



**International Association of Hydrogeologists**  
**COMMISSION ON GROUNDWATER FOR DECISION MAKERS**  
**(Outreach Commission)**



**BACKGROUND**

The IAH Commission on Groundwater for Decision Makers was established to facilitate communication between IAH hydrogeology professionals and decision makers. The Commission's objective is to achieve good stewardship, sustainable development and maximized benefit from groundwater resources.



The following sequence of statements explains the rationale for the creation of the Commission.

- Science should be the basis for water policy.
- In most countries, water policy decision-makers are politicians at local, regional or national level.
- Groundwater scientists and engineers are the best people to explain hydrogeologic realities to decision makers.
- If we, (hydrogeologists) do not communicate with decision makers they will obtain information from elsewhere.
- Groundwater Information from other sources (non-hydrogeologists) may be based on vested interests and/ or given with no understanding of the fundamentals of water budget dynamics.
- One of the Commission's objectives is to create IAH branded education materials that members can use to provide a consistent, objective and technically accurate message about groundwater.
- International, national and regional agencies with a focus on issues such as health, agriculture, ecological protection and economic development planning also need to receive objective information from hydrogeology experts about groundwater resources and the latest technologies available in areas such as water management models, aquifer recharge & recovery techniques, exploration and well construction, water re-use and contamination clean-up technology, instrumentation and monitoring.

The Commission's Directors would like to hear from IAH Members with ideas, information and offers of assistance. We are looking for groundwater specialists to be involved with the Commission's work as part of the team. We want to hear from IAH members:

- ....who want to help the Commission's achieve its objectives.
- ....who can provide in-country expertise to identify regions/ places/ projects where "education" can help overcome decision-maker ignorance about ground water.
- ....who have skills and resources to assist with collecting, reviewing and compiling educational/outreach material that will become part of the arsenal of IAH branded resource material.
- ....who have skills and resources to create an easy to navigate web-site that will serve as the Commission's "library" of educational/outreach resource materials.
- ....who can assist with translation of resource materials and the maintenance of language-specific web-pages.
- ....who can identify good funding sources for the Commission
- ....who have expertise in techniques (pedagogical and/or technological) that can effectively "explain" and "communicate" to non-specialists the role of groundwater in the hydrologic system.
- ....who can recommend core groundwater concepts (universal truths) that should be included in explanations of ground-water's role in water resources management.

**DIRECTORS - COMMISSION ON GROUNDWATER FOR DECISION MAKERS (Outreach Commission)**

For more information about the Commission please contact one of the Commission directors:

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