

NEWS & information

MAY 2026

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



HYDROGEOLOGY & WORLD WATER DAY 2026

It's been another hugely successful year for the annual outreach initiative around World Water Day. We are also thrilled to announce a new webinar series launched within the framework of World Water Day, *Groundwater Matters*. [Page 8](#)


The 53rd World Groundwater Congress


Pre-congress courses and exciting field trips have been announced by the organising committee. It's set to be a great congress! [Page 7](#)


National Chapter News


We have a bumper edition of updates from our national chapters in Italy, Ireland, Spain, Iraq, South Africa, Great Britain, India, Germany and Poland to share with you. [Page 16](#)

Find us at <https://iah.org>. Connect by email info@iah.org and on social media:

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 Find IAH groups

 www.facebook.com/iah.org

IAH 2026

WORLD GROUNDWATER CONGRESS

53RD CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS

BUDAPEST, HUNGARY



4 DAYS OF SCIENTIFIC SESSIONS,
1 DAY OF FIELD TRIP IN THE TOPIC OF

GROUNDWATER – A KEY MULTI-RESOURCE



BUDAPEST CONGRESS CENTER

14-18 SEPTEMBER 2026

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Advertising & copy information

IAH News and Information is published 3 times a year. It is 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

The organisers of the 53rd World Groundwater Congress are looking forward to welcoming you to Budapest in September..

Preparations are well underway, with the committee receiving over 800 abstract submissions from 76 countries around the world. Head to Page 7 to find out more about the pre-congress courses and field trip announcements.

In this issue, rather than the usual message from a member of the Executive Committee, we instead wish Ian Davey a fond farewell after 9 years with IAH and welcome our new Executive Manager, Tim Besien.

We are now calling for nominations for this year's Applied Hydrogeology Award, the winner of which will be announced at the congress in Budapest. Our mentoring scheme is also now open and you can find out more about how to apply on Page 9.

It's great to see all of the amazing work that the IAH community is up to, we have many updates from our commissions and networks, as well as our national chapters in this issue. Head to Page 12 to find out more.

Finally, we are almost halfway through the year - have you renewed your IAH subscription? We'd love to keep you as a member – or have you as a new member. Contact us if you would like to know more!

SECRETARIAT

Farewell to Ian Davey, and Welcome to Tim Besien

After nine years with IAH, Executive Manager Ian Davey has retired, marking the close of a significant chapter in IAH's history.

Ian has been a central force behind the increasing success of IAH. He faced numerous unforeseen challenges with calm, consistent leadership and professionalism, ensuring that the daily operations of IAH ran smoothly whilst keeping groundwater at the forefront. Under his guidance, the Association is stronger in numbers and finance, sound in structure, and successful in its work.

Ian has consistently provided support and guidance to members and colleagues; many have expressed how much of a pleasure it has been to work with him and how his leadership has helped them navigate complex tasks and transitions.

Ian's guidance to Hydrogeology Journal's office and editors, particularly during periods of transition, helped ensure smooth operations and ongoing success. Beyond administrative support, Ian's expertise in hydrogeology enabled him to represent IAH effectively at events, contribute to publications, and provide guidance that greatly eased the work of the IAH Council.



Hydrogeology Journal Editors' Meeting in Delft, Netherlands

Ian's contributions to IAH events have also been widely appreciated. He has played a significant role in supporting the organisation of IAH congresses, where his knowledge and steady approach helped ensure events

ran successfully. International collaborations and trips reflect his commitment to supporting IAH globally.

As Ian begins his retirement, we extend our sincere thanks for his exceptional contribution to IAH and for the support and professionalism he consistently demonstrated. His work has made a tangible and lasting difference. We wish him good health, happiness, and success.



Council members in Davos following the 2024 AGM



Ian and Tara Taylor at the 2025 World Groundwater Congress in Melbourne

We are now pleased to welcome Tim Besien as IAH's new Executive Manager. Tim brings extensive experience and a fresh perspective to the role, and we look forward to working with him as we continue building on the strong foundations Ian has helped establish.



Tim is a hydrogeologist with more than 30 years' experience in groundwater science, policy and management. Before taking up this role he worked for 26 years at the Environment Agency in England. There he held a range of senior technical roles focused on groundwater protection, groundwater monitoring and environmental regulation. His work included leading national programmes on groundwater monitoring, groundwater quality assessment and River Basin Management Planning.

Tim has also worked in research and consultancy roles earlier in his career, including at the Institute of Hydrology (now the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology) and the engineering consultancy Halcrow. He has particular expertise in groundwater monitoring, groundwater quality

and the practical application of hydrogeological science to support sustainable water management.

Alongside his professional work, Tim has been active in the international hydrogeological community for many years. He is a past Chair of the IAH British Chapter and has helped organise and support a wide range of technical meetings, conferences and knowledge-sharing initiatives. He has also contributed to European groundwater policy through chairing the European Union Working Group on Groundwater to support the implementation of the Water Framework Directive.

As Executive Manager, Tim is keen to support collaboration across the global groundwater community and to help ensure that hydrogeological knowledge is shared widely and used to inform better water management. If you want to contact Tim, you can send him a message at tbesien@iah.org.

We are confident that under Tim's leadership, IAH will continue to grow and thrive, maintaining its commitment to both its members and the global hydrogeology community.

Ian, thank you for everything – you will always be remembered at IAH, and we look forward to continuing the work you have helped shape with Tim at the helm.



Hydrogeology Journal Editors' Meeting in Delft, Netherlands



Ian and Teodóra Szócs at the 2024 World Groundwater Congress in Davos



A new chapter: Ian Davey with our new Executive Manager, Tim Besien

IAH Executive Council Meeting

The Executive Committee and Trustees met in Reading, UK, from 4–6 March 2026 for a productive series of discussions shaping IAH's strategic direction, finances, and upcoming activities.

A key highlight was the confirmation that IAH's financial position remains strong. This stability has enabled the Executive Committee to explore how best to invest reserves, including proposals to expand support for members and National Chapters. Among these is the development of a new funding mechanism aimed at supporting events internationally, with clear criteria and safeguards to ensure responsible use of funds while broadening global participation.

Congress planning featured prominently in discussions. The Executive Committee is actively seeking hosts for the 2028 congress. Meanwhile, preparations for the upcoming congresses in 2026, 2027 and 2029 are progressing well.

The Committee reviewed the work of IAH's Commissions and Networks, noting their generally high level of activity, and some groups reaching the end of their mandates or undergoing transition.

Education and outreach remain central to IAH's mission. Plans are advancing for the Distinguished Lecturer Series and the continued rollout of the Lección Magistral Emilio Custodio. The organisation is also strengthening partnerships, including collaboration with IGRAC on the *Geostories* initiative. The importance of IAH's attendance

at the UN Water Conference later this year was also noted. Additional outreach efforts include webinars, Hydrogeoday events across multiple countries, and engagement with World Water Week.

