

Working Group on “Groundwater and Climate Change”, Report for 2006

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Working Group Homepage: www.silsoe.cranfield.ac.uk/iwe/projects/iahgroup/

During the International Congress on Groundwater in Mediterranean Countries that took place in Malaga, Spain, 24-28 April 2006, our group organised a session on climate change and groundwater with 8 presentations, chaired by N. Goldscheider. Eilon Adar, in replacement of Arie Issar, gave an exciting keynote lecture about “the impact of climate changes on the hydrology of the Iberian peninsula – the past as a key for the future”. The papers were published in a separate volume of the proceedings, together with articles dealing with karst hydrogeology (Eds.: Duran, Andreo, Carrasco).

A session on “water resources and climatic changes” was also organised during the 8th Conference on Limestone Hydrology in Neuchâtel, Switzerland, 21-25 September 2006. One of the papers describes a 127-year data series from the Vaucluse spring in France (Cognard-Plancq et al.), available in the conference proceedings (Eds.: Goldscheider, Mudry, Savoy, Zwahlen). Nico Goldscheider and colleagues organised a 2-day post-conference field trip to a retreating glacier in the Swiss Alps, which overlies a karst aquifer used for drinking water supply. A research project dedicated to this problem has started in 2006.

Walter Dragoni (Italy) and Balbir S. Sukhija (India) edited a book entitled “Groundwater and Climatic Change” with 13 contributions from different teams of authors, mostly case studies from different countries and climatic regions. The book will be published in 2007.

Richard Taylor (UK) and Callist Tindimugaya (Uganda) are preparing an international conference on Groundwater & Climate in Africa that will take place in Kampala, Uganda, 25-28 June 2008. For details see: www.gwclim.org/

Ian Holman and fellow Working Group member Kevin Hiscock (UK) are organizing a poster session on the theme of “Groundwater: Climate change implications” at the 200th Anniversary Conference of the Geological Society on September 10-12th 2007. Further details at: http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/template.cfm?name=Bicentenary_Conference

Since 2006, several papers dealing with groundwater and climate change have been published in international journals, including papers written by members of our working group in Hydrogeology Journal. We only mention two examples:

Holman IP (2006): Climate change impacts on groundwater recharge-uncertainty, shortcomings, and the way forward? *Hydrogeol. J.*, 14: 637-647

Woldeamlak ST, Batelaan O, De Smedt F: Effects of climate change on the groundwater system in the Grote-Nete catchment, Belgium. *Hydrogeol. J.*, published online.

Cambridge University Press announced the printing of a paperback and e-net edition of Arie Issar’s book of 2003 “Climate Changes during the Holocene and their Impact on Hydrological Systems”. Springer Verlag is preparing an updated edition of his book with Mattanyh Zohar “Climate Change - Environment and Civilization in the Middle East”, first published in 2004.

Arie Issar will soon retire from his position as a chairman, which he held since the foundation of our group in 2003. In the name of the entire working group, the two co-chairmen thank him for contributing by his great experience and enthusiasm.