

Editors' Messages

Hydrogeology and the IGC, by Ji Chuanmao¹, Associate Editor

The 30th International Geological Congress (IGC) was held August 4-14, 1996, in Beijing, China, and was an important event for the world's geological community. A total of 5,847 earth scientists from 102 countries participated in the activities of the Congress. At least 50 delegates attended from each of the following: Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Japan, Republic of Korea, Russia, UK, and USA.

Papers concerning groundwater investigation, research, and development were mostly presented at Symposium 16, "Hydrogeology." The total number of papers presented orally at this Symposium was 108; many will be published by VSP in The Netherlands. The number of papers presented in each session of this Symposium is as follows:

- Groundwater geochemistry, including isotope studies – 11
- Problems of aquifer development and their control – 7
- Evaluation and management of groundwater resources and public information and education – 13
- Hydrogeology of low-permeability strata – 9
- Protection of groundwater resources from pollution – 19
- Hydrosphere-lithosphere relationship and geological processes in global water circulation – 2
- Mineral water and geothermal water – 8
- Water-inrush control and combination of water drainage and supply in water-abundant mines – 6
- Conjunctive management of surface water and groundwater; Artificial recharge of groundwater – 8
- Paleohydrogeology in relation to oil-gas migration and formation of mineral deposits – 7
- Groundwater in arid and semi-arid areas – 8
- Karst hydrogeology and karst environment protection – 10

At a Congress-wide colloquium, P.J. Cook, Director of the British Geological Survey, presented "Sustaining our life support system," in which he discussed water problems of the future. Many speakers discussed problems concerning groundwater development at other symposia, including B-3, "Geosciences in planning and management of environments," and B-4, "Urban geology." Prof. W.S. Fyfe, former IUGS president, was the first speaker of the B-3 symposium, which was chaired by IAH Secretary-General Andrew Skinner and others. These symposia were very popular and lively discussions ensued. In addition, the IAH held its General Assembly during the IGC.

"Profiles of Eminent Hydrogeologists," by William E. Wilson², Technical Editor

Since instituting this series in 1995, *Hydrogeology Journal* has published six biographical sketches featuring eminent hydrogeologists from France, India, The Netherlands, Russia, and the USA. The intent is to acknowledge the accomplishments and contributions of men and women who have been prominent in our science. Initially, we were not greatly concerned with what constituted "eminent" and "hydrogeologist," but recently some submittals were challenged as to their appropriateness, and so your editors have now identified some guidelines and criteria. In general, we wish to be broadly inclusive. "Eminent" can mean either internationally renowned or distinguished or prominent within the hydrogeologist's own country. This scope provides an opportunity to document the careers and accomplishments of those who have significantly contributed to the advancement of the science, as well as to inform hydrogeologists around the world about members of their science who have made significant contributions within a country. "Significant contributions" could include such aspects as developing major programs, teaching, and conducting research or hydrogeological studies that substantially increase understanding of the science or the hydrogeology of a country.

To be considered for the series, the eminent hydrogeologist must either be retired from active participation in the profession or be deceased. Although the person's contributions must be in the field of hydrogeology, his or her background can be from engineering, geology, or another related science. The "Profile" should not simply be an obituary that praises the person and his or her accomplishments. Rather, we want a thoughtful biographical account that demonstrates significance in the context of advancing the science in general or advancing the state of hydrogeological understanding within a country. The account should contain a bibliography of the person's most significant publications.

We encourage authors to submit "Profiles of Eminent Hydrogeologists," so that our readers may learn more about the giants of our profession.

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