

IAH Commission on Transboundary Aquifers

Workshop – 22nd Sept 2019

***Future of Transboundary Aquifers:
Research, Management, and Policy Directions***
&
“Transboundary Aquifers” Award

(to be held at the Centre of Hydrogeology, University of Malaga¹, as a pre-conference event at the IAH 46th Congress, Malaga, Spain)

This workshop, organised by the IAH Commission on Transboundary Aquifers will take stock of the whole question of “transboundary aquifers” that has evolved in the past twenty years, since the launch of the IAH Commission. The aim of the workshop is to take a good and a clear eyed look at the future – setting out “the way forward” on the required research, policy directions and effective management. This will guide the next phase of the work of the IAH Commission, as well as offer a framework for other partners (such as UNESCO, UN ECE, and others) to engage in the sustainability of these resources.

A new Award has been set up by the IAH Commission. Calls will shortly be sent out to the transboundary aquifer community soliciting applications for the award. The first award will be made in the Malaga Transboundary Aquifers workshop, during the IAH Malaga Congress.

The proposed theme of the workshop is ***“The Future of Transboundary Aquifers: Research, Management, and Policy Directions.”*** Discussion of the future requires taking stock of the current situation and past activities. Since the IAH Commission was launched in the late 1990’s, global inventories have been prepared, thorough legal framework guidance has been developed, significant recognition of their prevalence has been achieved and in a number of such aquifers cooperation between countries is advancing. Yet it may argued that together with national groundwater resources, transboundary resources still receive scant attention, despite these resources often having a critical role in the national socio – economics. The workshop will facilitate discussion on research, management and practice needed for their mainstreaming in the coming years. It remains unclear to what extent the now ratified UN Convention on International Water Courses, and the UN ECE Convention on Transboundary Water Courses provide a complete framework for transboundary aquifers, that enables countries to effectively utilise and manage these resources. It may be noted that the case of non recharging aquifers, which have in them storage of some of the largest resources, remain largely unregulated under international water law. The workshop will address these issues and will also formulate a work programme for the IAH Commission for the future (2020 to 2030).

Participation – the event is planned as an open event, and all IAH members, as well as non members are welcome to attend. No participation fees, additional to the IAH Congress fees, are required (see <https://iah2019.adabyron.uma.es/event/1/> for registering for the IAH Congress). However, for this workshop a registration form (at the end of this notice) should be completed and submitted.

¹ Location <http://cehiuma.uma.es/en/situacion.asp>

Presentations and discussion – the primary aim of the workshop is lively discussion. Contributions as short presentations and items for discussions are invited from all interested colleagues, as follows:

Keynote on Taking Stock

A keynote will provide the background addressing cutting edge research – international water law, science of aquifers, management and governance, environmental significance, non recharging aquifers.

Forward Looking presentations and discussions

Science and data requirements in the future management, law and policy perspectives, socio economy and governance and institutional evolution required

Presentations – *An abstract (300 words) is requested.* It should contain the name of the author, co authors, affiliation, whether member or non member of the IAH. The abstract should succinctly set out the key issue being addressed, the relevance of the issue to either “stock taking” or “future developments and needs”.

Proposed Structure of the conference (1400 to 1800 22nd Sept 2019)

- Welcome/Introduction
- Taking stock: Keynote speaker
- Lightning presentations on taking stock (6 mins each)
 - short presentations on cutting edge research
- Forward-looking presentations (10 mins each)
 - Scientific and data-oriented perspectives
 - Law and policy perspectives
 - Socio-economic perspectives
- Moderated roundtable on future research, management & policy directions
- Moderated open forum
 - Discussion regarding the IAH Commission on TBAs
 - Purpose/role of the Commission
 - How the Commission can better serve IAH and non-IAH TBAs audience
 - What should be on the Commission’s agenda (e.g., priorities, tasks, schedule, etc.)
 - What should be the Commission’s targeted work product
- Closing remarks

The presentation of the **Award on Transboundary Aquifers** will be made at the Ice Breaker Reception of the IAH Congress on the 22nd Sept 2019.

Deadline for the submission of abstracts is 30th April 2019

Acceptance of the abstract and notification will be made by 30th June 2019

CONTACT Please reply to the following email to register for the Conference and to submit abstracts: TransboundaryAquifers@gmail.com