

# **REMINDER & INVITATION**

IAH Commission on Transboundary Aquifers

## **Workshop**

**Pre-conference event at the IAH 46th Congress, Malaga, Spain**

**22<sup>nd</sup> Sept 2019, 14:00 to 18:00**

***Future of Transboundary Aquifers:  
Research, Management, and Policy Directions***

**&**

**Short Questionnaire**

***Centre of Hydrogeology, University of Malaga<sup>1</sup>***

This workshop, organised by the IAH Commission on Transboundary Aquifers will take stock of the whole question of “transboundary aquifers” that has evolved in the past twenty years, since the launch of the IAH Commission. The aim of the workshop is to conduct a discerning and insightful look to the future – setting out a way forward on the required research, policy directions and effective management. This will guide the next phase of the work of the IAH Commission, as well as offer a framework for other partners (such as UNESCO, UN ECE, and others) to engage in the sustainability of these resources.

The deadline for submission of abstracts has passed and the list of speakers and presentations is being finalised. However wide participation is encouraged as significant time will be allotted for contributions and engagement by attendees. Hence, registration is requested – see the attached Registration Form.

**With this announcement and invitation a SHORT QUESTIONNAIRE is being circulated.** Even if you are not planning to participate in the workshop, your opinion is sought through a short questionnaire – seeking views from a wide range of experts on various transboundary aquifer-related issues (the questionnaire attached as separate file). Please respond by 15<sup>th</sup> July 2019.

**The proposed theme of the workshop is *The Future of Transboundary Aquifers: Research, Management, and Policy Directions*.** Discussion of the future requires taking stock of the current situation and past activities. Since the IAH Commission was launched in the late 1990’s, global inventories have been prepared, legal framework guidance has been developed, significant recognition of the prevalence of transboundary aquifers has been achieved, and in a number of such aquifers cooperation between countries is advancing. Yet it may argued that together with national groundwater resources, transboundary resources still receive scant attention, despite these resources often having a critical role in national socio – economics. The workshop will facilitate discussion on research, management and practice needed for their mainstreaming in the coming years.

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<sup>1</sup> Location: <http://cehiuma.uma.es/en/situacion.asp>

In addition, it remains unclear to what extent the now ratified UN Convention on International Watercourses, and the UN ECE Convention on Transboundary Watercourses provide a complete framework for transboundary aquifers, that enables countries to effectively utilise and manage these resources. It may be noted that the case of non-recharging aquifers, which store some of the largest volumes of groundwater resources, remain largely unregulated under international water law. The workshop will address these issues and will also formulate a work programme for the IAH Commission for the future (2020 to 2030).

**Participation** – the event is planned as an open event, and all IAH members, as well as non-members, are welcome to attend. No participation fees are required (see <https://iah2019.adabyron.uma.es/event/1/> for registering for the IAH Congress). However, for this workshop a registration form (accompanying this notice) should be completed and submitted.

**Presentations and discussion** – the primary aim of the workshop is lively discussion. Contributions as short presentations and items for discussions will be made in the workshop, as follows:

### ***Keynotes on Taking Stock***

*Two keynotes will provide the background addressing cutting edge research* – international water law, science of aquifers, management and governance, environmental significance, non-recharging aquifers.

### ***Forward Looking Presentations and Discussions***

Science and data requirements in the future management, law and policy perspectives, socio-economics, and governance and institutional evolution required

### **Proposed Structure of the Workshop**

- Welcome/Introduction
- Taking stock: Keynote speakers
- Lightning presentations on taking stock (6 mins each)
  - short presentations on cutting edge research
- Forward-looking presentations (10 mins each)
  - Scientific and data-oriented perspectives
  - Law and policy perspectives
  - Socio-economic and institutional perspectives
- Moderated roundtable on future research, management & policy directions
- Moderated open forum regarding the role and work programme of the IAH Commission on Transboundary Aquifers
- Closing remarks

**Deadline for the submission of abstracts is closed, but this is an invitation to attend the Workshop and to reply to the questionnaire.**

**The details of the final programme will be circulated by the end of August 2019.**

**CONTACT:** Please reply to the following email to reply to the questionnaire and register for the workshop: [TransboundaryAquifers@gmail.com](mailto:TransboundaryAquifers@gmail.com)