



## **IAHS – the International Association of Hydrological Sciences: 95 years of international scientific cooperation and societal support**

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Following the first world war, several international scientific non-governmental societies decided to promote the universality of science and of scientific cooperation, for the sake of the progress of humankind in relation to nature, independently from conflicts under and between political regimes. In this spirit, the International Branch of Scientific Hydrology was launched at the Rome General Assembly of the International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics (IUGG) in 1922. This later became the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) which is now 95 years old and still very active dealing with the problems of water resources, processes and hazards, together with the science and technology to address them.

Now, with 10 Commissions, 2 working groups, nearly 100 affiliated national bodies and some 7200 individual members from across the World, IAHS is a vibrant international community of hydrologists. Furthermore, the Association shares activities in a number of fields: within ICSU, with several IUGG Commissions, with some of the other 7 Associations in the IUGG family, and also with a number of water-related associations outside IUGG. In the intergovernmental community IAHS interacts with several UN bodies with which it has interests in common: particularly with UNESCO and WMO, and it is a long-standing Partner within UN-Water.

The three organizations, IAHS, UNESCO through its International Hydrological Programme (IHP) and WMO through its Hydrology and Water Resources Programme (HWRP) have a long and rich cooperative experience on improving the knowledge base and building capacity on hydrology and water resources. UNESCO and IAHS have been mutually supportive in a number of additional ways. UNESCO also provides substantial support for IAHS events and several co-publications have materialized. Since many years now UNESCO-IHP and IAHS have been organizing the Kovacs colloquium aiming at addressing scientific challenges in hydrology for better water resources management. IAHS actively participates since many years in several Expert Groups of the WMO Commission for Hydrology. The annual International Hydrology Prize presented jointly by IAHS, UNESCO and WMO is further proof of the three organizations' common interest in promoting hydrological science.

Based on the success of the PUB – Prediction in Ungauged Basins decade (2003-2012), with which it had global impact, the IAHS community launched and is now running the Panta Rhei decade (2013-2022) to collectively address the challenges of change in hydrology and society, and to synchronize and articulate scientific progress with the wider geopolitical agenda under the SDG framework umbrella.

Over the years, IAHS has evolved in response to societal demands and scientific challenges. It is an active community with the overall goal of facilitating scientific networking and community building, consolidating and disseminating knowledge, bridging the divides between communities, and facilitating those who are less endowed to participate in the global hydrological community. Initially geopolitical, the divides are now also science-practice related, educational, economic, digital, epistemological. IAHS' vocation and experience is to enhance water-related cooperation and connectivity, to facilitate scientists, ideas, knowledge and innovations in the scope of hydrology to circulate and progress, and ultimately to support understanding, cooperation and diplomacy.