

A Word from the Secretary General

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Dear Colleagues and Friends,

I am back from an excellent IMWA Symposium in South Africa! 350 delegates attended the “International Mine Water Conference” in Pretoria and it was a great success for the participants, the presenters, and the organizers. If you didn’t have the opportunity to attend the conference, you can still download the proceedings from our IMWA web page. One of the highlights was the conference dinner, with excellent food and wine, an interactive drumming performance (we were all provided drums!), a South African string quartet, and an active music performance. Other attractions were the workshops, technical tours to the eMalahleni Mine Water Reclamation Plant (Fig. 1) and the Eland Platinum Mine, as well as the Kruger National Park tour.

During the conference, IMWA and WISA’s Mine Water Division (MWD) jointly recognized and rewarded the Best Student’s Presentation. Although WISA has done this in the past, this was a first for IMWA. Our student member, Alison Turner from the University of Plymouth (UK), and Dyllon Randall from the University of Cape Town (South Africa), were scored the highest by the judges and both received a 15,000 RAND (€ 1,300) prize for their presentations, “Dynamic up-flow percolation tests—a model for mining waste leachate penetration” and “Seeding for selective salt recovery during eutectic freeze crystallization”, respectively. Alison and Dyllon also both received a 1 year free membership in IWMA and WISA. Because of the success of the Student’s Award, IMWA will make that a permanent institution; consequently, the award will be given to next year’s best Student Presentation at the IMWA Sydney Nova Scotia Symposium.

During the last couple of weeks, I have begun to convert the IMWA web page from a static HTML site into a more

flexible Content Management System. This process will take a while, but I would be happy to get your input and your comments about the new web layout—which is still in flux. Please have a look at <http://www.cms.IMWA.info> and let me know if there are any modifications or additions you want to see.

Glückauf
Christian Wolkersdorfer

IMWA/WISA MWD Student Award

The IMWA/WISA MWD student award was conferred on the student whose presentation was adjudged to be the best of those given during the “International Mine Water Conference” in Pretoria this year. The panel of ten judges comprised a mixture of academic and industrial members, scientists and engineers and represented five countries. The judges were provided with a marking grid to enable them to use the same criteria and standards to assess oral communication, presentation media, background knowledge, choice and description of materials and methods, presentation and interrogation of results, clarity and depth of discussion and their ability to draw meaningful inferences and propose logical further work from their conclusions. A minimum of four judges attended each student presentation, and the marks were collated into a single score sheet to enable the panel to identify the student attaining the highest mean score. The intention was to make a single award; however, the top two students obtained marks of 89.3 and 89.0%, (statistically, a tie) and so IMWA and WISA MWD made two awards, each worth R15,000 (€ 1,300) plus free membership of both IMWA and WISA for 1 year.



Fig. 1 eMalahleni Mine Water Reclamation Plant employee showing one of the end products of the Water Treatment plant: gypsum being used in building construction

The two students that received this award are Alison Turner from the University of Plymouth (UK) and Dyllon Randall from the University of Cape Town (South Africa; Fig. 2).

Jo Burgess, Water Research Commission; Christian Wolkersdorfer, IMWA

New Members

We welcome our following new members:
 Geoff Beale, Shrewsbury, United Kingdom
 Daniel Bernardes Raposo, Araxa, Brazil
 Steve Brooks, Tucson, USA
 Peter Dolph, Denver, USA
 Jeremy Dowling, Tucson, USA



Fig. 2 William Pulles (*left*) and Christian Wolkersdorfer (*right*) congratulating Dyllon Randall and Alison Turner, the winners of the 2009 IMWA/WISA student award (courtesy Ann McHoes)

Ken Esposito, Fort Collins, USA
 Michael Gabora, Albuquerque, USA
 Felipe Garcia Urretia, Nunoa, Chile
 Denver Harper, Bloomington, USA
 Michael Hjelm, Tinley Park, USA
 Yohanes Kaize, Jakarta, Indonesia
 Anna Kluza, Tom Price, Australia
 Hugh McCreadie, Waterloo, Canada
 Tom Missimer, Fort Myers, USA
 Joost Reidel, Reno, USA
 Richard Schmidt, Sudbury, Canada
 Stephen Taylor, Tempe, USA
 Chris Welsh, Cambridge, United Kingdom

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".