Membership continues to grow, with IAH surpassing 5,000 members worldwide—a significant milestone. The Committee is now focusing on enhancing member value, including plans for a survey to better understand expectations and priorities. Work is also ongoing to improve the website, such as developing an interactive membership map.

In publications, discussions centred on aligning *Hydrogeology Journal* editorial meetings with congresses. The Committee also discussed the 2026 awards, which will, as always, be announced at the congress in September. The awards ensure continued recognition of excellence within the hydrogeological community.

Finally, the meeting marked the retirement of Executive Manager Ian Davey after nine years of dedicated service. The Committee expressed its sincere appreciation for his significant contributions to IAH's growth and stability.



The Council members in Reading after the Council meeting. Pictured from left to right are Tim Besien, Teodóra Szócs, Grant Ferguson, Ian Davey, John Chilton, Marco Petitta, Julian Conrad, Jane Dottridge, and Nick Robins.

The World Groundwater Congress 2026, Budapest



Pre-Congress Courses

Want to deepen your expertise before the congress? Our pre-congress courses offer hands-on training led by leading experts in groundwater modeling and hydrogeology.

Choose your course:

- Advanced Groundwater Modeling Techniques with MODFLOW 6 and PEST++ (Day 1): Learn advanced MODFLOW 6 workflows and scripting with FloPy, including transport processes and model automation.
- Advanced Groundwater Modeling Techniques with MODFLOW 6 and PEST++ (Day 2): Explore uncertainty analysis, calibration, and optimisation using PEST++ and pyEMU with hands-on modelling exercises.
- Modelling reliable groundwater recharge with MIKE SHE: Learn how to simulate groundwater recharge using distributed hydrological modelling, accounting for climate, land use, and soil processes.
- Introduction to Groundwater Modelling Using FEFLOW: Gain experience building flow and contaminant transport models using FEFLOW, from mesh generation to result analysis.

Find out more: <https://iah2026budapest.com/pre-and-post-congress-courses/>

About the logo

The gémeskút (sweep pole well), a traditional Hungarian well structure depicted in the design, has been a vital water-lifting device for centuries. Originating from the ancient shadoof used in Mesopotamia and Egypt, it likely spread to Hungary during the Ottoman era.

The bottom represents the aquifer, highlighting the crucial role of subsurface water storage and the richness of this resource. The orange gradient symbolizes geothermal potential, emphasising the connection between groundwater and geothermal energy, a prominent feature of the Pannonian Basin. Find out more at <https://iah2026budapest.com/about-the-logo/>

Field Trips

Thirteen exciting field trips have been announced by the Hungarian Organising Committee. Excursions include a trip to the largest geothermal district heating system in Eastern Europe, a visit to Danube-Tisza Interfluve, as well as some shorter half-day excursions around Budapest. Find out more at <https://iah2026budapest.com/field-trips/>



World Water Day | Hydrogeoday 2026



The Spanish National Chapter of IAH (AIH-GE) has once again coordinated a hugely successful Hydrogeoday, the annual outreach initiative around World Water Day. This year, field trips were organised across Spain (27 events), Portugal (3 events), Andorra, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, Argentina, Peru, Colombia and Kenya, engaging the public directly with groundwater in the field and highlighting its key role in ecosystems and society.

Launched in the framework of World Water Day and in preparation for the 2026 UN Water Conference, the IAH Liaison with UN Activities (LUNA) Network are also thrilled to announce *Groundwater Matters* — a new three-part webinar series bringing together leading experts to highlight the critical role of groundwater in our shared future. The series is developed in collaboration with the UN-Water Experts Group on Groundwater — a partnership focused on advancing science-based action.

Groundwater sustains life, agriculture, and ecosystems across the planet — yet it remains one of the most overlooked resources in global policy conversations. It's time to change that.

The first webinar in the series will take place on 27th May from 14:00-15:30 (CEST). In this first webinar, co-hosted by

Rural Water Supply Network, we will provide a clear understanding of the role that groundwater plays in everyday life and its interactions with people and the planet. You can register for the webinar via https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rMJ-630iSx6MkNLX_hYfug#/registration



IAH Applied Hydrogeology Award: Call for Nominations

We are pleased to call for nominations for the 2026 'Applied Hydrogeology Award'. This award aims to recognise those who have made an outstanding contribution to the application of hydrogeology, resulting in an increase in living standards in low and middle income countries.

A panel appointed by IAH Council will review the nominations and it is intended that the award will be presented in September at the 53rd IAH World Groundwater Congress in Budapest, Hungary.

Candidates do not need to be members of IAH but non-IAH members must be nominated by an IAH member. We are also willing to consider nominees from previous years.

IAH members may put themselves forward and they can submit the information that is requested themselves. In this case we also request details for a referee who would be prepared to provide additional information to the assessment panel, if required.

The information provided for candidates should include:

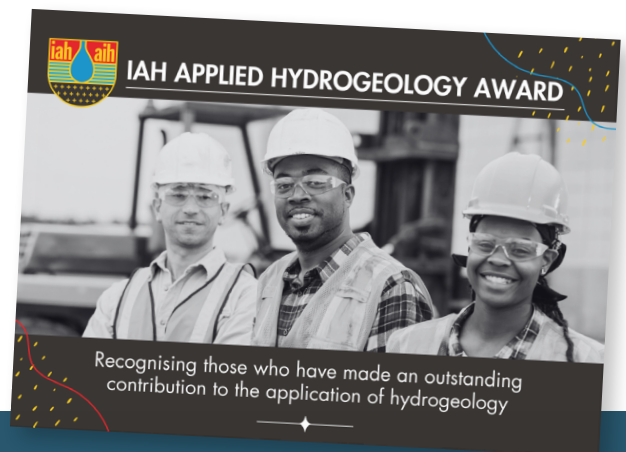
- An explanatory statement by the person submitting the nomination (up to 300 words);
- A brief career history of the candidate (up to 300 words);
- A list of projects the candidate has carried out, including aims, region and period of time;
- A list of projects (planned or accepted), patents,

publications or equivalent information.

- For candidates who are not IAH members, a letter of recommendation from an IAH member (up to 300 words).

And finally, if you had just 1 minute to persuade the panel why your nomination deserves the award, tell us what you would say, using not more than 100 words!

Your proposal must be in total no longer than 5 pages of text in a single pdf-file. This should preferably be in English. Although we are happy to accept nominations in other languages such as Spanish, French, German, Chinese or Arabic, the judging will be based on an English version. It should reach the IAH Secretariat by e-mail (info@iah.org) before July 1st 2026. We look forward to receiving nominations from all our IAH Regions, to reflect the work of applied hydrogeologists across the world.



Mentoring Scheme Now Open

IAH's next round of mentoring is now open for applications! Whether or not you have participated in the scheme before, if you are a member of IAH you may apply by completing the forms below.

- Mentor (giver of advice) apply here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IAHmentor2026>
- Mentee (receiver of advice) apply here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IAHmentee2026>

The IAH mentoring scheme supports its members in three important areas; scientific and technical advice, career options and pathways, and practical experience.

