

Newsletter No. 18

September 2018

Contents

- 1 Feedback on 2018 Quebec Meeting**
 - (i) Preparation of meeting*
 - (ii) Sessions held*
 - (iii) Possible publications from the conference*
- 2 Membership**
- 3 Website**
- 4 Output in 2017/18: request for information**
- 5 Next Meeting**

Annexures

- (I) Correspondence with organisers of the Quebec meeting
- (II) Template for Springer book

1 Feedback on 2018 Quebec Meeting

(i) Preparation of meeting

As practised in the past the Commission used the biannual IGU Regional Conference, which this year took place from 6-10 August in Quebec City (Canada), to hold its annual meeting.

After consultation with members a total of 4 different themes were proposed for sessions of the Commission:

(1) Hydrological processes between fire and ice

- arctic and cold regions hydrology (of relevance to the host country)
- impact of forest and field fires on hydrological processes (of particular relevance to the host country)
- climatic impacts on water resources
- extreme events and hydrological hazards

(2) Humans and water: managing the impacts

- *Urbanisation*: impacts of growing cities on water resources; urban run-off, waste water systems, spongy city, return flow, grey water use
- *Mining*: impacts of mining on water quality and availability; de- and rewatering of aquifers, acid mine drainage, water use and pollution
- *Agriculture*: soil erosion (surface and subsurface- piping), eutrophication, irrigation, salinisation, soil compaction/ infiltration, surface water, groundwater, fertilizer impacts...
- *Hydropolitics*: transboundary catchments and aquifers between conflict and collaboration, downstream impacts of upstream activities (abstraction, dams, pollution...)

(3) Water-Energy-Food Nexus

- use of water for energy generation (water footprint of coal, nuclear, hydro, geothermal, wind and solar, bio-fuels ...)
- harvesting energy from waste water (urban sewage, mining, industry...)
- energy use for water supply and treatment (energy use of water transfer schemes, water purification etc.)
- water use efficiency in food production (agriculture, horticulture, aquaculture, food processing...)
- virtual/ embedded water

(4) Water, Demography and Health

- water pollution trends and associated health risks
- man-made and natural water pollution
- sanitation and water accessibility
- impacts of demographic changes (increasing loads of pharmaceuticals, decreasing water consumption in rural areas...)

However, due to shortcomings in communication with the conference organisers (a professional company rather than the local colleagues) the Commission had no influence on the final allocation of sessions which was done without any prior consultation exclusively by the organisers leaving the latter two proposed topics out altogether. Having received no regular feedback on the progress of abstract submission it was impossible for the Commission to identify and invite additional speakers or to redirect and re-compose abstracts and sessions themes respectively.

Furthermore, the final programme indicating when the sessions will actually taking place was only released days before the conference started making it impossible to plan conference trips or joint sessions with other Commissions.

The latter was particularly unfortunate as a number of overlapping themes existed especially with the newly created Commission 42: *Coupled Human-Earth Systems for Sustainability* , were several paper fell squarely in the themes proposed by our Commission (e.g. ABS 447: Water sustainability Central Asia; ABS 867: Food–Energy–Water–Nexus, ABS 854: Water sustainability Peru etc.).

In addition, two of the four sessions scheduled for the Commission were held in parallel making it impossible for our members to listen to all presentations. Given the limited size our group such arrangement is most unfortunate and should best be avoided.

A presentation time of a mere 15 min incl. discussion with no buffer for change overs between speakers further added to the dissatisfaction of many participants I spoke to.

Another serious shortcoming was the absence of any pre-arrangements regarding the appointment of session chairs normally responsible for speaker introduction, time keeping and moderation of discussion. This reflected poorly on the competence of the organisers. As did the fact that no time slot for a business meeting of the Commission was scheduled despite prior request for such meeting by the Chair. Since these meetings, too, are an integral part of IGU conferences an impression was gained that the company selected by the LOC had little experience, if any, with organising events of that nature. The lack of presentation tools such as remote slide controllers/ laser pointers in the venues further strengthened this impression. As did the sending of non-essential emails which mainly served to advertise sponsors, pricey hotels and events, while leaving enquires unanswered for days to weeks not answering some at all.

