

Groundwater management in the world: problems and possible solutions



Prof. Antonio Chambel

Former President of IAH (2016-2020) and Professor of Hydrogeology, University of Evora, Portugal

Groundwater plays an important role in global hydrological cycle. It is the world's largest extracted natural resources. Globally a lion's share of the drinking water is catered by groundwater. It has provided a boom in the agriculture, sustenance to the livelihood and food security. Since groundwater is invisible, it is largely ignored in terms of its management. The decline in groundwater resources as also that of water security is being caused due to the overexploitation as also the alarming rise in pollution of groundwater. The climatic change and sea level rise is also exacerbating the scenario. All these has created an imminent disastrous situation in want of sustainable fresh water resources in general and groundwater resources in particular. It warrants groundwater governance which needs to be tailored as per the local conditions. In matter of global sustainability of groundwater, the flow across the international boundaries through the transboundary aquifer systems, need adequate research and cooperation among the neighbouring countries. Such global issues are now very pertinent.

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Google Meet link

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About Speaker

Prof Antonio Chambel

Professor Antonio Chambel was born in Sardoal, Portugal in the year 1961. He was awarded the PhD degree in Geology with the specialization in Hydrogeology by the University of Évora, Portugal, in 1999. Currently he is acting as the Associate Professor in the Department of Geosciences of the University of Évora. Professor Chambel has imparted education as the ERASMUS teacher in the universities of Europe, especially in the countries like The Czech Republic, Spain, and Italy. He also taught the Master Courses in the Universities of El Salvador, Bolivia and Mozambique. He has been the investigator at the Centre of Geophysics of Évora (CGE) during 2004 to 2014 and he remained as the investigator of the Institute of Earth Sciences (ICT) in Portugal from 2014 onwards. During 2003 to 2005 he was the President of the Geosciences Department of the University of Évora.

He was the President of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH) during the span of 2016 and 2020. He also had served the IAH during 2008 to 2016, as Vice-President. He was also a member of the Technical Committee of the Hydrogeologists Without Borders (HWB), member of the executive of the South Regional Group of the Portuguese Water Resources Association (APRH), and member of the Network of Environmental Studies of the Countries of Portuguese Language (REALP). He was a member of the World Water Council (WWC) as a representative of IAH during 2015 to 2020. He has been coordinating several research projects on hydrogeology in Portugal, Mozambique, and Angola.

As a specialist in hydrogeology, Prof. Antonio is having proficiency in the areas of groundwater prospecting, hydrogeology of fractured rocks, surface water-groundwater interactions, groundwater dependent ecosystems, geologic and hydrogeological mapping, and aquifer contamination. He has authored and edited more than 100 national and international publications. He has been doing the research work to support the community in the domains of groundwater prospecting, groundwater supply, water legislation and water and environment management.