

## Newsletter 2-2021



# *Advances in Flood Risk Management*

With this newsletter we would like to inform you about current activities of our Technical Committee, inviting you to take actively part of them.

### ***Global floods in 2021 - IAHR experts call for science-informed action***

During the last months, extreme floods, such as the July 2021 catastrophic flooding in Germany, Belgium, and China, and the monsoonal disaster in India have been recorded worldwide and are hitting global news headlines. Increasing human suffering, economic losses and damages to intangible values linked to floods are indeed emblematic of current weaknesses in predicting and managing flood risk.

IAHR released on July 27, 2021 a statement, where IAHR experts call for science-informed action to deal with extreme precipitation attributed to climate change and increasing urbanization, and offer for helping societies to adapt to these new 'normals'. Our committee participated to the initiative with the contribution of our chair: Alastair Barnett. The statement can be found here: <https://www.iahr.org/index/detail/482>

### ***Special session on “Weak Points in the Flood Risk Modelling Chain” at the 7th IAHR Europe Congress***

Following our initiative on *Weak Points in the Flood Risk Modelling Chain*, a special session on this topic will be organized during the 7th IAHR Europe Congress: Innovative Water Management in a Changing Climate Athens, Greece, 7-9 September 2022. The session will be convened by our members Daniela Molinari and Stefan Haun, with the objective to discuss about present limitations of flood risk modelling and with the final aim of improving our modelling and risk mitigation capabilities. Beside highlighting contributions received so far, the aim is to collect new contributions with the ambition of widening the “weak points” database. *The abstract submission is open until January 15, 2022.* Further information on the congress and the abstract submission process are available on the congress webpage: <https://www.erasmus.gr/microsites/1227>.

An overview on already collected weak points and the possibility to upload additional contributions can be found on our platform (<https://www.iahr.org/index/detail/337>). With the initiative we are collecting contributions on: (i) identification of weak points/limits in the flood risk modelling chain; (ii) tools, best practices, bench mark data sets and case studies that could support our researcher and practitioner communities in dealing with those shortcomings. All submitted contributions will be peer-reviewed and will receive a DOI.

### ***Initiative “Towards Practical Flood Risk Assessment for Development Projects” and Special Session during the 39th IAHR World Congress, 2022, Granada***

Recent flood events resulted in severe damage, high economic costs and in worst case in a loss of life. This has proven once more that existing flood risk assessment practice needs to be adapted

to meet 21st Century challenges, especially challenges resulting from climate change. With the initiative “Towards Practical Flood Risk Assessment for Development Projects” a “White Paper” should evolve, which may tackle this issue, and which may support experts from academia and professionals in their decisions in the future.

To incorporate knowledge and experience of all associated members of the technical committee on Flood Risk Management we would like to open the floor for contributions, with the aim to strengthen the final version of the “White Paper”. Hence, we plan to send a copy of the “Grey Paper”, written by Alastair Barnett, in beginning of March 2022 to interested IAHR members, together with a call for revisions. Thus, all IAHR members have the possibility to comment and revise the “Grey Paper”, and to present their suggestions within a special session, held during the IAHR World Congress in Granada in June 2022 (<https://iahrworldcongress.org/>).

### **Election of new IAHR-FRM committee members in 2022**

In 2022 the Committee on Flood Risk Management will elect a new Leadership Team (LT). The LT should represent the high scientific, technical and professional quality and dedication as well as a fair representation of the regional distribution of world-wide IAHR membership. Hence, we would like to call for nominations for open positions within the LT. Current initiatives of the committee can be found on our website, and further information on the election will be published there: <https://www.iahr.org/index/committe/11>

### **Season's greetings**

To all colleagues and friends associated to our technical committee worldwide, thank you very, very much for your pleasant collaboration during the past year. We wish you all health and happiness throughout the coming year 2022.

The Leadership Team 2021:

Alastair G. Barnett (Chair); Daniela Molinari (Vice Chair); Marian Muste (Past Chair); Mustafa Altinakar; Mark Babister; Francesco Ballio; Yongping Chen; Xiaotao Cheng; Benjamin J. Dewals; Jennifer G. Duan; Stefan Haun; Na Li

*If you are interested in presenting actual developments within our newsletter, please send your contributions to Stefan Haun ([stefan.haun@iws.uni-stuttgart.de](mailto:stefan.haun@iws.uni-stuttgart.de)) or Daniela Molinari ([daniela.molinari@polimi.it](mailto:daniela.molinari@polimi.it))*