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Education and Professional Development (EPD)

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Education and Professional Development (EPD)

The latest meeting of the IAHR Committee on Education and Professional Development (EPD) was held together with the meeting of the Engineering Graduate School Environment Water (EGW) and it took place on Sunday, August 11th, 2009 in Vancouver, Canada during the XXXIII IAHR Congress. It was chaired by Prof. Reinhard Hinkelmann and attended by about 20 participants.



The activities in the period summer 2007 until summer 2009 mainly focussed on the preparation of the Vancouver Congress, the IAHR Multimedia Library and further education courses within the EGW framework. A detailed activity report was presented and discussed.

Concerning the Vancouver Congress, EPD considerably contributed to organizing Topic F: Education, History, Social / Economic Impacts and the John F. Kennedy Student Paper Competition. EPD will also contribute to the upcoming IAHR Congresses. The activities will be planned in the next months. The initiatives of the IAHR Media Library regarding films of interest in the field of Fluid Mechanics were previously the same as those of ASME, as can be read in the Journal of Fluid Engineering, June 1976, pp.

151-155. The IAHR Media Library represents the evolution of that idea. Therefore in 2004, thanks to the initiatives of Michele Mossa's didactical and research group at the Technical University of Bari (Italy), in cooperation with IAHR and the Editorial Board, the IAHR Media Library became a web resource for the storage and dissemination of photographic, animation and video material relating to Hydraulics, Fluid Mechanics, Hydrology, Water and Fluids Engineering and Water Resources.

From July 2008 the first stage of IAHR Media Library was expanded, also including a second new area devoted to teaching tools, which can be uploaded or downloaded

free of charge, as is the norm for this web resource.

Therefore, the web resource now consists of two areas. The first one is devoted to movies and photos, whereas the second one is primarily devoted to any kind of educational resources in electronic format, such as:

- slides of class lectures and seminars
- didactic computational software
- documentation of appropriate field cases
- e-learning tools
- e-books
- bibliographies.

The basic features and rules of the initiative are:

- no charge
- the authors of tools are identified and users are encouraged to acknowledge the authors
- the authors have the right to ask for the removal of their material from the web page whenever they like
- tools should be available as open sources, so that that users can freely use them as they are, or take and modify any part of them. Computational software may be an exception.

Within EGW, six courses have been carried out. Most of the remaining successful courses run under a bi-annual basis. They have in common that they aim at higher education, that they are of high quality and that they foresee a national or international lecturer team. The transition of EGW from the European to a global dimension

has not been as successful as expected. As different further education activities are running within the other IAHR Committees, all new chairs are encouraged to put these activities under the EGW umbrella. Lecturers are encouraged to open their specialized PhD courses also to students of other EGW partners and to announce them to EGW which will spread this information. As the exchange of students is ongoing and increasing in Europe within the Bologna process and as the academic recognition of courses from other universities has become easier in the last years, EGW activities will be maintained in the future.

After a discussion it was decided to keep the old name 'Committee on Education and Professional Development' (EPD) instead of the suggested name 'Professional Education and Training'. EPD better reflects that academic education is an important part of this committee.

For the transition of EPD into the new IAHR structure as a Committee within the new Division III - IPD, Innovation and Professional Development, a Leadership Team was started to be established. After the Congress Michele Mossa, the previous Secretary, became the New Chairman and Ioana Popescu the new Secretary. Reinhard Hinkelmann will serve as Past Chairman and he will also contribute to IAHR within the new Council. The following persons agreed to join the Leadership Team: Rob Ettema, Frank Molkenhuth and Guillermo Palau Salvador. Two further members, one from Asia and one from Latin America, are currently

searched for to have a well-balanced regional distribution in the Leadership Team.

The new Committee EPD will have the same status as all other Committees of the Divisions I and II. This also includes the circumstance that the IAHR members can give a full or half a vote to this committee. The Chairmen suggest that the participants should give at least half a vote to EPD.

Peter Godwin briefly spoke about the student chapters. A new task force headed by Marian Muste has been initiated by the Council to improve the situation in the student chapters and their participation in the IAHR congresses.

Ana Maria da Silva reported about the Master classes which she organized with further colleagues for the Vancouver Congress.

Aronne Armanini presented a new database about 'Doctoral Research in Hydraulics - European Doctoral Students and Subjects' where students can register under www.iahr.eu to come into contact with PhD students with similar subjects.

Via the IAHR web-page, there is a direct link to the Facebook initiative 'IAHR Young Professionals' which is a group established by IAHR for young researchers in all aspects of hydraulic and water engineering and environmental sciences to enhance contacts and exchange experiences and knowledge, see www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8630407386&ref=share.

IWA has started a Wikipedia for water, see <http://water.wikia.com>.

A further article describing the future plans of the new EPD team will follow soon.

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