

WATER RESOURCES

Journal of The Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists



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COMMUNIQUE OF THE 35TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NIGERIAN ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS (NAH) AN AFFILIATE OF INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HYDROGEOLOGISTS (IAH) AND A SPECIALIST GROUP OF THE NIGERIAN MINING AND GEOSCIENCES SOCIETY (NMGS) HELD AT THE GRAND CENTRAL HOTEL, NASARAWA G.R.A, KANO STATE, NIGERIA

The 35TH Annual Conference and Workshop of the Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists was held at Kano, Kano State, Nigeria from 3rd to 8th November 2024. There were Two Hundred and Fifty (250) participants from both within and outside Nigeria. The Federal and State Ministries of Water Resources, Environment and Agriculture and associated Departments and Agencies, Academia, Captains of water industry, non – Governmental Organisations, the Private Sector and the General Public were in attendance.

The theme of the conference was '**Groundwater Development and Regulatory Framework in Nigeria**' with the following sub themes:

1. Water for Peace
2. Groundwater Policies and Governance
3. Groundwater Dynamics and Climate Change Resilience
4. Groundwater and Food Security
5. Innovative Technologies in groundwater Development

The Conference was declared open by His Excellency Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, the Executive Governor of Kano State, Nigeria.

A total of fifty-four (54) technical papers were presented at the conference. A panel discussion and brainstorming session on the theme and sub themes of the conference was held, and the following observations were made by participants after exhaustive deliberations:

1. The regulatory framework for groundwater management in Nigeria involves a mix of legal, policy and institutional mechanisms aimed at promoting the sustainable use, conservation and protection of groundwater resources.
2. Groundwater management is vital for ensuring the sustainability, equity, and resilience of water resources and ecosystems.
3. Climate change poses uncertainties to the supply and management of both surface and groundwater resources.
4. Climate change significantly impacts groundwater in Nigeria primarily through changes in precipitation patterns, and increased temperature which can lead to reduced recharge rates and other impacts;
5. Provision of adequate safe water in most cities in Nigeria is still grossly inadequate and where available, the utilisation is not sustainable.
6. Increased dependence on groundwater as the main source of water supply has led to overexploitation and subsequent depletion of the resource.

Consequently, the following recommendations were suggested:

1. Effective implementation of the regulatory framework which requires collaboration, coordination and capacity building among all stakeholders, including government agencies, water users, communities, and civil society organizations is recommended.
2. Sustainable groundwater management practices which include groundwater monitoring; aquifer recharge; demand management; and pollution control for safeguarding groundwater resources and ensuring their availability should be encouraged.
3. Dedicated efforts and intelligent development and management strategies towards safeguarding and enhancing the benefits from groundwater under climate change is strongly advocated.
4. Recommended actions include enhanced water conservation, reforestation and afforestation, improved irrigation techniques, monitoring and regulation, climate resilient infrastructure and community involvement.
5. The strategies to achieve the provision of safe and adequate water should include the development of strong institutional capacity, improved staff welfare, development of effective monitoring and evaluation strategies, improved cost recovery and accountability.
6. The need to upgrade existing surface water supply schemes and the adoption of alternative renewable power sources for the operation of the schemes is strongly recommended.

The Association expresses her immense gratitude and appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Engr. Prof. Joseph Terlumun Utsev, FNSE, FNICE, FNIWE, FICEN FILA.; Their Excellencies the Governors of Kano, Jigawa and Katsina States Engr. Abba Kabir Yusuf, Mal. Umar A. Namadi, FCA, and Mal. Dikko Radda, PhD, the good people of Kano, Jigawa and Katsina states for their uncommon African Hospitality and support during the Conference.

Signed and Dated



Dr Martin O. Eduvie FNAH, FNMGS, FIAH
President Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists
5th November 2024.



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WATER RESOURCES
Journal of the Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists

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