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# News

## International Symposium on Regionalization in Hydrology

*Lubljana, Yugoslavia, 23-26 April 1990*

The International Symposium on Regionalization in Hydrology was organized by IAHS and the Yugoslav Association for Hydrology. It was sponsored by WMO and UNESCO. About 90 participants from 21 countries attended the three scientific sessions on data acquisition, hydrological modelling and regional transfer modelling; and the five Poster Exhibition and Workshop meetings.

The following had been defined as the main subject areas of the Symposium:

(a) the process of aggregation from description of basic processes at the elementary scale (micro scale) to behaviour at the catchment and regional scale (meso and macro scale) and beyond that to the scale of cell size of atmospheric general circulation models (macro scale); and

(b) the numerical relationship between hydrological variables and measurable characteristics of the basin representing, *inter alia*, its climate, morphology, landscape, soil properties and vegetation.

Most of the Symposium contributions were related to selected specific aspects of those subjects, such as monitoring, data processing, sub-process understanding and modelling, but an appropriate percentage was also related to the main topic of the Symposium, the regionalization problem.

Twenty-six Symposium papers were pre-published in *Regionalization in Hydrology*, IAHS Publication no. 191, available from the IAHS Press in Wallingford or Washington, price $45. Eleven late contributions were published in a separate volume, available from the local organizer, Professor M. Brilly, Hajdrihova 28, 61000 Lubljana, Yugoslavia.

**A. Becker**
*GDR, Member of the Scientific Committee*

## International Symposium on Research Needs and Applications to Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation in Tropical Steeplands

*Suva, Fiji, 11-15 June 1990*

This Symposium was organized by the International Union of Forestry Research Organizations (IUFRO); IAHS; USDA Forest Research Service, Pacific Southwest Research Station; New Zealand Ministry of Forestry; the East-West Center; and the Fiji Ministry of Primary Industries. The 87 participants came from 22 countries. The 38 papers and 12 posters selected by

the organizing committee reported original work conducted in 26 countries. These contributions were divided into six themes:

erosion and sedimentation problems in the tropics;
data, instrumentation and methods needed for tropical environments;
erosion and sedimentation process research and its applicability to the tropics;
role of temporal and spatial scale in erosion and sedimentation; and
prevention and rehabilitation.

This was the fifth in a series of symposia convened to discuss erosion and sedimentation research in upland forested steeplands of the Pacific Rim. Each Symposium differed in emphasis, but all focussed on characteristic landscapes: steep and tectonically active areas comprising a wide range of rock types and which are subject to heavy rainfall, volcanic activity and earthquakes. This landscape is often unstable, and natural erosion and sediment disasters are common. The influence of land use practices on the frequency and magnitude of such disasters is often a matter of great legal and technical controversy. Most research on erosion and sedimentation in forested steepland areas is concentrated in the temperate regions of the world. Comparatively little experimental work has been carried out under tropical conditions.

Before the Symposium there was a two day field trip to the rain forests of the upper Sigatoka catchment to observe *Pinus caribaea* plantations and logging; the Monasavu dam and power plant; and then to the dry side to observe the degraded grasslands of the Ba catchment. During the Symposium there was a field trip to the Waimanu catchment to observe steepland agriculture and river sedimentation. After the Symposium there were field trips to observe eroded agricultural lands near Nadi. Both the Fiji Minister of Forestry and Minister of Primary Industries addressed the delegates, and directed their respective departments to prepare a position paper for the Legislature recommending measures to be taken to control erosion and sedimentation in Fiji.

The Symposium concluded that there is an urgent need to expand erosion and sedimentation research in the tropics, to assess the transferability of research methods and results developed in temperate regions and to introduce practical methods to evaluate and reduce erosion and sedimentation in the tropics.

The Proceedings of this Symposium were pre-published as *Research Needs and Applications to Reduce Erosion and Sedimentation in Tropical Steeplands*, IAHS Publication no. 192, available from IAHS Press, Wallingford and Washington, price $50.

The next meeting in this informal series will be the International Symposium on Erosion, Debris Flows and Environment in Mountain Regions, 5–9 July 1992, to be held in Chengdu, China, organized by the Institute of Mountain Disasters, Chinese Academy of Sciences, IAHS, IUFRO and UNESCO.

**Robert R. Ziemer**
*Pacific Southwest Station, Arcata, California, USA*