

## A Word from the Mine Water Notes Editor

IMWA wishes all of you a happy new year and all the best for the coming months.

Twenty five years of mine water research! What a nice anniversary! Eighteen congresses and symposia, spanning every continent but Antarctica (so far) give proof of the importance that mine water issues have worldwide: Budapest/Hungary 1982, Granada/Spain 1985, Nottingham/UK 1986, Katowice/Poland 1987, Melbourne/Australia 1988, Lisbon/Portugal 1990, Ljubljana Pörschach/Slovenia Austria 1991, Chililabombwe/Zambia 1993, Nottingham/UK 1994, Denver/USA 1995, Portorož/Slovenia 1996, Bled/Slovenia 1997, Johannesburg/South Africa 1998, Seville/Spain 1999, Kattowice/Poland 2000, Belo Horizonte/Brazil 2001, Freiberg/Germany 2002, Johannesburg/ South Africa 2003. The proceedings from these conferences, along with 23 years of journal publication and the interaction among its membership all testify to the impact that IMWA has had during the last 25 years.

We are celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary by making a special offer for all *new* members that join IMWA in 2004; new members will receive an anniversary introductory rate for membership of \$US/€ 20 for the first year and will profit from four issues of this journal and a reduced fee at most IMWA activities. Considering that our normal rates are quite modest, this is indeed a bargain! Hopefully, it will entice new folks to join and entice **you** to tell your colleagues and friends about IMWA and this journal. Hand them our application forms, or let them know about our IMWA website: [www.IMWA.info](http://www.IMWA.info) !

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Freiberg/Saxony

## Chinese Mine Accidents Provide Tragic Lessons

The number of coal mine accidents and their subsequent death toll decreased in China in 2003. The death toll, number of explosions and mine water inrushes dropped by 7.4% and 6.6%, respectively, over the previous year. But the sobering reality of continued frequent accidents still paints a grim picture. Statistics from the State Administration of Work Safety (SAWS) indicate that more than 2,110 people lost their lives in coal mine accidents in China last year.

Coal mine accidents still account for about 40% of the nation's total number of industrial accidents. Worse, work safety awareness has yet to take root in Chinese enterprises. The current decrease in the number of coal mine accidents, to a large extent, can be attributed to the country's campaign to tighten control

of work safety in coal mines, especially at small-sized mines, which make up 90% of the country's total.

For small mines, it is one thing to stop dangerous production during the national campaign on work safety; it is another thing to make work safety investment an indispensable part of their cost. The improved behaviour of small coal mines on work safety should thus not be taken for granted. Continuous supervision is still called for to further reduce accidents. On the other hand, the performance of large State-owned coal mines remains unsatisfactory. Against the overall improvement of the sector's work safety record, the number of serious accidents and the death toll in key State-owned coal mines climbed by 7.4% and 9.4%, according to figures released by the SAWS.

Admittedly, it will be much more difficult to take drastic measures against these major coal mines since a reduction in their output could seriously impede growth of the country's energy supply.

Edited after Xin Bei , China Daily, January 16<sup>th</sup> 2004 and other sources in China Daily

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual British Columbia Mine Reclamation Symposium

The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual British Columbia Mine Reclamation Symposium was held in Kamloops, B.C., in September 2003. Approximately 100 delegates attended the four-day session primarily organized by the British Columbia Technical and Research Committee on Reclamation (TRCR). A short course on Biological Treatment Systems and a field trip to the Highland Valley Copper Mine were part of the symposium. Focused on sites where molybdenum is an issue, the two-day technical session covered a wide range of topics on post-closure efforts at a number of such mines. Information on ordering hard-copy proceedings is available from the TRCR web site at [www.trcr.bc.ca](http://www.trcr.bc.ca).

From MEND Monitor, January 2004

## Book Review: Environmental Information in European Transboundary Water Management

Timmermann JG, Langaas S (2004) Environmental Information in European Transboundary Water Management. IWA Publishing, London, 258pp. ISBN 1-84339-038-8, \$US/€ 96.00 / £ 60.00

This book summarizes the results of a European Union 5<sup>th</sup> Framework RTD project called "MANTRA-East": 'Integrated Strategies for the Management of Transboundary Waters on the Eastern European fringe'. Twenty two authors contributed to 17 chapters

covering most aspects of transboundary water management in the view of the European Water Framework Directive ('WFD', 2000/60/EC). Politics, technical co-operation, and legal-institutional relationships are well described in the book and the need for a new interpretation of the data already available is clearly shown. The authors provide examples of how already existing information systems and GIS can be used to implement the new managerial rules of the WFD in already existing water management structures.

