

NEWS

AUGUST 2026

& 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



National Chapter News

Lazce spring intake gallery (photo Katarina Benkova) - taken during the 22nd Slovak Hydrogeological Conference in May 2026. Read on to find out more and see what our other national chapters have been up to. [Page 15](#)

Hydrogeology Journal

We're celebrating HJ's recent achievements and welcoming two new Editors, nineteen new Associate Editors, as well as bidding farewell to ten Associate Editors.

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Member Benefits Survey

We want to hear from you! Complete our Member Benefits Survey for your chance to win one year of free IAH membership.

[Page 12](#)

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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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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 Organising Committee in Hungary is now putting in place the final touches to the 53rd IAH Congress. It promises to be good and it looks like many of our colleagues think so too – the Organising Committee are expecting 900 delegates. There's a lot on offer in the plenary, parallel and special sessions, not to mention some exciting field trips. Have you registered yet? There's still time – we hope to see you there!

As always, our Annual General Meeting will take place at the congress in September. Even if you're not planning on attending the congress in person, as an IAH member you are entitled to join the AGM online. Head to Page 5 to find out how.

We have also recently released our member benefits survey; we're keen to hear from as many of our members as possible. Please do take the time to respond to the survey, your feedback is vital to ensuring that we continue to be the inclusive Association that we strive to be. There's also the chance to win a year of free IAH membership!

We are also very pleased to announce that the inaugural IAH Distinguished Lecturer will be Jay Famiglietti. The first lecture in this series will be delivered at the upcoming congress in Budapest. Head to page 6 to find out more.

Finally, this September, IAH will be celebrating a very special milestone – our 70th birthday! To mark seven decades of IAH, we'd love to hear from our members and celebrate the memories, moments and stories that have made IAH what it is today. Do you have a favourite IAH memory? Perhaps a special event, a memorable meeting, a friendship you made, or a moment that has stayed with you over the years. Whatever your story, we'd love for you to share it with us. Email your IAH stories and fond memories to info@iah.org.

You can also send us a short video (up to 30 seconds) sharing your favourite IAH memory or telling us what IAH means to you. We'll bring these stories and memories together to create a special celebration of our 70th birthday.

Let's celebrate 70 years of IAH. We can't wait to hear your stories!

SECRETARIAT

From our Vice President

Groundwater, resilience and our shared responsibility

Many of us across Europe have spent this summer witnessing prolonged heatwaves, severe drought and increasing pressure on water resources. These are no longer exceptional events; they are becoming recurring features of our climate.

For hydrogeologists, these events are more than newspaper headlines. They are visible in declining spring discharges, reduced groundwater recharge, increasing competition among water users and growing concern for groundwater-dependent ecosystems. They also remind us that groundwater, often hidden from view, lies at the heart of climate resilience.

These challenges also highlight something else: no single institution, country or discipline can address them alone. They require scientific understanding, long-term monitoring, international cooperation and continuous dialogue between researchers, practitioners and decision-makers. This is precisely where the International Association of Hydrogeologists has one of its main strengths.

Across our Commissions and Networks, colleagues are advancing knowledge on groundwater quality, karst systems, managed aquifer recharge, climate change, urban groundwater, groundwater-dependent ecosystems, education, early-career development and many other topics. These groups are not simply scientific forums; they are communities where ideas are exchanged, collaborations are established and practical solutions are developed.

At the same time, the work of our National Chapters demonstrates that groundwater science has its strongest impact when it is rooted in local realities. Throughout the world, Chapters organise conferences, webinars, technical meetings, field excursions, training courses, outreach activities and discussions with water managers and policy-makers. They create opportunities for professionals, students and young hydrogeologists to learn from one another while strengthening the visibility of groundwater within their own countries. Together, they represent one of IAH's greatest assets.

As our profession evolves, new opportunities are also

emerging. Advances in satellite observations, environmental monitoring, numerical modelling, big-data analysis and artificial intelligence are providing powerful new tools for understanding groundwater systems. Yet these technologies do not replace hydrogeological expertise; they reinforce it. Their real value depends on the scientific judgement, field experience and conceptual understanding that hydrogeologists bring to every investigation.

Looking ahead, I believe our role as an Association is becoming even more important. IAH provides the unique international platform where scientific excellence meets professional practice, where experienced members work alongside the next generation, and where global challenges are translated into local action.

The climate challenges we are witnessing today make our mission more relevant than ever. They also remind us that groundwater must continue to move higher on political and societal agendas.

As members of IAH, we all have a role to play—through our research, our professional activities, our Chapters, our Commissions and Networks, and our engagement with society.

In just a few weeks, many of us will have the opportunity to meet at the IAH World Groundwater Congress in Budapest. It will be an ideal occasion to exchange ideas, share experiences, strengthen collaborations and explore how our groundwater community can respond to the growing challenges posed by climate change and water security. The Council and the Secretariat very much look forward to meeting many of you there.

Marco Petitta

Vice President, Programme and Science Coordination



IAH Council Meeting

The IAH Council met online on the 8 and 10 June to review progress across the Association.

Council agreed a number of governance improvements, including measures to strengthen data protection within the membership directory, improve communication with Council members, and develop proposals to broaden participation in leadership roles while maintaining good governance.

Preparations for the 2026 IAH Congress in Budapest are progressing well, with around 850 registrations and UNESCO funding secured to support delegates from low-income countries. Planning is also underway for future Congresses in Mexico (2027), with early discussions continuing for the UK (2028) and Japan (2029).

Membership currently stands at 4800. Council discussed ways to encourage more student members to convert to paid membership, alongside improvements to student membership verification.

