

Working Group on “Groundwater and Climate Change” Report for 2005

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On 4-6 April 2005, our Working Group organised the first Conference and Workshop on “Groundwater and Climate Change” at the University of East Anglia in Norwich, UK. The aim of this conference, which was sponsored by the British National Chapter of IAH, the Environment Agency for England & Wales and Severn Trent Water Ltd, was to bring together current research on the various interactions between groundwater and climate change and to exchange knowledge and experience between hydrogeologists and other scientists, engineers and decision-makers. 40 delegates participated at this meeting, which included a scientific conference, a Working Group workshop and a one-day field trip. There were 10 oral presentations given by speakers from UK, India, Italy USA, Netherlands and Canada and 9 poster presentations at the conference. A summary of the meeting has been published as the lead article in the monthly magazine of the Geological Society of London:

Pointer C (2006) Groundwater and Climate Change. *Geoscientist*, 16 (3), 4-7.

Other activities resulting from the meeting include a closer collaboration between the IAH Working Group and the UNESCO-IHP GRAPHIC (Groundwater Resources Assessment under the Pressures of Humanity and Climate Change) project. Kevin Hiscock (UK) will be representing IAH at the next international symposium of GRAPHIC, which is being held from 4-6 April at the Research Institute for Humanity and Nature, Kyoto, Japan. Arie Issar has contributed a presentation with the title “Storage and desalination of water of inferior quality produced in densely populated urban areas, as a measure to mitigate impact of dry climate”.

In 2005, our Working Group started the organisation of two events that will take place in 2006. The first is a Workshop on “Global change and subterranean groundwater resources in the Mediterranean basin” that will be held during the International Congress on Groundwater in Mediterranean Countries (AQUAiNMED) on 24-28 April 2006 in Málaga, Spain:

<http://aguas.igme.es/igme/AQUAiNMED/ing/defaultc.htm>.

The second event is a session on “Water resources and climatic changes” that will be held during the 8th Conference on Limestone Hydrogeology in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, on 21-23 September 2006. A post conference field trip on 24-25 September will visit an alpine glacierised karst aquifer system, where the impact of climate-change induced glacier retreat on a linked groundwater body can be studied. For details see:

<http://www.hydrokarst.org>

The papers from both events will be published in Conference Proceedings. To date, 9 communications dealing with groundwater and climate change have been submitted to the workshop in Malaga, and 14 to the thematic session in Neuchâtel.