CALL FOR PAPERS

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GROUNDWATER : OUR SOURCE OF SECURITY IN AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE

Biennial Conference of the Ground Water Division : 2011

19 – 21 September 2011

CSIR International Convention Centre, Pretoria, South Africa

Organised by the GROUND WATER DIVISION (GWD) of the GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (GSSA) in association with the INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS (IAH)

BACKGROUND

This conference is biennial conference of the South African Ground Water Division.
In 2011 we will be joined by the International Association of Hydrogeologists and welcome them to hold their annual council and commission meetings at the conference.

OBJECTIVES

Financial, economic and environmental changes and uncertainty require innovative approaches to hydrogeological science and groundwater management. Delivery of services and environmental sustainability in the years to come will make ever-greater demands on groundwater. This challenges hydrogeologists and fellow professionals to find new ways to progress, often with limited resources.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

The GWD/IAH conference is aimed at groundwater scientists, managers and planners, but will also appeal to water professionals, environmental scientists, journalists, economists, public-sector officials and others working at the front line of service delivery, natural resource management, and governance.
This joint international conference presents a tremendous opportunity for transboundary dialogue and collaboration. Speakers will include international and local experts in hydrogeology.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

In order to structure discussions on the conference objective, certain themes within the overall conference objective have been identified:

Climate Change and Drought

Groundwater has long been a buffer against periodic water shortages. Temporal drought cycles and climate change will combine to increase uncertainty in forecasts and fluctuations in water supplies. Groundwater resource management, based on sound science, is an increasingly important part of the broad response strategy.

Dealing with Uncertainty

Advances in quantifying or handling uncertainty are needed, particularly as pressures on resources increase and regulations grow more stringent. Hydrogeologists must also communicate uncertainty to decision makers and planners in more accessible ways.

Water Quality - Changing trends, changing perceptions

Natural groundwater quality is often excellent – but not always. Better scientific understanding helps manage naturally poor groundwater quality, as well as with polluted groundwater. Growing awareness of acid mine drainage, NAPLs and other forms of groundwater pollution will drive policy and research budgets in future.

Groundwater and the Environment

Identification of groundwater -dependent ecosystems and the assessment of groundwater environmental flow requirements require innovative approaches by hydrogeologists and ecologists in their search for the sustainable balance between use and protection.

Merging Science and Policy

Sustainable groundwater management needs effective governance and strong institutions, built on good science. In some cases, groundwater management lags behind modern legislation and policy. Innovation, better cooperation between institutions, and improved communication, promises to narrow this gap.

Mapping and Data

New ways of collecting and interrogating groundwater data can reduce costs and increase the reliability of information products such as hydrogeological maps. Data interoperability and data sharing are vital in extracting maximum value from investments in data collection. Groundwater maps are increasingly important planning and communication tools.

Water and Energy

Quantification of the water and energy footprints of industry, power-generation, agriculture and other activities has implications for hydrogeology. Water and energy are interdependent – for example, local groundwater resources can often replace desalination in coastal areas, or contribute to the very high assurances of water supply necessary for new power stations.

Getting the message across - linking groundwater with other disciplines

Recognition of interrelated environmental processes supports interdisciplinary science, including growing fields such as sustainability science. The need to describe our "hidden resource" to decision makers and the general public has never been greater, along with the requirement to quantify and communicate costs and benefits. Interdisciplinary collaboration suggests new directions, and new approaches to perennial problems.

From pollution to remediation and protection

Remediation of pollution and groundwater protection are increasingly recognised as essential, cost-effective measures by industry and government. Implementation of established and new methodologies is needed to convert this momentum into successful groundwater remediation projects and protection initiatives.

Case Studies

Innovative case studies applying hydrogeology in Africa and beyond demonstrate new and effective approaches. At the same time, established approaches such as isotope analysis help address emerging problems.

REGISTRATION FEES

It is expected that the registration fee will be between R3,800 and R4,100 for the three-day conference. With the assistance of sponsorship, it is hoped that an Icebreaker Reception and a Conference Dinner will be included in the registration fee. There will be a reduced fee for presenting authors and for members of the GWD and IAH. Fees will be confirmed nearer the date of the conference.

CALL FOR PAPERS

High calibre oral and poster papers that are relevant to the conference theme are invited. Prospective authors are requested to type their details and abstract on the 'ABSTRACT TEMPLATE" (available from the conference website: www.gwd.org.za) (also available on request from: confplan@iafrica.com)

Completed Abstract Templates should be uploaded electronically to the GWD website to be received by the Secretariat by 10 January 2011 at the latest.

Papers will be accepted on the understanding that the main author (or a co-author) will personally attend the conference as a fee-paying delegate and present the paper; and that the deadlines indicated below will be strictly adhered to. Although abstracts will be subject to a selection and review process, no in-depth review of the written papers is planned. Deadline dates will be as follows:

10th January 2011 - Closing date for electronic submission of abstracts.

1st February 2011: Provisional acceptance. Authors advised to start preparation of full papers and issued with format guidelines.

1st June 2011: Submission of full papers (8 – 10 pages) in the required format.

19th - 21st September 2011: CONFERENCE

THE FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The final announcement will be emailed out in early June 2011 to all who indicate their interest to: confplan@iafrica.com. The announcement will also be posted onto the Ground Water Division's website: www.gwd.org.za. It will include the provisional programme, special tariffs for accommodation, the route of the complimentary shuttle bus, fees and social functions, as well as all final details on arrangements and on the conference and exhibition.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ENQUIRIES:

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