

Preface

Hydroinformatics is a reflection of the intense development that has occurred in the application of information technology in the areas of Hydrology, Hydraulics and Water Resources. Despite having started within the computational hydraulics community and been an object of seminal support by the International Association of Hydraulics Research (IAHR), in the last two decades it has grown to embrace the whole of the water community. Many other areas of science have seen a similar progression ranging from health informatics to robotic systems. This widening interest in the water community was reflected by the foundation of the Joint Committee on Hydroinformatics at the Cardiff International Conference on Hydroinformatics held in the UK in July 2002. This was the fifth conference in a continuing series and recognised the support of the IWA and IAHS, who joined with IAHR to form the Joint Committee on Hydroinformatics.

Hydroinformatics has seen significant growth as an area of interest in the IAHS community and this has been reflected in the attendance by many hydrologists at Hydroinformatics events over recent years. The joint symposium between IAHS and the IAH recognised the increasing strength of interest in this area and sought to focus on applications of Hydroinformatics in Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Water Resources. It was the first time that IAHS had directly sponsored this area at either a scientific assembly, or indeed at any IUGG Congress, and clearly signals its future importance to the Association.

This publication comprises a collection of peer-reviewed papers presented at the joint symposium JS.4: *Hydroinformatics in Hydrology, Hydrogeology and Water Resources* that was held during the 8th IAHS Scientific Assembly and 37th IAH Congress, in Hyderabad, India, 6–12 September 2009. The symposium was jointly sponsored by the following IAHS commissions and working groups: HYINF, ICSW, ICWRS and ICRS, and also IAH. The volume contains 60 papers from more than 20 countries, reflecting the international dimension of the symposium.

The editors would like to thank all symposium participants for their scientific contributions. The invaluable support of Marghi Peacock from the UK - Flood Risk Management Research Consortium (FRMRC) was critical and the editors and participants owe her a great debt of gratitude. We also express special thanks to Cate Gardner, Penny Perrins and Frances Watkins from IAHS Press for their professional advice and help with the processing of the manuscripts and the production of this seminal IAHS publication.

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