

# INVITATION

## Ireland's Annual IAH Groundwater Conference 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of April 2009 Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly

The IAH invite you to come and participate and help raise the awareness of hydrogeology as a fundamental and integral part of Ireland's scientific and geological spectrum



### Day 1, 21<sup>st</sup> April

#### Groundwater Regulations 2009

The Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government will present the new Groundwater Regulations. The Water Services Act will also be discussed.

#### The Water Framework Directive

The Water Framework Directive (WFD) has already had a fundamental effect on the way water is managed in Ireland. Its interpretation and implementation has raised many issues. The peculiarities of our hydrogeological environment have affected the monitoring strategies for groundwater resources as well as for the assessment of quality. Speakers from the EPA and Geological Survey of Ireland will present results to date, issues and strategies for the future. **A wealth of new data is now readily available to all. Information will be presented on how to access it.** In addition, representatives from state agencies and WFD Consultants will present on WFD outputs as diverse as Groundwater & River Basin Districts, mobile organics and pesticides in groundwater, historic mines and licensing of groundwater abstractions. A perspective on how the WFD has been implemented in other jurisdictions will also be presented by an international speaker.

#### Discharges to Groundwater

The final session of the day will focus on 'On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems'. The relevant output of the WFD work completed in Ireland is the development of Pathway Risk Mapping for pathogens and nutrients to both groundwater and surface water together with mitigation measures and a "Framework for Site Assessment of Large-Scale On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems Discharging to Groundwater". This will be presented. The session will conclude with the EPA presenting the new Code of Practice concerning On-Site Wastewater Treatment Systems.



### Day 2, 22<sup>nd</sup> April

#### Karst Hydrogeology

A particular sub-theme reflecting recent improved understandings of karst hydrogeology in Ireland will be an additional strand of the conference. Developments in the understanding of Ireland's Limestones will be presented by Dr. David Drew, of Trinity College Dublin & International Geographical Union Irish karst Commission Representative. European advances in our understanding of the microbiology of karst environments will be presented by the Co-Chair of the IAH Karst Commission. The National Parks & Wildlife Services are currently sponsoring research on Groundwater Dependent Terrestrial Ecosystems; some 20 percent of our land area could be classified as wetland which has raised issues of appropriate conservation and in defining the necessary supporting environmental conditions. Recent research findings on the nature of groundwater flow to turloughs, implications for hydro-ecology, and hydrochemistry, will be presented.

#### Water Supply & Sustainability

Developing groundwater as a public supply source raises issues in delimiting source protection areas and consequent landuse planning. Amongst other presentations, consultants will present their experiences in determining sustainable yields for differing aquifer types and influences of the hydraulics of the water supply well. The president of the Institute of Geologists of Ireland (IGI), Mr. Kevin Cullen, will close the conference with an overview of the groundwater resources of Ireland in the context of sustaining a protected water supply in the future.

Please mark the dates of the conference in your diary  
Conference Programme will follow in the coming weeks

Further details available from Pamela Bartley ([pamela@hydro-g.com](mailto:pamela@hydro-g.com))