Demand for mentors continues to outstrip supply. Please, if you could give a little time to help support mentees, we know it would be appreciated. Volunteering as a mentor does not take up as much time as you might think.

The scheme is only open to IAH members – but if you are not yet a member you are welcome to join us now!

For more information about the scheme, and to see examples of first-hand experience, visit <https://iah.org/education/professionals/mentoring>.

SECRETARIAT



Membership News

Welcome!

A warm welcome to the 527 new IAH members who joined our Association in the period 2 November 2025 - 24 April 2026. View the list of new members at <https://tinyurl.com/new-members-apr26>

Free Student Membership

The IAH free student membership scheme continues this year. 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 certain elections, and opportunities for participating in our national chapters and commissions and networks (though not currently access to Hydrogeology Journal). We believe that all students enrolled on groundwater and related courses will want to be part of the IAH family. More information is available at <https://iah.org/join-us/student-membership-of-iah>.

Responsible use of the Members Directory

The [Members Directory](#) allows members who have agreed to share their contact details to be contacted by fellow IAH members. We would like to remind you that IAH member email addresses are for legitimate professional use only. When contacting multiple members, please first seek approval from the Secretariat. Please respect privacy and use appropriate email practices (e.g. using BCC to hide email addresses in distribution lists, as opposed to using CC). And if you no longer want to share your details, you can always edit your communication preferences on the edit details page in the Members Area: <https://iah.org/members/edit-details>

Are you an IAH Member?

We thank all our members for continued support to IAH and the important work of our Commissions, Networks and Chapters. Current members can renew their membership via the online membership portal on the IAH website.

If you are not yet a member, you can subscribe today to start receiving the great range of IAH membership benefits, and join our global network of hydrogeologists and groundwater-related specialists.

IAH also has a member sponsorship scheme to support those who would otherwise be unable to join, which IAH members can donate to when they take out or renew their membership. In 2025 we sponsored memberships for 243 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.

For more information about IAH membership, and to join us, visit <https://iah.org/join-us>.



The flyer features the IAH logo at the top left, with the text 'International Association of Hydrogeologists' and 'The World-wide Groundwater Organisation'. A central image shows a group of hikers on a trail. The main headline reads 'JOIN US Support IAH and its global membership in protecting groundwater for people and the environment'. Below this, a text box describes IAH as a scientific, educational and charitable professional membership association for scientists, engineers, water managers and professionals working in groundwater resource planning, management and protection. It states the mission is to further the understanding, wise use and protection of groundwater resources throughout the world. Three membership options are listed: 1. 'Members' receive a great range of benefits, including Hydrogeology Journal, book and conference discounts, printed and electronic newsletters, participation in National Chapters, Commissions & Networks, and share knowledge and experience. It also mentions attractive and cost-effective schemes for staff participation in global groundwater affairs and publicising company services. 2. 'Corporate membership' is designed to provide benefits for companies or institutes, offering 2 individual memberships and 25% discounts on further memberships, discounts on advertising in the IAH News & Information magazine, and at conferences. 3. 'Gold sponsorship' is designed for companies providing services and equipment to the groundwater market, offering wide-ranging opportunities for advertising in all IAH publications, discounts at exhibitions, publishing feature articles in the News & Information magazine, and opportunities to publicise company information at sponsoring events and activities. At the bottom, there is a QR code, the website 'WWW.IAH.ORG/JOIN-US', and contact information: 'www.iah.org' and 'info@iah.org'.

Strategic Overview Series Translations



Thanks to the work of a number of volunteer translators over the past couple of years, we have a number of new translations of our Strategic Overview Series. We can't thank the translators enough for their hard work.

Below is a table outlining the recent translations and the names of those who helped. You can read the translations on our website at <https://iah.org/education/professionals/strategic-overview-series>.

SOS Paper	Translator	Reviewer	Language	Date Published
Mining Enterprises & Groundwater	Brian Murove	Moses Souta	Shona	Sep-25
Human Health and Groundwater	Alicia Pretot	Nathalie Dorfliger and Michel Tirat	French	TBD
Sanitation & Groundwater	Youcef Zemour	Nathalie Dorfliger and Michel Tirat	French	Sep-25
Sanitation & Groundwater	Flora Wagner	Brigitta Czauner	Hungarian	TBD
Irrigated Agriculture & Groundwater	Baizhong Yan	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Mining Enterprises & Groundwater	Chuanan Xia	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Human Health & Groundwater	Chuanshun Zhi	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Water Utilities & Groundwater	Guohua Hou	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Food Security & Groundwater	Jun Li	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Ecosystem Conservation & Groundwater	Jun Zhang	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Global Change & Groundwater	Kai Xiao	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Sanitation & Groundwater	Lin Wu	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
River Basin Agencies & Groundwater	Pengfei Han	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Resilient Cities & Groundwater	Pengwei Zhang	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Water Security & Groundwater	Ping Wang	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Climate Change Adaptation & Groundwater	Shi Yu	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Rural Water Supply & Groundwater	Yueqing Xie	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26
Energy Generation & Groundwater	Zhenjiao Jiang	Yasong Li	Chinese	Jan-26

We would like to translate the Strategic Overview Series into as many different languages as possible. If you think you could give some time to translate or review a paper, please reach out to us via info@iah.org. As thanks for your efforts, we offer a year of free membership with IAH, and certificates are also available upon request.

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>.

Coastal Groundwater Network

We are pleased to announce the new Coastal Groundwater Network (CGN) website (<https://cgn.iah.org>). Built by CGN members, this website serves as a central hub for the coastal groundwater community, a place to share ideas, research opportunities, and member findings. The network addresses many themes in coastal and offshore hydrogeology, including saltwater intrusion, submarine groundwater discharge, and offshore freshened groundwater.



The landing page features relevant news and upcoming conferences and symposia related to saltwater intrusion from around the world. Throughout the website, you can also find maps of areas where saltwater intrusion projects have been conducted, as well as a resource library including member-published work, books, Wikipedia entries, and links to relevant journals, websites, and communication channels. The website is constantly evolving, and new members are always welcome. Join the community by filling out this [Google Form](#) and subscribing to the [Google Group](#).

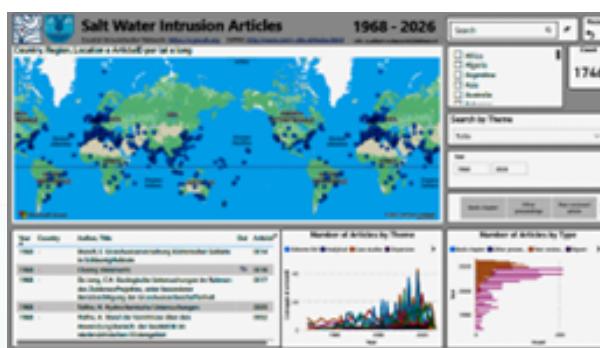
Groundwater Salinity Database

The webpage at the Coastal Groundwater Network presents a Power BI dashboard displaying the locations of case studies on a global scale related to groundwater salinization processes, ranging from saltwater intrusion and submarine groundwater discharge to offshore groundwater and beyond. Overall, the platform supports global knowledge exchange on saltwater intrusion and coastal groundwater systems.

