of 11 participating countries, including Spain.

If you are interested in organising an activity, we would appreciate it if you could inform us by email, indicating the proposed topic or selected location in advance. If you are unable to participate but know someone who might be interested, please feel free to share their contact details with us. The deadline to confirm your participation is 31st December.

You can find information about previous editions of Hidrogeodía at: <https://www.aih-ge.org/hidrogeodia/>

We invite you to participate and help us promote hydrogeology. Additionally, we wish to incorporate aspects of inclusion into our activities—such as adapting the materials published on our website (audio guides), or offering talks and seminars accessible to people with different disabilities (hearing, motor, etc.). Any ideas or suggestions in this regard are most welcome.

If you have any questions about Hydrogeoday, please contact:

Almudena de la Losa Román – a.delalosa@igme.es

Carolina Guardiola – c.guardiola@igme.es



Botswana



Spain



Mexico

Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Accessibility

The EDIA Working Group, coordinated by Dr Luka Vucinic, and part of the IAH Socio-Hydrogeology Network, has been actively representing IAH's values on equity, diversity, inclusion, and accessibility since its establishment in mid-2023.

This working group has participated in a range of discussions, meetings, and webinars focused on enhancing EDIA within scientific and professional organisations, bringing some of those insights and experiences back to IAH and the wider hydrogeological community.

In 2024, members of the EDIA Working Group presented their activities and initiatives at the EGU General Assembly in Vienna, contributing to valuable exchanges with colleagues from across the world. Throughout this year, the group also engaged in several EDIA-related discussions organised by professional societies worldwide. These efforts proved particularly significant at the beginning of 2025, when colleagues in the United States and beyond faced a number of challenges that underscored the importance of continued international cooperation and solidarity in promoting inclusive scientific and professional communities.

A notable recent contribution by many IAH members was the publication of the paper in Hydrogeology Journal: "Hydrogeology, European colonialism, local communities and First Peoples: moving beyond business as usual", led by Dr Sarah Bourke. This important contribution is

available here: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10040-025-02955-7>.

Looking ahead, Dr Luka Vucinic and a few members of the EDIA Working Group are developing an Inclusive Hydrogeology Toolkit, which will be a concise, practical resource designed to help hydrogeologists, educators, employers, and conference organisers embed EDIA principles into their work and professional practice. Once a draft is ready, the working group will invite comments and feedback from IAH members and the broader hydrogeological community to ensure the toolkit becomes a useful and widely applicable resource.

In 2026, the EDIA working group plans to undertake two research projects to address clear knowledge gaps:

- 1) examining gender disparities in hydrogeological careers, and
- 2) analysing global access to formal hydrogeological education.

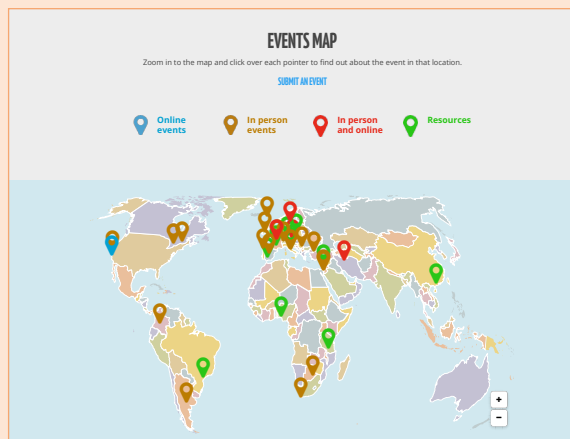
Additionally, this working group aims to launch a short blog-style series highlighting stories of hydrogeologists from diverse backgrounds around the world. The goal is to showcase varied career journeys, community impact, and lessons learned along the way.

Members who would like to contribute to or collaborate on any of these initiatives are warmly invited to contact Dr Luka Vucinic at luka.vucinic@gcu.ac.uk.

IAH Events Listing and Activities Map

View the IAH event listing at www.iah.org/events, and the IAH activities map at www.iah-activities.org, to see upcoming IAH and other hydrogeology-related events taking place around the world.

Is your event listed? Send us the details via <https://iah.org/submit-an-event> and we will add it to the map!



Membership News

Annual General Meeting 2025

If you are a member of IAH who missed our AGM, held this year at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre during the 2025 World Groundwater Congress, you can watch the proceedings by heading to <https://iah.org/members>.

Free Student Membership

The 'Associate Student Member' subscription entitles students to discounts offered by IAH, newsletters and email alerts, participation in competitions and prize draws, to vote in elections, and the opportunity to participate in our national chapters, commissions and networks.