The lack of any printed programme on arrival was certainly not made up for with the offered app (for smart phone users, only) or the electronic pdf version of the website as both programme versions omitted the names of presenters. While this was eventually fixed in the course of the event it left many colleagues stranded who looked for speakers they knew by name only and not by the title of their papers.

The handing out of tourist booklets in French only and nothing else what is commonly included in conference bags was another reflection on the attitude of the organising company which seemed to have been putting profit ahead of customer satisfaction. An impression that was not really rebutted by the presented catering as several colleagues remarked. Since a significant part of the conference fees was reportedly due to catering, fees can be brought down in future by avoiding the compulsory inclusion of meals especially as participants may not even be able to have them (e.g. being on excursions, meetings etc.). Since cost is a major factor of limiting attendance all efforts should be made to keep them at a minimum. The appointment of professional conference organising companies is presumably adding significant costs, which in this case certainly was not warranted by the quality of the deliverables

The Chair did voice these concerns in the meeting with the Executive Committee especially as the LOC for Istanbul 2020 indicated that they too make use of such company. The outgoing Secretary General, Prof. Michael Meadows, confirmed that, indeed, the LOC was also dissatisfied with the selected company even considering to take legal action against the latter.

(ii) Sessions held

As indicated above a total of 4 different sessions were held comprising a total of 19 x papers of which 12 x papers were presented by members and 7 x papers by speakers which are not (yet) members of the Commission (see below table).

C40-SP1. Hydrological processes between fire and ice		
ABS875	Assesment of temporal hydrologic alteration on the rivers of European Russia with automatic hydrograph separation technology	Maria Kireeva
ABS156	Change of water balance of large river basins of European Russia: from Arctic zone to arid South	Natalia Frolova
ABS249	Dangerous ice phenomena on the lowland rivers of European Russia	Alexey Sazonov
ABS598	River ice within the arctic zone of Russia in current climate conditions	Svetlana Agafonova
ABS285	Water runoff, sediment yield and heat flux of the rivers flowing into the arctic seas of Russia. Its long-term climate-driven and anthropogenic changes	DMITRII MAGRITSKII
C40-SP100. Water Sustainability OPEN SESSION / SESSION OUVERTE		
ABS348	Converting disused underground mines into storage facilities for (renewable) energy – a brief overview on selected research projects	Frank Winde
ABS425	Drinking-water supply dynamics in Romania and geographical inequalities	Liliana Zaharia
ABS713	Assessing environmental uranium exposure in mining areas – a pilot study on barber-based hair sampling	Frank Winde
ABS823	Hydrologic features in settlement and landscape development in Croatia	Danijel Orešić

C40-SP1. Hydrological processes between fire and ice

ABS798	Hydromorphological monitoring of rivers in Croatia – main issues and problems	Ivan Čanjevac
ABS1062	A High-Throughput Sequencing Method for Identifying the Fecal Indicators in Urban Streams	Iu yang
ABS1096	Applicabilité du concept d'espace de liberté dans les pratiques de gestion des cours d'eau et des plaines inondables au Québec	Simon Massé
ABS913	Urban Domestic Water Use and the Role of Private Water Suppliers in Guwahati City: A Geo-environmental study	Nripendra Ram Kalita
ABS965	Apports et défis des approches participatives dans les projets collectifs de réhabilitation des agro-écosystèmes dans les basses terres du Saint-Laurent	Mathieu Laflamme

C40-SP2. Humans and water: managing the impacts

ABS452	Emerging micro-irrigation technology for sustainable farming systems in the drought prone areas: a case study of chittoor district, Andra Pradesh, India	NAGAVATHI CHENDRAYUDU
ABS551	Surface water quality in the Selenge River Basin, North Mongolia:	Daniel Karthe
ABS256	A Synthesis of Recent Research Results from Hydrochemistry and Aquatic Biology	Maria F. Mora
ABS739	Gender and water governance in the global north: a scoping review	Gabriela Adina Morosanu
ABS797	Apportioning sources of streambank sediments by using coal mining tracers. The case of Jiu River Basin (Romania)	Chansheng He
ABS797	Estimating Nonpoint Sources Pollution Loadings in Lake Michigan Basin	Chansheng He

While the majority of papers came from the broad field of Physical Geography there were also some exploring Human Geography related aspects.

