

INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE SYSTEMS (ICWRS)

Status Report June 2016

Commission membership

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Description of activity July 2015 – May 2016

Statement on adaptation of water resources systems

After the meeting in Prague the Commission completed the statement “A Need for Action to Develop Water Resources Management Systems”. The statement is published at http://iahs.info/news/?news_id=137#.V1hGBJ7Oj0P and was already linked by several sister associations (see the announcement on the CUAHSI web site, <https://www.cuahsi.org/Posts/Entry/26925>)- Moreover, a paper was submitted to HSJ to present the statement. The paper is now being revised on the basis of the review reports.

ICWRS Meetings

Every other year, there is either an IAHS Scientific Assembly or an IUGG General Assembly. In the years between assemblies, ICWRS usually organizes a symposium on IWRM. The title of this meeting was changed by decision of the commission 2015 from “Integrated Water Resources Management” into International Water Resources Management (IWRM).

In the year 2016, ICWRS organized the 7th IWRM-symposium with the title: “The spatial dimensions of water management - Redistribution of benefits and risks” (<http://iahs-rub.hydrology.ruhr-uni-bochum.de/>) at the Ruhr- University in Bochum, Germany. The symposium took place during May 18-20, 2016. It brought together 90 experts from different countries and expertises in a stimulating environment to present research ideas and results to bring hydrology into the future by reaching an improved connection with society. The conference represented another key step to provide a summary of the relevant research activity that is being carried out on the theme of hydrology and society. The conference was framed within the Panta Rhei research initiative of IAHS and focused on water resources assessment and management in a

changing environment. Water resources systems, catchment hydrology, eco-hydrology, groundwater hydrology, water security and socio-hydrology were the driving themes.

The conference hosted the second Peter Loucks Lecture, a distinguished presentation given by a renowned scientist on water resources management. The Lecture is promoted by the International Commission on Water Resources Systems of IAHS. The second lecturer has been Prof. Patricia Gober (University of Arizona), speaking about: “Why we need a new paradigm for water resources modelling and management”.

Proceedings of the conference were published in the Proceedings of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (PIAHS), and are available through open access at <http://www.proc-iahs.net/373/index.html>. The proceedings collect 28 articles. It has to be mentioned that the number of presentations given at the conference was significantly higher (47). Several authors did not submitted their contribution for a publication in the proceedings. The papers focus on a broad variety of topics associated with water resources assessment and management in a changing environment, and concentrate in particular on the two-way interaction between water and society. Water resources systems, catchment hydrology, eco-hydrology, groundwater hydrology, water security and socio-hydrology are driving scientific areas, which are grouped in five chapters associated with the following main themes: (A) Spatial aspects of water supply and the redistribution of benefits from water; (B) Floods and spatial aspects of flood risks; (C) Spatial dimensions of water scarcity; (D) Hydrological regionalization issues; (E) The spatial dimension in socio-hydrology.

The collection of papers, in virtue of the broad spectrum of geographic and climatic conditions and the composite palette of emerging and topical water issues addressed by the studies, represents a unique piece of knowledge for advancing our understanding of water-society interactions, improving integrated water resources systems management and governance and addressing the water problems for the next generations.

The conference was accompanied by a short course about top-kriging for young scientists, given by scientists from the Technical University of Vienna and organised by Günter Blöschl. It was well attended (25 participants).

Furthermore, the Commission is actively involved in the organization of several workshops and symposia during the IAHS Assembly to be held in South Africa

Alberto Montanari, President ICWRS

Andreas Schumann, President-elect ICWRS