Council reviewed new initiatives to support National Chapters, particularly in lower-income countries, and welcomed the continued success of IAH's education and outreach activities. The inaugural IAH Distinguished Lecture will be delivered by Jay Famiglietti, while the new Groundwater Matters webinar series has attracted more than 1,200 registrations for its first event, highlighting the growing reach of IAH's online engagement.

Updates were also received on partnerships with UNESCO and other international organisations, negotiations over the future of Hydrogeology Journal, and preparations for the 2026 awards programme. Council recognised the importance of continuing to strengthen member services, international collaboration and support for the global groundwater community.

2026 IAH Annual General Meeting

Notice is given that the 2026 Annual General Meeting of the International Association of Hydrogeologists will be held in person at the Budapest Congress Centre and online on Wednesday 16th September from 18:15 – 19:45 (CEST). All members of the Association who have fully paid their subscriptions for the current year are entitled to attend the proceedings.

- The AGM agenda will include receiving the report and accounts for the period ending 31st December 2025. The full financial statement will be made available on the annual reports pages of the IAH website <https://iah.org/about/reports/management>.
- Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 17th September 2025 are available at: <https://iah.org/members/iah-meetings>.
- If you would like to attend online please send an email to info@iah.org with IAH AGM 2026 in the subject line and your name and membership number in the body of the email. We will then send you the joining details.

SECRETARIAT

The Inaugural IAH Distinguished Lecturer: Jay Famiglietti

The IAH Distinguished Lecturer series aims to strengthen international engagement by enhancing the visibility of IAH at the international level, and extend the relevance of groundwater beyond the hydrogeology community by highlighting the crucial role of groundwater in addressing global environmental and societal challenges.

We are pleased to announce that the inaugural Distinguished Lecturer will be Professor Jay Famiglietti. The first lecture in this new series will be delivered at the IAH 2026 World Groundwater Congress in Budapest.

Jay Famiglietti

Jay Famiglietti is a hydrogeologist and Global Futures Professor at Arizona State University where he is Director of Science for the Arizona Water Innovation Initiative. He is President-Elect of the AGU Hydrology Section. Before moving to ASU, Famiglietti was founding Chief Scientist of the Silicon Valley tech startup, Waterplan; he was Executive Director of the Global Institute for Water Security at the University of Saskatchewan; he was Senior Water Scientist at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Caltech; he was appointed to the California State Water Boards; and he held faculty positions at UC Irvine and UT Austin. His research group uses satellites to track how freshwater availability is changing around the globe. They pioneered the methods to detect groundwater depletion from space. Famiglietti



is a fellow of the AGU and the GSA, he is a recipient of AGU's Peter S. Eagleson Hydrological Sciences Award, and the Prince Sultan Bin Abdulaziz International Prize for Water. He is committed to science communication, and to elevating the representation of water in the UN frameworks for climate change, desertification, and biodiversity.

Apply for the next round of the IAH Mentoring Scheme

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):
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/IAHmentor2026>
- Mentee (receiver of advice):
<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

The World Groundwater Congress 2026, Budapest



Late registration fee deadline: 31st August 2026

There is still time to register for the 53rd IAH Congress. Take a look at the program via <https://iah2026budapest.com/agenda/>

Keynote speeches

Eight keynote speakers have been announced by the organising committee, namely Miklós Antics, Marc Bierkens, Joanna Doummar, Tom Gleeson, Xiao-Wei Jiang, John Molson, Bridget R. Scanlon and Chuniao Zheng.

Find out more: <https://iah2026budapest.com/keynotes/>

ECH Outstanding Oral and Poster Presentation Awards

Are you an early-career hydrogeologist presenting at the IAH 2026 Congress in Budapest?

The Local Organising Committee, in collaboration with the Early Career Hydrogeologists' Network (ECHN) of IAH, invites presenters to apply for the ECH Outstanding Oral and Poster Presentation Awards.

Applicants must be currently pursuing a BSc, MSc, or PhD degree, or have completed their highest degree within the past 10 years, and must be under 40 years of age. Only the presenting author may apply, provided they meet all eligibility criteria. Each applicant may submit one presentation only, in either the oral or poster category.

How to apply: applications must be submitted through the online registration form before the Congress. On-site applications will not be accepted

Application deadline: 31st August 2026.

Applicants must include the official award logo and their abstract number (LID) on their presentation. The logo can be downloaded from the conference website.

The award recipients will be announced during the Closing Ceremony on Friday 18th September 2026.



Membership News

Welcome!

A warm welcome to the 239 new IAH members who joined our Association in the period 25 April 2026 - 25 July 2026. View the list of new members at <https://tinyurl.com/new-members-jul26>

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>.

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>.

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>.



The flyer features the IAH logo at the top left, with the text 'International Association of Hydrogeologists' and 'The World-wide Groundwater Organisation'. A large photo of hikers on a trail is on the right. The main heading 'JOIN US' is in large yellow letters. Below it, the text reads 'Support IAH and its global membership in protecting groundwater for people and the environment'. The flyer describes the 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. It lists three membership types: 1. Individual membership: Members receive a great range of benefits, including Hydrogeology Journal, book and conference discounts, printed and electronic newsletters, and the ability to participate in National Chapters, Commissions & Networks, and share knowledge and experience. It also mentions attractive and cost-effective schemes for groundwater affairs and publicising company services. 2. Corporate membership: Designed to provide benefits for companies or institutes, offering 3 individual memberships and 25% discounts on further memberships, discounts on advertising in the IAH News & Information magazine, and at conferences. 3. Gold sponsorship: 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 services and sponsoring events and activities. At the bottom, it provides the website 'WWW.IAH.ORG/JOIN-US', a QR code, and contact information: 'www.iah.org' and 'info@iah.org'.

Hydrogeology Journal -Executive Editor's Message

The 2025 Journal Citation Report has been released - it shows that the latest 2025 two-year Impact Factor (IF) for Hydrogeology Journal (HJ) has increased from 2.3 in 2024 to 2.8 in 2025.