Lee C. Atkinson, Treasurer, Lakewood, Colorado, USA;
 Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Cape Breton, Canada

Citizens for Pennsylvania's Future (PennFuture) Presents the Green Power Award to a Mine Water Geothermal Project

Last year, John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church of Pittsburgh (Fig. 3), installed a mine water geothermal system using 13°C mine water at a flow rate of 6 L s⁻¹. The construction of this abandoned mine water geothermal heating and cooling system was recognized with the PennFuture's



Fig. 3 Employees of the U.S. Department of Energy opening a man hole at John Wesley A.M.E. Zion Church of Pittsburgh (courtesy Terry Ackman)

Green Power Award. This project was inspired by a publication that was published in this journal (see Watzlaf and Ackman 2006, 9 fig., 2 tab.; Berlin).

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Back Issues

Members who recently joined IMWA can find a complete index (issues 1–28) of the *International Mine Water Association Journal* and *Mine Water and the Environment* at our web-page: www.IMWA.info. Copies of single pages are available at \$ 0.60 (US) each. Please add \$ 5.00 (US) for shipping/handling. You can also access the journal on line, using <http://www.imwa.info/springer>. You can download an overview of European mine water issues from IMWA's web page or use the following Digital Object Identifier: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1007/s10230-005-0081-3>.

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, Sydney, Cape Breton, Canada

EU Money Transfers

According to European law, EU money transfers (in EURO) must not cost more than national money transfers if you use IMWA's IBAN and BIC numbers (they must also be printed on your bank's money transfer statements). The banks are not allowed to charge extra costs. If they do so, please contact your national Complaint Body (see below). Please keep in mind: EU money transfers are not international money transfers! This law does not apply to Andorra, Monaco, Switzerland, San Marino, and the Holy See.

Here is the link to the EU payment legislation: http://www.imwa.info/eu_payment. If you have problems with your bank (and they often cause problems in this matter), your country might have a national Complaint Body: http://ec.europa.eu/internal_market/payments/crossborder/complaintbodies_en.htm. Please help yourself and IMWA to save money by complaining if your bank does not accept EU or SEPA money transfers.

Lee C. Atkinson, Treasurer, Lakewood, Colorado, USA; Chris Wolkersdorfer, Secretary General, Sydney, Cape Breton, Canada

Forthcoming Events

September 5th–12th 2010, Sydney, Nova Scotia, Canada

IMWA 2010 Symposium

<http://www.IMWA2010.info>; info@IMWA2010.info

June 21st–23rd 2011, Aberystwyth, Wales, UK

Frontiers in Environmental Geoscience

<http://www.minersoc.org/pages/meetings/frontiers-2011/frontiers-2011.html>; njp@aber.ac.uk

September 4th–11th 2011, Aachen, Germany

11th IMWA Congress

<http://www.IMWA2011.info>; info@IMWA2011.info

2012, Denpasar, Bali, Indonesia

IMWA 2012 Symposium

<http://www.IMWA2012.info>; info@IMWA2012.info

2012, Ottawa, Canada

ICARD 2012—MEND Canada

Mark your calendars, the 9th International Conference on Acid Rock Drainage (ICARD) is coming to Ottawa, the birthplace of MEND, in May/June 2012. The Conference will include 3 days of technical presentations, a suite of short courses and field trips.

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Reference

- Watzlaf GR, Ackman TE (2006) Underground mine water for heating and cooling using geothermal heat pump systems. *Mine Water Environ* 25(1):1–14