

waters. Within his special area of expertise, he made valuable contributions to the regional research programmes of the Danube Research Institute, which were conducted regularly on the 417 km long Hungarian section of the Danube. The Toad Action Group Association, of which he was founder and leader, served as the framework for most of his indefatigable practical activity in nature and environment conservation and in raising environmental awareness. This organization, beside the distribution of valuable, high standard postcards, calendars and conservational publications, also pursued dedicated educational work, available to a wide spectrum of children, from the age of primary school students upwards.

He authored and co-authored over 110 scientific and educational publications (including books and book chapters), published in Hungary and also in other countries, followed by considerable professional interest and appreciation.

He was a member of the Hungarian Hydrological Society and the Hungarian Biological Society, of which he also served as a functionary. He also held memberships in the Infra Eco Network Europe, the ASG, and he was chairman of the

Hungarian team of the IUCN Species Survival Commission, Declining Amphibian Populations Task Force.

He had been a member of the IAD for 29 years, during which time he attended nearly all of its conferences. His intelligence, his love for his profession and his colourful personality made him a well-known, esteemed member of the great family of Danube researchers.

His activities were honoured in Hungary with the much-valued "Pro Natura" and "For Our Environment" medals and the "sen. Entz Géza" award, and he also won the Ford European Conservation Award.

In the early spring of 2015, he was returning from a tour of South-East Asia, where he acted as advisor, and as ever, he was full of experiences and plans for the future, but he shortly suffered a heart attack. Despite the devoted attempts at treatment, on 20 March he left his beloved mother, his dear colleagues and co-workers, and the entire earthly field of his comprehensive scientific activity.

He was buried in Budapest, on 9 April 2015. We hold him in loving memory.

## Obituary for Rüdiger Schmid (1942–2015)

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*Figure 1: Rüdiger Schmid, 2003  
(Photo: Government of Upper Palatinate, Regensburg)*

On August 2, 2015 our highly respected and popular colleague Rüdiger Schmid died at the age of 73. Rüdiger has rendered outstanding services to IAD over many years with a great foresight to improve the water quality of the Danube across borders long before the EU Water Framework Directive came into force. He has played a significant role in the international Danube expedition of IAD in 1988, a forerunner of the actual Joint Danube Surveys performed every 6 years by ICPDR, to assess the quality of the Danube from Vienna to the Black Sea and to present the results in an extensive publication. In 1998 he was designated as leader of the IAD expert group Saprobiology, a task which he fulfilled until his retirement in 2004. Due to his expert knowledge and his restless commitment the water quality map of the whole Danube could be published at the turn of the millennium. This map was completed three years later by adding the major tributaries. The required relevant information was collected during a memorable workshop in Regensburg attended by competent

experts of the eastern Danube countries due to a generous sponsorship. The highlight of his professional activities was the organization of the first German "Danube Day" in Regensburg, where people participated in a great summer.

Rüdiger Schmid was born in Bayreuth on 27 March 1942. After a teacher-training in chemistry, biology and geography in Munich he began his service in the Bavarian Water Authority in 1971. As a technical officer of Upper Franconia's government he established the chemical-biological monitoring of Bavaria's first drinking water reservoir in Mauthaus and edited a regional water quality map of running waters which was a pioneer work at that time.

In 1976 he was entrusted with the leadership of the Middle Franconia's water quality supervision, before joining the government of Upper Palatinate in 1980, where he published the first water quality map of this administrative district. In 1993 Rüdiger Schmid was elected as administrator of the water management office in Regensburg that he headed until his retirement. He was the first natural scientist in Bavaria holding this position. Because of his scientific background he was able to focus not only on water quality issues, but also on hydromorphology and restoration of streams.

Until his death he indulged his passion for the recreational angling which was reflected in memberships of some fishery associations. Moreover, his retirement was characterized by numerous travel activities together with his wife not only in Europe but also in the most remote parts of the world.

All those who have known Rüdiger will treasure his memory.