It provides a spatial overview of coastal aquifer sites and

enables users to explore patterns and access site-specific information. The database covers a wide range of topics, including geochemistry, geophysics, variable-density flow modelling, sea-level rise and climate change, coastal aquifer management, submarine groundwater discharge, and salinity processes, as well as monitoring techniques.

The underlying database consists mostly of SWIM conference proceedings papers (since 1968, <http://swim-site.nl/>), complemented by peer-reviewed scientific articles.



Power BI dashboard showing global saltwater intrusion articles on the CGN website.

UNESCO Symposium

IAH President Teodóra Szócs gave an introductory presentation during the plenary session of the UNESCO International Symposium entitled 'Coastal Aquifers, Sustainable Futures,' held in Paris in February 2026. A delegation from the CGN also played an active role in this event, acting as invited speakers or chairmen.

The event brought together representatives from governments, scientific institutions, regional organisations and development partners to share knowledge and promote collaboration on the sustainable management of coastal aquifers.



Teodóra presenting at the International Symposium on Coastal Aquifers in Paris in February 2026.

The Latest from our Commissions and Networks (cont.)

Commission on Regional Groundwater Flow

IAH-RGFC invites colleagues to present their work at the 53rd IAH Congress. Late abstract submission for poster presentations is still open via the congress website.

The RGFC is organising Session 1.4, “Evolving from Tóth’s Gravitational Systems of Groundwater Flow to Integrated Basin-Scale Fluid Systems for Addressing 21st-Century Challenges,” coordinated by Judit Mádl-Szőnyi, Hanneke Verweij, John Molson, Xiao-Wei Jiang, and Szilvia Simon. The session welcomes contributions that revisit or refine classical groundwater flow system theory and practice, present new conceptual developments, or demonstrate its relevance to present day basin scale challenges. The aim is to show how the scientific legacy of the Hungarian born Canadian hydrogeologist József Tóth continues to shape an integrated and dynamic understanding of subsurface processes in the 21st century.

Additionally, RGFC warmly invites all congress participants to attend its annual commission meeting during the event.

The RGFC is also pleased to announce the successful launch of the IAH-RGFC Lecture Series in October 2025. Since its inception, four presentations have been delivered, focusing on recent advances in regional groundwater flow research. The online talks will continue on a monthly or bi-monthly basis in the future. Information on upcoming lectures is available on our new LinkedIn webpage, where we also share updates, publications, and research news related to regional groundwater flow systems. For those who missed any of the previous lectures, recordings are available on our YouTube channel. We invite everyone to follow us and stay connected.

Urban Groundwater Network

The Urban Groundwater Network (UGN) is entering an exciting new phase, marked by several important developments aimed at strengthening the role and visibility of urban hydrogeology at the international level.

A new leadership team has recently taken over the coordination of the network, building upon the strong foundation established by previous coordinators and directors. In close collaboration with them, a new strategic framework (<https://urbangw.iah.org/ugn-strategy>) has been defined and agreed upon, setting a clear direction for the future of UGN.

This strategy focuses on fostering research and networking initiatives that will support the network’s long-term objectives. A central priority is to expand and strengthen UGN by engaging a diverse community of stakeholders—including academia, industry, public authorities, and civil society. Through this inclusive

approach, the network aims to enhance collaboration, encourage knowledge exchange, and promote innovative solutions for sustainable groundwater management in urban environments.

Looking ahead, UGN will play an active role at the IAH 2026 Congress. A dedicated session—Session 5.3: Progressive Advances in Urban Hydrogeological Processes—will provide a valuable platform for sharing cutting-edge research, exchanging ideas, and strengthening international collaboration.

In addition, an extended meeting of UGN members will take place during the congress. Key discussion topics will include:

- Presentation and discussion of the new UGN strategy
- Opportunities for expanding the network
- Strengthening collaboration with the International Water Association
- Identification and development of potential joint projects under the IAH umbrella

We warmly encourage all members and interested colleagues to participate in these activities and contribute to shaping the future of urban hydrogeology within UGN.

Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network

As part of the Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network, we are currently planning several activities for the 2026 IAH Congress, as well as additional initiatives throughout the year. We are looking for motivated and enthusiastic early-career hydrologists who would like to get involved. This is a great opportunity to actively contribute to the advancement and shaping of the future of our field, connect with peers from around the world, and help create initiatives that truly reflect the needs and interests of early career researchers and professionals.

We offer a supportive and dynamic atmosphere, as well as a strong platform to share ideas, develop new formats, and organize workshops or events around topics that matter to you.

To kick things off, we are planning an online get-together where we will present initial ideas and open the floor for discussion. Further details, including the date and time, will be shared soon.

If you are interested in joining the organizing team, please fill in the following form: [ECHN – New member application form](#). Feel free to share the link with other early-career hydrogeologists who might be interested. We look forward

The Latest from our Commissions and Networks (cont.)

Burdon Groundwater Network for International Development (BGID)

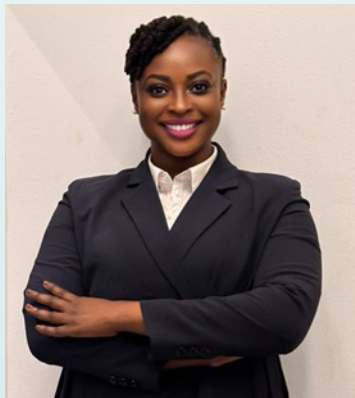
The BGID is an official network of the IAH, created to support the sustainable development and management of groundwater for poverty reduction. Over the years, it has coordinated many activities, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. These include sessions at the annual congress, publication of a book on Groundwater for Sustainable Livelihoods and Equitable Growth, a free book scheme, and support to the Africa Groundwater Atlas.

After many excellent years under the stewardship of Alan MacDonald, Viviana Re, Tamiru Abiye and Morgan Burke, the BGID has been handed onto new co-Chairs, who hope to reinvigorate the network in the furtherance of its aims: to make groundwater knowledge more accessible, connect people, support groundwater training, and advocate for the role of groundwater and hydrogeologists in reducing poverty. The new team of co-Chairs consists of Farida Boube Dobi (Institut des Géosciences de l'Environnement, France / Abdou Moumouni University, Niger), Cynthia Laar (Water Resources Research Centre, Ghana Atomic Energy Commission) and Kirsty Upton (British Geological Survey) – see brief bios below for more information.

While the existing team of chairs and co-Chairs remain a key part of the network, the new co-chairs are in the process of planning BGID activities for the coming year. This will include support to the 2nd Pan-African Hydrogeology Congress, a session and networking event at the IAH Congress in Budapest, and updating the website and other communications channels. We're keen to hear from IAH members with an interest in the BGID – what would you like to see from the network, this year and beyond? If you have ideas, or would like to discuss BGID activities, please feel free to get in touch with Kirsty Upton.

