

Report: Benjamin Wullobayi Dekongmen (SYSTA 2023 Awardee)

The IAHS 2023 SYSTA offered me a historic and significant milestone in my academic career journey.

The Panta Rhei Symposium (PRS) at Potsdam, GFZ began the journey of my insightful experience through research presentations, discussions of the preceding decade's (2013–2022) activities and the proposed way forward into the new HELPING decade.

During PRS, I had the rare opportunity to engage with internationally recognized hydrologists, researchers, engineers and practitioners who shared their knowledge and innovative methodologies. Following the PRS at Potsdam, I attended the much anticipated IUGG 2023 General Assembly, at the CityCube, Berlin. I also had the opportunity to attend several keynote sessions and presentations by eminent scholars, researchers and scientists, to deepen my knowledge about the innovative advancements in the field of hydrology. Presenting my research findings during the IUGG 2023 was a significant moment in my academic career as a first-time presenter at such an assembly.

The early career scientists (ECS) workshops, organized by the ECS Committee, also offered me a unique platform to network with fellow researchers and scientists and provided a plethora of innovative ideas, which inspired me to seek new enriching knowledge in the subject. During the poster sessions, social events and coffee breaks, I was able to establish contacts with a lot of researchers whose expertise align with my research focus, and the potential openings for future fellowships, collaborations and partnerships.

The experience gained through attendance at this assembly was a transformative experience for my career development, and will undoubtedly manifest a positive and long-lasting significance in my career. I gained an aptitude in presenting my research findings and effective communication techniques to engage with diverse audiences.

I am deeply grateful to IAHS for the invaluable sponsorship (SYSTA 2023), and I assure IAHS that the investment made in me as an early career scientist has been justified. The first time I have travelled out of my home country (Ghana) has been an unforgettable experience that I will forever cherish.

Figure 1: Awardees group presentation picture. Photo: IAHS.

Figure 2: A picture with IAHS Secretariat Staff (left: Dr Claire Lupton; right: Tarryn Payne).
Photo: IAHS.

Figure 3: Presenting at IUGG 2023. Photo: IAHS.