

## EDITOR'S MESSAGE

# AMERICAN GEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE AND INTERNATIONAL GEOSCIENCE

by

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Throughout the world, industrial and resources development have created major environmental impacts on society, such as acid rain and pollution of international streams and aquifers. These environmental problems and issues involve legal and ethical as well as geoscience problems. They have become global in magnitude and involve many businesses, organizations, and private citizens. International scientific societies must provide leadership and experience in establishing standards, methods, concepts, facts, and solutions to these problems. IAH (International Association of Hydrogeologists) and AGI (American Geological Institute) are two such societies.

The U.S. Chapter of IAH is one of the member societies of AGI, which has a total membership of about 80,000. This is one of the largest groups of well-qualified scientists seeking to advance the knowledge of geoscience worldwide to solve environmental problems and provide adequate minerals, water, and energy to meet the world's demands. The AGI and member societies, in an effort to represent geoscientists, play a major international role in providing adequate communication about professional and natural resources and development, research concepts and needs, data availability, and professional activities. Publications of AGI include the magazine, *Geotimes*; the database of geosciences publications, *Georef*; the *Directory of International Geoscience Organizations*; and *AGI Data Sheets*.

AGI's purpose and strength derive from its member societies. The Institute's growing membership reflects the broadening scope of the geoscience profession. In 1994, AGI membership increased to 26 societies with the inclusion of the Soil Science Society of America and the IAH/U.S. National Committee, and with the reaffiliation of the Society of Exploration Geophysicists.

Increased national and international awareness of environmental issues offers challenges and opportunities for the geoscience community. AGI's Environmental Advisory Committee is working to further this awareness. This Committee is made up of representatives of AGI member societies and environmental-geoscience organizations, and it sponsors an ambitious range of projects on behalf of the Institute. These include development of a groundwater and soil contamination database, a series of environmental awareness booklets, a hydrology glossary, and an environmental geoscience directory.

The AGI groundwater and soil contamination database, scheduled for release in 1996, will help businesses and individual researchers find journal articles, books, and other materials published on geoscience and environmental topics related to groundwater contamination. Booklets in AGI's Environmental Awareness Series will cover environmental issues from a geoscience point of view for the general public, policy-makers, and students. The first contribution of IAH to the Environmental Advisory Committee was the preparation of the *Ground Water Primer*. The second publication of this series will be the *Glossary of Hydrology*, now in preparation. Also in preparation are primers on energy and mining.

IAH should continue to assist AGI in accepting its important role and responsibility of promoting international geoscience awareness. *Hydrogeology Journal*, the quarterly publication of IAH, joins various AGI publications as a major contributor to this effort.