Cynthia Laar

Cynthia Laar is an isotope hydrologist and the Manager of the Water Resources Research Centre at the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission. Her expertise lies in the use of stable isotopes to investigate groundwater dynamics, water quality and climate water interactions. She is a member of the organizing committee for the Pan African Hydrogeology Congress and also contributes as a task



team member for the AMCOW Water Vision for Africa post 2025. She is actively involved in supporting early career hydrogeologists and is a STEM advocate.

Farida Boube Dobi

Farida Boube Dobi is a hydrogeologist and environmentalist, and a postdoctoral researcher at the Institut des Géosciences de l'Environnement (IGE) in France, working in collaboration with Abdou Moumouni University (UAM) in Niger. Her research focuses on groundwater dynamics in the Sahel region, with a particular interest in developing innovative approaches to monitor, assess, and better understand groundwater resources in data-scarce environments, while also making groundwater science more accessible and understandable across Africa. As a L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Young Talents awardee, she is also committed to promoting STEM opportunities for women and girls across the continent, which she considers key to sustainable development.



Kirsty Upton

Kirsty Upton is a hydrogeologist with the British Geological Survey. She has 15 years' experience working on UK and African hydrogeology, with a particular interest in groundwater resilience, extremes, and numerical methods for resource assessment and management. As a lead author of the Africa Groundwater Atlas, she has worked with partners across Africa, through the networks of the IAH, to make groundwater information more accessible to a wide audience.



The Latest from our Commissions and Networks (cont.)

Commission on Managing Aquifer Recharge

Throughout 2025, the IAH-MAR Commission carried out nine specific technical webinars on managed aquifer recharge. In total, 20 speakers participated, sharing high-level knowledge on this technology. Key messages from each presentation were requested from the presenters, resulting in a collection of messages and screenshots from each technical session. In addition to consolidating each summary into a technical document, an outreach video has been produced and uploaded to YouTube for interested audiences. In 2026, the activity continues on a quarterly basis.

Key messages from the speakers of the nine IAH-MAR webinars imparted during 2025 have been put together in this publication: <https://recharge.iah.org/files/2025/12/authors-final-statements.pdf>

Commission on Groundwater and Climate Change

After 15 years of dedication, Jianyao Chen has stepped down as co-chair of the Commission, as he will start enjoying his well-deserved retirement. We want to express our immense gratitude towards Jianyao for all his contributions to the Commission and his leading role in many relevant projects, and hope he will continue active as a member.

While we were looking for someone to succeed Jianyao, we received enthusiastic emails from a number of colleagues and decided to open up to a larger group of co-chairs from diverse professional settings and nationalities. We know have a great team of co-chairs, with Attila Kovacs, Manuela Lasagna, Taha Çapanoğlu and Phebe Olabode as new co-chairs, who will be joining Saulo Vieira and Tibor Stigter.

We have launched a photo contest for Groundwater and Climate Change, the awards for which will be handed out during the 2026 IAH Congress in Budapest. For more information see <https://gwclimate.iah.org/photo-contest> and <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7439260468520628224/>.

We have also launched a Research Topic (Special Issue) with Frontiers in Water with the title: "Groundwater and Climate Change: from Signals to Responses in Ecosystems and Society". If you are interested in contributing with a manuscript, please see <https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/77295/groundwater-and-climate-change-from-signals-to-responses-in-ecosystems-and-society>.



Tibor
Stigter
Netherlands



Saulo
Vieira
Brazil



Umut Taha
Çapanoğlu
Turkey



Manuela
Lasagna
Italy



Attila
Kovács
Hungary



Phebe
Olabode
Nigeria

Co-chairs of the CGCC

We are contributing to the IAH Congress through the organization of sessions and a debate.

We are also contributing to the Springer Encyclopedia on Hydrogeology, edited by Peiyue Li and Matthew Currell, as editors and authors of the entries related to groundwater and climate change. For our website you can continue to submit your news, upcoming events, projects, publications and other ideas on groundwater and climate change at <https://forms.gle/Awe44KircTzd1zt58>.

National Chapter News

IAH-Ireland National Chapter

IAH (Irish Group) held our annual conference on the 14th & 15th of April in Tullamore, Ireland. This year marked the 50th anniversary of the IAH (Irish Group). Our conference theme “Groundwater 2036: Building Resilience for the next decade” challenged our speakers to consider future challenges facing society and how the hydrogeological community can deliver solutions. The conference proceedings can be found [here](#).

We were delighted to welcome international speakers from the UK (BGS & Jacobs) and the Netherlands (iGrac UNESCO) in addition to our home-grown stock of excellent Irish presenters. The conference featured an Early Career section where three prize winners had the opportunity to present their work at the conference, in addition to a cash prize. We were also delighted to have a very healthy exhibition area with 20 exhibitor stalls including equipment suppliers, laboratories and government organisations.

Big thank you to all the IAH (Irish Group) Committee who worked tirelessly to make the conference a success.



National Chapter News (cont.)

IAH-Italy National Chapter

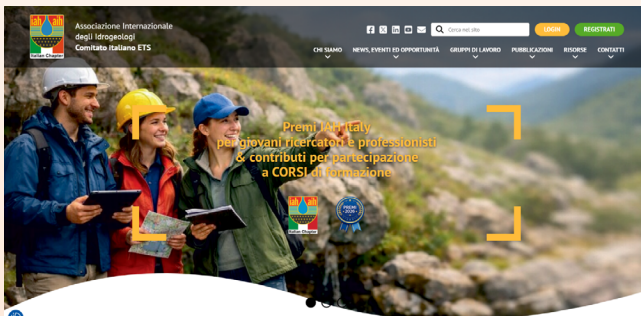
The Italian Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists – IAH Italy ETS has prepared the regulations and calls for applications for the awards for young hydrogeologists starting in 2026.

The resources allocated to the awards derive from the continued commitment of the members and the IAH Italy ETS Chapter, who, by organizing scientific events of national and international importance, including the Flowpath conference series, have succeeded in generating a dedicated fund over time. This accumulated resources now allows the Association to strengthen its mission by reinvesting the proceeds from scientific and association activities for the benefit of the hydrogeological community, with a particular emphasis on high-quality training for young people and the launch of research and professional development.

At the time of writing, three awards have been proposed, aimed at:

1. Promoting the advanced training and professional development of young graduates working in hydrogeology and related disciplines. The Award consists of a financial contribution plus support with enrolment in training and specialization courses, workshops, schools, and other similar initiatives, sponsored by IAH Italy ETS.
2. Support young hydrogeologists in their professional and research careers. Two awards are planned, one for young researchers and one for young professionals, associated with IAH Italy, working in the field of hydrogeology.

These three awards are in addition to the traditional Zuppi Award, organized in collaboration with IGAG - CNR. Its eighth edition will be launched in early 2027 and will conclude at the Flowpath 2027 conference.



