



International Symposium
on
**The Role of Hydrology in
Water Resources Management**

14-16 October 2008

Isle of Capri, Naples/Italy

**Organized by the Italian National Committee for the IHP
Sponsored by IAHS and UNESCO**

Report

Within the scope of the International Hydrological Programme (IHP) of UNESCO, an international symposium on “The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management” was held on the isle of Capri from 13 to 16.10.2008. The symposium was also supported by the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS).

Many important political, economic and social decisions, with significant and sustainable impacts on the environment and thus on the hydrological regime and water resources are still made today without an adequate input of hydrological expertise. Thus the implementation of projects can lead to conflict between managers on the one hand and hydrologists on the other hand. Managers may wish to implement projects quickly and at low cost, while hydrologists and environmentalists would like greater attention to be given to the principles of sustainability and ecological compatibility. These demands from hydrologists and environmentalists often delay the implementation of projects and make them more expensive.

The purpose of the symposium was to discuss ways to achieve a stronger involvement of hydrologists in decision processes impacting on the water balance. At the symposium, hydrologists and decision makers from the fields of politics, economy and social sciences active in the broader periphery of hydrology or whose decisions have a sustainable impact on water resources, were invited to discuss these topics. In doing so, the environmental aspects were to be taken into account.

Contributions by hydrologists were expected to focus on the following questions:

1. In how far can hydrology support decision-making processes at different levels?
2. What hydrological inputs are needed to attain the goal of integrated water resources management?
3. Are hydrologists sufficiently involved in planning and managing hydraulic and water management projects?
4. How can hydrologists promote the compilation and use of integrated sets of data and information in the process of planning and managing hydraulic and water management projects?
5. Are the principles of sustainability and environmental compatibility sufficiently considered in the planning and management of projects?

6. Which research activities are necessary in hydrology and related sciences to satisfy future needs arising from the move to integrated water resources management?

Contributions from the fields of environmental sciences, politics, economy and social sciences were to deal with the following questions:

1. Which demands are made on hydrology?
2. What type of information can water managers offer to hydrologists?
3. Which contributions can be offered to hydrologists and environmentalists during the planning and managing processes?
4. In how far can participation in decision-making processes be offered to hydrologists?
5. How can hydrologists foster progress in water resources management by developing new and innovative methodologies?
6. What experiences have been gained in cooperating with hydrologists so far?

The symposium attracted wide interest among hydrologists. Unfortunately, water managers showed less interest in the symposium.

More than 200 lectures and posters were registered. The initial programme listed 6 keynote lectures and 63 papers. Unfortunately, many scientists, especially from Africa and Asia had to decline their participation in the symposium mostly owing to problems in obtaining visa. Some countries thought the costs were too high. Therefore, finally only 36 lectures were held and 16 posters presented. Only 90 hydrologists from 25 countries attended the symposium.

In spite of the small number of contributions the symposium can be declared successful, especially in view of the fact that more time could be devoted to the presentation and the subsequent discussion. The lectures will be published in a separate book of the “Red Book Series” of IAHS.

Hans-Jürgen Liebscher

Convenor of the International Symposium on “The Role of Hydrology in Water Resources Management”