



Dr Andrew McCowan
Chair of the National Committee
on Water Engineering
For Engineers Australia

L180618_JDLawson

19 August 2018

Attention: Dr A McCowan

Dear Andrew,

Re: JD Lawson Scholarship

Thank you to the National Committee on Water Engineering for this wonderful opportunity to further my learning and to meet with industry experts by attending the 37th IAHR World Congress in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia August 13-18th 2017. The IAHR World congress is held on a 2 year cycle and regularly attracts large crowds. The 37th IAHR World congress conference was attended by 1200 experts from 61 countries. Over 900 full papers were submitted to the conference out of 1324 submitted abstracts.

Key themes of the conference were: River and Sediment Management, Flood Management, Environmental Hydraulics and Industrial Flows, Coastal, Estuaries and Lakes Management, Urban Water Management, Water Resources Management and Hydroinformatics/Computational Methods and Experimental Methods.

The JD Lawson scholarship was mentioned during the Conference Opening ceremony by IAHR president Peter Goodwin. Peter commended the award and suggested that it was a model other countries and organisations should follow.

My attendance at the conference allowed me to foster my relationships with leading researchers, consultants and software suppliers from Australia and New Zealand. My attendance at the conference undoubtedly assisted me in my role and contribution to the running of the Hydraulics in Civil Engineering conference in Sydney later that year.

While at the conference I met with young researchers from the UK and Australia which increased my networks which will hopefully have a future benefit for me personally but for Engineers Australia as well. I fostered IAHR and Engineers Australia relationships, encouraging an Australian researchers to attend conferences by both organisations.

WMAwater Pty Ltd

DIRECTORS
M K Babister, RPEQ
R W Dewar
E J Askew
F L Ling, RPEQ

SENIOR ASSOCIATES
R Hardwick Jones
M E Retallick

ASSOCIATES
A Gaffney, RPEQ
E M Harrison, RPEQ
K Robinson

ABN 14 600 315 053

Level 2, 160 Clarence St, SYDNEY NSW 2000
Phone: 02 9299 2855 Fax: 02 9262 6208
Email: enquiry@wmawater.com.au
Website: wmawater.com.au

While attending the conference I attended a number of interesting seminars at keynote speeches. Key topics presented that related to the current issues in Australia included modelling of blockage.

At the conference I attended the Flood Committee meeting. This committee is new to IAHR. It was interesting to hear what other researchers and practitioners in my practice area are doing. I think this group has great potential for worldwide collaboration on issues affecting flood modelling and their first project of a test set of data that can be shared for model testing is a fantastic initiative though is encountering similar issues to those experienced when Australian Rainfall and Runoff was searching for test sites. I have attended two of their previous meetings and hope to continue my involvement.

While I didn't have a paper at this particular IAHR conference the experience of attending has encouraged me to continue to write papers and attend this conference series.

Attendance at closing session IAHR leadership ran a session "IAHR Annual General Members Assembly" which included discussion on the future of IAHR. Key points discussed included:

- the future viability of our association,
- Employers expect more return on investments,
- professionals expect value,
- there is more competition with for-profit programmes and services,
- members have less time to participate in meetings and committees,
- the younger generation has different expectations.

These issues no doubt are faced by all organisations.

I have been a member of a number of organising committees for Engineers Australia conferences. While these conferences are not as large as the IAHR world congress which is over 1000 people I took away a number of valuable lessons about organising a conference which I applied at the Hydraulics conference a few months later.

Yours Sincerely,

Monique Retallick