First Circular Letter

Dear member of the Commission for Hydrology (CHy),

It is a pleasure and honour for me to send you this first circular letter as president of CHy. I intend to regularly keep you informed of the progress made in our programme of work, as established by the twelfth session of the Commission for Hydrology, held in Geneva, 20-29 October 2004.

Programme of work of the Commission For Hydrology

At its twelfth session, CHy, through Resolution 1, established an Advisory Working Group (AWG) comprising nine members. The Commission also agreed to the establishment of five Open Panels of CHy Experts (OPACHEs). You should have received by now a copy of the CHy-XII final report, which contains all the pertinent details. It can also be accessed on the Internet via [http://www.wmo.int/web/hqms/Reports/Final%20Reports%20languages.html](http://www.wmo.int/web/hqms/Reports/Final%20Reports%20languages.html)

The five agreed OPACHE groups (with the AWG member responsible) are:

- Basic systems (hydrometry and hydraulics) – Paul Pilon
- Water resources assessment and water use – Ann Calver
- Hydrological forecasting and prediction – Jian-Yun Zhang
- Disaster mitigation – floods and droughts (hydrological aspects) – Siegfried Demuth
- Analysis of hydroclimatological data for variability and trends – Harry Lins

In March 2005, the AWG held its first session in Geneva and each of the members of the AWG compiled a work plan outlining the activities they will be undertaking over the next four years to perform the work of the Commission. In undertaking these activities, the AWG members with OPACHEs specifically related to their topics will seek input and support from the members of the OPACHEs.

To: Members of the Commission for Hydrology (CHy-184)
The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the progress that we have made to date, but, more importantly, to seek your consideration of how you may be able to contribute to the work of the Commission through joining one of the OPACHEs. This would enable you to be involved in the work of the Commission and to identify particular activities to which you would be able to contribute.

Following the first meeting of the AWG, and while addressing all of the activities requested by the Commission, the AWG members will be, over the next 6-12 months, focussing on the following activities:

Basic systems (hydrometry and hydraulics) — Paul Pilon

(a) An intercomparison of Hydrological Information Systems (HISs)
(b) Compilation of a Manual on Streamgauging
(c) Further development of the Automated Hydrometric Data Production software

Water resources assessment and water use – Ann Calver

d) Scoping the purpose and content of guidance for Water Resources Assessment

Hydrological forecasting and prediction – Jian-Yun Zhang

(e) Compilation of a Manual on Flood Forecasting
(f) Development of further guidance on the hydrological applications of Quantitative Precipitation Estimation and Forecasting

Disaster mitigation – floods and droughts (hydrological aspects) – Siegfried Demuth

(g) Compilation of a Manual on the Estimation of Design Floods

Analysis of hydroclimatological data for variability and trends – Harry Lins

(i) Identification of a global network of Pristine River Basins

Marcos Freitas (member of the AWG leading activities associated with WHYCOS and international data access and exchange) and Enefiok Udoeka (member of the AWG leading activities associated with capacity building and technology transfer) will be involved in internal WMO meetings associated with their specific areas of activity.

As the development of the work programme progresses further I suggest that you look at the CHy Website available through the WMO Website:

http://www.wmo.int/web/homs/chy.html

This will contain additional material on our activities as they unfold and also copies of reports on relevant meetings, etc.
Action Requested:

If you have not already done so, could you please apply (by e-mail to the WMO Secretariat dhwr@wmo.int using the form at http://www.wmo.int/web/horns/Application.html) for membership of the OPACHE group to which you may be able to contribute and indicate to which particular activities you would be able to contribute. I remind you that in order to make official your membership, you need to get prior concurrence of the Permanent Representative of your country with WMO. Do not forget to include your coordinates in your application e-mail.

(Bruce Stewart)
President
Commission for Hydrology