IAH-Italy website

All information, regulations, and calls for proposals are available on the Association's website: <https://www.iahitaly.it/>

IAH-Poland National Chapter

Prof. Ewa Krogulec, Vice-Rector for Development at the University of Warsaw, has been elected President of the Board of the Polish National Committee of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) for the 2026–2029 term.

Prof. Ewa Krogulec is a geologist. She conducts hydrogeological research, with particular emphasis on the protection of groundwater status and quality. She is the author or co-author of approximately 200 scientific publications. She has led over 40 research projects in the fields of geology, hydrogeology, and environmental protection. She holds a PhD in Earth Sciences in the field of hydrogeology, a postdoctoral degree in Earth Sciences, and in 2018, she was awarded the title of professor by the President of the Republic of Poland.



The committee will also include Prof. Dorota Porowska from the Faculty of Geology at the University of Warsaw, who will serve as secretary of the board.

Hydrogeological education in Poland is going through a reflective phase. The situation, as explained in the Geoscientist magazine (Marchi-Smith, R. Joining the watery dots. Geoscientist, 36 (1), 42-43, 2026. DOI: 10.1144/geosci2026-007.) has parallels in many European countries, including Poland. Nevertheless the profession remains active and there is a demand for the expertise in many sectors, including local government land and water management. There is an active national Polish Association of Hydrogeologists (<https://hydrogeolodzy.pl/kategoria/aktualnosc/>), where a series of interesting online talks are given by members. The Polish Geological Institute remains active issuing routine bulletins on the state of groundwater resources, with the recent early warning of drought conditions in the forthcoming months.

National Chapter News (cont.)

The Hydrogeology & Geophysics Section of the University of Warsaw continues to be engaged in research with recent publications by staff on the groundwater conditions in the Kampinos National Park, the effects of mine dewatering in the Chalk Aquifer in the Chelm region, and the impact of land use dynamics in a major aquifer unit around the Lublin region. The World Water Day (March 2026) was observed in a day long session of presentations under the title of "Groundwater Safety, Monitoring, Threats, Protection", organised by the Polish Geological Institute. The presentations included interesting topics, such as "Springs – from places of worship to strategic water intakes" and "Water and Gender Equality" among them.

Commentary by Shammy Puri, current PhD Candidate at the University of Warsaw and former Secretary General of IAH (2008-2016).

IAH-Germany National Chapter

During the conference of the Hydrogeological Section of the German Geological Society (FH-DGGV), held in Leipzig from March 10–13, 2026, the biannual general assembly took place.

As scheduled, elections for the Executive Board of the German Chapter were held. In advance of the meeting, Prof. Johannes Barth, acting president of the German Chapter, and Dr. Judith Flügge, acting secretary of the German Chapter, announced that they would not be standing for re-election. Both had served the German Chapter in a volunteer capacity for more than 10 years. The previous treasurer, PD Dr. Jannes Kordilla (IDAEA-CSIC Barcelona, University of Göttingen), ran for election as the new president of the German Chapter. New candidates for election were Dr. Stephan Schulz (Research Group Leader, Institute of Applied Geosciences, TU Darmstadt) as vice-president and treasurer and Dr. Wiebke Warner (Laboratory Digital Transformation Lead, Emschergenossenschaft/Lippeverband and Ruhrverband Joint Laboratory) as secretary. Through their commitment to the German Chapter, they aim to support international networking and inspire future hydrogeologists to engage with the field.

We are delighted that the new board was elected by a large majority and wish the entire team every success and enjoyment in their new roles!

Johannes Barth and Judith Flügge



General Assembly of the German Chapter of IAH, 12 March 2026 in Leipzig: New President of the German Chapter of IAH, PD Dr. Jannes Kordilla (5th from the left), New Vice-President and Treasurer of the German Chapter of IAH, Dr. Stephan Schulz (6th from the left), Outgoing President of the German Chapter of IAH, Prof. Dr. Johannes Barth (7th from the left), Outgoing Secretary of the German Chapter of IAH, Dr. Judith Flügge (4th from the left).

IAH-India National Chapter

It is a great pleasure to present first quarterly report of the Indian National Chapter of IAH for 2026. The Indian National Chapter of IAH is registered under the Societies Act with a well-defined constitution for its conduct. As per the constitution of the INC of IAH the governing body of the INC IAH has to be constituted every two years by the IAH members of India through a postal ballot. As per the constitutional provision, 363 members eligible to participate in the election process decided to constitute the governing body by unanimously electing the following persons for the various positions as shown against their name.

INC IAH also organised its annual event in the form of a national seminar on "Water Management for the Sustainable Ground Water Use- A journey from Vedic Age to Modern Age" where more than 100 young and senior experts scientists, scholars and student participated. Five very senior scientists aged over 75 were identified for felicitation as Veteran Hydrogeologists, and seven members were identified by a three-member jury for the various awards. INC IAH in association with CSMU Navi Mumbai also organised a Seminar on the eve of World

National Chapter News (cont.)

Water Day.

Election to Governing Body of Indian Chapter of IAH for 2026-28

Subsequent to the completion of the election process as defined in the constitution of INC IAH, the following persons were elected unopposed to the INC IAH Governing Body for the Period 2026-2028 as announced by the Election Officer, Sri Y.B.Kaushik:

- President - Prof (Dr) A.K.Sinha, Former Professor & Vice Chancellor
- Vice-President - Prof (Dr) Bhagwan Singh Chaudhary, Chairman, Department of Geophysics, Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra (Haryana)
- Secretary - Dr Sudhanshu Shekhar, Former Scientist,CGWB
- Treasurer - Dr. Gopal Krishan: Scientist, National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee

Executive Members:

1. Prof. Bhavana N. Umrikar, Professor & Head, Deptt of Geology, SBP Pune University, Pune
2. Ms. Chirashree Mohanty, Scientist, CGWB, Bhubaneswar
3. Dr. Sorokhaibam Somarendro Singh, Scientist CGWB, Guwahati
4. Mr. J. Sarvanan, MD, Chennai
5. Mr. Rudra Mohan Pradhan, Scientist ,CESS, Trivendrum

INC-IAH Workshop and National Seminar (15th to 17th March 2026)

INC-IAH held a two day national seminar proceeded by a one day workshop-cum-training program on "*Application of Geophysics in Groundwater Exploration*", where 24 students, research scholars and young career scientists and academics participated. The chief resource person Dr Subhash Singh conducted the classroom and field based program, and was duly assisted by Prof B. Venkateshwarrao and Prof B.S Chaudhari.



IAH-INC Workshop and national seminar.

