

# INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE SYSTEMS (ICWRS)

## Status Report April 2006

### Commission membership

Hubert Savenije	President
Dan Rosbjerg	Past President
Miguel A. Mariño	Vice-President
Toshiharu Kojiri	Vice-President
Günter Blöschl	Vice-President
Andreas H. Schumann	Secretary

### 1. Activities 2005 - 2006

Since the last status report of March 2005 two meetings of the ICWRS Bureau took place: at the 6th April 2005 in Foz do Iguacu, Brazil, during the General Assembly of IAHS and at the 5th April 2006 in Vienna during the EGS conference. In Foz the commission convened the symposium S2 with the topic "Sustainable Water Management Solutions for Large Cities". In total 80 papers have been submitted. 27 papers were accepted. Unfortunately the number of absent authors was significant. For the future the commission proposes to include the full papers on a CD-ROM, which will be distributed to participants of the meetings, and to publish only those papers in a Red Book which were presented at the meetings (pre-published proceedings). The other contribution of ICWRS to the IAHS Assembly was the workshop entitled "Hydrological basis of dam safety with respect to floods". This workshop was dedicated to the problems of design floods for obtaining a required dam safety level at sites with limited data availability.

The commission has co-sponsored the IAHR- Conference in Seoul 12-15 September 2005, Korea. ICWRS participated in the special session of "Innovative perspectives of integrated water resources management under changing world conditions" at the XXXI IAHR Congress in Seoul, 2005. The President of ICWRS Hubert Savenije gave an invited presentation called "Water Resources Management Concepts and Issues", in which he presented the view of ICWRS. Other invited speakers presented the approach of similar organizations (IWRA, IWA, IAHR). Proceedings will be prepared in the Journal Physics and Chemistry of the Earth.

ICWRS was also a co-sponsor of the 6th International Conference "Sharing a common vision of our water resources" of EWRA, 7-10 September 2005, Menton, France, where A. Schumann represented IAHS. The topics of this conference covered a wide field of hydrology and water management:

- Integrated Water Management
- Water Quality Challenges
- GIS, Data Bases and Remote Sensing
- Advanced Research in Water Models
- Information et Socioéconomie de l'eau
- Groundwater Quality
- Protecting the Water Environment
- EU WFD and Water Management
- Decision Support Systems
- Groundwater
- Qualité de l'eau et environnement
- Climate Impact
- Gestion intégrée des problèmes de l'eau
- Drought Management
- Hydrologie et hydrogéologie
- Hydrology Parameters.

However the total number of participants and the international distribution of speakers was not appropriated to this holistic subject. An issue of conference proceedings is not planned. Unfortunately the planned cooperation of ICWRS with the HELP- initiative of UNESCO was

not stimulated by this conference. A planned joint session of EWRA, UNESCO (HELP) and ICWRS, could not be realized as the UNESCO was not represented in Menton.

The Commission is representing IAHS now in the editorial board of the Journal of River Basin Management. A. Schumann became a co-editor of JRBM.

## **2. Activities 2006- 2007**

The commission co-sponsors the International Conference on Hydrology in Asia, Guangzhou, China, June 8-10, 2006. This international conference aims to offer a multi-disciplinary platform for water experts and professionals, within and outside of the region, to exchange their views and research findings on a wide range of water problems in Asia. It will be an excellent opportunity for hydrologists from developed and developing countries around the globe to meet and jointly search for more effective and science-based solutions for water management in Asian countries. Andreas Schumann will represent ICWRS in Guangzhou.

The main ongoing activity of ICWRS in 2006 will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Integrated Water Resources Management which will be hosted by the Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany, (Institute of Hydrology, Water Resources Management and Environmental Engineering), in cooperation with UNESCO-IHE Delft, The Netherlands, United Nations University Bonn, Germany, (Institute for Environment and Human Security) and UNESCO-IHP/WMO-HWRP, Koblenz, Germany. This symposium, held in Bochum, Germany, from 26 – 28 September 2006, addresses this evolution with the overarching theme “Reducing the Vulnerability of Societies Against Water Related Risks at the Basin Scale”. The subject of this conference is of global concern, which is reflected by the distribution of abstracts received from scientists, industry representatives, members of water authorities and students from Africa (57), Asia (248), Europe (289), North America (25), Oceania (16) and from South America (42). In total 679 abstracts have been submitted to the four main topics of this symposium, which take into account the interdisciplinary character of water resources management, by considering hydrological, technical, environmental and socio-economic aspects:

From headwaters to the mouth – vulnerable interactions between landscapes, water and societies: 202 abstract submissions

Flood risk – flood vulnerability – flood protection (a contribution to the International Flood Initiative): 144 abstract submissions

Water management as a problem: 83 abstract submissions

Water management as a solution: 250 abstract submissions

The conference papers will be published in a special issue of the IAHS Red Book series.

During the meeting of the ICWRS Bureau in April 2006 in Vienna the bureau decided to co-sponsor two sessions on IWRM during the next General Assembly of EGS in Vienna, Austria in April 2007, on: 1) Integrated Water Resources Assessment, with special focus on Developing Countries; and 2) Instruments for Integrated Water Resources Management.

The contribution of ICWRS to the XXIV IUGG Assembly in Perugia in 2007 will be the symposium “Changes in Water Resources Systems - Methodologies to Maintain Water Security and Ensure Integrated Management”, and a workshop “New Avenues for Contemporary Water Resources Management”, both led by the commission. The commission co-sponsors the following symposia and workshops: “Quantification and Reduction of Predictive Uncertainty for Sustainable Water Resources Management” and “From Measurements and Calibration to Understanding and Predictions”.

Hubert Savenije, President, ICWRS

Andreas Schumann, Secretary, ICWRS