In addition to the accompanying general flyer about the MinWat2014 conference, this flyer provides information about

**Theme A: HYDROGEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY — ORIGIN, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**

Abstract submission deadline was February 9, 2014. After February 9, 2014, in principle for posters only. ... late abstracts for oral presentation on request possible.

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Conference structure – updated (February 2014)
All presentations (themes A, B and C) during the entire conference time will be held in plenary way, i.e. in one lecture hall only. The programme during each day will consist of a number of presentation time blocks, each of these time blocks being devoted to a certain theme. At the beginning of each day – and at the beginning of most presentation time blocks – introductory keynote lectures will be held. The main objective if these keynote lectures will be the presentation of typical problems existing in the fields of hydrogeology-hydrogeochemistry (theme A), bottled mineral water (theme B), and balneology (theme C). These introductory keynote lectures are intended also for colleagues from other disciplines. By doing so, the experts from, for example, water bottling and balneology will learn about current issues in the field of hydrogeology and hydrogeochemistry, and vice versa, of course. The invited keynote lectures (30 minutes) will be followed by a series of regular oral presentations (15 or 20 minutes). Most presentations are expected from themes A and B. Also possibility to present the work by means of posters.

**Themes and Topics**
The conference will be an opportunity for official or informal meetings of leading players in the field of mineral waters: hydrogeology and hydrogeochemistry, water bottling, and balneology. The conference involves the following three themes:

**Theme A: HYDROGEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY — ORIGIN, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT**
Represented by the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH), the International Association of Hydrological Sciences (IAHS), and Fachsektion Hydrogeologie in der Deutschen Geologischen Gesellschaft Hydrogeology Section of the German Geological Society (FH-DGG) THIS FLYER

**Theme B: BOTTLED WATER — MARKET AND DEMAND, HEALTH ISSUES**
Represented by the European Federation of Bottled Waters (EFBW)

**Theme C: BALNEOLOGY — BALNEOTHERAPY AND BALNEOTECHNICS**
Represented by the International Society of Medical Hydrology and Climatology (ISMH), World Federation of Hydrotherapy and Climatology (FEMTEC), and the European Spas Association (ESA)
Theme A: HYDROGEOLOGY AND HYDROGEOCHEMISTRY — ORIGIN, PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT

Theme A includes the following topics:

A.1. The interpretation of the term mineral waters and methods of their utilization in various countries
A.2. Hydrogeological origin and hydrogeochemistry of mineral waters — Hydrogeological conceptual schemes of the structure and functioning of hydromineral systems — New ideas and opinions on the origin and specific types of mineral water (thermal, carbonate, radioactive waters, brines), evolution of mineral waters in different types of rocks environment
A.4. Protection and conservation — Protection of existing mineral water resources, quality approach, risk assessment, quality protection policies
A.5. Abstraction and transport of mineral and thermal waters, technical problems (corrosion, transport, heat regeneration, hygiene issues, etc.)
A.6. Socio-economic aspects — Socio-economic benefits at the scale of springs, their watersheds and at the regional and national scale
A.7. Case studies on mineral water exploitation and protection — Scientific, technological, economic, social and legal issues

The topics within themes B and C are outlined in other specific flyers, or can be found on the conference web site.

Theme A is, in either case, relevant for

- hydrogeologists and hydrogeochemists who deal with the search for and protection of mineral water resources. This regards hydrogeologists from universities, research institutes and private consultancy firms particularly those interested in thermal and mineral waters, who want to see up-to-date studies on the structure and functioning of such hydrosystems, who want to learn about methodologies they can use to characterise existing springs or springs to be developed in the next future.
- professionals involved in distribution of bottled mineral waters whose activities are essentially dependent on the results of hydrogeological exploration. This includes also the managers and hydrogeologists from bottling companies and, if such companies do not have their own hydrogeologist, the quality managers.
- administrations (local, regional, national, European, etc.) that evaluate projects aimed at development of new sources of natural mineral waters. It also includes professionals and administrators involved in designing the regulatory measures for safeguarding and protection of natural mineral water resources.

Scientific Advisory Committee for Theme A

Please refer to the conference web site for members of the Scientific Advisory Committee affiliated with Theme A.

Venue — Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad)

The conference will be held in the Hotel Thermal, in the famous spa city Karlovy Vary (Carlsbad in English), about 130 km west of Prague. Karlovy Vary was founded by the King of Bohemia, and Holy Roman Emperor Charles IV in 1358. The maximum temperature of the thermal springs is 73.4°C. You can make use of the Student Agency bus connection (every hour) between Prague, Prague Airport and Karlovy Vary, and vice versa. For details see "Transportation / Travel" on the conference web site.