



HYDROWEB EXPERIENCE 2014

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HydroWeb is an educational IAHR initiative, focusing on web-based collaborative engineering in hydro-sciences. In November 2014 it was run as a pilot project with the participation of 27 students from three different IAHR Young Professionals Networks distributed globally: Beijing/China in Asia, Curitiba/Brazil in South America and Vienna/Austria in Europe.

Three student teams of nine persons composed of three students from every location worked on a river modelling task on a shared Web-project platform. The platform offered several linked Web services to share application software, model data and project reports (see <http://euroaquae.tu-cottbus.de/hydroweb>). Project tasks for the student teams were the flood management of a river in Denmark using a numerical simulation model. While the river modelling task was at the core of the exercise, the real challenge was the team collaboration over three different time zones and between people with different educational and cultural backgrounds as well as different mother tongues. The bottom line for many participants was that the course presented a unique

experience during their studies and that they substantially improved their skills in intercultural collaboration as well as in modern ICT application for team work in the Web. The supervised "trial and error" approach led after four hard weeks for the participants to the HydroWeb "miracle": Students from different countries and continents, who never met before, who never heard something about the river region in Denmark, who never used the applied river simulation tool and who never did engineering team work in the Web with different locations and in different time zones were able to set up an efficient collaboration and team spirit to solve the given problem in only one month. IAHR offers with HydroWeb young professionals the opportunity to develop international and



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Frank Molkenthin graduated in civil engineering from TU Berlin in 1988, where he also obtained his doctorate in 1994. Afterwards he joined BTU Cottbus as scientist and went on to receive a post-doctoral lecture qualification in 2001, before being appointed apl. Professor in 2009. He established the first HydroWeb course in 1999, which was offered as IAHR student chapter activity until 2005, later continued within the international Erasmus Mundus MSc course programme EuroAqua, and he conducted the IAHR-HydroWeb pilot project for YPNs in 2014.

interdisciplinary collaboration experiences and to prepare themselves for the ongoing globalization process in the water sector. The HydroWeb course will be assessed and broadly discussed during the forthcoming IAHR World Congress 2015, with the participation of Young Professionals in the discussions being highly appreciated. Based on the experiences gained during this year's pilot project, the course will be adapted and offered to YPNs worldwide for the next time in autumn 2015.