

Does H2020 urge for the new IHP?

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The remarkable difference of the H2020 report from that of the H2000 is its strong emphasis on the need of scientific contribution to society and approach to decision makers to better merge hydrological sciences with water resources management. H2020 states its five recommendations in Chapter 8. They are hydrology as an integrator, multi-scale and multi-disciplinary coupling, prioritization of hydrological challenges, importance of young hydrologists and the establishment of a global hydrological intergovernmental organizing mechanism “to strengthen coordination and cooperation among existing international organizations in the fields of water resources management and hydrology”.

When this report was presented at the UNESCO IHP Inter-Governmental Council in 2006 by Dr. Arthur Askew, then the President of IAHS, the immediate questions raised on spot were why H2020 think UNESCO IHP cannot fulfill the needs and what and how the IHP should change if necessary.

It would be a major contribution to UNESCO, WMO, ICSU, WWC, GWP, IAHS etc. and their programs if some precise analyses were made to the current intergovernmental efforts and the concrete proposals on their modification or complete renewal were assembled and put to an official step towards discussion. Does HESSS wish to initiate such a step?