

**INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE SYSTEMS (ICWRS)
Status Report April 2008**

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ICWRS Meetings 2006-2008

Scientific report Perugia HS3006

Changes in Water Resources Systems - Methodologies to Maintain Water Security and Ensure Integrated Management (Sponsor ICWRS)

As was confirmed during this symposium, water management is a very broad field, both in terms of methods and thematically. We saw methodological innovations from relatively mathematics-intensive reservoir operation algorithms to improved procedures for stakeholder involvement. The themes ranged from flood management in Europe to drought mitigation on the Arabian peninsula. Most presentations stressed that increased pressure on water systems can be observed around the globe, while the local setting determines the specific solution space. The heuristic value of the different cases and possible solutions was large but it is difficult to come to general scientific conclusions.

The overall interest in the symposium was large. A total of 116 abstracts were submitted, the largest number of all symposia and workshops. Of these abstracts, 65 were selected for the Red Book (IAHS #315). After review, 41 articles were published, of which 32 authors made it to Perugia for presentation in person. Geographically, there was a wide spread with contributors from 14 countries in the America, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

A relatively large number of studies addressed recent problems with water resources in China. The rapid economic development clearly puts pressure on rivers and groundwater resources, with agriculture as the largest water using sector. Especially the water-poor North China Plains are affected in this respect and measures are sought to reduce system evaporation instead of the more traditional efforts to increase irrigation efficiencies. The presentations and the Red Book give a good overview of the different problems and include many new data from China.

Many of the presentations showed that the stakeholder perspective is indeed finding its way into the science of water resources management. Specifically, examples from Kenya, USA, Brazil, Netherlands and Germany, showed how stakeholders are not mere consumers of scientific products and models but can, or should, also help set the research agenda.

ICWRS Meetings

Every other year, there is either an IAHS Scientific Assembly or an IUGG General Assembly. In the years between assemblies, ICWRS organizes a symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM). The third ICWRS symposium was held in 2006 in Bochum and was very well attended (see IAHS Publication 317). In 2008, the ICWRS Symposium will be held from 29 to 31 October in Johannesburg, South Africa, in close cooperation with Waternet (www.waternetonline.ihe.nl). Waternet, together with WARFSA and GWP-SA, organizes a symposium every year in Southern Africa on water resources management. In 2008, the 9th Waternet/WARFSA/GWP-SA symposium will be a joint event, co-organized by IAHS-ICWRS. Conveners will be Bekithemba Gumbo, Hubert Savenije, Nick van de Giesen, and Ayorinde Olufayo. The symposium will provide a platform for researchers, policymakers and other stakeholders to meet and exchange ideas. The theme will be "Water and Sustainable Development for Improved Livelihoods".

In addition, IAHS-WCRS will sponsor the following meetings in 2008:

- *Water Down Under 2008*, which will be held from 14 to 18 April in Adelaide, South Australia. See: www.waterdownunder2008.com.
- *HydroChange 2008*, which will be held from 1 to 3 October in Kyoto, at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature. The theme is "Hydrological changes and management from headwater to the ocean". See: www.chikyu.ac.jp/HC_2008.
- *International Symposium on the Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management*, which will be held on 14-16 October on the Isle of Capri, Naples/Italy. This symposium is organized by the Italian IHP committee and co-sponsored by UNESCO. The purpose of the symposium is to discuss ways in which hydrologists can contribute most effectively to planning and management of freshwater projects. See: www.ihp2008capri.it
- In connection with this symposium, a workshop will be organized on Capri from 13-14 October under the title *New Statistical Tools in Hydrology*. This workshop will officially launch the new "Statistics in Hydrology" Working Group (STAHY-WG).
- *International Symposium on Hydrology, Hydraulics and Water Resources Aspects on Global Water Issues for 30th Anniversary of Water Resources Research Center*, which will be held at Kyoto University on 21st November. Its subject is the impact of climate change on river basins and water use.

Nick van de Giesen, Secretary ICWRS