The IF is an indicator of the number of times that people who publish articles in scientific journals have cited articles published in HJ, so the IF also indicates the scientific usefulness and value of HJ content.

HJ also has a high, and growing, usage factor of 853,500 full-text article downloads in 2025, an increase from 579,600 in 2024. This means that people read and use HJ content, perhaps for professional and for practical water-resources management purposes, even though many of these users do not ever reference these HJ articles in journal publications that are included in IF counts.

We are delighted to see that HJ continues to achieve the IAH goals to serve the professional/practical and scientific communities in groundwater hydrology.

We want to send our congratulations and thank everyone involved - HJ's Editors, Associate Editors, and the Editorial Office staff for their continued dedication and efforts, but also, and importantly, our Authors for the excellent papers they submit and publish in HJ, all of which are essential to maintaining and strengthening the journal's visibility, reputation, and overall academic and non-academic impact.

Two new HJ Editors

HJ is happy to welcome two new Editors. Brindha Karthikeyan and Marwan Fahs joined Maria Schafmeister, Jean-Michel Lemieux and Rui Ma as Editors of HJ in 2025. They have replaced Martin Appold and Oliver Schilling who stepped down to focus on new projects, and to whom we extend our appreciation for their service to the journal and our community.

Brindha Karthikeyan is a Lecturer in Hydrogeology in the Water Resources and Ecosystems Department at the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education, the Netherlands. Her research focuses on hydrogeochemistry, groundwater quality, managed aquifer recharge and integrated water resources management in monsoon-dependent and water-scarce regions. A particular interest is managed aquifer recharge as a means of buffering seasonal and climatic variability, from capturing excess runoff for later irrigation use to recharge, retention and reuse schemes in water-scarce settings, and its application to securing safe drinking-water supply and WASH services for underserved

communities. She has worked on groundwater projects across Asia and Africa, combining groundwater flow and transport modelling with field-based hydrogeological investigation.



Brindha Karthikeyan

Marwan Fahs is an Associate Professor (HDR) in Hydrogeology at the National School of Water and Environmental Engineering (ENGEE) in Strasbourg, France. His research focuses on the modeling of groundwater flow and mass and heat transport in aquifers. His current research interests include seawater intrusion in coastal aquifers, groundwater management and protection, CO₂ sequestration, hydrogen storage in aquifers, and flow and transport processes in fractured aquifers. His work involves the development of numerical models based on advanced finite element methods, as well as machine learning techniques, global sensitivity analysis, inverse modeling, and analytical solutions for hydrogeological processes.



Marwan Fahs

Hydrogeology Journal - cont.

Nineteen new Associate Editors

HJ also welcomes 19 new Associate Editors (AE) who joined our international editorial board in January 2026, growing the AE team to 55 experts:

- Mohammad Faiz Alam | International Water Management Institute, India
- Bentje Brauns | British Geological Survey, United Kingdom
- Charles Danquigny | Université d'Avignon et des Pays de Vaucluse, France
- Theresa Hennig | GFZ Helmholtz Centre for Geosciences, Germany
- Thomas Hermans | Gent University, Belgium
- Ying Liang | China University of Geosciences Wuhan, China
- Saeed Mahmoodpour | Technical University of Munich, Germany
- Konstantinos Moutsopoulos | Democritus University of Thrace, Greece
- Syed Mustafa | Wageningen University & Research, The Netherlands
- Andrew Pearson | IGRAC, The Netherlands
- Mahdi Rajabi | Datafre8, Luxembourg
- Ludovic Schorpp | University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland
- Haibing Shao | Helmholtz Centre for Environmental Research, Germany
- Nataline Simon | The French Authority for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (ASNR), France

- Majid Taie Semiromi | Technical University of Berlin, Germany
- Marco Tallini | University of L'Aquila, Italy
- Ashwani Kumar Tiwari | Jawaharlal Nehru University, India
- Julian Xanke | TZW: DVGW-Technologiezentrum Wasser, Germany
- Tianyuan Zheng | Ocean University of China, Qingdao, China

We also want to extend our sincere appreciation to the 10 Associate Editors who completed their term with HJ:

- Li He | Tianjin University, China
- Mo Hoque | University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom
- Ching-Sheng Huang | Hohai University, China
- Hervé Jourde | Université de Montpellier, France
- Francesca Lotti | SYMPLE, Italy
- Nils Moosdorf | Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research, Germany
- Stephan Schulz | Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany
- David Walker | Independent Consultant, Bulgaria
- Yueqing Xie | Nanjing University, China
- Xiaodong Zhang | Shandong University, China

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>



Celebrating Sharon Warden: 20 years of service to IAH!

On a particularly hot day in June, IAH's Executive Manager, Tim, and Executive Officer, Olivia, travelled to Leamington Spa to meet IAH's Membership Administrator, Sharon Warden. The occasion was a special one: to celebrate and thank Sharon for 20 years of dedicated service to IAH.

Over the past two decades, Sharon has been a friendly, familiar and reliable point of contact for thousands of IAH members around the world. Her unwavering commitment has helped support the smooth running of the Association, often working behind the scenes to ensure members receive the help and support they need. Her contribution to IAH has been invaluable, and it was a pleasure to recognise this remarkable milestone in person.

On behalf of everyone at IAH, we extend our heartfelt thanks to Sharon for her hard work, dedication and the care she has shown to our members over the last 20 years. Congratulations, Sharon, and thank you for everything you have done—and continue to do—for the IAH community.



Tim and Olivia presenting Sharon with her certificate.

