



EDITOR'S MESSAGE

Clifford I. Voss, Editor

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Competition for water resources will become a central issue and a point of great contention early in the 21st century. In the view of the Director of the Indiana (USA) Center on Global Change and World Peace, during the next fifty years water will replace oil as the major incentive for international conflicts. This expectation is particularly true in regions with scarcity of water resources, and where water availability will be further reduced by water-pollution problems.

Further exacerbating water problems is the trend of rural-urban population redistribution. The World Bank predicts that by 2015 the world population of urban areas will exceed that of rural areas, in both industrialized and developing countries, for the first time in history. This situation will greatly intensify health problems in water-poor urban areas and will cause serious strains on water-resource infrastructure, even in many areas with no present water scarcity.

Hydrogeologic systems invariably play a vital role in the water-resource cycle of human settlements. Thus, there is a great need worldwide for increased theoretical and practical hydrogeologic understanding, effective employment of hydrogeologic resources while maintaining environmental preservation, and increased emphasis on thorough hydrogeologic characterization of critical regions.

We hope that the articles appearing in this journal will play a positive role in diminishing the severity of these difficult situations; regrettably, many of these situations are already unavoidable. Whether you are working on local investigations in your region or have a global perspective on hydrogeologic problems, or if you are contributing to the furtherance of hydrogeologic theory or techniques, we look forward to seeing your work published in this forum.

EDITORIAL BOARD: The Editorial Board has changed and will continue to expand. We hope to have a large Board and are actively seeking members from all world regions and many countries. We are particularly pleased to add the founding editor of *Applied Hydrogeology*, Professor Eugene Simpson, as Editor Emeritus and honorary member of the Board.

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ABSTRACTS: Beginning with this issue, each technical article in *Applied Hydrogeology* will include abstracts in English, French, and Spanish. We gratefully acknowledge M. Bakalowicz for translating abstracts into French and X. Sánchez-Vila for translating abstracts into Spanish.

ARTICLES FROM NON-NATIVE ENGLISH SPEAKERS: *Applied Hydrogeology* welcomes submission of articles in any language, but the preferred and publication language is English. An author who is not fluent in English should still make every effort to write the manuscript in English, obtaining the services of a technical editor if necessary. The Editors will arrange to improve the English of such articles if they are well-written in a technical sense and if they are accepted for publication. As noted in the "Instructions to Authors" at the end of this issue, under exceptional circumstances, we will attempt to have non-English articles reviewed, and if they are accepted for publication, we will have them translated.

TYPES OF ARTICLES: *Applied Hydrogeology* will henceforth organize articles into the following categories:

- **Papers:** Full articles that report new scientific results of general interest;
- **Reports:** Reviews of specific topics, or descriptions of the hydrogeology of specific areas;
- **Technical notes:** Short articles that describe new or innovative techniques of data collection or analysis;
- **Profiles:** Biographical sketches of eminent hydrogeologists, emphasizing their contributions to the science;
- **Publication notes:** Short descriptions or reviews of new or little-known significant publications; and
- **Comments and replies:** Discussions related to articles published in the journal.