

The first annual meeting and symposium of the West Africa Interpore Chapter (WAIC) was held in virtual format on October 27 & 28, 2023 with the participation of over 20 researchers from academia for this first event.

The meeting was opened by **Dr. Marcel Bawindsom KEBRE**, associate professor at Université Joseph KI-ZERBO (Burkina Faso) and Vice-Chair of the steering committee of WAIC.

In his opening remarks on behalf of the symposium's organizing and scientific committees, Dr. KEBRE recalled the background to the creation exactly one year ago, on October 27, 2022, of this chapter of InterPore, the very first in Africa with a regional character. In fact, researchers in the fields of porous media from over 5 West African countries and the diaspora took the initiative, with the support of the Executive Committee of Interpore, to hold the kick-off meeting officially establishing the chapter.

For this first edition of its annual meeting & symposium with the Special Topic: Mining activities in Africa, mining waste management, WAIC invited researchers and industry professionals from different fields of porous media to submit abstracts specially to address the pressing challenges associated with mining activities in Africa, particularly the critical issue of mining waste management.

Dr KEBRE recalled the main objective of the event, which was to foster interdisciplinary discussions and collaborations among researchers, engineers, and industry stakeholders to explore the latest advancements and potential applications of porous media science and engineering in the context of mining waste management.

For this first edition, 10 abstracts were received : 2 from Germany, 1 from Sénégal, 1 from Niger, 1 from Nigeria, 5 from Burkina Faso.

Before presenting the scientific program, he thanked the Scientific Committee and the Organizing Committee for their efforts in making the symposium a success. A special mention went to the Interpore EC, its IT team and in particular Margaret, who spared no effort to support us in this process.

The opening session was followed by two keynote lectures from WAIC SC members:

- *Modeling fluid transport in fractured petroleum reservoirs via upscaling technique* by **Dr. Richard OWUSU**, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana;
- *Mining Problems in Africa* by **Mrs Harmony CHIMEZIE-NWOSU** & Mrs Utibe ETO from Nigeria.

For the contributions, 15 minutes were allotted to each, followed by a discussion with the audience.

Two trainings sessions on Python Programming Short Course were given by **Dr. Femi OLORODE** (Louisiana State University, USA) for young researchers.

The chapter is grateful to **Prof. S. Majid HASSANIZADEH**, Managing Director, International Society for Porous Media, for his participation and words of encouragement to our young chapter.

The list of scientific contributions is as follows:

- *Use of zero valent iron nanoparticle for in situ chemical reduction of hexavalent chromium in contaminated soils* by GUEYE Mouhamadou Thierno (Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar, Senegal)
- *Enhancing Precipitation Data Accuracy in Burkina Faso: A Comparative Analysis of Satellite-Based Products and Ground Measurements, with Soil Moisture Integration* by Dr KEBRE Bawindsom Marcel (Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso); Mr KI Guillaume Zamantakonè (Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso)

- *Advanced Characterization of Disordered Mesoporous Solids* by Dr ENNINFUL Henry (Universität Leipzig); Prof. ENKE Dirk (Universität Leipzig); Prof. VALIULLIN Rustem (Universität Leipzig)
- *Fluid Phase Equilibria in Geometrically Disordered Mesoporous Materials* by Dr ENNINFUL Henry (Universität Leipzig); Dr SCHNEIDER Daniel (Universität Leipzig); Prof. ENKE Dirk (Universität Leipzig); Prof. VALIULLIN Rustem (Universität Leipzig)
- *Energy recovery from low-value agricultural residues for biochar production during cooking using a multifunction family oven* by Moussa dit Corneille TARPILGA (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso), Salif OUEDRAOGO (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso), François OUEDRAOGO (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso), Bétaboalé NAON (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso)
- *Phosphates from the Kotchari deposit, Burkina Faso* by Dr SORGHO Brahima (Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso); Mr ZOUNGRANA Jean Baptiste (Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso)
- *Simulation of water transfers at the Soil-Plant-Atmosphere interface in unsaturated soil* by Mrs Fatoumata GANDEMA/DA (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso), Dr François Ouédraogo (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso), Dr Moussa TARPILGA Dit Corneille (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso), Prof. Bétaboalé NAON (Université Nazi Boni, Burkina Faso)
- *Evolution of stresses and deformations in a road embankment in unsaturated, low-swelling soil subjected to hydro-mechanical pressures* by GANDEMA Soumaïla (Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso), KÉBRÉ Bawindsom Marcel (Université Joseph KI-ZERBO, Burkina Faso)
- *Comparative assessment of the concentration of radioactive materials in natural sources relevant to mining activities in the Niger Republic using two measurement techniques* by Mr YACOUBA SOULEY Abdoullazize (Université Abdou Moumouni de Niamey, Niger).