

Journal of Hydroinformatics: 4th Issue

This fourth issue of the journal continues a trend set by earlier issues, namely one of diversity of approach to the activity we know as hydroinformatics. This can be viewed as a healthy search after truth, provided what emerges has integrity and a sense of convergence. Some papers in this issue address philosophical aspects that may be foreign to some readers; others explore topics from a more traditional engineering perspective. The mix is deliberate. On the one hand we are in continuity with experiences in sanitary, environmental and hydraulic engineering; on the other hand we need perceptions of the underlying or forcing factors in our culture that are bringing about change in our understanding of the management of water. This latter task is that of philosophical reflection. The striking statement, if not conclusion, is that

'hydroinformatics is a socio-technical endeavour'. This is worked out in the diverse but specific instances of how the roles of women and men in hydroinformatics may be distinguished, how a hydroinformatics viewpoint can enrich the traditional discipline of urban drainage. Together with an exploration of contact tanks and numerical fallacies there should be something of value in this issue for many water engineers and others with an interest and empathy (if not sympathy) with hydroinformatics. If this issue provokes us to seek after truth, it will have justified its publication.

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January 2000