

## **A Word from the Secretary General**

---

Dear colleague and friend,

If you were one of those members who received two copies of our last “Mine Water and the Environment”, consider yourself twice blessed! The reason is that the printer of our journal failed to produce the high quality journal that you expect from us. Therefore, I had Springer stop the mailing of the last issue, print the whole journal again, and mail it to all members a second time. So, please take advantage of the extra copy and send it to a potential IMWA member asking him or her to join the International Mine Water Association.

In the meantime, the holiday (or vacation) season should be over and, hopefully, you are relaxed and ready to start new, interesting mine water projects. Please consider publishing your results in our journal. We especially welcome your technical communications, e.g. how to improve sampling procedures, pumping techniques, dewatering schemes, or any kind of treatment options. Our non-academic readers have told us many times how useful actual case studies are, and have asked us to publish more of them, but that requires our practitioners to take the time to sit down and write up their experiences. Or did you encounter some interesting results for one of your clients? Ask him or her to co-author a paper with you – other IMWA members will be happy to learn of your interesting results.

And now, last but not least, a personal announcement. Should you be near Freiberg on October the 13<sup>th</sup>, you are welcome to listen to the defence of my Habilitation thesis concerning mine water management issues. Prof Merkel, Paul Younger, and Bob Kleinmann will be there as well. Contact me if you plan to be in Freiberg and need details about this presentation.

Glückauf, Chris Wolkersdorfer, Freiberg/Saxony



Prof. Rafael Fernández Rubio with his wife Sagrario at the Newcastle IMWA meeting (photo Andrzej Witkowski).

PS: If you are struggling with the German word “Glückauf”, this is the traditional German miners’ greeting used by miners, mining engineers, and mining hydrogeologists in all German-speaking countries and in countries that once were part of Germany. It means “Have luck!” and is also used in many former mining cities, like Freiberg, as a daily greeting, meaning “good day”.

## **King Jaime I Prize for Environmental Protection for IMWA founder Rafael Fernández Rubio**

---



Out of a field of more than 200 nominees, an international adjudication panel has granted the Spanish King Jaime I Prize for Environmental Protection to Prof. Rafael Fernandez Rubio.

During the past forty six years, Rafael Fernandez Rubio has focused his scientific work, research activities, teaching and professional engagement on reducing environmental problems in mining areas. His main area of activity has been the protection of surface and underground water and improvements in the sustainability of mining activities.

Early in his career, beginning in 1960, he worked as a member of multinational teams in a number of countries, under the direction of specialists pertaining to UNESCO, UNEP, and UNIDO, thus acquiring wide scientific and technical knowledge. He applied this knowledge in his Doctoral Thesis on the “Study of Hydrological and Environmental Problems in the Cehegin Iron Mines (Murcia)”.

Since that time, working in close collaboration with specialists in the United States, France, Germany, and Israel, he conducted multidisciplinary research in the field of Acid Mine Drainage, one of the principal environmental problems of mining activity.

In 1978, he co-founded the International Mine Water Association (IMWA) and, as General Secretary and subsequently President, boosted worldwide interest in Mining Environmental Hydrogeology as a major field of applied research. He convened several International Congresses within IMWA on this subject. He also founded the International Journal of Mine Water & Environment 25 years ago. He has published eight scientific works in this journal and he is one of the six members of the International Editorial Board.

In 2005, his lifetime achievements were the object of an event held in Seville, organized by the Ministry of Science and Education of Spain. A Book entitled

“Water, Mining and Environment”, extending to 869 pages, was published with the cooperation of 165 authors with whom Rafael Fernández Rubio has collaborated over the years. At that event, he received the Gold Medal of the Spanish Mining Engineers Association, which also named him an Honoured Associate.

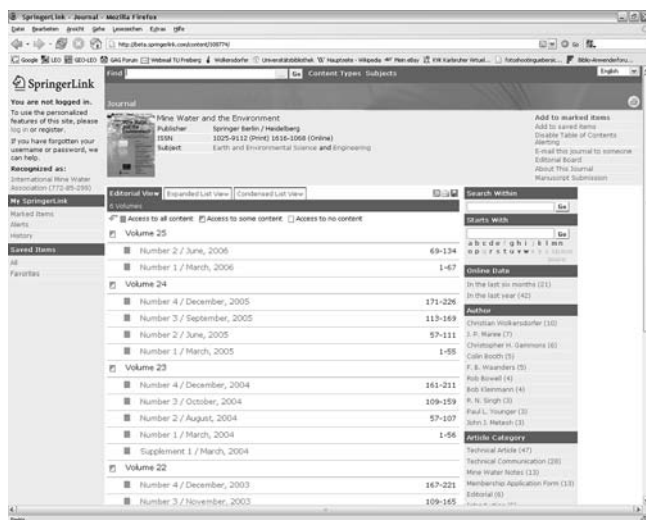
IMWA congratulates Prof Rubio for his excellent work in the mine water field.

Chris Wolkersdorfer (using a press release by Prof. Rubio),  
Freiberg/Saxony

## New Springer Web Site

Springer announces a new service for IMWA members. SpringerLink, which is the platform for all Springer publications, comes in a new layout and gives you more possibilities to search your preferred publications. The new features include several search functions and the capabilities to set up your own “My SpringerLink”. Please visit the new web site at <http://beta.springerlink.com/content/108774> and explore the new options in this beta version.

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Freiberg/Saxony



## New Mine Water Related Patents

NORAM Engineering and Constructors Ltd. announces that the LIGMET™ contaminated solids treatment process was granted U.S. patent no 7,029,202 on April 18<sup>th</sup> 2006. This technology has been commercially successful in stabilising over 5,000 Mt of mercury-contaminated soils, concrete, and sludges. Pilot tests also show that other metals such as copper, zinc, nickel, lead, chromium, and aluminum can be stabilized using the LIGMET™ process.

