

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE IAH NETWORK ON GROUNDWATER IN URBAN AREAS (IAH-UGN) FOR 2013



Director: Ken Howard - University of Toronto Scarborough, 1265 Military Trail,
Scarborough, Ontario, M1C 1A4 CANADA

Co-Director positions, although advertised, remained open throughout 2013.

Activities and outputs during the calendar year 2013

The IAH Network on Groundwater in Urban Areas was formally launched on July 1st, 2011 and saw its first full year of activity in 2012. It didn't meet formally, during 2012 but continued to provide a networking service to members, provided introductions and referrals as appropriate, and played a co-ordinating role where necessary, linking members to various urban groundwater activities and initiatives.

The "Networking" function of the IAH-UGN continued throughout 2013. The search for new directors continued but this was not pursued vigorously as the stream of activities continued with little need for intervention or direction.

1) In March, 2013 I attended The Hague, Netherlands, on behalf of the IAH-UGN to present an invited paper on "Urban-rural tensions and opportunities for co-management. Groundwater Governance. A Global Framework for Action". This meeting was the Fifth GEF Regional Consultation: UNECE Region, and was held at The Hague Institute for Global Justice, 19–21 March, 2013. During the meeting I held a side workshop discussing urban governance issues as input to the final GEF documents. The thematic paper on urban groundwater was published in line:

http://www.groundwatergovernance.org/fileadmin/user_upload/groundwatergovernance/docs/Thematic_papers/GWG_Thematic_Paper_3_web.pdf

2) In April 2013 I attended my first meeting of an "Expert Panel" charged with overseeing a long-term international project that aims to provide the island city of Singapore with a sustainable groundwater supply. This activity, and my involvement, provides an excellent illustration of the international role/function of the IAH-UGN and the contribution it can make. Dr. Jimmy Jiao from Hong Kong, a long-term member of the IAH Urban Groundwater Commission (IAH-UGC) prior to its transition to the IAH-UGN in 2011, is also a member of the Expert Panel.

3) My work with the IAH-UGN also led to my appointment during 2013 as an "Expert Panel Member" to review ongoing investigations into a groundwater supply for the City of Saint John, New Brunswick, Canada.

4) In July, 2013 I was invited to the KIGAM International Symposium on Ecohydrology and Groundwater Sustainability in Seoul, Korea where I presented a paper on "Groundwater-surface water interactions and the role of the hyporheic zone from an urban perspective". This meeting laid the groundwork for Korea's bid for an IAH Congress in 2018. The role of groundwater in Asian megacities was discussed as a possible sub-theme for this Congress.



5) During the year I was invited by Environment Canada to co-ordinate the writing of a report commissioned under the US-Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement entitled "Impacts of Urban Developments and Infrastructure on Groundwater." This work involved several Canadian members of the IAH-UGN, together with representatives of the US geological Survey.

6) The 2013 IAH Congress was held in Perth, Australia, one of very few Australian cities that is highly dependent on groundwater. We did not hold an urban groundwater session at this meeting but did have a side meeting of the IAH-UGN. Unfortunately, no volunteers came forward to fill the vacant Directors' positions.

7) Work continued on the preparation of a manuscript (Wolf, L., Howard, K.W.F. and Kralisch), entitled "Innovative groundwater management" to be published in "Potable Water Supply Options – Beyond Reverse Osmosis", eds. Burn, S., Gray, S. and Begbie, D. This manuscript was originally commissioned by Stewart Burn, one of authors of AISUWRS "Assessing and Improving Sustainability of Urban Water Resources and Systems" a major study undertaken in the early 2000s by a team involving several key members of the Commission on Urban Groundwater (IAH-UGC) the precursor to the IAH-UGN) including its co-Chair, the late Matthias Eiswirth.

8) As a follow-up to the keynote urban groundwater paper I gave in Aurangabad, India in December 2012, I published the following paper: Howard, K.W.F., 2013. Peri-urban conflicts over groundwater due to population growth. Journal of Groundwater Research, Vol.2 no.2, 16-30.

Ken Howard
gwater@utsc.utoronto.ca