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39th IAHR World Congress Report

19-24 June 2022, Granada, Spain

By Miguel Ortega Sánchez

Following the tradition of the biannual IAHR World Congresses, the 39th edition (originally to be held in 2021) took place in Granada (Spain) from 19 to 24 June 2022. The organisation of the event was very complex due to the COVID-19 pandemic, as it was in fact the first major international face-to-face event since 2019. Nearly 1200 people from more than 70 countries attended the congress, whose central topics developed around the congress theme "From Snow to Sea":

- Human-water relationships
- Snow, river and sediment management
- Environmental hydraulics and urban water cycle
- Hydraulic structures
- Water resources management, valuing, and resilience
- Computational and experimental methods
- Coasts, estuaries, shelves, and seas
- Extreme events: from droughts to floods

A total of 1034 papers were accepted from around 2000 abstracts received, including the special sessions. Furthermore, 4 High-Level Panels, 15 Special Sessions, 4 Side Events, 8 Technical visits, 3 Workshops, and 2 Masterclasses were also organised.

For the first time, the Granada Industry Stream Event (GISE) took place with the aim of providing a platform for those stakeholders, individuals, organisations, and authorities who implement real world solutions over the full water cycle to interact, raise priority issues, and advocate solutions at the global institutional level. This event will be followed up by the Vienna 2023 Industry Stream Event (VISE) with a focus on the recent achievements of industry and academia in delivering industrial developments and applications.

The Congress was inaugurated on Monday 20 June in the presence of representatives of the Spanish Government, the Regional and Local Government, the President of the IAHR and the Rector of the University of Granada. After the official opening and presentation of the IAHR awards, 3 keynote speakers gave talks: Nadia Pinarði – Coastal resilience in a changing climate; Teodoro Estrela – Water challenges in Spain; and Steven Brunton – Machine Learning for Scientific Discovery, with Examples in Fluid Mechanics.

On each of the remaining days of the week High-Level Panels exploring the following themes took place: "From Snow to Sea", "Water Governance", "Artificial Intelligence" and "Nature-based Solutions and Ecohydraulics", and this was undoubtedly one of the central and novel elements of the congress. More than 25 of the world's leading experts on the various topics participated in these plenary sessions, from which a general Granada Outcome Statement was derived.

The Organisers of the Congress were the IAHR and the University of Granada, together with the General Directorate of Water and the General Directorate of the Coast and Sea (Ministry for the Ecological Transition and the Demographic Challenge, Spain), the Centre for Studies and Experimentation of Public Works (CEDEX), which make up "Spain Water", and the China Institute of Water Resources and Hydropower Research (IWHR).

The Congress was supported by the Andalusian Regional Government, local entities and more than 20 sponsors, and as a result the exhibition and exhibition area became a vibrant central networking forum throughout the whole event.





39th IAHR World Congress Awards

IAHR honoured excellence and our outstanding members at the Opening Session of the 1st IAHR Online Forum. IAHR Awards acknowledge the careers, papers, and projects of outstanding members who have had a remarkable impact on hydro-environment engineering and research. Given every two years at the biennial World Congresses, the 2021 awards were announced at the first ever IAHR Online Forum and were presented at the opening ceremony of the IAHR World Congress in Granada on 20 June 2022 and during the gala dinner on 23 June 2022.

Honorary Membership Award

The Honorary Membership Award, the most prestigious honour conferred by the IAHR Council, is bestowed on up to three distinguished IAHR members for their lifetime contributions to hydro-environment engineering and research and their outstanding service to the association.



Arthur Thomas Ippen Award

The A.T. Ippen Award was established in 1977 to honour the memory of Professor Ippen, IAHR President (1959-1963), IAHR honorary member (1963-1974), and for many decades an inspirational leader in fluids research, hydraulic engineering, and international co-operation and understanding.



M. Selim Yalim Lifetime Achievement Award

Established in 2006 to honour the memory of Professor M. Selim Yalim, Honorary Member (1925-2007), and Fluvial Hydraulics Section Chairman for his prolific research contributions in fluvial hydraulics and sediment transport, and for his inspirational mentoring of students and researchers.



Harold Jan Schoemaker Award

The H.J. Schoemaker Award was established in 1980 to recognise the efforts made by Professor Schoemaker, IAHR Secretary (1960-1979), in guiding the Journal of Hydraulic Research in its formative years.



The John F. Kennedy Student Paper Competition

Established in 1992 to honour the memory of Professor John F. Kennedy, IAHR President (1979-1983) and Honorary Member (1989-1991). Recognises conference papers from undergraduate and postgraduate students on the basis of written and oral presentations at the IAHR World Congress.



Willi H. Hager JHR Best Reviewer Award

The Willi H. Hager JHR Best Reviewer Award was established in 2012. The Award is presented to up to 3 reviewers, under 45 years of age, judged to have provided the most outstanding reviews of the papers submitted to the IAHR Journal of Hydraulic Research.



IAHR Industry Innovation Award

This Industry Innovation Award is conferred by IAHR during the World Congress on a recent local innovation in design of lasting and international importance. It has the purpose of giving international professional recognition to the work of local hydro-environment engineers.



IAHR Hydro-Environment World Heritage Award

The Hydro-Environment World Heritage Award was established in 2012 is conferred by IAHR during the World Congress on a local infrastructure. It has the purpose of giving international professional recognition to the work of local hydro-environment engineers.

