

Water in 21st Century: Problems and Solutions in Turkey

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This session will focus on water resources management problems that will be experienced in Turkey in the 21st century. Water problems Turkey suffering from, are not new, but only for the last two years, water is being one of the most discussed issues in public as a consequence of severe water shortage in the metropolises. The issue has become even more complicated as probable impacts of climate change boosted the water problems experienced in terms of quantity and quality due to population increase during the last 30 years of the twentieth century. Based on recent research, it is possible to come up with a conclusion that the problem is rooted, to a great extent, in the approach applied to water resources management. This conclusion suggests that the water resources management approach should be re-defined.

The main topics to be discussed in this session consist of assumptions and uncertainties inherent to water resources potential calculations; protecting water quantity and quality while utilizing water resources and the essential points to be considered in management practices to sustain water related environmental systems. Researchers and practitioners will have the opportunity to present their work demonstrating the use of several surface and subsurface investigation techniques including hydrologic, hydrogeologic, isotope hydrology and hydrogeochemical methods and modelling in conceptualization and characterisation of hydrogeological systems in various geographical regions of Turkey.

In addition, the urgent need for revision of related legislation for a more secure future will be the other major focal point of the session. Papers discussing the need for updating the current laws and regulations according to the advances in the field of hydrogeology and the progress in research and development technology will demonstrate the value of a national water policy based upon scientific results.