Groundwater Matters Webinar Series

In May, June and July, IAH hosted a series of online webinars in cooperation with UNESCO-IHP, the World Bank, WMO and IAEA, coordinators of the UN-Water Experts Group on Groundwater. The webinars aimed to contribute to the 2026 UN Water Conference by addressing the challenges and opportunities associated with the development, management, and governance of groundwater worldwide. The three webinars, which examined the role of groundwater within the context of the six interactive dialogues, highlight why groundwater matters at the 2026 United Nations Water Conference.

In the first webinar, co-hosted by Rural Water Supply Network, we described the role of groundwater in everyday life and its interactions with people and the planet. In the second webinar, we demonstrated how cooperation is essential for sustainable management of groundwater, especially as water demand rises, and to ensure equitable access and long-term water security for all. In the third and final webinar, we emphasized the economic value of groundwater and integrated water resources management. We discussed financing, technology and capacity building for water management, and demonstrated how investment can unlock the full potential of groundwater.

Attracting over 1000 participants across the 3 webinars, the series was hugely successful. The webinar series was coordinated and hosted by the [Liaison with UN Activities \(LUNA\) Network of IAH](#). We want to thank all of the panellists for their important contributions to this series. You can also [watch the series on our YouTube Channel](#).

Following on from the series, preparations for the IAH World Groundwater Congress in Budapest are well underway, where the LUNA Network are chairing a plenary session on Wednesday 16th September, from 13:30–14:30, titled "*Groundwater at the Heart of the 2026 UN Water Conference: IAH Positions and UN Perspectives*". We are on track to ensure that groundwater has a voice at the United Nations Water Conference in December!



In Memoriam: Professor Mihael Brenčič

With deep sadness, we inform our members of the passing of Professor Mihael Brenčič on 30 March 2026, following a prolonged and severe illness.

Professor Brenčič served as the Chair of the Slovenian National Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (SKIAH) from 2018 to 2023.

He was a Corresponding Member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts due to his contributions in hydrogeology, karst geology, water dynamic research, hydrogechemistry of bottled waters and history of geology. His contributions help to protect our groundwater resources of drinking water, manage the Transboundary Groundwater Body Karavanke/Karawanken, and solve many engineering hydrogeology challenges.

Throughout his career, Professor Brenčič fostered extensive international collaborations with colleagues and institutions in Austria, Hungary, Portugal, Russia, Serbia, and Spain. For more than two decades, he inspired and trained new generations of Slovenian hydrogeologists, leaving an indelible mark on the profession. Among his many contributions to education are textbooks published in the Slovenian language, including Groundwater Dynamics and, most recently, Basics of Karst Geology.

Professor Brenčič's scientific achievements, professional leadership, science communication skills and commitment to advancing hydrogeological knowledge will be remembered with great respect and gratitude.



Win a year of free IAH Membership

Five years on from our last member benefits survey in 2021, it is essential to know what additional services and opportunities members want. This will ensure that IAH will continue to progress its mission to promote understanding, wise-use and protection of global groundwater resources.

Please help by completing this [survey](#). Please enter your membership number at the end of the survey when prompted to be entered into a prize draw for one year of free membership with IAH.



The Latest from our Commissions and Networks

Commissions and Networks

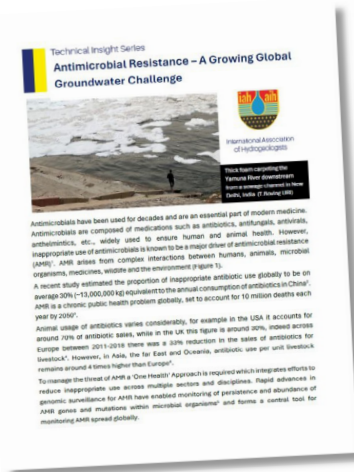
IAH's commissions and networks contribute to the science of groundwater and undertake outreach, education and training. They run sessions at IAH congresses, co-convene technical meetings and field excursions with other societies, host workshops and training courses and prepare educational and outreach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

The Groundwater Quality Commission recently published an IAH Technical Insight Series paper on [Antimicrobial Resistance – A Growing Global Groundwater Challenge](#). The paper presents the environmental pathways that lead to the occurrence of antimicrobial pharmaceuticals in groundwater, the development of antibiotic resistant genes, and the regulation and future outlook of this insidious contamination.

In addition to the new TIS paper, IAH Groundwater Quality Commission members Dr. Melissa Lenczewski (Northern Illinois University, USA), Dr. Jeeban Panthi (Kansas State University), Dr. Tom Boving (University of Rhode Island, USA), Dr. Gualbert Oude Essink (Utrecht University) and Dr. Dan Lapworth (British Geological Survey) are organising a high profile, by invitation only, special issue (SI). The SI will be published in Environmental Research (Impact Factor 7.7) and is focused on Navigating 21st Century Challenges in Groundwater Quality from a global perspective. The SI features high-quality papers on global and regional scale studies covering a range of geogenic and anthropogenic groundwater quality challenges as well as topics related to protecting, modeling, and developing good quality groundwater resources and building capacity in groundwater governance. The specific topic areas of this SI include (1) Emerging Contaminants, (2) Impacts of Climate Change / Land Use Change, (3) Groundwater Salinity, (4) Advancements in Groundwater Quality Monitoring and Modelling, (5) Environmental Consequences of Economic-based Activities, (6) Groundwater Protection and Innovative Technologies, and (7) Capacity Development and Governance.



The latest Technical Insight Series Paper, produced by the GW Quality Commission, can be viewed on the IAH website.

Finally, the Commission is pleased to announce that it is sponsoring a session during the World Groundwater Congress in Budapest in September titled "21st Century Groundwater Quality Challenges". This session will explore the complexity of groundwater-quality processes and management challenges while highlighting innovative advances in hydrogeology, monitoring, modeling, and data-driven approaches. Panelists will emphasize collaboration for novel concepts, integrated data-model frameworks, and actionable solutions. The Session Conveners will be Gualbert Oude Essink, Jeeban Panthi, Melissa Lenczewski, Dan Lapworth, Thomas Boving, and David Kremer.