While a number of topics proposed for the various sessions were specifically designed to be of relevance to the host country Canada this did not in all cases translate into attracting local scientists working in this field. One example is the proposed topic of impacts of wild fires on forest hydrology, which were raging in the neighbouring province of Ontario at the time of the conference. Ditto for the effects of mining activities on the environment and health deemed relevant for Canada as a major producer of uranium among other. However, the Commission session did manage to attract local scientists from Quebec on the topic of flood control and flood plain management.

Yet, despite the many problems mentioned above most Commission members agreed that the sessions we did have were in fact productive and furthered collaboration between members as well as attracting the interest of non-member researchers to join the Commission. Explorative ideas for joint future projects were discussed, *inter alia*, between researchers from Mongolia, Croatia and South Africa as well as Russia.

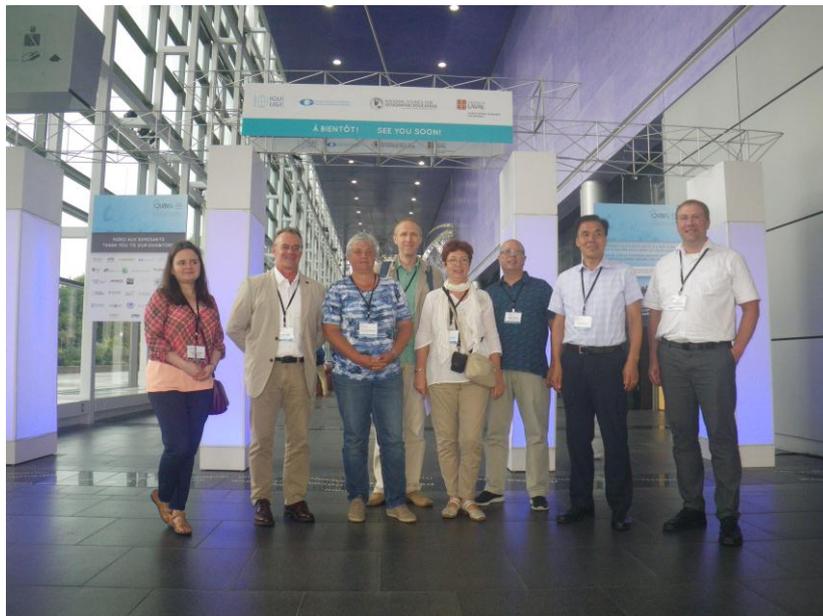
We also would like to thank IGU Exco for approving a travel grant for Prof. L. Zaharia from Romania as well as the organisers for offering the opportunity to her PhD student to attend as part of her voluntary work for the conference.

The E-mail sent to Laval University in response to a feedback request is attached to this newsletter.

A few photos of the conference are inserted below:



Impressions from sessions: Humans and water - managing the impacts (left) and Hydrology between fire and ice (Dr. Canjevac)



*Concluding the conference in the foyer of the International Conference Centre
(from left: Gabriela Morosanu, Frank Winde, Natalia Frolova, Ivan Čanjevac, Liliana Zaharia, Danijel Orešić,
Chansheng He, Daniel Karthe)*

(iii) Possible publications from the conference

The possibility of collecting papers from the meeting to be jointly published in a special issue or dedicated book was discussed at the business meeting agreeing that members should come forward after the conference with concrete suggestions on possible overarching themes summarily reflecting the various sessions. I would like to, once again, encourage members to contact me if there are any concrete ideas in this regard. Options to explore could include:

- (a) Using established publishers like Springer to explore opportunities of publishing a dedicated book, a template for such project is attached to the newsletter;
- (b) Approaching a suitable journal for considering a special issue on a dedicated water issue (themes to still be specified), however this would require a critical mass of topical papers in areas of wider interest. This would be similar to our special issue in in *Ecosystem Health and Sustainability* (EHS): Water sustainability and watershed ecosystem health initiated in 2016.
- (c) Considering single papers with joint authorships exploring synergies between different members with shared research interests

2 Membership

Shortly before the conference the chair received two requests for membership from Australia and Turkey, both applicants referring the commission's website as trigger. Templates for capturing the research profile and interests were duly sent out within days of receiving the request.