WELCOME

A warm welcome to the 167 new IAH members who joined our Association in the period 10 July 2025 - 01 November 2025. View the list of new members at <https://tinyurl.com/new-members-nov-25>.

Are you receiving your regular IAH messages and alerts with HJ link and latest news digests and initiatives?

Ensuring that our members receive their IAH benefits such as Hydrogeology Journal, discounts and offers is important to us. Do you work for a large government/commercial/educational organisation? Many such employers have firewalls in place. You may have to provide an alternative email address to receive your member mailings, or speak to your IT department. IAH emails are always sent from an @iah.org address. We'd hate you to miss out. Check your records at: <https://iah.org/members/edit-details>.

Renewals time

We thank all our members for continued support to IAH and the important work of our Commissions, Networks and Chapters. We hope that you will want to maintain your IAH membership and that you will encourage colleagues to join us too.

Those who renew via the UK Secretariat will receive prompts from Sharon Warden in the upcoming weeks. If you renew via your national chapter please expect to receive communication from them as usual.

However you renew, please do provide the small amount of personal information requested as this helps us to understand IAH's membership profile and to tailor our benefits and services. You can do so here: <https://iah.org/members/your-membership>.

If you would like to make a donation in addition to your membership fee this would be most gratefully received. With your help, this year we have sponsored memberships for 265 of our colleagues who would otherwise not have been able to participate in the Association's activities and to represent IAH across the world. The IAH sponsorship scheme helps us to be the inclusive Association we strive to be.

JOIN US
Support IAH and its global membership in protecting groundwater for people and the environment

The **International Association of Hydrogeologists** is a scientific, educational and charitable professional membership association for scientists, engineers, water managers and professionals working in groundwater resource planning, management and protection.

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

Members receive a great range of benefits, including *Hydrogeology Journal*, book and conference discounts, printed and electronic newsletters. You will be able to participate in our National Chapters, Commissions & Networks, and share knowledge and experience. We also have attractive and cost-effective schemes that can help you and your staff participate in global groundwater affairs and publicise your company's services.

Corporate membership is designed to provide benefits for your company or institute. You receive 3 individual memberships and 25% discounts on further memberships, discounts on advertising in the IAH News & Information magazine, and at conferences.

Gold sponsorship is designed for companies providing services and equipment to the groundwater market. It provides wide-ranging opportunities for advertising in all IAH publications, discounts at exhibitions, publishing feature articles in our News & Information magazine, and opportunities to publicise your company in sponsoring events and activities.

For more details, pricing and the full list of membership benefits visit WWW.IAH.ORG/JOIN-US

www.iah.org info@iah.org



Hydrogeology Journal - Editors' Meeting

In September, the Hydrogeology Journal (HJ) editors and editorial office, together with the IAH executive manager Ian Davey, met in The Netherlands.

The aim of the meeting was to plan the journal's short and longer term directions and procedures, while welcoming in the team two new editors, Brindha Karthikeyan and Marwan Fahs, and – last but not least – provide a fond farewell to Clifford Voss, who served as HJ's executive editor for 31 years. The editorial board meetings were held at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, which also hosted a joint groundwater research seminar with IHE and IGRAC staff and students, and former editor Vincent Post.

The packed editorial meeting agenda covered a range of journal business topics including a detailed analysis and upgrade of the manuscript review and editing workflow;

the review of journal policies to maintain inclusivity with respect to HJ's international readership and to best accommodate new publishing practices and ethics standards as well as the rapid increase in hydrogeology scientists and practitioners utilizing artificial intelligence; expanding HJ's scientific scope to reflect the evolving field of hydrogeology; and increasing its visibility including through IAH.

Amidst a busy series of meetings, the team found time to explore the charming city of Delft, with highlights including the Nieuwe Kerk (New Church), other historic buildings and their relationships with the canal network, as well as maatjesharing (Dutch herring) sandwiches.



Left to right: Cliff Voss, Marwan Fash, Hamish Johnson, Jean-Christophe Comte, Susanne Schemann, Jean-Michel Lemieux, Ian Davey, Rui Ma, and Brindha Karthikeyan; absent from the group photo: Maria-Theresia Schafmeister.

About Hydrogeology Journal

IAH's Hydrogeology Journal is a premier journal for groundwater professionals, with eight issues (about 200 articles) per year.

