



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI BRESCIA – FACOLTÀ DI INGEGNERIA  
**DIPARTIMENTO DI INGEGNERIA CIVILE,  
ARCHITETTURA, TERRITORIO E AMBIENTE  
DICATA**

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Brescia, 18.2.2008

To the attention of Dr. Chris George  
Executive Secretary of IAHR  
Paseo Bajo Virgen del Puerto, 3  
28005 Madrid  
SPAIN

and cc: the President of IAHR,  
Prof. Tamai

the Vice-Chairman of the  
Applied Hydrology Working Group,  
Prof. Uwe Graw

the Secretary of the  
Applied Hydrology Working Group,  
Prof. Boosik Kang

**Subject:** report of my attendance at the 3rd session of the WMO-Commission of Hydrology Advisory Working Group on behalf of IAHR

Dear Chris,

I briefly report on my attendance at the 3rd session of the WMO-Commission of Hydrology Advisory Working Group where experts from IAHR, IAHS and UNESCO were invited.

I attended from Monday 11 to Wednesday 13 morning, at the meeting of the CHy chaired by the President of the Commission, Bruce Stewart, at the presence of the Director of the WMO Hydrology and Water Resources Department Avinash C. Tyagi.

Reports by members of the Advisory Working Group on the past and future activities were presented. The subjects of major interest for IAHR, and where, in my opinion, our Association can better contribute to WMO activities were (see [www.wmo.int/Programmes/HWRP](http://www.wmo.int/Programmes/HWRP)):

- the setup of the World Hydrological Cycle Observing System (WHYCOS), a WMO programme aiming at improving the basic observation activities, strengthening the international cooperation and promoting free exchange of data in the field of hydrology.
- the setup of INFOHYDRO, a metadata base aiming at distributing information (not the data owned by National Hydrological Services) on Networks of hydrological observing stations of countries - numbers of stations, duration of records, calculation and data transmission methods.

These two initiatives are the basis for a wider data exchange of hydrological data at the regional scale, a requisite for improving research on water circulation at the global scale and the dissemination of a 'culture' of hydrology and its applications. They are on the same line of one of the goals of the Applied Hydrology Working Group: "To promote hydrological data exchange on experimental basins and model intercomparison." Then, I said that IAHR can contribute to these activities.

- Then Paul Pilon reported on the progresses of the project for the Assessment of the Performance of Flow Measurement Instruments and Techniques [http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/hwrp/documents/report\\_flow.pdf](http://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/hwrp/documents/report_flow.pdf).

For IAHR Marian Muste contributed to this plan and I assume he will contribute in the future as well.

The group felt that the informal arrangements used thus far for the project have helped to expedite implementation of the initiative, but some more formal governance structure would be desirable to provide guidance to the initiative, particularly from a policy setting perspective, and to ensure the sustainability of the effort. The following alternative governance options were considered by the group:

(A) Status Quo- Managed simply as a CHy project with other organizations being invited to participate but with no formal management responsibility.

(B) CHy-CIMO- Managed as a joint project of the two Commissions with shared responsibility for management.

(C) Mixed Models:

(i) Formal management team comprising technical experts representing IAHR, IAHS, ISO, HMEI, and CHy designated expert linking to RA's Working Groups on Hydrology (or CHy designated expert representing developing country perspective). The group would be under the auspices of CHy and lead by a designated CHy expert;

(ii) Similar to i) above but with the difference, namely the management team would be independent of CHy, with the chair selected by the team.

A Governance scheme was

Option C i) seems to be preferred but an official proposal to IAHR will be sent by WMO.

- The 2008 International Conference on Hydrometry being organised in Manaus (Brasil) jointly by WMO and IAHS was announced.
- The IFI-International Flood Initiative with the involvement of UNESCO, WMO and IAHR was confirmed as a top priority for WMO.

At the meeting it was also possible to discuss with Arthur Askew, President of IAHS, about the possible links between IAHS and IAHR. Two initiatives are on the agenda: the set-up of a "Workshop", better a group of people working on *Climate change impact on the hydrological cycle and engineering design practices*, with three members for each association, already discussed with our President Tamai. IAHS will further develop this idea and also the possibility to be co-convenor or sponsor of the IAHR Applied Hydrology Working Group Workshop on the same subject we plan to organise in Hamburg next November 26-28.

You are free to distribute this report and to indicate my address for reference if anybody in IAHR is interested in further details.

Sincerely

Roberto Ranzi

