

Public announcement of the upcoming International Congress on:

## GEOETHICS & GROUNDWATER MANAGEMENT

theory and practice for a sustainable development.

*Porto (Portugal), October 21-25 – 2019*



Natural resources of our planet are among the main topics of interest for geoethics. Referring to surface and groundwater management, geoethics promotes a prudent and responsible use, and recycling wherever possible, fostering key concepts like sustainability, respect for natural dynamics, and preservation from pollution. In this perspective, geoscientists are called to disseminate correct information on the best way to manage water resources for the benefit of society, and to sensitize public opinion about the active contribution the population can give to the conservation of water in order to avoid the depletion of this essential resource for the life on the planet.

From 2012 the IAPG - International Association for Promoting Geoethics ([www.geoethics.org](http://www.geoethics.org)) works for orienting geoscientists towards an ethical approach to water resources. This implies to analyse scientifically the dynamics of human-water systems, to manage carefully problems related to environmental impacts created by human intervention in the natural processes governing surface and groundwater resources, to develop strategies in order to harmonize expectations and requests of various stakeholders, including citizens, industry and policy makers.

The joint congress IAH - IAPG will be an excellent occasion for discussing and sharing values, best practices and strategies to manage water resources for a sustainable future.

Silvia Peppoloni (Secretary General)



International Association  
of Hydrogeologists  
The World-wide Groundwater Organisation

Groundwater is the less visible part of all the water cycle. When water enters the underground world on its way to aquifers, it turns difficult for non-specialists to understand its pathway and the amount of resources under the soil, as well as its possible management. By this reason or because the opportunity comes, there are countries in arid areas using the last aquifers they have to less priority uses, condemning the next generations to look for new water sources, like desalination, there are countries mining groundwater under the borders of other countries, there are long historic records of groundwater contamination by industry, human settlements, agriculture. And there are new relations between water and energy, for example fracking for gas and oil and the possible implications for groundwater. So, geoethics is something that hydrogeologists will more and more need to have in mind when working with such a sensitive water resource.

A joint congress between IAH ([www.iah.org](http://www.iah.org)) and IAPG will be a partnership that can lead hydrogeologists and other specialists on geoethics to think about our profession and the implications our actions can have for the world and for our future generations.

António Chambel (President)

The groundwater community involved in science, exploration and exploitation, use and management of this evermore essential natural resource is becoming more and more aware that ethical issues pervade all our attitudes from concept to action and need to be addressed. Diverse values and cultures, science and education, law and policies, human and natural environments, the public and the economic sectors see groundwater and its values and roles differently. We believe that in a globalized intertwined World a common ground must be discussed and agreed for peace, human development and sustainability.

On this 22th March 2018, World Water Day, I warmly invite all of you concerned or interested in those exciting and important subjects to join in Porto (UNESCO World Heritage Site) for a foundational congress about what we may name hydrogeoethics in the perspective of groundwater. I expect your active participation. Be welcome to Porto and Portugal.

Manuel Abrunhosa (Chairman of the GeoEth&GwM'19)

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