

IAHS Bureau Meeting, 22 June 2015, Prague, Czech Republic

Report by Vice-President Prof Denis Hughes

TFDC

The status of the TFDC programme has now changed with the cessation of the publication of the 'Red Books' and the introduction of the online PIAHS (Proceedings of IAHS) produced and hosted by Copernicus in collaboration with IAHS. As Cate Gardener will report, all of the recipients of the Red Books through the TFDC programme have been informed of the change and how they will be able to access the PIAHS in the future.

The free library subscription to Hydrological Sciences Journal for the TFDC recipients remains the same. I would like to once again thank Cate Gardener (and Jill Gash before her retirement) for all their efforts in promoting the IAHS publications in developing countries. While we do not get a tremendous amount of feedback from the recipients, there are some who have often acknowledged the importance and expressed their gratitude for this free service.

Improving the profile of African hydrology research

During the Gothenburg IAHS meeting, a group of hydrologists (Denis Hughes, Graham Jewitt, Gil Mahe, Dominic Mazvimavi and Simon Stisen), involved in African hydrology research, and specifically the training of post-graduate students, proposed a special edition of the Hydrological Sciences Journal on African Hydrology and Water Resources Science. The editors agreed to support this process and we started with a call for abstracts in August 2013. The final production of this special edition is almost complete and we will have some 14 papers. I understand that the plan is for the special issue to be issue number 11 of 2015.

Now that we have nearly completed the process it is possible to reflect on the experience. The response to the call for abstracts was quite good, but the response to the invitation to submit final papers was less than good and perhaps this is a reflection of the fact that many African based scientists still find it difficult to get through the process of publishing high level scientific papers. I am experiencing similar issues as the African regional editor of the new Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies. Many of the papers submitted from the African region require several review iterations before they can be considered acceptable.

During the Kos HSJ editorial meeting, Denis Hughes, Kate Heal and Christian Leduc proposed to write an editorial/opinion paper on 'Improving the visibility of hydrological sciences from developing countries'. This paper was published in HSJ during 2014 (Issue 59/9) and we are all grateful for the useful comments from the HSJ editors, other members of the IAHS Bureau and an anonymous referee. I quite frequently direct authors (readily identifiable as younger authors) of relatively poorly prepared papers to this publication when they pass through my hands as a journal editor, associate editor or reviewer.

The special edition and the paper was really designed to improve the visibility of hydrology and water resources science research coming from developing countries, with a focus on Africa. They are also designed to highlight some of the constraints so that more groups (particularly within the developing countries themselves) are aware of them and will make greater efforts to overcome them. These issues were also highlighted in my contribution to the publication of the Dooge-Nash International Symposium (Dublin, 2014) entitled 'Hydrological research in the developing world –constraints on contributions from Africa'.

As this is my last Bureau Meeting, I would like to hope that IAHS will continue with (and possibly even expand) their efforts to support hydrological scientists from developing countries. I am happy to offer the new Vice-President responsible for this portfolio any future assistance that he or she deems appropriate.