NEWSLETTER (Q3)

IAH SOUTH AFRICA

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OCTOBER 2024

Dear IAH-SA member,

We trust you are keeping well and can reflect on a successful year. From all accounts the **IAH2024 Congress** in Davos was highly successful. It had an incredible turn out of in excess of 800 delegates. By all accounts it was very well run, the vibe was very positive, friendly and energetic. The setting and scenery was spectacular. The ECHN is doing well, which is particularly important. Some comments and photos from those fortunate to attend:

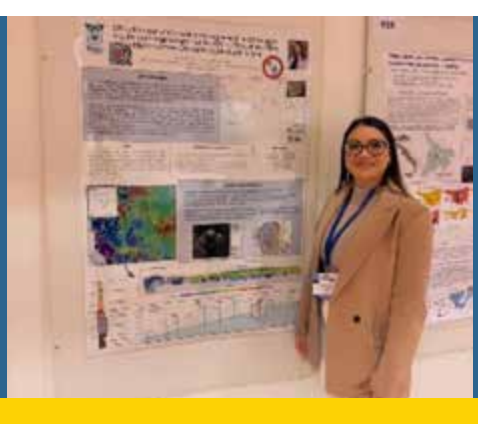
Some of the South African delegates

Members of the ECHN committee

The Congress venue

Aqeela Parker

Attending the IAH 2024 Congress in Davos was an incredible experience! The sessions were highly engaging, sparking meaningful discussions and offering valuable takeaways. The diverse topics and expert contributions added great depth, providing insights I can apply in the future. The excursion also added valuable real-world context, enhancing the overall learning experience. It was truly an enriching event!



Carla Dodd *(Nelson Mandela University)*

"The IAH 2024 Davos Congress exceeded all my expectations. Being relatively new to hydrogeological research, this was my first IAH Congress and first conference with a groundwater focus. I especially enjoyed the plenaries and panel discussions - it was a special experience to listen to the legendary researchers who wrote the literature that has helped me navigate the field of hydrogeology. Another highlight was the variety of evening events and congress excursions, which facilitated networking with the added bonus of sightseeing the beautiful Davos and surrounds. A big thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly to ensure a world-class event!"

Dale Barrow

"The International Groundwater Conference 2024 in Davos was an incredible experience. The conference brought together well over 1 000 delegates from all around the world, united by a passion for hydrogeology, in what was arguably the biggest IAH conference to date.

The organising committee, headed by Daniel Hunkeler and comprised of the Swiss Society of Hydrogeology (SSH) the Centre for Hydrogeology and Geothermics of the University of Neuchâtel (CHYN) made sure every detail was covered in true Swiss style. Excellent plenary sessions, high quality oral and poster presentations, a diverse selection of mid-week excursions, the afternoon outdoor social activities and networking events and the gala dinner filled what was a truly memorable week.

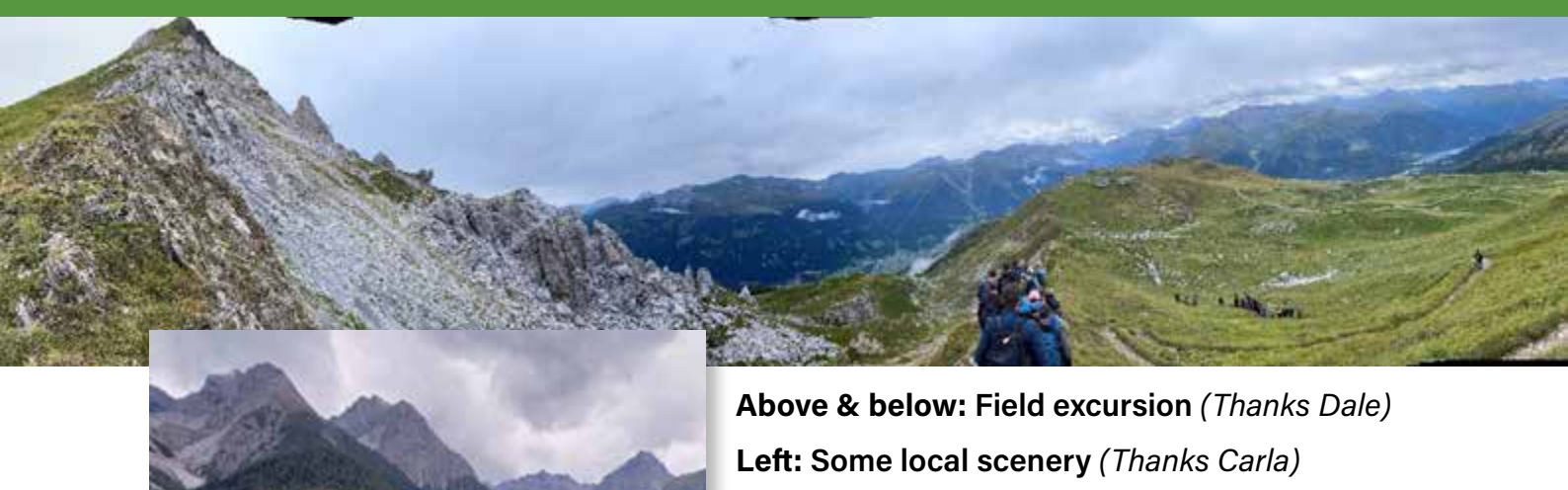
As a sprinkling of snow greeted the delegates farewell, what will surely stand out from the event is the genuineness and warmth of the international groundwater fraternity. The shared passion for the science among its practitioners is a powerful statement for the future of hydrogeology."

