

WHAT WAS GEOETH&GWM'20 MADE OF

From the **August IAH** just issued **newsletter** we pick the following words and numbers:

A Question of Ethics

Following the successful transfer of the IAPG (International Association for Promoting Geoethics) 'Geoethics and Groundwater Management' conference online (see next page for the report from the organising committee), it is worth drawing attention to the IAH's own statement relating to geoethics.

IAH's ethics statement was drafted with a particular aim of helping us to be clear about our relationship with corporate sponsorship. Sponsors should be able to show that their activities are compatible with and will not compromise our values or obligations for managing groundwater.

We expect sponsors to be able to commit to this, for example as part of a memorandum of agreement. Sponsors should be able to show compatibility through their own written policies, or statements about their activities and behaviours, in regard to corporate social responsibility and sustainable environmental management.

We also refer to the IAPG "Cape Town Statement on Geoethics" which notes that geoscientists investigate, seek to manage and intervene in various components of the Earth system to support human life and well-being, to defend people against geohazards and to ensure natural resources are managed and used sustainably. In doing so, geoscientists must embrace ethical values in order to best to serve the public good. (For further information, see <http://www.geoethics.org/ctsg>).

You can find the full statement at <https://iah.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/IAH-and-ethical-sponsoring.pdf>

Secretariat

- <https://iah.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/IAH-and-ethical-sponsoring.pdf>
- <http://www.geoethics.org/>

Report from Manuel Abrunhosa

IAH & IAPG Geoethics & Groundwater Management Congress

This joint congress was devised to invite discussion about the concept of Hydrogeoethics, a novel transdisciplinary geoscience bringing together the theory, practice, and values of both hydrogeology and geoethics.

Hosted by the IAH's Portuguese Chapter and IAPG (International Association for Promoting Geoethics) the congress aimed to appeal to all those working in the many fields relating to groundwater, but contributions were welcomed from a mix of disciplines besides science – humanities, law, education, religion, citizenship, and the arts. As IAH members will recall, the congress was originally scheduled to run in mid-May 2020 as a conventional face-to-face event. In the planned week-long conference, three days were reserved to sessions, some running in parallel, that would be composed of presentations based on previously submitted peer-reviewed 4-6 pages extended abstracts, followed by two-day post-conference field trips in continental Portugal, Madeira and the Azores. An artistic symbolic logo was produced, and a dedicated website built.

Arrangements were on track until late March 2020. Then came the declaration by the World Health Organisation (WHO) regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, soon followed by the state of emergency in Portugal and the likely threat of a more global lockdown. The local organising committee considered the risks and uncertainties for the congress, just as we groundwater people in science and engineering are used to dealing with day to day in our work. Knowing that groundwater flow and the plethora of associated questions that motivated the congress were continuing, a guiding motto emerged: *The science must go on*".

Thus, the somewhat daring decision was taken to maintain the fast approaching date and do whatever possible to convert the congress to a fully online five-day event. The organising committee felt this was important not only to maintain the standing of IAH and IAPG, but also **in recognition of the many authors, reviewers and the prospective attendants that had up to that moment demonstrated a strong will to contribute**. Effort was made to widen further the participation and to create from scratch a digital solution for a 100% online conference, with pre-recorded video content and accompanying textual information. It was felt that it should emulate as closely as possible the initial concept and the expected face-to-face rich experience with minimum loss, despite just one and a half months in which to organise it. This was certainly ambitious for the team of five people that couldn't meet in person, **but was possible thanks to the commitment and competence of Ex Ordo, the digital solutions company**, which as well as continuing to manage the administration, abstracts, etc. built the customised online platform to support the congress on the go, responding to some pretty demanding specifications. The organising committee was also able to count upon the extraordinary help of the many reviewers and the hundreds of authors that contributed. In a short time, late submissions were reviewed, and **all of the presenters positively responded to the request to submit early their presentations, with narration included**. Not only that but to adhere to a strict template for conversion in video format for the congress platform.

Doing this without flaw in so short a time and during difficult times for all truly deserves the highest praise. And so, it came that just a few hours ahead of the opening, the full structure and contents were ready to be put online, without sufficient time for testing. During the congress week, contents were being released on a day-to-day basis supported by the fully functional and coherent online solution. The system was programmed to put the contents online in a sequence following a schedule beginning at 9:00 Universal Time. This resulted in the sessions being activated to the comfort of the first expected attendants of each day, in Oceania and East Asia. This daily opening was synchronous worldwide and thereafter all inaugurated contents remained active any time.

The congress ran smoothly in the inaugural week with an attendance that reached 178 registrants, with the plan that the content remains online until mid-August. Those registered have been able to appreciate the content in comfort, anytime, anywhere!

The organising committee was pleased to see that following this congress, and inspired by its efforts, the Hydrogeology Group of the Geological Society of London organised a webinar on hydrogeoethics on 18 June which engaged wide participation. Looking ahead, we hope that the concept of hydrogeoethics will continue to be developed in the near future via research and action. It is clear that we all need to recognise the importance and positive impact this fresh approach can have on sustainable development, with groundwater as a focal point to integrated water resources management.

Manuel Abrunhosa

***IAH Secretariat post:** We add our congratulations to the organisers of the 'Geoethics and Groundwater Management' conference for highlighting this subject - and thank them for all the hard work involved in making the successful move online!*

in numbers...

- 138 individuals in the Scientific Committee
- 14 national and international supporting organisations
- 6 sponsors
- 227 authors
- 47 countries (with mention) represented in authorship, of which 17 from Europe; 11 from Africa; 10 from the Americas; 8 countries from Asia; 1 country from Oceania
- 14 keynote lectures (30 minute videos with narration)
- 81 oral presentations (10 minute videos with narration)
- 17 poster presentations (3 minute videos with narration)
- 12 addresses/ speeches
- 132 videos (narrated presentations, addresses/speeches, cultural moments, and movies)
- 178 registrations, plus invited guests
- 1 e-book of abstracts with 118 pages (ISBN: 978-989-96523-2-3) edited during the inaugural week and free to download from the Congress website (https://dcadad62-5380-45bc-99bd-10e901aa75f3.filesusr.com/ugd/ead70f_c03804ad89b844c5b96bc59233271dde.pdf)
- 1 Book of Proceedings (523 pages) — 109 accepted/peer-reviewed extended abstracts [2–3 round reviews], 6 introductory notes by session chairs, 1 preface by guest editors, 2 foreword by G. di Capua and N. Khélifi, 1 preamble by J. Cherry — to be published by Springer in May 2021 (in production): <https://www.springer.com/gp/book/9783030593193>
- 3 editorial projects lead by the organising committee with intent to assemble invited full papers on specific areas in hydrogeoethics (for now, over 45 proposal of original full papers to be submitted and eventually published during 2021 in Springer Journals):
 - i) *Sustainable Water Resources Management* (<https://www.springer.com/journal/40899/>)
 - ii) *Springer Nature Applied Sciences* (<https://www.springer.com/journal/42452/updates/18040654>)
 - iii) *Mediterranean Geoscience Reviews* (<https://www.springer.com/journal/42990/updates/17913654>)