



June 9, 2021

Dear Colleagues,

On behalf of the International Association of Hydrogeologists, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome all of you to the Conference on Groundwater of Siberia and the Far East. It is particularly fitting that this conference is dedicated to the memory of Prof. Evgeny V. Pinneker, head of the Siberian Hydrogeologists School, and also to the organizer of the first meetings on Groundwater and Engineering Geology of Eastern Siberia, Prof. Valentina G. Tkachuk. Among many other achievements and advancements in our field, Prof. Pinneker (along with other contributors) published an important foundational text in *General Hydrogeology*, and Prof. Tkachuk served as editor for the 1970 seminal work *Gidrogeologiya SSSR (Hydrogeology of the USSR)*. Both of these prominent hydrogeologists made very significant contributions to our science, and it is fitting that we honor them today.

The storied history of hydrogeology in Russia and this region dates back almost 300 years and the monumental achievements of generations of researchers here have made a profound and positive impact on the world. More and more, the contributions of groundwater professionals and researchers in Russia are being recognized and appreciated around the globe. These centuries of groundwater investigations and discoveries have great potential to help many communities, preserve keystone ecosystems, and provide fundamental resilience against the onslaught of climate change. But importantly, coupled with this impressive and vast history of achievement, the **current ongoing** hydrogeological work showcased here is remarkable. Work here has analogies and implications to groundwater challenges and aquifer management around the planet.

This 66-year-old conference is one year older than the founding of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), an organization of which many of you are members. Your work pushing the boundaries of our science and exploring new avenues of research is highly valued, but in a larger sense has even greater value to the human and ecological recipients of your efforts. The IAH would like to thank the Institute of Earth Crust of the Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Science **and** all the organizers of this event for their hard work. We would also like to express our deepest appreciation to all participants who have made this continuing forum a bright, shining star with huge potential for the future.

I wish you continued success as a world-wide leader in hydrogeology.

With all good wishes and kindest regards,

Dr. David K. Kreamer,
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