

Groundwater – a source of security

Judging by the close to 400 delegates who attended the International Conference on Groundwater at the CSIR International Convention Centre, in Pretoria, earlier this year, interest in this special water source is certainly gaining momentum. This year's conference incorporated the Biennial Conference of the Groundwater Division

of the Geological Society of South Africa and was held in association with the International Association of Hydrogeologists. Under the theme 'Groundwater: Our Source of Security in an Uncertain Future', delegates deliberated on challenges and possibilities around the increased use of groundwater as well as methodologies for improved

groundwater development and management, among others. Awards included best student presentation (won by Darian Pearce), best student poster (Evan Swart-booii), best oral presentation (shared by Prof Kai Witthueser and Dr Nicholas Howden) and best poster (shared by Paul Aucamp and Dr Martin Holland).



Amelia Freysen of Geo Pollution Technologies; Marisa Ogle of Parsons Birckenhoff Africa; and Yolanda Ehlers of Soil & Groundwater Remediation Services.

(All photographs by Lani van Vuuren)



Dr Martin Holland and Paul Aucamp delight at their prize for best poster.



Prof Kai Witthueser and Dr Nicholas Howden won the prize for best oral presentation.



Teboho Shakhane of the University of the Free State's Institute for Groundwater Studies (IGS); Ntsako Mabasa of the Department of Water Affairs and Modreck Gomo of the IGS.



Conference Chair Dr Shafick Adams; Prof Roland Schulze of the University of KwaZulu-Natal; Deputy Director General Mbangiseni Nephumbada; IAH President Dr Willi Struckmeier, and Salvatore D'Angelo of UNESCO-IHP.



Delegates of the international groundwater conference.