

Book review

Roland K. Price & Zoran Vojinovic Urban Hydroinformatics: Data, Models and Decision Support for Integrated Urban Water Management by January 2011. IWA Publishing, London. 552 pages. Paperback ISBN: 9781843392743, £105.00/US\$189.00/€ 141.75

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This is the first edition of a book on Urban Hydroinformatics aimed at providing a comprehensive framework on the issue of urban water management which is nowadays an increasingly relevant subject both from technical and socio-economic-environmental standpoints. The subject is dealt with considering also the advances in the integration between the new information technologies and recent studies in the hydraulic field on data modelling and analysis for supporting management decisions.

The book is composed of 15 chapters: (1) The imperative for urban water management, (2) Urban water systems, (3) Hydroinformatics, (4) Data management, (5) Modelling paradigms, (6) Decision support systems, (7) Involving society in urban water management, (8) Asset management, (9) Water distribution systems, (10) Collection systems, (11) Wastewater treatment, (12) Management and water quality in integrated drainage systems, (13) Urban flood risk management, (14) Management of urban waters in developing countries, and (15) Future of urban water management.

The authors give an excellent overview of the history and development within hydroinformatics during the past decades. Further, philosophical thoughts are shared on 'knowledge' and the interface between hydroinformatics, the real and the virtual world.

The book outlines the basics of measurements and data management. The descriptions are supported by illustrative figures and pictures, which provide easy to understand information for students. The use of measurements in relation to modelling demonstrates the need for well-planned measurement campaigns, which is excellent and essential knowledge for water engineering students.

The book covers wide ground within modelling of urban water and gives an introduction to many aspects of urban water management and modelling. For example, the book presents the state-of-the-art within 2D flood modelling of urban areas both in the developed and the developing world. For in-depth studies of the topics in the book a number of high quality references are provided by the authors.

The authors accomplish consistency of the different topics in the presentation through the 15 chapters and sub-sections never losing the focus on urban management and the need for sustainable decisions both from technical a socio-economic-environmental standpoints.

The result is a well-balanced book easy to read also as editorial presentation, e.g. tables reporting summaries of sections inside the chapters, and appropriate figures and pictures throughout the book.

This way the book could be useful for practitioners who would like to learn about the whole matter related to hydroinformatics, data modelling, models and decision support for integrated urban water management, and to this aim the information about the related tools (e.g. software packages) is very effective for practical purposes.

Despite the focus to readers who are practitioners, the book could also be a good reference for researchers who would like to approach the matter of hydroinformatics in urban water management, as it reports through the chapters useful information, examples and references.

Furthermore, we would mention chapters: (1) The imperative for urban water management; (3) Hydroinfor-

matics; (7) Involving society in urban water management; and (14) Management of urban waters in developing countries. In our opinion these chapters are very important from an educational point of view for university students as well.

Towards the end of the book two interesting case studies are presented demonstrating how HydroInformatics theory and modelling tools are applied for analyses and practical problem solving. The book concludes with an outlook on the future of urban water management.

Finally, it is easy to predict that this book will be successful because of the subject matter, and the way it has been written by Prof. Price and Prof. Vojinovic, and will have further editions.

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