PREFACE

Groundwater is one of the main sources of drinking water in Italy and all over Europe; statistics from EuroGeoSurvey and European Environmental Agency show that about 60% of the drinking water in the European Union comes from it. Because of that the knowledge of groundwater conditions, in terms of quality and quantity, is becoming day after day of vital importance for the Society needs such as:
- searching for and using good drinking water without colliding with the flora and fauna (environment) requirements and without threatening future water reserves;
- understanding the underground flow paths to be able to describe their variations in space and time;
- identifying and understanding the most important relationships between human intervention and related effects on groundwater aquifers;
- investigating the extent of human interventions in the hydrogeological cycle to establish appropriate planning and management measures.

Those are just some of the questions to which Geologists and Hydrogeologists are asked to answer; ISPRA is publishing this volume to contribute to the discussion. It comes 3 years after the proceedings of the first National Workshop held in Parma on June 2004, (Developments in Aquifer Sedimentology and Groundwater Flow Studies in Italy, R. Valloni edr., Mem. Descr. Carta Geol. d'It., LXXVI (2007), pp. 316), and contains many papers produced by a large number of specialists who met in Rimini on September 2009 to take part in the Second National Workshop called “Multidisciplinary approach for porous aquifer characterization”.

My sincere congratulations to all of them

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