

International Symposium “Preventing and Fighting Hydrological Disasters”

Cretu Gh., Mocanu F.C., Badaluta-Minda C.

”Politehnica” University of Timisoara, Hydrotechnical Faculty, Romania

Nowadays natural or accidental hydrological phenomena, like floods, droughts, pollution, are frequent worldwide.

”Politehnica” University of Timisoara, *Hydrotechnical Faculty*, together with the National Administration of the Romanian Water and the Romanian National Committee for the International Hydrologic Program - UNESCO are organizing in the period 29.06 - 01.07.2006, with the occasion of Danube Day (having the slogan ”A Living Space”), the International Symposium ”Preventing and Fighting Hydrological Disasters”. This intends to be a continuation of the conference thematic, organized at Timisoara in 2002, and to express in the same time the actual requirements in the domain.

The objectives of the Symposium can be synthesized as following:

- presenting some theoretical results, accomplishments and experiments in research, education, and execution - exploitation in the domain;
- establishing exchanges of ideas, opinions concerning preventing and diminishing the destructive effects of the hydrological extremes;
- settling the directives for the future actions.

A question of which we try to find the answer during this symposium is about the way we can efficiently anticipate through an integrated management of the catchment area.

The Symposium is taking place under the auspices of the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS) - Wallingford, UK, World Association of Water Resources (EWRA), Athens, Greece, and World Association of Soil and Water Conservation (WASWC), Bangkok, Thailand.

We are honored by accepting to form the International Scientific Committee or attending and have oral communications remarkable specialists, we mention just a few of these well-known persons in the ”world” of Hydrology and Water Management: Dr. Szollosi - Nagy, the manager of the Water Science Division - UNESCO, Prof. George Tsakiris, the EWRA president; Prof. Andre Musy, Ecole Polytechnique de Lousane; Prof. K.V. Rao, City University London; Prof. Pierre Hubert, general secretary of IAHS, Prof. Maciej Zalewski, manager of the International Centre of Ecohydrology UNESCO, Dr. Samran Sombatpanit, past president of WASWC and Prof. Miodrag Zlatic, president of WASWC, Prof. Pierre Carrega, University ”Sophia Antipolis” of Nice, Prof. Philippe Gourbesville, University of Nice, Prof. Antonio Betamio de Almeida, Technical University of Lisbon, Prof. Erik Pasche, Technical University Hamburg - Harburg.

We also were glad to be hosts of remarkable specialists from our country, colleagues from universities and water authorities.

The Symposium is included in this year calendar of IAHS-UNESCO, WASWC, EWRA, and the web portal ”Papers INVITED” (which presents a list with the events organizers, periodical publications destined to the researchers from more than 60 countries). In the same time is integrated into the ”International Initiative for Floods”, program coordinated by UNESCO.

Beside these, there are made, under different form, presentations and promotion materials IAHS, WASWC, EWRA, which addressed through messages appreciative words regarding the initiative to organize the Symposium.

Interest for the Symposium was shown by some non-governmental organizations (ONG), magazines in the domain and private persons (some of them by dissemination of ideas, some by participation).

Further, a number of selected papers will be published into the international prestigious magazine EWRA (Water Resources Management).

The Symposium includes the following topics:

- Natural and accidental floods
- Hydrological droughts
- The pollution of the water resources
- Policies and strategies

In the first two days of the Symposium will take place at Timisoara the oral communications, and in the third day will be organized a documentary trip on Danube in the Iron Gates area.

The presented papers (more than 100 authors from Romania, France, Germany, Portugal, Austria, Holland, Serbia and Montenegro, Switzerland) approach in synthesis the following problems:

1. Natural and Accidental Floods

Flood risk; flood wave forecast, modeling, computational models and scenarios for propagation; management of floods included to the integrated management of the catchment area (prevention - protection - diminishing); monitoring and exploitation functioning of the high water systems works; GIS utilization in floods hazard (risk maps); impact / effects / damages; case studies from Romania, France, Portugal, Austria, Thailand and Indonesia.

In the topic are included more than half of the total papers from the Symposium.

2. Hydrological Droughts

There are analyzed some hydrological droughts and their management in case of concrete situations from Romania, India, Uzbekistan and Russia.

The topic is represented by a small number of papers (4) which approach in a small measure the general problems of the hydrological drought.

3. Pollution of Water Resources

Are treated especially the surface waters in which concerns the prevention and diminishing the accidental pollution effect; water quality modeling including through ecohydrological models; advanced technologies of water purification, possible sources of pollution including the pollution due to soil erosion, the impact on the environment including the anthropic processes in reservoirs.

The topic contains a representative number of papers (16).

4. Policies and Strategies

Great part of the papers included in this topic are from the maximum extreme hydrologic events, floods, presenting defenses strategies against floods, including the Danube Delta, the management of the catchment area in humid areas and crossborder areas, economical problems; strategies to predict the floods in the urban zones, the

WATMAN project, and the analysis of several case studies from Romania, France, India, legislative problems and implementation of these.

In the last day of the Symposium will be organized a documentary trip in the Iron Gates area, affected by floods in the first part of this year.

The Symposium is giving the opportunity especially for the students to participate to a contest of posters, essays and slogans on the topics:

- Preventing and Fighting Hydrological Disasters
- Water and Culture
- Danube - a Living Space

Web sites:

www.ewra.net

www.waterinfo.gr

www.waswc.org

www.cig.ensmp.fr/~iahs/

www.papersinvited.com/displayOrgEvent.asp?eId=224523974906665&code=391320178095160