Hydrogeology Journal is published by Springer Nature. Authors are able to choose whether to publish open access, or publish the article by the no-fee route by which only journal subscribers and IAH members will have full access.

Find out more at:

<https://iah.org/hydrogeology-journal>



Hydrogeology Journal - Fieldwork Stories

IAH members who are authors of recently published articles in Hydrogeology Journal share with us stories describing the background to their work. Have you got a story to share with us? Let us know at info@iah.org.

Groundwater sustainability and land subsidence: Insights from the RESERVOIR Project

Our recent publication in Hydrogeology Journal <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-025-02956-6> was developed within the framework of the RESERVOIR project (sustainable groundwater RESources managEment by integrating eaRth observation deriVed monitoring and fLOW modelling Results), funded by the PRIMA Programme and supported by the European Union (Grant Agreement 1924; <https://reservoir-prima.org/>). The project promotes innovative approaches for the sustainable use of groundwater resources in water-stressed regions. Within one of its work packages, we analysed the links between unsustainable groundwater exploitation and land subsidence to identify critical situations and propose better management practices. The outcomes aim to support more resilient and informed groundwater governance across different regions.

These are images from the meeting we held in Jordan, during a visit to the Azraq Wetland Reserve. In one of them, the project logo can be seen.

Concepción Pla



A Nano Technology-Based Tracer For Fractured Aquifers

A nano technology-based synthetic DNA-labelled colloidal tracer was tested for the first time in a fractured calcarenite in the Northern Apennines (Italy). The analytical procedure is based upon the qPCR protocol. The results of the application, carried out by an interdisciplinary research group of hydrogeologists and molecular biologists from the University of Bologna (led by Prof. Alessandro Gargini), has now been published in Hydrogeology Journal <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-025-02939-7>.

A mass of 0.5 mg of silica-encapsulated nanoparticles was injected inside a borehole and recovered from two spring-boxes and another borehole downgradient of the injection site. The breakthrough curve signal highlighted the role of open fractures as preferential flow pathways traced by the particles with an effective average groundwater velocity

in the range of 100-1000 m/d. The very low detection limit of the tracer and its aptitude to be transported in a conservative way in fractures and other conduits makes it an ideal tool to anticipate or verify hydrogeological connections between man-made tunnels and receptors, such as springs or groundwater dependent ecosystems.

Prof. Alessandro Gargini and Ernesto Pugliese

Lección Magistral Emilio Custodio

The Emilio Custodio Lecture promotes interest and excellence in groundwater research and management. It honours the legacy of Professor Emilio Custodio, a prominent Spanish hydrogeologist, who made important contributions to the knowledge and sustainable management of groundwater resources, and was president of the International Association of Hydrogeologists between 2000 and 2004.



Call for Lecturers

Who can be a candidate for Lecturer?

Researchers, scientists or technicians with outstanding contributions in hydrogeology, interested in being speakers at the Emilio Custodio 2026 Lecture to give lectures in Spanish that disseminate advances and good practices on groundwater.

Organisation of the 2026 edition

International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), its Spanish National Chapter (AIH-GE), and its Mexican National Chapter.

Presentations

- Primary Language: Spanish
- International scope: at least one remote session in English.
- At least one face-to-face session in Mexico, UNAM – José Guadalupe Aguilera Auditorium, Institute of Geology.
- Depending on the budget, more face-to-face sessions may be planned.

Topics of interest

Areas of research in which Emilio Custodio excelled, including: environmental, hydrogeochemical and isotopic studies; coastal aquifers; recharge studies; volcanic aquifers; groundwater and hydroethics governance.

Topics should be linked to global and regional challenges, such as overexploitation, pollution, saline intrusion, and climate change.

Required documentation

- Candidate's short CV (2-4 pages)
- Proposed title for the lecture
- Summary of the content of the conference
- Additional information that the candidate considers relevant

Selection Criteria

- Bilingual presentation capability (Spanish face-to-face / English online)
- Thematic relevance
- Significant contributions to hydrogeology
- Ability to inspire the audience
- Promoting diversity

Lecturer's commitments

- Authorisation to record and disseminate the Lesson for educational and scientific purposes
- Use of the material for education and outreach only, not for commercial purposes
- Adherence to principles of academic integrity and cultural respect

Deadline for nominations - 15th January 2026

- Send nominations to aih-ge@aih-ge.org



The Latest from our Commissions and Networks

Commissions and Networks

IAH's commissions and networks contribute to the science of groundwater and undertake outreach, education and training. They run sessions at IAH congresses, co-convene technical meetings and field excursions with other societies, host workshops and training courses and prepare educational and outreach publications.