Burdon Groundwater Network for International Development (BGID)

The IAH Burdon Network wants to hear from you!

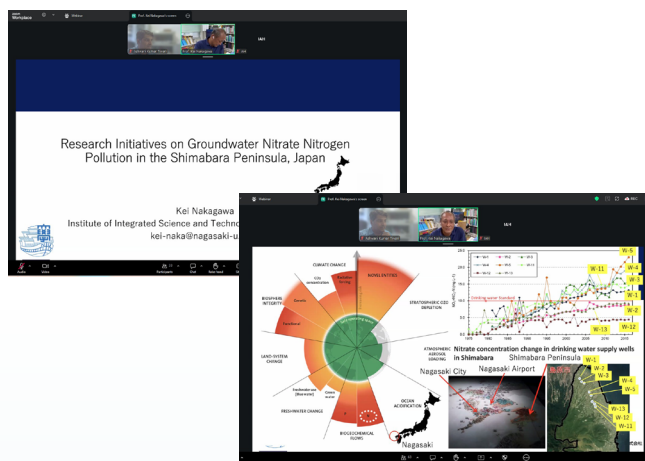
The BGID has recently re-launched and is keen to hear from the IAH community. What would you like to see the network focussing on next? More webinars and online talks? Shared resources and networking opportunities? Training activities? Let us know through this [online form](#). It should only take 2-3 minutes to complete, you can participate anonymously, or provide your email to join our new mailing list.

We have also launched a new [LinkedIn page](#) – follow us to keep up with all the latest BGID news!

The Latest from our Commissions and Networks (cont.)

Early Career Hydrogeologists Network (ECHN)

The ECHN organised a webinar in May, inviting Professor Kei Nakagawa from Nagasaki University, Japan, to present his work titled "Research Initiatives on Groundwater Nitrate Nitrogen Pollution in the Shimabara Peninsula, Japan". He discussed his research on nitrate nitrogen contamination in groundwater, its environmental impacts, and proposed strategies for sustainable groundwater resource management. The session was enriching and facilitated knowledge exchange among researchers working to address nitrate-nitrogen groundwater pollution. We thank Prof. Kei Nakagawa for his insightful lecture. Thank you to everyone who participated in the webinar and discussion. You can watch the webinar on the [IAH YouTube Channel](#).



In Memoriam – Professor Joe (József) Tóth

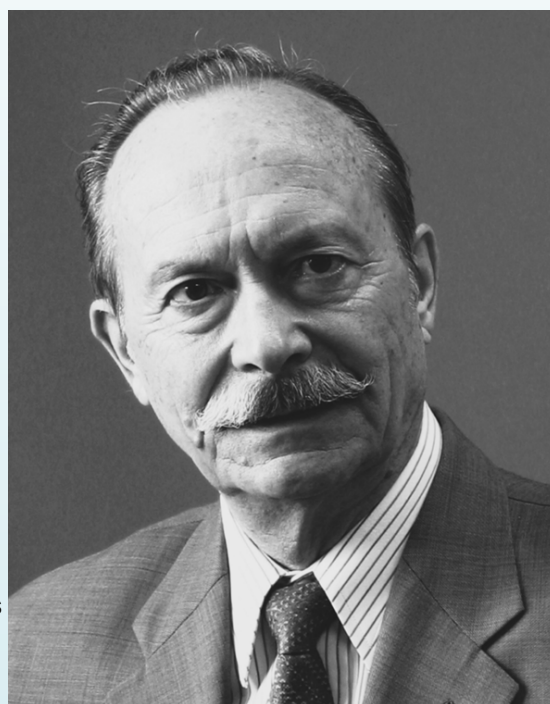
Deep sadness has been felt throughout the international hydrogeological community following the passing of Professor Joe Tóth, founder of the theory of regional groundwater flow systems, Professor Emeritus of the University of Alberta, Honorary Professor of Eötvös Loránd University, and external member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. He passed away on 3 July 2026 in Edmonton, Canada, in the 94th year of his life.

His pioneering scientific work fundamentally transformed modern hydrogeology and established the conceptual foundations for understanding groundwater flow systems at regional scales. His achievements were recognized through numerous international awards, including the O. E. Meinzer Award, the IAH President's Award, the Robert N. Farvolden Award, the M. King Hubbert Science Award, and the C. V. Theis Award.

Throughout his life, Professor Tóth remained deeply committed to the international hydrogeological community and to supporting future generations of researchers. His scientific legacy continues through his publications, students, and the institutions and initiatives inspired by his work.

Words by Judit Mádl-Szőnyi – Chair of the IAH Regional Groundwater Flow Commission

[Read the full farewell tribute.](#)



National Chapter News

IAH-Slovakia National Chapter

From 19 to 22 May 2026, the Slovak IAH chapter and the Slovak Association of Hydrogeologists organized the 22nd Slovak Hydrogeological Conference in Hotel Impozant located in the Valcianska dolina Valley. The event was organised with the help of the Slovakian Water Research Institute, which also influenced choosing the main Conference topic, defined as “Exact and reliable knowledge of the quantitative and qualitative groundwater properties in changing conditions, in order to ensure high-quality drinking water”. The conference was attended by 102 participants who spent three nights in the middle of forested hills of the Malá Fatra Mountains. Two days of lectures and presentations were divided into five monothematic blocks (briefly: legislation / monitoring and groundwater management / mineral and geothermal groundwater / groundwater quality and pollution controls / contaminates sites).

