



International Association of Hydrogeologists

Polish National Chapter – Annual Report for 2011

Council of the Polish National Chapter of IAH

Andrzej J. Witkowski, President

Anna Kuczyńska, Secretary,

Jerzy Małecki, Member,

Jacek Rózkowski, Member,

Stanisław Staško, Member,

Andrzej Sadurski, Chairman of the Hydrogeological Commission of the Committee of Geological Sciences of the Polish Academy of Sciences

Membership information:

At present, the Polish National Chapter consists of 47 members, including one honorary member – prof. Jan Dowgiałło. Most of members are associated with academic centres and scientific institutions. Only four members come from the industry. Majority of members are full time professionals. Full list of current members presents table 1.

Tab. 1 List of members of the Polish National Chapter, 2012

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Activities

In 2011, the Polish National Chapter organised two board meetings and one general assembly for all members. The board meetings were held on the 25th of February in Warsaw and the 28th of July in Sosnowiec, and the GA was held on the 13th of September in Żerków near Poznań. Reports from the above meetings are available at www.iahpoland.org (in *Z prac Zarządu*).

The important activities of the Polish National Chapter during 2011 were:

- 1) co-organisation of the 2nd International Field Workshop for Young Hydrogeologists on “*The impact of human activities on groundwater*”, which was held between 10 - 12 of June 2011 in Poland in Złoty Potok. The workshop was attended by 40 students from Poland, Slovakia and Nigeria. Złoty Potok is a charming village located in the picturesque karstic area of the Jurassic Upland of Poland. The program of the workshop included a geological field trip, a half-

day field course on groundwater monitoring as well as technical presentations.

Participation in the workshop gave an excellent opportunity to become familiar with research conducted in various national and international scientific bodies. It was an effective forum for exchanging experiences and views on issues of risk and groundwater protection. Moreover, the workshop enabled the students to broaden their knowledge about IAH as a important worldwide organization and also give an opportunity for encouragement of students and young hydrogeologists to active participation in IAH activities. Such meetings fulfil an important role in the integration of national and foreign academic centres, which educate hydrogeologists

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; Innovation, Technology Transfer and Development Center, Foundation of the University of Silesia.

- 2) co-organisation of the XV 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. The conference in 2011 was held between 14-16 September and was organised in Żerków near Poznań, by hydrogeologists from the University of Adam Mickiewicz in Poznań in cooperation with the PKN IAH and the Polish Geological Institute. The conference was structured in six thematic blocks: 1. Threats and protection of groundwater quality and quantity; 2. Groundwater monitoring and management; 3. Regional hydrogeology; 4. Composition of groundwater and its genesis; 5. Groundwater numerical modelling and mine dewatering; 6. Groundwater research methods.

The conference was very successful. It was held under a honorary patronage of dr Henryk Jacek Jezierski – the Chief Geologist of Poland. The conference gathered 274 participants. There were two full days of presentations followed by a field trips day. Organisers provided options for three different field workshops giving an excellent choice of different hydrogeological problems to explore (1. Groundwater supplies in Prosna and Ołobok Valley – problems with their protection; 2. Hydrogeological and ecological aspects of open pit coal mining; 3. Infiltration water supplies in Warta Valley – ecological vs. investment problems.

Conference papers were published in the Bulletin of the Polish Geological Institute Special Issue No 445, Hydrogeology, z. XII/1-2 (2011).

There were 12 major conclusions formulated at the end of the conference and accepted by all participants. These concerned various hydrogeological problems. The most important postulates of the conference concerned the need for acceleration of works on determination of protection zones of Major Groundwater Aquifers in Poland; necessity of research on flooding in connection with shallow groundwater runoff as well as defining zones that are vulnerable to flooding in upland areas; necessity of taking into account hydrogeological aspects and protection of groundwater in context of an intense development of sewage treatment systems; necessity of protecting groundwater resources, especially mineral waters and brines which are seen to degrade in response to unfavourable land use definitions in local development plans made by local authorities; necessity to regulate an obligation to define water supply protection zones; necessity to support and monitor coal mines in managing groundwater resources, and other.

- 3) creation and management of new website of the Polish National Chapter www.iahpoland.org. The website contains up to date information about hydrogeological meetings and conferences held in Poland and in neighbouring countries, information about past conferences, an extensive database of hydrogeological publications, hydrogeological photo gallery, links to interesting hydrogeological websites – hydrogeological institutions in Poland and abroad, educational web pages. The web page contains full information about the board and its activities, as well as information about membership.

- 4) involvement in creation of Association of Polish Hydrogeologists. The Association is a national organisation that will gather professional hydrogeologists (till now 60 members). It aims to be a national wide consultative authority that will be respected by governmental and local authorities and will oversee professional standards and ethics. It will promote hydrogeology and augment hydrogeological problems among society and authorities; when necessary, it will advise to national and local administration. On the other hand, it will oversee rights of proper hydrogeological practice. The Association will be supported by membership fees.

President

Andrzej J. Witkowski

Secretary

Anna Kuczyńska