

CONFERENCE REPORT

BY HUBERT CHANSON

The 34th IAHR World Congress together with the 33rd National Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium and the 10th National Conference on Hydraulics in Water Engineering were held in Brisbane in June 2011. Some recent natural disasters including the 2010-11 floods in Australia and the 11 March 2011 earthquake and tsunami in Japan, and the 2011 floods in North-America showed the complex interactions between nature and society, highlighting that careful management and innovative solutions are required to balance these interactions and solutions must be able to deal with the uncertainty in the natural world as well as our changing human world. The Congress theme "Balance and Uncertainty: Water in a Changing World" reflected upon the central roles of hydraulic engineering, hydrology and water resources in our changing world, and

how these roles link to the broader issues, including the environment, the economy, tourism, social and indigenous values, health aspects, aesthetics and the needs of current and future generations.

The event jointly organised by Engineers Australia and IAHR attracted over 820 participants from 45 countries, among which the student participation accounted for nearly one fourth, and while the IAHR participation was 222 members. The congress proceedings papers were peer-reviewed thoroughly and independently under the leadership of the scientific committee. A total of 587 papers were published in the proceedings [1] out of 840 full paper submissions and 1,400 abstract submissions. The technical program regrouped 6 plenary lectures, 527 oral presentations divided



Hubert Chanson is a Professor in Civil Engineering, Hydraulic Engineering and Applied Fluid Mechanics, at the University of Queensland, Australia and was Chair of the Executive Steering Committee.

His research interests include design of hydraulic structures, experimental investigations of two-phase flows, coastal hydrodynamics, water quality modelling, environmental management and natural resources. He is the 13th Arthur Ippen Award Winner.

Fig. 1 - Opening of the congress by Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland on Monday 27 June 2011



Fig. 2 - Water engineering games during the congress dinner



Fig. 3 - Congress Organisation team members: Front row (from left to right): John Macintosh, Hubert Chanson, Toby McGrath, James Ball; Back row (from left to right): Martin Lambert, Ruth McGrath, Trinity Graham, Stefan Felder, Anthony Gaffney, Catriona McAuliffe, Rosemary Macintosh, Rob Ayre, Robert Ettema, Evan Caswell, Bruce Melville, Ron Cox, Colin Apelt, Eric Valentine, Suzan Burow





into 8 parallel sessions and 60 poster presentations with a dedicated poster session on Tuesday evening.

Some highlights of the congress included the opening speech by the Governor of Queensland [2] (Fig. 1), the scientific program of high quality prepared with the highest standards, and the level of professional engagement. Further highlights comprised the social program encompassing the welcome reception at the Queensland maritime museum, the congress dinner featuring the water engineering games (Fig. 2) and a well-organised

accompanying persons program, the strong students and young professionals program including the JF Kennedy Student Paper competition, and the in-congress technical tours and technical workshops on Wednesday afternoon.

On the behalf of the Congress Organisation, I would like to thank all the congress participants, including the 222 IAHR members, all the reviewers of papers and the associate editors, without whom this congress could not have been a huge success. Lastly I want to thank

personally the congress organisation team members (Fig. 3) for their dedication and tireless support during the five years leading to the Congress.

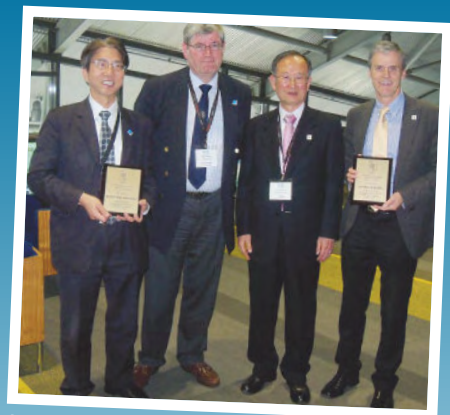
References

- [1] Valentine, E., Apelt, C.J., Ball, J.E., Chanson, H., Cox, R., Ettema, R., Kuczera, G., Lambert, M., Melville, B., and Sargison, J. (2011). "Balance and Uncertainty: Water in a Changing World." Engineers Australia Publication, Proceedings of the 34th IAHR World Congress, 33rd Hydrology and Water Resources Symposium and 10th Conference on Hydraulics in Water Engineering, 26 June-1 July, Brisbane, Australia, 4576 pages (ISBN 978-0-85825-868-6).
- [2] Opening speech by Her Excellency Ms Penelope Wensley AC, Governor of Queensland on 27 June 2011 (http://www.govhouse.qld.gov.au/the_governor/110627_engineer-saust_spch.aspx)

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CONFERENCE



Meeting of the Directors of Water Research Centres chaired by Luis Balairon, Director of Hydraulics Laboratory CEH-CEDEX, Spain



New IAHR President Roger Falconer with outgoing President, Nobuyuki Tamai and outgoing Vice-Presidents, Peter Goodwin and Joseph Lee




Young Researchers meeting with Sharon Nunes, IAHR Keynote Speaker and IBM Vice-President.



Suzanne Kennedy giving the prize of the John F. Kennedy Student Paper Competition to Fereshteh Bagherimiab

Interested in hosting the IAHR 2017 World Congress?
 IAHR Members are cordially invited to submit expressions of interest to host the 37th IAHR World Congress which will be held in 2017. Expressions of Interest should be submitted to the IAHR Secretariat by December 31st 2012, and prospective applicants are strongly recommended to contact IAHR Executive Director, Dr Christopher George, for an informal discussion as a first step. The IAHR Council will select the Congress venue at its meeting in September 2013. The forthcoming Congresses will be in Chengdu, China in 2013 and in The Hague, The Netherlands in 2015.



CHENGDU 2013

35th IAHR WORLD CONGRESS

The Wise find Pleasure in Water

September 8 to 13, 2013 Chengdu China www.iahr2013.org



成都