Unfortunately, there is no common reference list (and even the same references are cited in different ways, e.g. Timmermann et al. 2003 on pages 152 and 239), the linkage between the single chapters is sometimes weak, and every chapter starts again with an introduction of the EU WFD. It seems as if the book is an edited collection of the reports within the project more than an integrated coverage of the subject. The printing is excellent, but if another edition is produced, more effort should be given to the tables and figures.

Professionals or academics already familiar with the WFD and catchment-based water management will know how to use the book; as an introduction to the WFD or transboundary management, the book is not structured enough and can not be recommended.

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Freiberg/Saxony

## New Members

IMWA welcomes the following new members:

Agnes Blachère, Fraisses, France  
 Geoff Canty, Norman, USA  
 Lawrence Cope, Ft. Collins, USA  
 William Harding, Cardiff, United Kingdom  
 John Harman, Providencia Santiago, Chile  
 Dr Jarvis Harper, Bauxite, USA  
 Vicente Iribar, Bilbao, Spain  
 Karen Johnson, Newcastle, United Kingdom  
 Edwin D Lindgren, Kansas City, USA  
 Jorge Loredo Pérez, Oviedo, Spain  
 Daniel Mackie, Vancouver, Canada  
 Sanda Midžić, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina  
 Csoevári Mihály, Mecsekerc Rt, Hungary  
 Jorge Oyarzun, La Serena, Chile  
 Brian Park, Butte, USA  
 Mauro Prado, Cardiff, United Kingdom  
 Michael Royle, Vancouver, Canada  
 Joseph Ryan, Boulder, USA

We hope that our new colleagues will benefit from and contribute to the extensive mine water knowledge and expertise gathered within our group of international experts. Please use your membership number in any correspondence, especially money transfers

with IMWA. You can find it easily on your journal's address label, in front of the word "GES".

Adrian Brown, Treasurer, Denver, Colorado, USA

## Back Issues

Members who recently joined IMWA can find a complete author index (issues 1–20) of the "International Mine Water Association Journal" and "Mine Water and the Environment" at our web-page [www.IMWA.info](http://www.IMWA.info). Volumes 17(1), 18(1), 19(2), 20(1) and 21(1) as well as proceedings of the 7<sup>th</sup> IMWA Congress are still available for \$US/€ 15.00 a copy. Some other back-issues are available on request (copies of single pages at \$US/€ 0.60 each). Please add \$US/€ 5.00 for shipping/handling.

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Freiberg/Saxony

## Forthcoming Events

*18<sup>th</sup>–22<sup>nd</sup> April 2004, Morgantown, WV, USA*

American Society of Mining and Reclamation (ASMR) 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting; website: <http://www.wvu.edu/~agexten/landrec/land.htm>

*16<sup>th</sup>–21<sup>st</sup> May 2004, Szczyrk, Poland*

NORM IV – Naturally Occurring Radioactive Materials in the Environment; website: <http://www.gig.katowice.pl>, e-mail: [brxsc@boruta.gig.katowice.pl](mailto:brxsc@boruta.gig.katowice.pl)

*7<sup>th</sup>–9<sup>th</sup> June 2004, Chania, Crete, Greece*

Advances in Mineral Resources Management and Environmental Geotechnology; website: <http://heliotopos.conferences.gr/amireg2004>

*16<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> June 2004, Ustroń, Poland*

International Conference on Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment and Mapping; website: <http://khgi.wnoz.us.edu.pl/vulnerability.htm>

*18<sup>th</sup> June 2004, Freiberg/Sachsen, Germany*

Treatment Technologies for Mining Impacted Water; website: <http://www.geo.tu-freiberg.de/mathe/bht04>

*20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> September 2004, Newcastle, UK*

International IMWA Symposium – Mine Water and the Environment; website: [www.imwa2004.ncl.ac.uk](http://www.imwa2004.ncl.ac.uk), e-mail: [imwa.2004@ncl.ac.uk](mailto:imwa.2004@ncl.ac.uk)