Manara Marweshi *(Centre for Global Change (CGC) & University of Limpopo, South Africa):*

Manara Marweshi (Centre for Global Change (CGC) & University of Limpopo, South Africa): "After attending the IAH2023 in Cape Town, attending IAH 2024 was a must. Not only was this my first international trip, but I was in Switzerland to represent both the Centre for Global Change (CGC) and the Department of Geology and Mining at the University of Limpopo. What an exciting experience, packed with educational sessions and extra activities to enhance interactions. IAH2024 was an inspiring and motivating platform to exchange ideas with colleagues in the industry.

I was fascinated by all the knowledge shared at the workshop on Groundwater Modelling: Successes, Disasters, and Misplaced Expectations on 08/09/2024. Furthermore, I was happy to present my poster titled "Conceptual model of groundwater flow in the Upper Olifants River Catchment in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa," on the 12th of September 2024. The presentation was a portion of my bigger study on Numerical modeling of groundwater flow and contaminant transport in the Upper Olifants River Catchment in the Mpumalanga Province, South Africa. For a study still in progress, it was interesting to get feedback and guidance from experts within the industry. The diversity of the participants at IAH allows one to learn and have an overview of the hydrogeology field, especially from a student's perspective. Most importantly, IAH2024 highlighted the global water challenges and the need for unity and collaboration through research to ensure that the decision-makers are well-informed to make legislation that governs sustainable water use. The congress encouraged young hydrogeologists to rise and be confident to protect future hydrogeology education.:

Davos Hockey stadium on the 08th of September 2024 at the ice-breaker evening event, the two gentlemen were playing smooth music through the Alpine horn, an exciting instrument representing Switzerland's culture.



Above & below: Field excursion *(Thanks Dale)*

Left: Some local scenery *(Thanks Carla)*

6th SADC Groundwater Conference

SADC-GMI and Partners are delighted to announce the upcoming 6th SADC Groundwater Conference.

Theme: Promoting Peace Across Borders through Conjunctive Water Management.

Date: 13, 14 & 15 November 2024. Venue: Maseru, Lesotho. *Please visit https://sadc-gmi.org/*

12th International Symposium on Managed Aquifer Recharge | STELLENBOSCH SOUTH AFRICA 28 APRIL-2 MAY 2025

In 2025, we have the ISMAR12 Conference here in Cape Town, and the organising of the event is progressing well.

Date: 28 April to 2 May 2025 and will be held in Stellenbosch, South Africa.

- This symposium will open the doors of opportunity to the rest of the world's MAR experts and academics to come to South Africa, showcase their specialities, and form the African connections that can provide their companies and institutions with their next international MAR partnership to facilitate new projects and studies, this time in Africa.
- The symposium will be attended by national and international regulators, researchers and practitioners in all facets of MAR, including hydrogeology, geochemistry, microbiology, modeling, economics, and water resources management. Fanus Fourie is chairing the LOC and doing an excellent job.

Please visit: https://ismar12.org.za/

Stats to date:

- 5 workshops on Monday - 1 full day and 4 half day workshops
- Abstracts submitted: 149 (after removing all the duplicates)
- 135 oral presentations and 14 poster presentations.
- Keynote speakers: Ricky Murray and Adam Hutchinson on Tuesday (confirmed) and Peter Dillon on Thursday (to be confirmed) at the closing ceremony

Contact: For more information confetal@iafrica.com

The 2025 IAH Congress

The 2025 IAH Congress will be held in Melbourne, Australia and the details are as follows:

Date: 14-19 September 2025. The event will be held at the Melbourne Convention and Exhibition Centre. This event, held in conjunction with the 2025 Australasian Groundwater Conference, marks a significant return of the World Groundwater Congress to Australia after 12 years.

Please visit: *https://iah.org.za/the-52nd-congress-of-the-international-association-of-hydrogeologists/.*

Please see the link below to the latest newsletter about the 52nd Congress of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH 2025). *https://ezine.icmsaust.com.au/iah2025/3/*

If you have ideas of events / activities that we should be hosting, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

IAH-SA Committee

Kevin Pietersen, Amy Allwright, Nicolette Vermaak & Julian Conrad

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Dr Kevin Pietersen (Chairman) | **Dr Amy Allwright** (Treasurer) | **Dr Nicolette Vermaak** (Secretary) | **Julian Conrad** (Committee Member)