Facilitation of the Veteran Hydrogeologist of India for 2026

The following distinguished Hydrogeologists were felicitated for 2026:

- Sri Shambhu Nath, Superintending Hydrogeologists (Retired) CGWB, GOI
- Professor A. D. Sawant, Former Vice-Chancellor, UOR, Jaipur and Pro-VC Mumbai University Mumbai.
- Professor D.C Singhal, Former President, INC of IAH and Professor IIT Roorkee
- Dr Subhojyoti Das, Former Regional Director, CGWB,
- Sri Chunduri Satyanarayana, Former Chief Hydrogeologist, REC, Govt of India



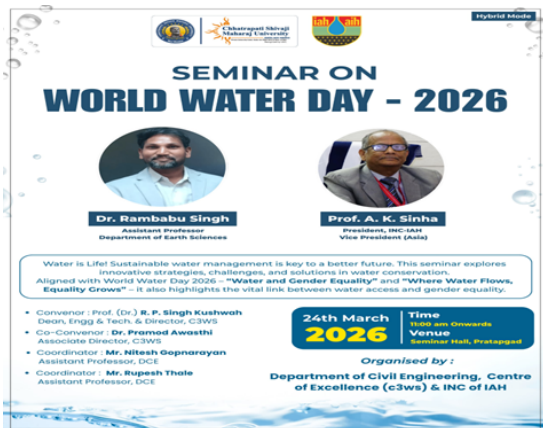
National Chapter News (cont)

INC-IAH Awards 2025 for different categories were announced, which were given during the Seminar on 16th March 2026

- Life Time Achievement Award: Sri Anand Kumar Agarwal, Former Chairman , CGWB, GOI
- Ground Water Excellence Award: Professor (Dr) Abhijit Mukherjee , Professor, IIT , Kharagpur
- Young Scientist Award: Dr Chinmay Dongre, Asst Professor, Deptt of Geology, M.S. University, Vadodara
- Best Paper Award:
(a) Female category : Dr Seema R Basarikatti, KLS VRD Institute of Technology, Haliyal, Karnataka
(b) Male category: Dr Aditya Shekhar, MNNIT, Allahabad
- Best Ph. D. Thesis Award : Dr Vipin Garg, Central University of Rajasthan, Kishangarh, Ajmer
- Best Post-Graduate Dissertation Award : Mr Amit Sharma, Jammu University , Jammu

INC IAH World Water Day Celebration 2026

INC IAH in association with Chhtrapati Shivaji Maharaj University Navi Mumbai ,Maharashtra, celebrated World Water Day by organising a hybrid one day Seminar on the 24th March for World Water Day 2026. The main speakers were Professor A.K. Sinha, President INC IAH; Dr Rambabu Singh IIT Mumbai; and Professor R.P. Singh Kushwaha.



IAH-Great Britain National Chapter

Ineson 2025

The Ineson 2025 meeting organised by the IAH GB Chapter with the Geological Society Hydrogeological Group was held on 19th November 2025 at Burlington House in London on the subject of "Sustainable Groundwater: Old and New". Over 150 people attended, hearing 6 presentations including the Ineson Lecture by Dr. Bridget Scanlon (The University of Texas at Austin) and the 2025 Darcy Lecture by Dr. Grant Ferguson (University of Saskatchewan), as well as 15 posters and a panel debate.

Dr Grant Ferguson of the University of Saskatchewan opened the day with the 2025 Darcy Lecture "Living Fossils: Ancient Groundwater in the Anthropocene". Taking a global perspective and using evidence from tracer studies, he re-examined existing definitions of renewable groundwater and proposed that dynamic complexity of both storage and flux variations need to be considered in the context of how water is used, to allow ancient groundwater in large aquifers to be managed more effectively and sustainably.

Four talks were given on the theme of sustainable management of groundwater in the UK, covering questions from use of drought indices to large scale policy decisions on abstraction management. Rob Soley (WSP) argued, using the Wessex Basin as a case study, that the broad Environmental Destination groundwater abstraction reduction targets currently set by regulators are over-conservative, as they do not consider crucial spatial and temporal variations, for example issues related to drought-resilient sources in headwaters. Alastair Black (Groundwater Science) reviewed the basis for river low-flow and wetland metrics and approaches to sustainability decisions using regional groundwater models, adding support to the idea that further abstraction reductions may not be necessary. Bentje Brauns (British Geological Survey) also looked at commonly used metrics such as the Standardised Groundwater Index (SGI), with cluster analysis of a large dataset of groundwater hydrographs revealing large-scale patterns in groundwater droughts but also highlighting the importance of site-specific behaviour. Mark Grout (Environment Agency) focussed on the Chalk aquifers of East Anglia to show how groundwater augmentation can be used to buffer spatial variations in demand and to mitigate dry weather low stream flows, considering the implications and challenges of Environmental Destination targets particularly in view of potential climate change scenarios.

National Chapter News (cont)

The Ineson Lecture 2025 was given by Dr Bridget Scanlon of the University of Texas, "Conjunctive Management of Surface Water and Groundwater to Increase the Sustainability of Global Water Resources". Examples using GRACE satellite data at a global scale showed that water storage variations are mainly caused by human drivers such as abstractions and irrigation return flows, and that satellite data are a useful tool for informing the public and policy development. The need for, and complexity of, combined use of surface water and groundwater for water resource management was highlighted and discussed.

During the day, the IAH John Day Bursary Award for best MSc dissertation on a hydrogeological topic was awarded to Hasan Kadodia (University of Birmingham), with the runner-up award to Mateusz Pandzierski (University of Birmingham). The Geological Society Hydrogeology Group also awarded the Whitaker and the Younger Medals for 2025.

The day concluded with a panel and audience discussion on the topics raised by the speakers. Overall messages from the day were that: broad scale assessments and targets may not take account of spatial and temporal nuances in groundwater (and surface water) management; more use of groundwater resources both globally and in the UK can be made in a sustainable way, with careful management by hydrogeologists; and 'Groundwater is Great'!

All of the speakers have kindly agreed to make their presentations available on the IAH website, so please look at these for further details of the talks.

Scottish Groundwater Conference 2026

The Scottish Groundwater Conference 2026 brought together researchers, regulators and industry to explore innovation and challenges in hydrogeology.

Dave Banks (Envireau) highlighted Scotland's growing uptake of shallow geothermal systems, noting over 3,700 existing installations but ongoing barriers around capital costs and regulation. Encouragingly, evidence shows minimal impact on aquifers, with thermal plumes typically limited to short distances when assessed using more robust 3D modelling.

Nik Mannix (Flow-5) emphasised the need for improved monitoring, outlining how IoT-enabled telemetry systems

are now more affordable and effective. Advances in data collection, cloud storage and sensor networks are enabling better leak detection and water resource efficiency, though clear return on investment and ongoing calibration remain key.

Kirsty Upton (BGS) showcased national-scale modelling through the British Groundwater Model, integrating machine learning to improve forecasting under climate variability.

The afternoon events included panel sessions with early to established professionals and academics, reflecting on their individual career pathways and sharing their experiences of working in the groundwater environment in Scotland. The sessions offered insights from professionals at different stages of their career, and discussions highlighted skills-needs and gaps, and future opportunities for the sector.