In addition, the chair was personally approached in Quebec regarding joining the Commission by another 3 colleagues from South Africa and the USA. Member templates were sent out accordingly shortly after the conference. I also just received another email request for membership from Turkey, which I immediately followed up as it would be desirable to have local colleagues helping us prepare for the 2020 IGC in Istanbul.

In early 2018, the Commission welcomed the UNESCO Chair in Hydrogeology at the Western Cape University, Cape Town (South Africa), Prof. Yongxin Xu as new member. As Director of the China-Africa Water Institute prof. Xu actively supports water-related collaboration between African partners and China. Together with the University of Chongqing and the China-Africa Water Institute our Commission supported the international symposium: *Sustainable Urban Renewal International Forum of Landscape City*. hosted by T.Y. Lin International Engineering Consulting (China) Co. Ltd., in Chongqing (China) on 12 June 2018. Further collaboration with the Institute as well as other UNESCO water chair holders is envisaged.

3 Website

Following consultation and feedback received from members and non-members structure and appearance of the website were overhauled and significant amounts of contents added.

This includes, but is not limited to, the following categories:

- Appearance and structure of the website
- News and events (updated)
- Members (new members were added)
- Books (a systematic compilation of books published by the Commission was added)
- Meetings (information on previous meetings of the Commission has been added including programmes, abstract volumes, call for papers, and presentations, conference fees, excursions, photos etc.)
- Links (addresses of websites of relevant organisations in the wider field of water are provided)
- Newsletters and reports (past newsletters and reports of the Commission are compiled here and made available)
- News archive (here previous news are archived for preserving the history of the Commission)

In addition a 'Translate' function was added to aid non-English-speaking visitors of the site.

Kindly please inform the Chair if any details on the website are incorrect or missing (e.g. membership)

4 Output in 2017/18: request for information

In preparation for the annual report for 2017/2018 due in December 2018 I herewith kindly request all members to please provide me with a list of outputs over the period 10-2017 to 10-2018 that relate to the Commission including joint publications, presentations and posters, jointly supervised students, research visits, joint workshops, conferences and meetings, joint research proposals and collaborative projects (e.g. as part of BRICS programmes) etc.

Any information provided *on or before 20 November 2018* will be included in the report.

5 Next Meeting

At the Commission's business meeting Prof. Zaharia offered to host the next Commission in 2019 in Bucharest (Romania). Her suggestion was most welcomed and the meeting unanimously agreed to accept the kind offer.

A preliminary date for the meeting will be communicated as soon as the host university has been contacted and possible arrangements been agreed to.

Annexures

(I) Correspondence with organisers of the Quebec meeting

(II) Template for Springer book

Annexure I

Dear Prof Guy-Dorion,

herewith the requested feedback on the Quebec Meeting by the Commission for Water Sustainability firstly focusing on some points that, we believe, could be improved:

(1) Pre-conference communication with Commissions

Due to shortcomings in communicating with the conference organisers (a professional company rather than the local colleagues) the Commission had unfortunately very limited influence on the final allocation of sessions which was eventually effected by the organisers without any final consultation. As the SC received only sporadic feedback on the progress of abstract submission it was difficult for the Commission to target and invite additional speakers, redirect abstracts to different sessions, propose joint sessions with similar topics or redefine session themes to better fit the received abstracts.

We also experienced the frequent emails advertising sponsors, pricey hotels etc. as of little help to plan for the conference, while inquiries relevant to the actual science part of the conference were left unanswered for days to weeks, and some were not answered at all.

