



International Association of Hydrogeologists

Annual report 2009 of the Netherlands National Chapter of IAH

President Theo Olsthoorn
Secretary/Treasurer Sophie Vermooten
Members/Advisors Albert Tuinhof, Jan Pieter Heederik, Michael van der Valk

The Board of the Netherlands National Chapter (NNC) meets in principle once every three months and aims at organising a hydrogeological seminar or workshop every two/three years. In 2009 the NNC has undertaken – or was involved in the following activities.

A new board

In May 2009, a new board was installed during the Dutch General Assembly Meeting. Theo Olsthoorn succeeded Albert Tuinhof as president of the board. Sophie Vermooten succeeded Jan Piet Heederik as secretary/treasurer. Both Albert Tuinhof and Jan Piet Heederik remain in the board as members/advisors. Co de Vries left the board after many years of active involvement.

IAH president Willi Struckmeijer was invited at this meeting to introduce himself as the new president and to share ideas and experience related to the position of IAH National Chapters within their respective countries and possibilities of enhanced collaboration with similar national organisations (like the Netherlands Hydrological Society, NHV). Frank van Steenbergen gave a presentation titled 'The deep and the shallow groundwater management at the centre of river basin management'. The meeting was closed by a guided 'water tour' through the city of Gouda and a diner.

Members

In 2009 the Netherlands Chapter counted 92 members: 72 regular members and 20 Burdon members. The board is concerned by the decrease in number of members in recent years and believes an effort should be made in attracting young hydrogeologists to become members.

Website

By the end of 2009, the first website of the Netherlands Chapter of IAH was set up (<http://iah.hydrology.nl>). It will gradually be developed to facilitate and intensify communication with our members.

Communicating with cartoon

The Netherlands Chapter developed a series of (13) cartoons as a communication tool for groundwater people representing concepts like 'groundwater ownership', 'groundwater buffer', 'groundwater exploration', groundwater monitoring etc... They are in process of being made available through the newly developed website and can be

used by anyone in lectures, presentations or publication to trigger the audience or the reader.

3 of the 13 cartoons

<p>Who owns the groundwater?</p>	<p>How vulnerable is groundwater?</p>	<p>Bottled water and tap water: the same source?</p>

Information rescue

In 2009, the board took the initiative to contact 'retired-members' to make an inventory of paper reports and publications regarded as valuable or even containing unique information on groundwater and hydrogeology in the countries where they were professionally active, especially regarding developing countries. There is a strong concern that valuable analogue data and information will be lost in the coming years regarding international projects carried out in the 70's and 80's. Little response was received and the board is still investigating how to proceed with this initiative.

International activities

As a follow-up of our support to the Nepal National Chapter of IAH, the board is investigating whether support could be given to the newly set up Chapter of Mongolia through one of the Dutch members who is stationed there.

With respect to the international activities and working groups of IAH, the board members contributed in the following way;

- Albert Tuinhof is member of the IAH MAR Commission
- Michael van der Valk represents the Netherlands in UNESCO-IHP. He coordinated a session on Groundwater and Climate Change during the UN Climate Change Conference (COP-15) in Copenhagen, Denmark, together with the Netherlands National Committee IHP-HWRP, University College London (UCL), IGRAC, AMCOW, UNESCO's IHP and the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland (GEUS). See <http://www.hydrology.nl/ihpevents/65-cop-15.html>.

The Netherlands National Chapter also keeps close contact with the WMO/UNESCO International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre (IGRAC), which is funded by the Government of the Netherlands and hosted at Deltares, and with the World Bank Groundwater Management Advisory Team (GW-MATE) of which Albert Tuinhof is a member. It closely cooperates with the Netherlands National Committee IHP-HWRP and the Netherlands Hydrological Society (NHV) in organizing joint events.

Events

- 'Hydrology for the plan-Veerman'; On behalf of IAH Michael van der Valk coordinated the input in the one-day conference together with the Netherlands Hydrological Society (at Deltares, Delft, May 2009). <http://www.nhv.nu/hydrologische-kijk-op-het-plan-veerman>

- **'Henry Darcy Lecture 2009 & Isotopes and tracers in hydrology'** at the VU in Amsterdam, 5 november 2009.
<http://www.hydrology.nl/ihevents/66-ihpisotopes2009.html>

Publications

- The **'Arsenic in groundwater – a world problem'** publication has been distributed during several congresses and is still available in hard copy format. It can be ordered by contacting the board of the NNC. It is also available digitally at <http://www.hydrology.nl/iahpublications/70-arsenic-in-groundwater.html>
- Members of the IAH Netherlands Chapter were also involved in the publication **'Managing the Water Buffer for Development and Climate Change Adaptation'**. This publication explores how to maximize the use of groundwater and rainwater for development and climate change adaptation in an approach called 3R. 3R stands for Recharge, Retention and Reuse.
www.waterandclimate.org/UserFiles/File/3r_managing_the_water_buffer_2009.pdf