

Journal of Hydroinformatics: overview of this first issue

The purpose of this issue is itself to give an overview of Hydroinformatics with an emphasis on its application within society. It thus leads naturally into the sociotechnical dimensions of this subject and so into the way in which it is changing as the information revolution is absorbed into the communication revolution.

The first paper, *Introducing Hydroinformatics*, is an attempt to place Hydroinformatics within the wider social context and especially within what is commonly called 'the postmodern condition' of society. It draws from this positioning within the social context some elements of the policy that will be followed on commissioning and selecting contributions to the *Journal of Hydroinformatics*.

The second paper, *Hydroinformatics in 1999: what is to be done?*, brings the subject into closer focus, dealing with some immediate issues as these appear from a progressive engineering consulting perspective. Written primarily and explicitly from a European perspective, albeit with applications outside of Europe, the paper

places Hydroinformatics also within the framework of European Community programmes.

In some contrast with this second paper, the third, entitled *Integrated simulation of physical, chemical and ecological processes for river management* offers an overview of one specific area of application of Hydroinformatics as seen from a North American perspective. This paper brings the subject down to the level of specific applications within this area.

The other paper describes an internet implementation of an existing judgement engine, introducing both the engine itself and the internet technologies involved.

Hydroinformatics already covers a wide field, but we trust that we have been able to provide an overview of its most salient features.

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