

Working Group on “Groundwater and Climate Change” Report for 2004

Co-Chairmen:

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This new working group was established in autumn 2003, and its homepage can be found at:

<http://www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk/iwe/projects/iahgroup/>

In 2004, the Working Group has co-organized a workshop, hosted a special conference session and is currently organizing a conference and workshop for spring 2005. The first event was a workshop on ‘Groundwater Dynamics and Global Change’ at the Agricultural University of Norway in April 2004, which was co-organized with the International Union of Quaternary Research. The workshop was a great success with 20 oral presentations (plus posters) given within sessions on "Groundwater and climate change", "Groundwater and sea-level fluctuations", "Long term groundwater dynamics and ecosystems" and "Palaeo-groundwater modelling". Delegates came from as far afield as Canada, South Africa, Bulgaria and Mozambique. The programme and extended abstracts can be found at <http://inqua.umb.no/commpl/programme.doc>

A special session on the “Impact of climatic changes on groundwater resources”, chaired by W. Dragoni (Italy) and B.S. Sukhija (India) was organized at the 32nd International Geological Congress in August 2004 in Florence. Eight papers and fourteen posters were presented describing world wide case studies of the visible effects of climatic changes on groundwater.

The Working Group was represented at the 2nd Israel/Palestine International Conference on Water and Life (Antalya, October 2004), the International Symposium on ‘Quaternary and Global Changes: Review and Issues’ (Orléans, France June 2004) and an International Symposium on ‘Research Basins and the Hydrologic Planning’ (Hefei, China, March 2004).

Finally, on the 4th – 6th April 2005, our group is holding a one-day Conference (4th) and Working Group workshop (5th) on ‘Groundwater and climate change’ at the University of East Anglia, UK. To register, please contact Rosie Cullington (r.cullington@uea.ac.uk). This event will also combine with the 2nd meeting of the ‘Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change’ (GRAPHIC) project- a UNESCO IHP, IGRAC and GWSP project.