(2) Abstract submission and review

The way the submission and review of abstracts was handled left much to desire. Having indicated on the website in red letters that all abstracts will be accepted in fact made a mockery of the review process altogether even jeopardizing funding of conference attendance by universities and science funding bodies as this violates established scientific procedure. The actual 'review' then consisted of sending out EXCEL sheets with an unexplained score system that - after I inquired - we were instructed to ignore by the organisers leaving no other option than unconditionally approving all abstracts. This indicated a lack of understanding of the purpose of the peer-review by the organisers and ignored the role of Commissions in assuring quality and suitable allocation of papers.

(3) Conference programme

Furthermore, the final programme indicating when the sessions will actually taking place was only released days before the conference started making it impossible to plan conference trips or joint sessions with other Commissions in advance.

The latter was particularly unfortunate as a number of overlapping themes existed especially with the newly created Commission 42: Coupled Human-Earth Systems for Sustainability, where several papers would have warranted joint sessions with our Commission (e.g. ABS 447: Water sustainability Central Asia; ABS 867: Food-Energy-Water-Nexus, ABS 854: Water sustainability Peru etc.).

The lack of any printed programme on arrival was certainly not compensated for by the app (for smart phone users, only) or the electronic pdf version of the website as both programme versions completely omitted the names of presenters. While this was eventually fixed in the course of the event it left many colleagues stranded who looked for speakers they knew by name only and not by the title of their papers.

(4) Conference schedule

In addition, two of the four sessions scheduled for the Commission were held in parallel making it impossible for our members to listen to all presentations. Given the limited size of our Commission such arrangement is unfortunate and should best be avoided.

Also, a presentation time of a mere 15 min incl. discussion with no buffer for change overs between speakers further added to the dissatisfaction of many participants.

As did the fact that no time-slot for a business meeting of the Commission was scheduled despite being asked beforehand if such need exists which we confirmed. Since business meetings are a common component of IGU conferences it was suspected that the company in charge had little experience, if any, with organising events of that nature.

(5) Chairing of sessions

Another shortcoming was the absence of any pre-arrangements regarding the appointment of session chairs responsible for speaker introduction, time keeping and moderation of discussion reflecting poorly on the competence of the organisers.

(6) Equipment of venues

The lack of presentation tools in the venues such as remote slide controllers/ laser pointers further supported this suspicion.

(7) Conference bag, fees and catering

The handing out of tourist booklets in French only and nothing else what is commonly included in conference bags of events charging similar fees (or less) strengthened the impression that profit trumped science. This also relates to the catering which many colleagues found disappointing especially as it was independent of the actual use. Since a significant part of the conference fees was reportedly used for catering, fees can be brought down in future by avoiding the compulsory inclusion of meals especially as participants may not even be able to have them (e.g. being on excursions, meetings etc.). Since cost is a major factor of limiting attendance all efforts should be made to keep them at a minimum. The appointment of professional conference organising companies is commonly adding significant costs, which in this case was hardly warranted by the quality of the deliverables.

Sessions held by the Commission

While a number of topics proposed for the various sessions were specifically designed to be of relevance to the host country Canada this did not in all cases translated into attracting local scientists working in this field. One example is the proposed topic of impacts of wild fires on forest hydrology, which were raging in the neighbouring province of Ontario at the time of the conference. Ditto for the effects of mining activities on the environment and health deemed relevant for Canada as a major producer of uranium among other. However, the Commission session did manage to attract local scientists from Quebec on the topic of flood control and flood plain management.

Yet, despite the shortcomings mentioned above most Commission members agreed that the sessions we did have were in fact productive and fostered collaboration between members as well as attracting the interest of non-member researchers to join the Commission. Exploratory ideas for joint future projects were discussed, inter alia, between researchers from Mongolia, Croatia and South Africa as well as Russia.

We also would like to thank IGU Exco for approving a travel grant for Prof. L. Zaharia from Romania as well as the organisers for offering the opportunity to her PhD student to attend as part of her voluntary work for the conference.

