

International Association of Hydrogeologists



Founded in 1956

2007 PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Ramón LLAMAS

The President's Award of the International Association of Hydrogeologists is presented annually to a senior hydrogeologist who has made outstanding international contributions towards the advancement of hydrogeology. This year's award goes to IAH Past President (1984-89) and Honorary Member (2002), who was also Vice-President of the International Water Resources Association (2002-03).

Professor Ramón Llamas is currently Emeritus Professor of Hydrogeology at the Universidad Complutense of Madrid, and since 1986 a Fellow of Spanish Real Academia de Ciencias. He is also an Honorary Fellow of the Geological Society of London (1992), a Fellow of the European Academy of Science & Art (2005), a Member of the French Academie de l'Eau (2006) and recipient of the Cannes International Prize for Water (2006).

Ramón (who rarely does things by halves) started his career by obtaining a Ph.D. in both Civil Engineering and Geology, respectively from the Universidad Politécnica and Complutense of Madrid. He then spent 17 years as a hydraulic engineer in the Spanish Ministerio de Obras Públicas, which was to have a lasting influence throughout his subsequent career. Happily, in 1972 he transformed into the first tenured Professor of Hydrogeology in Spain and began to spread his wings – laying the foundations for the development and application of hydrogeological science both in Spain and Latin America.

Since his term as IAH President, Ramón, as a director or trustee of various scientific, environmental and developmental NGOs, has devoted his time most energetically to advocating the important, but neglected, role of groundwater development in national water policies, and its relation to habitat conservation. He has also actively promoted general water education programmes for the media and in this context he applied the memorable term 'silent revolution' to describe the globally important changes in irrigated agriculture associated with the widespread private drilling of waterwells by individual farmers.

Stephen Foster
President

Wilhelm Struckmeier
Secretary General