

Short version of the report for the IAHS newsletter:

The Hydrology 2020 Working Group firstly assembled in January 2002 to explore how hydrological sciences can meet the world water challenges that are expected to prevail by 2020. The group, constituted by young scientists (roughly under 35 years of age) representing a large range of hydrological research fields, organized a three-hour workshop on the future of hydrology during the last IUGG/IAHS meeting in Sapporo, Japan. Up to 80 people came to the workshop, which clearly indicates the interest and the importance of the topic. Following an introduction of the Hydrology 2020 group, the first half of the workshop involved presentations of the outcomes of the group's previous meetings, the group's contribution to the Kovacs Colloquium 2002, and the intermediate report. The presentation of the intermediate report was divided into four main themes: (i) The uniqueness of hydrology, (ii) the needs of society, (iii) technological advances and hydrology, and (iv) critical bottlenecks in the science of hydrology.

After the presentations, the workshop participants divided into four smaller groups in which these four topics were discussed in further detail. This enabled the Hydrology 2020 group to get valuable input from outside the working group. The results of each small group were presented to the whole audience and an interesting general discussion ensued. It became obvious that the selected themes of the working group address crucial issues for the future of hydrology and that an exciting final report (see below) can be expected at the next IAHS meeting.

During the weekend following the IUGG meeting, the Hydrology 2020 working group met again to continue its discussions with young Japanese hydrologists. It was very valuable to compare the findings from this national working group with the international one. During fruitful discussions, the need for interdisciplinarity in hydrology was demonstrated. In addition, the structure of the final report was defined. It will be published in an IAHS red book for the next IAHS General Assembly in 2005. During this meeting a Hydrology 2020 workshop is proposed, at which the results of this working group will be presented to a larger audience. Until then there is a lot of work to do for all working group members, which was scheduled into a time frame.

The Hydrology 2020 working group invites everybody interested in discussing the future of hydrology to send comments and suggestions to: taikan@iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp. Further details are available under “<http://hydro.iis.u-tokyo.ac.jp/H2020/>”.