Find out more about IAH's commissions and networks and make contact with them at <https://iah.org/groups/commissions-networks>.

Commission on Groundwater and Climate Change

The IAH CGCC was deeply involved in the organisation of the technical sessions on Groundwater and Climate Change for the IAH 2025 Congress in Melbourne, including abstract review, session organisation and chairing.

We chaired a total of four sessions on three days, with contributions from 47 speakers: 34 oral presentations and 13 posters, on very diverse topics. On Thursday of the Congress week, we held our annual meeting to discuss several initiatives of the Commission and discussed how people could actively contribute. 17 people showed interest in joining the Commission. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact us at iah.cgcc@gmail.com.

We are planning to launch a special issue in the journal *Frontiers in Water and Climate* within the field of Groundwater and Climate Change. The idea is gaining momentum, and we're now working out the scope and timeline. We will be looking for authors, reviewers and guest editors to help shape and lead the issue. At the same time, we're excited to announce that we want to get members more involved. We want to use our commission as a platform for sharing content and knowledge in the field of groundwater and climate change. For this purpose, we created a form where members can provide input regarding relevant publications, research and education projects, media articles, upcoming events, policy developments or anything else that is relevant. The form can be accessed at <https://forms.gle/Awe44KircZd1zt58>.

Commission on Regional Groundwater Flow

The IAH Regional Groundwater Flow Commission (IAH-RGFC) successfully hosted a special session titled "Regional Groundwater Flow Systems" at the 52nd IAH Congress in Melbourne, Australia. Coordinated by Judit Mádl-Szőnyi, Xiao-Wei Jiang, Szilvia Simon and Samira Ouyse, the session showcased research from around the globe, highlighting diverse approaches and insights into regional groundwater flow systems. At the end of the session, a heartfelt tribute was paid to the late Professor Joel Carrillo-Rivera, our esteemed posthumous honorary chair. A short interview recorded during his final IAH Congress appearance in Davos, Switzerland (2024), was shared, commemorating his passion, dedication, and enduring impact on the field. You can watch a tribute to Professor Carrillo-Rivera on the IAH YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDvn1X5eGYQ>.

We are also excited to announce the launch of the IAH-RGFC Lecture Series, beginning in October 2025. This new series will feature monthly or bi-monthly talks focused on recent developments in regional groundwater flow research, aiming to foster dialogue and collaboration within the community. Details about upcoming lectures are available on our new LinkedIn webpage: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/iah-rgfc-regional-groundwater-flow-commission/>, where updates, publications, and research news on regional groundwater flow systems are also shared. We invite you to follow us and stay connected!



RGFC special session at the 52nd World Groundwater Congress in Melbourne.

Commission on Groundwater Quality

Share your insights on groundwater quality!

The IAH Groundwater Quality Commission (GQC) is conducting a Groundwater Quality Capacity Survey to better understand the key challenges faced by global hydrogeologists and professionals working in groundwater quality. Your expertise and insights are invaluable in identifying capacity gaps, regional disparities, and opportunities to improve groundwater quality work.

We would greatly appreciate your participation in this online survey, which will take approximately 10 minutes to complete. Your responses will remain confidential and will contribute to a global effort to improve groundwater quality monitoring, support, and policy development. To participate, please click in one of the links below (English or Spanish):

English: <https://tinyurl.com/Second-GQC-Survey>

Spanish: <https://tinyurl.com/Segunda-Encuesta-GQC>

Your participation in this survey is voluntary. You may withdraw your response within three months of answering this survey by emailing groundwaterquality@gmail.com if you provided contact details in the survey; anonymous responses cannot be withdrawn after submission.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at groundwaterquality@gmail.com. Thank you for your time and valuable contribution. We look forward to your participation.

The survey will remain open until the end of 2025.

Liaison with UN Activities (LUNA) Network

The IAH-Liaison with UN Activities (LUNA) Network want to hear from you!

The LUNA group would like to hear from any IAH members who are working with organisations in the UN family and, where appropriate, other intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations relevant to the United Nations. The aim is to collate all the interactions that IAH members have with UN agencies. LUNA's objective is to ensure that IAH is participating in and influencing the global debate and policy elaboration on groundwater and

the environment in a changing climate, and to develop dialogue and joint action by enhancing alliances and partnerships.

If you want to be involved with LUNA or let us know of any ongoing work with UN-related agencies, you can email luna@iah.org.

