



Michael J. Hamlin, IUGG Fellow

**UNITED
KINGDOM**

Michael Hamlin was born in South Africa in 1930. He went to School in Johannesburg and to Bristol University in the UK. After working in Southampton for two years with a firm of Consulting Civil Engineers, he spent a year studying Public Health Engineering at Imperial College before returning to South Africa in 1954. For the following five years he worked for Anglo American and two firms of Consulting Engineers. His work took him to many projects in South Africa as well as projects in Swaziland, Namibia, Malawi and Zambia. In 1959 he was appointed to a lectureship at Witwatersrand University in Johannesburg where he worked with his mentor, Prof Des Midgely. In 1961 he returned to the UK with his wife and three sons to a lectureship at Birmingham University. He was appointed Professor of Water Engineering in 1971.

He went to a number of meetings and Symposia organised by IAHS but first attended an IUGG General Assembly (GA) in Canberra in 1979 as the UK representative to IAHS, appointed by the Royal Society. He attended all the IUGG GAs until finally at Perugia in 2007. For the meeting in Sapporo in 2003 and the meeting in Perugia he was the UK delegate to IUGG. During the years he was attending IUGG GAs a number of significant changes occurred which are of interest. Until the meeting in Canberra it was a rule that associations should only hold Scientific Symposia concurrently with IUGG GAs. During the Canberra meeting it was decided that IAHS would organise Scientific Symposium mid term between IUGG GAs and the UK offered to arrange a Symposium in 1982 (allowing an additional year to organise this first meeting). The meeting was a success and following this meeting the British Hydrological Society was established

At the IAHS Symposium in Yokohama there was a lengthy discussion of the roll of the Nominations Committee in IAHS elections. The need to have a balanced slate was acknowledged but some delegates were worried about the elimination of candidates from the Ballot, whose nominations were properly proposed and seconded. The outcome was that all candidates would in future appear on the Ballot paper with the Nomination Committee's recommendation marked with an asterisk. This proposal was adopted.

At the general Assembly in Vienna in 1991 he was elected to the Finance Committee, one of whose rolls was to allocate funds to the seven Associations. In practice this was done on an historic basis and the Finance committee resolved to seek a better methodology. Over the next four years a method was developed in which half of the available funds should be allocated equally between the Associations and the other half should, pro rata, be allocated between the Associations on the basis of their activity as measured by the number of delegates who attended IUGG GAs. This proposal was agreed at the meeting in Boulder in 1995 subject to transition funding for the period 1995 to 1999.

Professor Hamlin's research and professional interests were in the development of methods to extend short flow records for the calculation of catchment yields and the estimation of probable maximum floods, in particular by the development of catchment models and by time series analysis. He was involved as a member of the Panel of Experts for four dams in Botswana and four dams in Malawi variously funded by the World Bank, the African Development Bank and the European Investment Bank.