

## **Report of the 'Uniqueness of Hydrology' Discussion**

- Hydrologists are not unique integrators amongst scientists, but interdisciplinarity is required in hydrology to solve the current water-related problems.
- An acceptable definition of hydrology is: the science of water in all its phases as applied to human problems. By including the human dimension it was felt that hydrology's status as a science was not diminished.
- The uniqueness of hydrology is defined by:
  - (1) Hydrological training. There was some discussion about the precise nature and timing of this training as undergraduate programmes in hydrology are offered in few countries. It was generally felt that hydrology training should build upon a strong science basis, perhaps in the final year of undergraduate programmes.
  - (2) The content of hydrological training should include awareness of the whole hydrological cycle (e.g. every graduate student in hydrology should have an overview of how their work fits into the hydrological cycle and should be able to describe the hydrological cycle in further detail). Training should also include general techniques, e.g. statistics, modelling, data collection.
- There was some discussion about whether the goal of strengthening the identity of hydrology as a discipline is compatible with hydrology's desire to better serve the needs of society. For example, the general public is much more aware of water problems (too much, too little, too dirty) than of the discipline of hydrology and how it relates to water problems. Most discussants agreed that the aims to strengthen hydrology and for hydrology to serve better the needs of society were compatible. Without attention to the core of hydrology, hydrology may fragment between disciplines.

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