Although many presentations were concentrated on groundwater pollution management and risk assessment, conference participants visited beautiful unpolluted karstic spring Sopotná on a short afternoon walk. Contrary to the global trends of springs' discharge decrease, discharge volumes of Sopotná spring seem to have increased since the 1970s when its gauging started – good news to the population supplied by its water! During the gala dinner the Slovak Association of Hydrogeologists award winners were announced. Ms Natalia Bacova and Mr Vladimir Pramuk, long-serving hydrogeology experts based in the East of Slovakia recieved the awards this year.

The conference all-day field trip brought its participants to the largest karstic spring in Slovakia: Lazce in the Necpalská dolina Valley, which is already exploited as a drinking water resource. The next stop was the Turček dam, a surface water reservoir with comparable discharge to Lazce, but several orders of magnitude larger engineering feats. The final stop on the trip was the nearby Turcianske Teplice Spa, which has naturally heated karstic groundwater of around 40°C that has been used for centuries at the same site. The 22nd Slovak Hydrogeological Conference was completed by a beautiful walk through the Turcianske Teplice Spa City Park, a place that would never have been developed without the natural occurrence of heated mineral waters there.



Lecture at the 22nd Slovak Hydrogeological Conference (photo Marta Kalabova)



Conference participants In front of the Sopotná spring (photo Marta Kalabova)



Field lecture on Lazce spring hydrogeology by Peter Malik (photo Katarina Benkova)



Turcek drinking water reservoir (photo Katarina Benkova)

National Chapter News (cont.)

IAH-Norway National Chapter

The Norwegian chapter of IAH held elections in January 2026. The annual general meeting was held in February 2026, where a new board was elected.

Bjørn Frengstad, Mari Vestland and Thomas Scheiber stepped down as committee members.

Anna Vårheim was voted in as President, while Anja Sundal is new Secretary. Eivind Halvorsen continues as treasurer. Line Haukanes Bratsberg continues, and new committee members include August Fiskum Ness.

IAH-South Africa National Chapter

The South African Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-SA) is pleased to announce the election of a new management committee. The committee is chaired by Dr Roger Parsons, with Dr Amy Allwright serving as Treasurer and Dr Kwazi Majola as Secretary. Julian Conrad also joins as an elected member of the IAH. We are further supported by five regional representatives, an early career representative, and a liaison to the local groundwater society, the Ground Water Division.

Our first major initiative is to organise and host a 3-day symposium in Stellenbosch from 26–28 August 2026, focusing on groundwater quality issues. The program will feature invited speakers including Dr Feifei Cao of IGRAC, alongside experts addressing topics such as mining impacts, analysis of large data sets, drinking water standards, and the challenges of groundwater use as a municipal supply in South Africa's dry north-

western regions. The final program will be compiled shortly and shared on our webpage <https://iah.org.za/symposium-2026/>

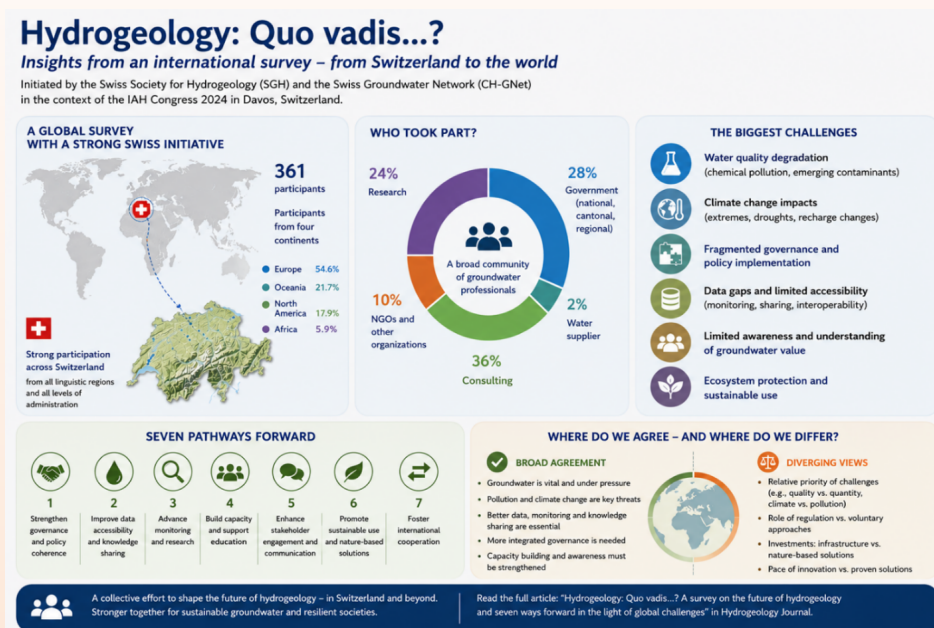
IAH-Switzerland National Chapter

Hydrogeology: Quo vadis...?

The international survey "Hydrogeology: Quo vadis...?" was initiated by the Swiss Society for Hydrogeology (SGH; Swiss National Chapter of IAH), and the Swiss Groundwater Network (CH-GNet), in the context of the IAH Congress 2024 in Davos, Switzerland. The initiative emerged from a joint workshop organized by SGH and CH-GNet ahead of the Congress, where key challenges and future directions for hydrogeology were discussed.

Building on these exchanges, the survey invited professionals from across the groundwater community—including academia, practitioners, government agencies, water suppliers, consulting firms, and NGOs—to share their views on the current state of groundwater, strategic priorities, and disciplinary developments. Its aim was to foster a broad international dialogue, reflecting on both the Swiss context and the commonalities and differences across regions and sectors.

The survey was disseminated nationally through CH-GNet and SGH, and internationally via the IAH newsletter and outreach during the IAH Congress 2024. A recent milestone of this collaboration is the publication of the article in Hydrogeology Journal (<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-026-03077-4>), highlighting pressing groundwater



National Chapter News (cont.)

challenges and proposing seven strategic pathways for the future of hydrogeology in Switzerland and beyond.