There was a general consensus that there is a lack of geology being taught in secondary school education and that there is a lack of practical skills being taught on postgraduate courses, expected to be due to a result of an increase in distance-learning students. The day highlighted how the hydrogeology community can work together to better promote the science to students, including STEM activities, educational materials, and workshops hosted by professionals to prospective students.

IAH-Iraq National Chapter

IAH-Iraq's joint research with Dr. Howkar and Dr. Javanru, entitled "*The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Identifying Groundwater Recharge Zones in Koya District, Erbil Governorate, Kurdistan Region of Iraq*," was presented at the 78th Turkish Geological Congress, held in Ankara, Turkey, from April 13–19, 2026. The presentation was part of the session "Modern Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in Groundwater Science."

National Chapter News (cont)

IAH-South Africa National Chapter



The poster for the IAH-SA Symposium 2026 features a blue and green abstract logo on the left. The text reads: "IAH-SA SYMPOSIUM 26 - 28 AUGUST 2026 Groundwater Quality". A yellow circular badge on the right says "Registration & Abstracts Now Open". Below the logo, it says: "Join us 26-28 August 2026 at STIAS, Stellenbosch for the IAH-SA Symposium 2026, themed 'Groundwater Quality: Assessment, Emerging Challenges and Sustainable Solutions.'" A dark blue banner below that says: "We are pleased to confirm an outstanding line-up of keynote speakers:". The central part of the poster displays five circular portraits of keynote speakers with their names and titles. At the bottom, there is a yellow section for "In addition" and two blue buttons for "Register now" and "Submit your abstract".

Dr Feifei Cao
Senior Groundwater Specialist (Netherlands)
Advancing Groundwater Quality Assessment: Data Challenges, Global Collaboration and Emerging AI Solutions

Dr Roger Parsons
Groundwater Consultant
From Benchmarks to Burdens: The Case for Revising South Africa's Drinking Water Standard

Dr Kym Morton
Water Strategist & Tailings Expert
The Good, the Bad and the Ugly: Water Quality Problems and Solutions Related to Mining in Southern Africa

Dr Meris Mills
Environmental Geochemist
Avoiding Analysis Paralysis: Getting the Most from Your Water Quality Data

Gert Meiring
Director, Civil Service Group
The Challenges of Utilising Groundwater Sources for Municipal Use in the Northern Cape Province

In addition
A pre-symposium course will take place: **PHREEQ-C Modelling on Tuesday, 25 August 2026**. Presented by Dr Meris Mills. This hands-on course offers practical tools for simulating chemical processes in water and is available to registered symposium delegates. The symposium will bring together professionals from across the sector – including government, municipalities, academia, consultants, and industry – creating a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration.

Register now (symposium & pre-course)

Submit your abstract and contribute to the programme

Visit our website for more information: <https://iah.org.za/symposium-2026/>

IAH-Spain National Chapter

Hidrogeodía 2026, our annual outreach initiative around World Water Day, has once again been a great success. This year, numerous field activities were organised across Spain (27 provinces) and internationally, including Portugal, 7 Latin American countries and Kenya, engaging the public directly with groundwater in the field and highlighting its key role in ecosystems and society.

In April, the first edition of the Emilio Custodio Distinguished Lecture was held in Mexico. For this inaugural edition, the Mexican Chapter of the IAH was selected as host, recognizing its work in promoting scientific knowledge and collaboration in the country. The invited speaker was Dr. Jesús Carrera Ramírez, selected among 14 international candidates for his outstanding scientific career. During the tour, he delivered the lecture entitled "Groundwater: the last opportunity to restore the hydrological cycle". The lecture series took place in Mexico City, Querétaro, and Monterrey, gathering nearly 310 participants including students, researchers, and professionals. Links to videos of two of the lectures are available on AIH-GE's YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/ixGPgsr3BXg>, <https://youtu.be/wCvIzxSLzvs>

We are also fully engaged in the organisation of the Iberian Congress on Groundwater (CIAS 2026), which will take place in Barcelona (1-4 July 2026), with the support of the Portuguese Chapter. The response has been very positive, with around 250 abstracts received. The programme will also include two pre-congress short courses (on well construction and maintenance, and karst modelling), one post-congress course (groundwater modelling), and a technical field trip within the city.

National Chapters: Round-Up

The Secretariat is currently working on the development of a new funding mechanism aimed at supporting events internationally, with clear criteria and safeguards to ensure responsible use of funds while broadening global participation. We hope that our National Chapters will be able to take advantage of the new funding mechanism to support your networking, education and outreach efforts.

Thank you to the national chapters that have already submitted their annual reports. This is a requirement for establishing a chapter and we look forward to receiving more reports in the coming weeks.

Your work is greatly appreciated and we look forward to supporting you further!

SECRETARIAT

Diary Dates

19-22 May 2026 – Valčianska Dolina Valley, Slovakia
[22nd Slovak Hydrogeological Conference](#)

The Slovak Association of Hydrogeologists (SAH) and the Water Research Institute in Bratislava are inviting all hydrogeologists, experts from practice, state and public administration, universities and other professionals to the 22nd Slovak Hydrogeological Conference. The theme of the conference is "Exact and reliable knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative groundwater properties in changing conditions, in order to ensure high-quality drinking water".

<https://sah-podzemnavoda.sk/cms/news.php>

24-27 May 2026 – Halifax, Canada
[Joint CGU and IAH-CNC Annual Meeting 2026](#)

The Canadian Geophysical Union (CGU) and the International Association of Hydrogeologists – Canadian National Chapter (IAH-CNC) are pleased to host a joint meeting that brings together geoscientists, hydrogeologists, engineers, and researchers from across Canada and around the world.

A highlight of CGU membership is the Annual Scientific Meeting, which provides a vibrant forum to network, collaborate, and share research with colleagues across the geosciences. Collaborative opportunities are further strengthened through joint meetings with complementary scientific societies, such as IAH-CNC.

<https://www.meet-here.ca/CGU2026>

11 June 2026 – Delft, Netherlands
[Dutch National Groundwater Conference – 2026](#)

This event brings together groundwater professionals, from scientific research to policy and practice, fostering dialogue across disciplines and sectors towards sustainable groundwater protection, use and management. The full-day event encompasses 2 keynote speakers, 8 parallel sessions with 34 oral presentations and a dedicated poster session with 30 posters.

<https://netherlands.iah.org/nationaal-congres-groundwater-2026>

1-4 July 2026 – Barcelona, Spain
[Congreso Ibérico de Aguas Subterráneas](#)

Iberic meeting of the Spanish and Portuguese IAH National Chapters. The Spanish Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-GE) is pleased to invite you to a new edition of the Iberian Congress on Groundwater (CIAS2026). This edition is organised thanks to the joint efforts of the University of Barcelona and the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA-CSIC). The Congress will take place at the Faculty of Earth Sciences of the University of Barcelona.

<https://cias2026.webs.upv.es/>

View more events at <https://iah.org/events>

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<https://iah.org/submit-an-event>



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