We hope and trust that this feedback will assist in identifying pitfalls and avoiding them in future meetings.

We would appreciate to receive a copy of the final report on the conference for our records and thank you in advance.

On behalf of the SC of the Commission for Water Sustainability,
Frank Winde, Chair

>>> On 06.09.2018 at 22:10, in message <1536264609289.52446@ulaval.ca>, GGR UGI-IGU <igu2018@ulaval.ca> wrote:

Dear colleagues,

As the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE conference is officially over, it is now time to summarize what has been achieved during this event. Therefore we would like to ask for your opinion regarding the strengths, discoveries, highlights or any other element that may be important to acknowledge in the sessions of your Commission / Study Group. Many sessions seemed to have aroused great interest from the participants and we regret not having had the time to attend each of them! As chair of a commission / Study Group, are there things related to the scientific program that you would like us to add to the report? If so, we invite you to communicate them to us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and congratulate you for the success that has been the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE conference!

Sincerely,

Marie-Pierre Guy-Dorion, coprésidente du comité d'organisation local UGI 2018 / Co-Chair of the 2018 IGU Local Organising Committee
Courriel / Email: igu2018@ulaval.ca

>>> On 06.09.2018 at 22:10, in message <1536264609289.52446@ulaval.ca>, GGR UGI-IGU <igu2018@ulaval.ca> wrote:

Dear colleagues,

As the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE conference is officially over, it is now time to summarize what has been achieved during this event. Therefore we would like to ask for your opinion regarding the strengths, discoveries, highlights or any other element that may be important to acknowledge in the sessions of your Commission / Study Group. Many sessions seemed to have aroused great interest from the participants and we regret not having had the time to attend each of them! As chair of a commission / Study Group, are there things related to the scientific program that you would like us to add to the report? If so, we invite you to communicate them to us.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you and congratulate you for the success that has been the 2018 IGU-CAG-NCGE conference!

Sincerely,

Marie-Pierre Guy-Dorion, coprésidente du comité d'organisation local UGI 2018 / Co-Chair of the 2018 IGU Local Organising Committee
Courriel / Email: igu2018@ulaval.ca

BOOK PROPOSAL FORM

This form will be used to consider your book project for publication. Thank you for taking the time to complete it as fully as possible.

Date form completed:

Contact Information:

(If co-authors/editors are from other affiliations, please attach their full address and other contact information to this form)

Name:

Position:

Affiliation:

Address:

Email:

Tel:

Fax:

Author(s) / Editor(s) of work:

Proposed title:

Please note: the title should be a clear reflection of the research/work done

Subtitle of work:

(if applicable)

Expected manuscript completion date:

Type of Work: *(please check one)*

- Monograph
- Edited volume
- Conference proceedings
- Reference Work
- Practitioners' Manual
- Textbook graduate
 undergraduate
- Other:

Originality of the Work*:

The work consists of:

- Completely new material
- Previously published material (if so, how much and how will it be used?)
- Translated material (if so, percentage and original language: %)

*(*Please note: It is the editor/author's responsibility to secure the rights and permissions of any reprints and translation).*

Estimated Number of:

Words in manuscript:

Manuscript pages:

Photographs

Colour:

Black & White:

Line Drawings:

Tables:

Other items:

Manuscript will contain: *(Please check those applicable)*

Preface (if so, by:)

Name and/or subject index

Introduction (if so, by:)

Glossary of terms

Other items (if so:)

Please Provide: *(Add below or attach extra files if necessary)*

- A description of the work and its purpose. Take a page or two to set the project in context, and list 3-5 unique features that make it distinctive

- A Table of Contents with an analytical synopsis of the contents of each chapter (2-3 paragraphs or several bullet points per chapter)

- A Curriculum Vitae and a list of your publications

- A short description of the existing literature in the field to place the proposed book in context

- A description of the book's intended audience

The Review Process

The review process usually takes 1-2 months. If you have any queries regarding your project or the review process in general, please do not hesitate to contact me.