Community views on hydrogeology education: a global perspective

As part of the IAH 2024 World Groundwater Congress in Davos, a global survey was conducted to better understand the current state of hydrogeology education and workforce dynamics. The survey gathered responses from 573 participants across 82 countries, including students, early-career professionals, academics, consultants, and practitioners.

The results, recently published in Hydrogeology Journal, provide a unique snapshot of the hydrogeology community in 2024. Several key findings emerged. First, respondents reported a perceived shortage of trained hydrogeologists in many regions. Second, many practitioners felt that graduates are not always sufficiently prepared for professional practice, highlighting a need for closer alignment between academic curricula and workplace expectations. Third, the survey showed that hydrogeology is increasingly expected to contribute to addressing major societal challenges, including climate change, groundwater protection, water security, and sustainability.

The survey also revealed persistent gender imbalances within the profession, although representation of women has improved among more recent graduates. Furthermore, many hydrogeologists enter the field through diverse educational pathways, underscoring the discipline's interdisciplinary nature.

The full dataset has been made openly available and provides a valuable resource for educators, researchers, and professional organizations interested in strengthening hydrogeology education and preparing the next generation of groundwater professionals.

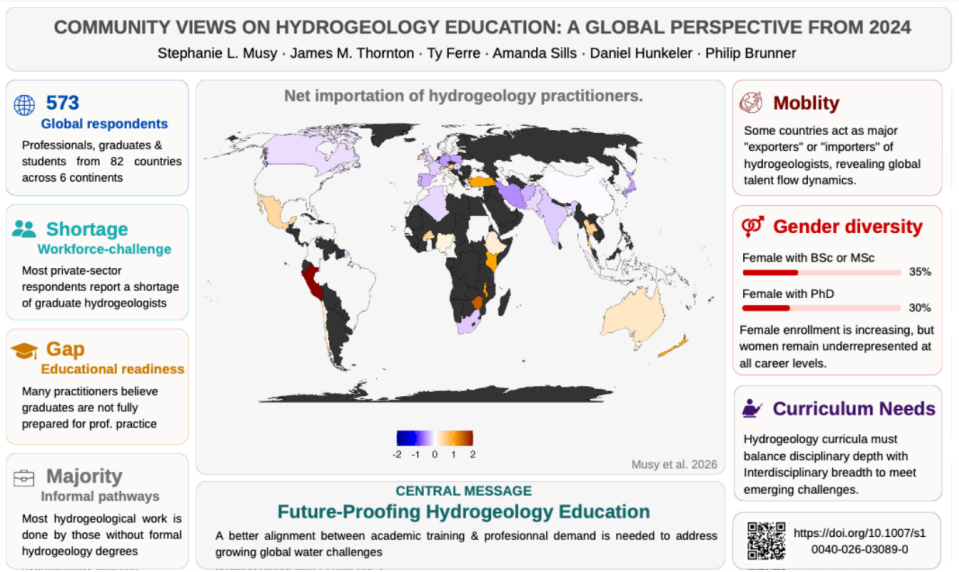
Paper: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10040-026-03089-0>

Dataset: <https://doi.org/10.4211/s.4beea6712df548dea264619a14d6441d>

IAH-Spain National Chapter

The Spanish Chapter (AIH-GE) has had a very active start to the summer. The first edition of the Emilio Custodio Distinguished Lecture has continued its international tour following its successful launch in Mexico, with lectures delivered in Spain (Mallorca and Valencia), France (Montpellier) and Germany (Freiberg). The initiative aims to promote groundwater science and sustainable groundwater management while recognising the outstanding scientific legacy of Professor Emilio Custodio. Recordings of the lecture at the Universitat Politècnica de València (UPV) and the INTERPore webinar are freely available online. All information can be found at <https://www.aih-ge.org/leccion-magistral-emilio-custodio/>.

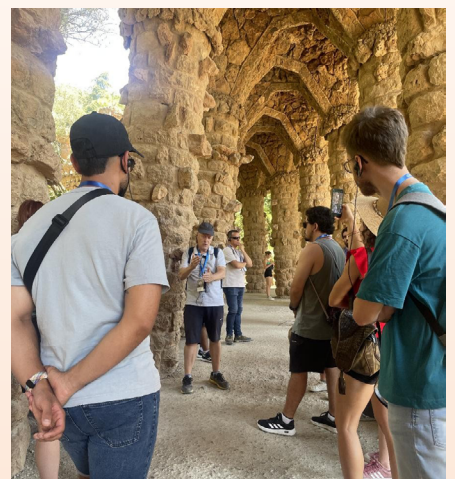
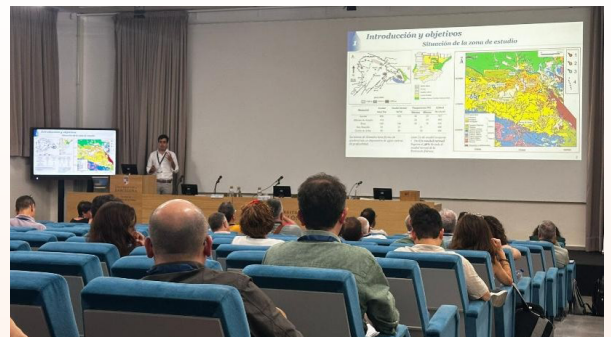
AIH-GE also announced its 2026 awards, recognizing excellence in hydrogeological research and professional achievement (<https://www.aih-ge.org/premios-aih-ge/>). The Custodio & Llamas AIH-GE Lifetime Achievement Award was presented jointly to Lucila Candela and Jaime Gómez-Hernández, the Special Recognition Award was granted to the hydrogeologists of the Catalan Water Agency (ACA), and the Alfons Bayó Young Researcher-



National Chapter News (cont.)

