



International Association of Hydrogeologists

Polish National Chapter – Annual Report for 2015

Council of the Polish National Chapter of IAH (2013-2016)

- Andrzej J. Witkowski, President
- Marek Marciniak, Vice-president
- Sławomir Sitek, Secretary
- Stanisław Staśko, Member
- Anna Żurek, Member

Membership information:

At the end of August 2015 the Polish National Chapter had 48 members, including one honorary member – prof. Jan Dowgiałło. Most members are associated with academic centres and scientific institutions. Only 3 members are drawn from industry and 5 members have student status. The majority of members are full time professionals. In 2014 we had 53 members.

Activities

In 2015 the Polish National Chapter will organize general assembly for all members. The General Assembly will be held in October in Ustka. Reports of the above meetings will be available at www.iahpoland.org (in *Z prac Zarządu*).

Important activities of the Polish National Chapter during 2015 is:

- Co-organisation of the International Conference on “Groundwater vulnerability – from scientific concept to practical application”, which was held between 25 - 29 of May 2015 in Ustroń, Poland. The conference was attended by 69 participants from 22 countries. Participants gave 37 presentations during 9 sessions and presented 12 posters. The main topics of conference concerned: development of the vulnerability

concept, intrinsic or specific vulnerability maps, groundwater vulnerability assessment for different groundwater systems, groundwater vulnerability assessment in urbanised and heavily transformed mining areas, uncertainty in vulnerability assessment methods, validation of vulnerability maps, vulnerability maps in practical land-use management, new issues in vulnerability mapping in the context of the EU-WFD/GWPD, groundwater vulnerability and groundwater pollution risk. As a preconference event, a half-day introduction course to groundwater flow modelling in FEFLOW environment was given by DHI company. Mid-conference trip showed water management problems in Carpathian mountainous region. One of the main result of the conference will be the post-conference publications, 40 most outstanding papers will be published in the special volume of IAH selected papers (30 papers) and Environmental Earth Sciences (10 papers).



- Co-organisation of the course :Dynamic of Subsurface Flow of Groundwater, Hydrocarbons and Sequestered CO₂ – Physics and Field Examples, which was held between 1-2 June 2015 in Sosnowiec. Course instructor K. Udo Weyer from WDA Consultants Inc.
- Co-organisation of the 6th International Field Workshop for Young Hydrogeologists on “Human Impact on Groundwater”, which was held between 15 - 17 of June 2015 in Sosnowiec and Bełchatów. The workshop was attended by 30 students from 7 countries (Poland, Ukraine, Belgium, Australia, Germany, Ireland and Morocco). From the beginning the main emphasis is put on practical side of hydrogeology therefore in

workshop programme always consist of field excursions, hand-on computer software workshops etc. Students gave 5 presentations and presented 8 posters. 13 participants attend in groundwater flow modelling course “Introduction to FEFLOW”. Field sessions were held in Bełchatów where the biggest lignite mine in Europe is dewatering by modern complex system of numerous wells. Moreover participants had opportunity to see the process of producing bottled water at BEWA company using groundwater from the mining dewatering. They took part in demonstration of GeoVolt company about hydrogeological investigation using geophysical methods. The workshop was organised in cooperation with the Student Scientific Association of Hydrogeologists “AQUA”; Department of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, Faculty of Earth Science, University of Silesia.



- Co-organisation of the XVII conference of “Current Challenges in Hydrogeology”, which is a national conference dedicated to professional hydrogeologists, organised every two years by various leading academic centres in Poland. This year the conference will be held from 20 to 23 October and is organised in Ustka by hydrogeologists from the Gdańsk University of Technology in cooperation with the Polish Geological Institute, University of Gdańsk and Polish National Chapter of IAHP. Conference papers will be published in the special issue of *Przegląd Geologiczny*.
- Management of the website of the Polish National Chapter www.iahpoland.org. The website contains up to date information about hydrogeological meetings and conferences held in Poland, information about past conferences, hydrogeological photo gallery, links to interesting hydrogeological websites – hydrogeological institutions in Poland and abroad, The web page contains full information about the board and its activities, as well as information about membership.