Furthermore, NORAM announces that the LIGNOR™ process for treating metal-contaminated water, in particular ARD, was granted U.S. patent no 7,033,507 on April 25<sup>th</sup> 2006. Pilot-scale tests with contaminated waters show that the LIGNOR™ process is capable of producing a better quality effluent with considerable cost savings than conventional treatment using High Density Lime.

For more information please contact: Tony Walsh, Manager, Environmental Technologies; Tel.: +1/604/696-6922: [twalsh@noram-eng.com](mailto:twalsh@noram-eng.com)

NORAM press release, Vancouver/BC

## Back Issues

An overview of European mine water was provided in three of last year’s issues. We received many requests for those three issues and therefore decided to put together those country studies in one electronic article. You can download it from IMWA’s home page or use the following Digital Object Identifier: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10230-005-0081-3>.

Members who recently joined IMWA can find a complete index (issues 1–25) 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> and 8<sup>th</sup> IMWA Congresses are still available for \$ 15.00 (U.S.) a copy. Some other back-issues are available on request – copies of single pages at \$ 0.60 (U.S.) each. Please add \$ 5.00 (U.S.) for shipping/handling. You can also access the journal on line, using <http://springerlink.com>

Past IMWA issues, published before the year 2000, can be accessed with your private login and password that you received with your last membership status or by e-mail.

Chris Wolkersdorfer, Freiberg/Saxony

## New Members

We welcome our following new members:

- Carlos Abonto Kcomt, Lima, Perú
- Marko E. Adzic, Spokane, USA
- Devin Castendyk, Oneonta, USA
- Rosa Cidu, Cagliari, Italy
- Stéphanie Gairoard, Alès Cedex, France
- Christopher Hubbard, Ilford, United Kingdom
- S. K. Jain, Jodhpur, India
- Romy Matthies, Cardiff, United Kingdom

Ryan Mills, Burnaby, Canada  
Michael A. Sackey, Tarkwa, Ghana  
Andrew Pearson, Solihull, United Kingdom  
Ron L. Schmiermund, Lakewood, USA  
George R. Watzlaf, Pittsburgh, USA  
Alfred E Whitehouse, Longmeadow, USA  
Jim Williams, Boulder, Australia

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". European Union members please ask for our German account details, convert US dollars to EURO and use our IBAN and BIC numbers, as they make money transfers within the European Union as cheap as it would be in your home country! You can also use ebay's PayPal function to pay your membership fees.

Adrian Brown, Treasurer, Denver, Colorado, USA  
Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Freiberg, Germany

## **Money Transfers within the European Union**

---

During the last few years, European IMWA members have been able to pay their membership fees through IMWA's European Bank Account, based in Germany. According to new European legislation, all money transfers to European Bank Accounts within the European Union have to be made using the IBAN (International Bank Account Number) and BIC (Bank Identified Code) numbers. As of January 1<sup>st</sup> 2007, European banks will no longer accept payments without IBAN and BIC. This legislation does not apply to money transfers within single countries, which means that German IMWA members still can use the sorting code (BLZ) and bank account number.

IMWA's European bank account numbers (for payments within the European Union only) are IBAN: DE40 85080000 0784887000 and BIC (SWIFT code): DRESDEFF. These are also listed at our web site ([www.IMWA.info/payments](http://www.IMWA.info/payments)) and at the end of the annual invoices. Please help the treasurer to avoid false money transfers and that you save money by using IMWA's correct bank account numbers. Alternatively, payments can be made by credit card through ebay's PayPal Credit Card payment options

([www.IMWA.info/paypal](http://www.IMWA.info/paypal)). There is no need to have a personal PayPal account.

Furthermore, all payments should include the correct membership number. It consumes a lot of money and time by our unpaid staff to identify payments without a membership number, which you can find in your annual invoice.

Adrian Brown, Treasurer, Denver, Colorado, USA  
Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Freiberg, Germany

## **Forthcoming Events**

---

*20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2006, Ottawa, Canada*

Annual Meeting Canadian Land Reclamation Association (CLRA/ACRSD); <http://www.clra.ca>;  
[btisch@nrca.gc.ca](mailto:btisch@nrca.gc.ca)

*13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2006, Perth, Australia*

1<sup>st</sup> International Seminar on Mine Closure;  
<http://www.acg.uwa.edu.au>; [acg@acg.uwa.edu.au](mailto:acg@acg.uwa.edu.au)

*29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2006, Vancouver, Canada*

13<sup>th</sup> Annual BC/MEND Workshop: Case Studies of Open Pit and Underground Mine Workings: Their Use for Waste Disposal, Mitigation and Drainage Chemistry  
[gtrembla@NRCan.gc.ca](mailto:gtrembla@NRCan.gc.ca)

*27<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup> May 2007, Cagliari/Sardinia, Italy*

**IMWA Symposium 2007**  
[www.IMWA.info](http://www.IMWA.info); [imwa2007@IMWA.info](mailto:imwa2007@IMWA.info)

*December 2007, Bangkok, Thailand*

SWEMP 2007 – 9<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Environmental Issues and Waste Management in Energy and Mineral Production

*2008, Carlsbad, Czech Republic*

**10<sup>th</sup> IMWA Congress**  
[www.IMWA.info](http://www.IMWA.info); [imwa2008@IMWA.info](mailto:imwa2008@IMWA.info)

*2011, Aachen, Germany*

**11<sup>th</sup> IMWA Congress**

[www.IMWA.info](http://www.IMWA.info); [imwa2011@IMWA.info](mailto:imwa2011@IMWA.info)