Urban Groundwater Network

Radu Gogu (new Urban Groundwater Network Chair) and Oana Luca report on Alternative Water Resources for resilient cities, from Demo Case Circus Lake, Bucharest:

AWARD (www.awardproject.eu) advances urban water resilience by integrating Alternative Water Resources into planning and investment decisions. The project consortium (Horizon Europe, 2024–2027) of 16 partners across seven countries is testing solutions in four Demo Cases and is building a practical framework for transfer and replication.

Demo Case Circus Lake, Tei District, Bucharest addresses lake and groundwater variability linked to declines in rainfall, reduced water supply network leakage, and dewatering systems. The modelling suite is multi-scale and evidence-driven. First, a rainfall–runoff and urban drainage model estimates how rainfall is distributed among infiltration, surface runoff, and sewer flows across 624 urban water catchments. Second, an urban hydrogeological model simulates groundwater levels across the Tei district and quantifies the groundwater budget (inflows, outflows, storage), producing maps for the shallow urban aquifer. Third, targeted hydraulic characterization of the unsaturated (vadose) zone and urban fabric, on anthropogenic materials near Circus Lake and in areas with denser vegetation, provides parameter values for infiltration and storage.

Continuous monitoring of lake water levels and aquifer heads supports calibration and scenario testing. The combined models are used to assess nature-based and low-impact measures that stabilise lake levels, protect groundwater, and improve the reliability of local urban water balance. Methods, parameters, and performance metrics are being documented for replication in other Romanian and European cities.

National Chapter News

IAH-Spain National Chapter

AIH-GE Awards 2025 – 16th Edition

The AIH-GE annually recognises individuals and organisations that have made outstanding contributions to hydrogeology. The 16th edition of the awards celebrated excellence across research, professional career, and voluntary contributions.

Award Winners:

- Custodio and Llamas Award for Career Achievement: Irene Bustamante & Marisol Manzano (ex aequo).
- Alfonso Bayó Award for Young Researchers: Dr. Jaime Fernández Ortega.
- Award for Voluntary Contributions to Hydrogeology: NGO Ongawa (Technology at the service of Human Development and Social Change).

The AIH-GE Board congratulates all winners for their dedication and impact in advancing hydrogeology.

AIH-GE Support for Young Hydrogeologists – 2025

This year, AIH-GE awarded two scholarships of 1,500 € each to support young researchers pursuing master's studies in hydrogeology:

- Paulina Vergara – Currently pursuing a master's degree at the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC).
- Azahara Juarez – Currently pursuing the RHYMA master's program at the University of Málaga.

IAH-Turkey National Chapter

The Hydrogeology Engineers and Water Resources Research Association (HidroDer), which is the Turkish National Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, organises symposia every two years. Süleyman Demirel University, Department of Geological Engineering, hosted the third symposium in this series between May 22-24, 2025.

Most countries around the world are experiencing a water crisis in terms of quantity and quality. Rapid urbanisation, industrialisation, increasing water demand, and the pressure of climate change are creating irreversible effects on our water resources. In particular, the decline in surface and groundwater and the deterioration in quality make it imperative to understand the existing hydrogeological structures in greater detail and to develop management policies. To this end, organizing scientific meetings and sharing assessments and solutions related to the problems encountered is of great importance.

The symposium, supported by HidroDer, made significant contributions to the protection of water resources, their effective management, and ensuring their sustainable use supported by scientific approaches. This scientific meeting featured important studies on the impact of climate change on water resources, karst hydrogeology, coastal aquifers, groundwater monitoring techniques, isotope hydrology, hydrogeothermal systems, hydrogeochemistry, mathematical models in hydrogeology, hydrogeology in engineering studies, and surface water quality. The fourth symposium, to be held with the support of the Association, "HIDRO'2027: *Symposium on Innovative Studies in Water Resources Research and Development*" will be held between June 18-20, 2027, at the International Water Resources Department of Izmir Institute of Technology. We expect researchers from around the world to participate in the symposium.



Congress delegates at the third symposium held in May 2025 organised by the Turkish National Chapter of IAH, HidroDer

National Chapters: Round-Up

It was great to see representatives of many of our national chapters in Melbourne at the IAH Congress. Our total membership is increasing and hopefully this is also the case for your chapter. Membership in several regions is growing, and we have members in 136 countries now. With that, more countries are wanting to start up their own national chapters.

We encourage you to keep your websites up to date so that all your members can be aware of what your chapter is doing.

