

WATER RESOURCES

Journal of The Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists



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COMMUNIQUE OF THE 32ND 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 HAYYAT REGENCY SUITES NO 1 BLOCK C COMMERCIAL LAYOUT, KATSINA, KATSINA STATE NIGERIA

The 32nd Annual Conference and Workshop and General Meeting of the Nigerian Association of Hydrogeologists was held at Katsina, Katsina State, Nigeria from 1ST to 5TH November 2021. There were three hundred (300) participants from abroad; The Federal and State Ministries of Water Resources, Environment and Agriculture and associated Departments and Agencies; Academia; Captains of water industry; Non – Governmental Organisation; the Private Sector and the General Public in attendance.

The theme of the conference was ‘Groundwater Resources and Resilience of Cities to Changing Climate’ with the following sub themes:

1. Adaptive Strategies in Harnessing Groundwater
2. Going Deeper the Science and the Myth
3. Data Generation and Integrity as Panacea to Recurring Failure of Public Water Supply
4. Exploring the Business Aspect of the Water Sector in Solving the Problems of Inadequacy

The Conference was declared open by His Excellency the Executive Governor of Katsina State, Rt. Hon, Aminu Bello Masari CFR (Dallatun Katsina).

A total of Forty (40) technical papers were presented at the conference. A panel discussion and brainstorming pre- conference on the theme and sub themes was held and the following observations were made by participants after exhaustive deliberations:

1. There is the urgent need to have detailed Scientific data, good practices, and knowledge diffusion in understanding adaptive strategies in harnessing groundwater
2. The call to promote groundwater management and development opportunities
3. Developers and industrialists’ harness deeper sources of water for higher demands at the detriment of majority of shallower semi-shallower sources users.
4. Integrated data collection, knowledge dissemination, synergy and Collaboration with programs and partner agencies with specialized knowledge
5. Understanding of Water Resources in terms of quality and quantity to be able to identify options to solving the problems of inadequacy
6. The National Water Resources Bill is vital for effective water sector governance, Catchment Management, greater participation, and regulatory framework for private sector participation in water supply delivery in the country.

Consequently, the following recommendations were suggested:

1. The conference recommends identification and integration of opportunities to manage and develop groundwater in future water sector programs to improve the reliability of water supply for multiple uses and protection of ecosystems.
2. Restrictions on the volume of groundwater abstraction through licensing and regulations by the relevant government agency.
3. Implementation of Institutional and Legal Regulatory Framework with strong political will and holistic management of the country’s water resources.
4. Current International Approaches in Integrated Water Resources Management should be adopted.
5. The conference strongly recommends putting in place effective measures for long term adaptation to climate change and hydrologic variability which will protect or enhance groundwater recharge and manage water demand.
6. To achieve and ensure effective management of the water resources in Nigeria through the Water Bill, there is the need to remove mistrust and conduct proper consultations which should be technical and not based on political considerations alone.

The Association expresses her immense gratitude and appreciation to the Honourable Minister of Water Resources. Federal Ministry of Water Resources and the government and good people of Katsina State for their uncommon African Hospitality and support during the Conference.



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