

REPORT ON

The activities of The Working Group of IAG on “Advancing theory and modelling of river systems” in 2025

Our working group was approved at the IAG Council Meeting held during the 9th International Conference on Geomorphology in New Delhi, India (November 6–11, 2017). It was subsequently approved for another term at the IAG Council Meeting held during the 10th International Conference on Geomorphology in Coimbra, Portugal (September 12–16, 2022).

From April 2025 to March 2026, our working group carried out the following activities:

1. After our proposed session, “Advancing theory and modelling of river systems”, was approved for inclusion in the program of the 11th International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG2026) by the organizing committee on December 20, 2024, the three co-chairs of our working group encouraged fluvial geomorphologists worldwide to submit abstracts to our session by June 13, 2025, and young geomorphologists to apply for IAG Grants to attend the conference by June 16, 2025.

2. At the invitation of the ICG2026 organizing committee, the three co-chairs of our working group reviewed all abstracts submitted to our session in two stages: an initial review from June 27 to July 7, 2025, followed by a detailed evaluation from August 5 to 18, 2025, during which the oral presentations and posters were approved.

3. Representing our working group, Prof. He-Qing Huang attended the 25th Cross-Strait, Hong Kong, and Macao Symposium on Environment, Resources and Ecological Conservation, and reported on the activities of our working group and recent research advances on river systems. The symposium was held in Xining, Qinghai Province, China, from July 11 to 15, 2025 and brought together over 300 scientists and postgraduate students from universities and research institutions, who presented their latest findings and conducted field investigations of the landscape and ecosystems in Qinghai.

4. Representing our working group, Prof. He-Qing Huang coordinated the 8th

International Symposium on Environment, Natural Resources and Ecological Conservation (ISENREC2025) held in Nairobi, Kenya, from July 29 to August 1, 2025. During the event, he presented the activities of our working group and recent research advances on river systems.

5. Representing our working group, Prof. He-Qing Huang attended the 2025 Conference of the Commission on Geomorphology and Quaternary Studies of the Geographical Society of China, held in Dalian, Liaoning Province, China, from August 22 to 24, 2025. During the commission members' meeting, Prof. Huang reported on the annual activities and future work plans of both IAG and our working group. The event brought together over 300 scientists and postgraduate students from universities and research institutions across China to present their latest findings. Pre- and post-conference field trips were also organized to investigate the coastal and fluvial geomorphology around Dalian.

6. From September 16 to 18, 2025, Prof. He-Qing Huang attended the 2025 IAG Regional Conference on Geomorphology (RCG2025) in Timișoara, Romania. On behalf of our working group, he co-chaired the session “Advancing theory and modelling of river systems” and delivered a special report on our working group’s activities and recent research advances on river systems. Additionally, as the national representative of China, Prof. Huang attended the IAG council meeting held during the conference.

7. At the invitation of the organizing committee of “2025 Sino-French Conference on Health and Conservation: Meeting the Challenge” held in Leshan, Sichuan Province, China, from October 12 to 15, 2025, Prof. He-Qing Huang attended the conference and presented the activities of our working group and recent research advances on river systems.

8. From November 27 to December 5, 2025, on behalf of our working group, Prof. He-Qing Huang visited Dr. Tim Cohen (President of Australia & New Zealand Geomorphology Group, ANZGG) and Prof. Gerald Nanson at the University of Wollongong, Australia. The visit aimed to conduct collaborative research and explore effective strategies for jointly organizing relevant activities between our working group and ANZGG.

9. During the 11th International Conference on Geomorphology (ICG2026), held in Christchurch, New Zealand, from February 2 to 6, 2026, the co-chairs of our working group, Profs. Paul Carling and Ian Rutherford, chaired the session “Advancing theory and modelling of river systems” organized by our working group. At this session, Prof. Huang delivered an oral presentation on recent research advances in river systems. The three chairs also reviewed the progress made by our working group in 2025 and outlined a future work plan for the group. Additionally, as the national representative of China, Prof. Huang attended the IAG council meetings held during the conference.

10. The three co-chairs of our working group called upon fluvial geomorphologists worldwide, especially young geomorphologists, to attend the special lectures organized by the IAG Council during the 2026 International Geomorphology Week (March 2–8, 2026).

Co-chairs of the Working Group of IAG on “Advancing theory and modelling of river systems”:

Prof. He-Qing Huang, China University of Geosciences (Wuhan)/Institute of
Geographic Sciences and Natural Resources Research, Chinese
Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China;
Email: huanghq@igsnr.ac.cn

Prof. Paul Carling, Southampton University, UK;
Email: P.A.Carling@soton.ac.uk

Prof. Ian Rutherford, University of Melbourne, Australia;
Email: idruth@unimelb.edu.au