If you would like an IAH national chapter in your country let us know at info@iah.org and we'll see how we can help you. Chapters are entitled to 10% of the income from membership fees, which can be used to

help with administration and running events. We also have a small amount of funds that you can apply for to help run specific events. If you – or your national chapter – can offer advice and support to colleagues wanting to start a chapter, let us know too.

If you have news about your national chapter let us know at info@iah.org. Remember to post it on your website too!

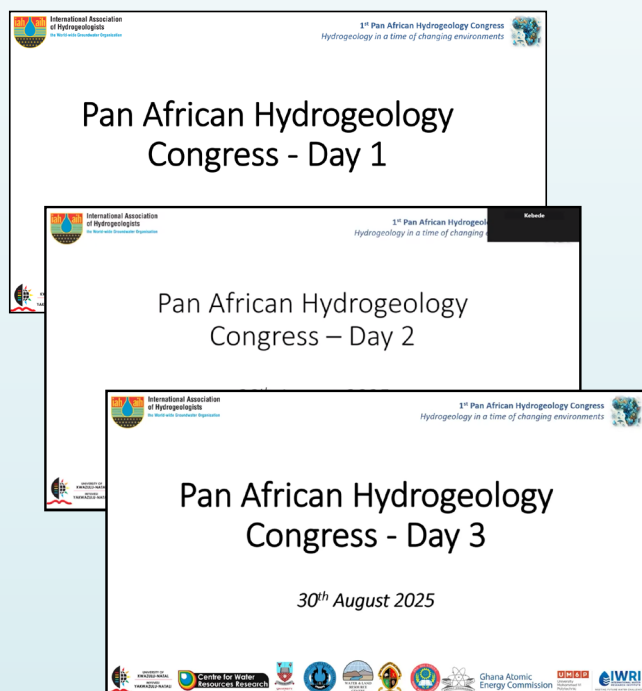
SECRETARIAT

The First Pan-African Hydrogeology Congress

We recently hosted the first Pan African Hydrogeology Congress - You can watch the proceedings on our YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@iah-groundwater>.

The webinar event was attended by over 300 participants, with 20 abstracts presented by researchers based at academic institutions across the African continent and beyond. Keynote speeches were given by Dr Callist Tindimugaya, Professor Dan Olago, Professor Alan Macdonald, Professor Grant Ferguson and Professor Cheikh Gaye.

We would like to continue to host online events for our Commissions, Networks, National Chapters and Groups. IAH's mission is to further the understanding, wise use and protection of groundwater resources throughout the world. Education & Outreach is a vital part of this mission. If you have a webinar that you need support with hosting, let us know at info@iah.org.



Diary Dates

9-11 Dec 2025 – Granada, Spain

Landscapes Across the Mediterranean – 2nd Edition

CrossMED discusses the intricate connections between landscapes' natural environment, cultural heritage, and sustainability. It examines the different aspects of landscapes, including their ecological, historical, social, and economic dimensions. Through presentations, discussions, and workshops, participants will engage in conversations, exchange knowledge, share research, and develop collaborative social connections that will contribute to the sustainable management and preservation of these landscapes for future generations.

<https://www.ierek.com/events/landscapes-across-the-mediterranean-crossmed#introduction>

27 Dec 2025 – Jaipur, India

Groundwater Strategy Summit

From data to decisions for water-secure organisations. Groundwater Strategy Summit brings policy, science and sustainability together to move organisations from data to decisions for water-secure futures, with a special focus on groundwater. Join peers to explore new methods, innovative technologies and smarter policy that unlock investment, accelerate timely deliverables and raise performance across the water sector, including water reuse and recycling.

<https://iwc.org.in/gss-2025/>

10-11 Feb 2026 – Online

Sustainable Landscape and Natural Resources Management – 3rd Edition

The conference will cover essential topics such as sustainable landscape planning, green infrastructure, and the application of geo-science and geospatial technologies like remote sensing and GIS. Attendees will explore strategies for biodiversity conservation, enhancing ecosystem services, and implementing nature-based solutions for climate resilience.

<https://www.ierek.com/events/sustainable-landscape-and-natural-resources-management-conference-slnr#introduction>

26-30 Apr 2026 – Rome, Italy

MENA Earth Systems Sciences Congress (MESC)

Participants will have the opportunity to engage in substantive discussions, review case studies, and develop practical strategies to optimize the utilization of available natural resources within the MENA region and adjacent areas.

<https://www.ierek.com/events/mena-earth-science-congress-mesc#introduction>

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