Award was presented to Marc Diego Feliu.

The main event of the year was the Iberian Congress on Groundwater (CIAS 2026 <https://cias2026.webs.upv.es/>), held in Barcelona from 1 to 4 July and co-organised by AIH-GE, the University of Barcelona, the Institute of Environmental Assessment and Water Research (IDAEA-CSIC) and the Portuguese Chapter of IAH, bringing together around 270 participants from Spain, Portugal and several other countries. The congress featured 139 oral presentations, 107 posters, three keynote lectures, a round-table discussion, technical exhibitions, and several networking events. Two well-attended pre-congress courses on well construction and karst groundwater modelling, together with a post-congress field excursion and the 10th edition of the AIH-GE Groundwater Numerical Modelling Course, complemented the scientific programme. During the closing ceremony, AIH-GE also presented the awards for the best oral and poster presentations by young researchers.



National Chapter News (cont.)

IAH-Argentina National Chapter

The Argentine Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) and the 'Dr. Enrique Jorge Schnack' Institute of Coastal and Quaternary Geology of the National University of Mar del Plata are organizing the XIII Argentine Congress of Hydrogeology and IX Hispanic-Latin American Seminar on Current Issues in Groundwater Hydrology. This event will take place in the city of Mar del Plata (Argentina), from September 21 to 25, 2026.

The congress will feature more than 120 papers distributed across the following thematic areas: Regional Hydrogeology; Hydrogeochemistry, Isotopes, and Groundwater Quality; Urban and Peri-urban Hydrogeology; Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems; Socio-hydrology, Groundwater Planning and Governance; Water and Production Processes; and the Hispanic-Latin American Seminar: Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and New Tracers in Hydrogeology. Keynote lectures are scheduled to be delivered by Dr. Ricardo Hirata, Dr. J. Jaime Gómez-Hernández, Dr. Emilia Bocanegra, and Dr. Esteban Tálamo. Details for this event can be viewed at: <https://congresohidrogeologia.mdp.edu.ar/>

The Argentine Chapter of the IAH is responsible for editing and publishing the Revista Argentina de Hidrogeología (RAHi). It is the first publication of its kind in Argentina and publishes scientific research, technical papers, and hydrogeological case studies with open access and at no cost to authors. Original, unpublished works related to hydrogeology are accepted, including theoretical,

methodological, and applied contributions, as well as scientific research, technical documents, and experiences aimed at groundwater knowledge and management. Starting from Volume 4, the 'Miscellaneous' section allows for the submission of scientific research and technical documents outside the special issue topic, without requiring a prior invitation.

Published articles and author guidelines can be found at <https://aihgacomar.wordpress.com/revista-argentina-de-hidrogeologia/>

The Argentine Chapter of IAH, together with the Chilecito Agricultural Experiment Station of the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA), organized the 'Hydrogeoday' at the end of March 2026. This activity, promoted by the Spanish Chapter of IAH and held in Chilecito (Argentina), aimed to raise awareness about the importance of groundwater in the Central Antinaco-Los Colorados Valley and its use in irrigated agriculture. The event was attended by numerous participants from schools, local farmers, and the general community.



National Chapters: Round-Up

We are still receiving your annual reports – thank you for all of these. If you haven't already submitted yours, there's still time to do this and we look forward to hearing from you soon! We encourage you too, to keep your websites up to date so that all your members can be aware of what your chapter is doing this year. Our total membership is increasing and hopefully this is also the case for your chapter. We currently have nearly

4800 members and 53 national chapters. Please make the new members welcome in your chapter. Many will want to participate in the activities you run - and with your encouragement some will be able to help in running those activities.

SECRETARIAT

Diary Dates

26-28 Aug 2026 – STIAS Conference Centre | Stellenbosch
[IAH-South Africa Symposium 2026](#)

We are pleased to invite the groundwater community to participate in IAH-SA's flagship event for 2026, the symposium "Groundwater Quality: Assessment, Emerging Challenges and Sustainable Solutions". The symposium will bring together researchers, consultants, government representatives, industry professionals, and groundwater users for three days of scientific presentations, discussions, networking and collaboration.

<https://iah.org.za/>

27-28 August 2026– Online
[Second Pan-African Hydrogeology Congress](#)

The 2nd Pan-African Hydrogeology Congress is here!

Join us on 27-28 August 2026 for an exciting program featuring:

- 4 distinguished keynote speakers
- 150 submitted abstracts
- 52 oral presentations
- Nearly 100 Video-poster presentations
- Two invited talks

All on African Hydrogeology and groundwater topics!

Participation is free and open to all.

https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ekHRdOc6SX2W1upBI-utRw

14-18 Sep 2026 – Budapest, Hungary
[IAH 2026 – The 53rd World Groundwater Congress](#)

We are delighted to invite you to the 53rd World Groundwater Congress. This prestigious event returns to Hungary after half a century, and we are proud to welcome you again to the beautiful city of Budapest. The topics of the conference highlight the diverse and critical roles that groundwater plays in environmental sustainability, resource management, and societal well-being. Thus, we aim to provide a platform for leading experts, researchers, and professionals from around the globe to engage in discussions and explore the multifaceted role of groundwater in our world.

<https://iah2026budapest.com/>

19 Nov 2026 – Burlington House, London
[Ineson Lecture 2026](#)

The Ineson Meeting, a one-day event organised around the prestigious Ineson Lecture, is the IAH-GB Chapter's annual flagship event and is held in conjunction with the Hydro Group of the Geological Society. The lecture features a keynote speaker of international standing, supported by speakers and poster presentations from around the UK.

<https://britain.iah.org/iah-gb-activities-and-bursaries/ineson-lecture-2026>

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