



International Association of Engineering Geology and Environment – IAEG 2016 Annual Report

The International Association of Engineering Geology and Environment (IAEG) held its annual executive committee and council meetings in Cape Town, South Africa. The executive committee met on 26 and 27 August 2016. The IAEG Council met on 28 August 2016. Next, the IAEG General Assembly was held on 31 August 2017, as part of the 35th International Geological Congress.

During the IAEG Council meeting, the following matters were discussed.

Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting, which was held in New Delhi, India, on 26 October 2015.

Report of the President and IAEG budget. The IAEG president, Scott F. Burns, informed that the budget for 2015 closed with a deficit, mainly due to the expenses due to the publication of a book on the 50th anniversary of the Association. Despite, the IAEG remains financially solid, with nearly 400,000 euro of resources.

The president reported on the IAEG Executive Committee meeting, which was held in London, on 28 and 29 May 2016. At the meeting, the decision was taken to prepare and deliver to all IAEG members every two weeks an electronic newsletter. The newsletter will also be made available on the Association web site.

Report of the Secretary General. The secretary general, Wu Faquan, informed the Council on the state of the Association. Concerning the geographical distribution of the members, he showed that 37% of the members are from Europe, 26% from Asia, 19% from Australia, 11% from North America, and the remaining 7% from other geographical areas. Negotiations are ongoing to establish six new national groups in Africa, and specifically in Algeria, Egypt, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia. The secretary general further reported on a survey conducted to determine the most relevant topics on Engineering Geology among the IAEG members. Results of the survey indicate that the topics considered most relevant, include global warming and related engineering challenges, geo-hazards prevention and modelling, landslides and slope stability, groundwater contamination, reuse of underground space, soft rocks, rock classification, dam geology, marine geology, tunnelling, active faulting.

Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment. Published by Springer, the Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment is the official scientific journal of the IAEG. The journal is sent to all subscribing members in printed format, and is also available online [<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/engineering+geology/journal/10064>]. The chief editor, Martin Culshaw, informed the Council that since April 2012, more than 2100 manuscripts were submitted to the journal, with the number of submissions increasing significantly in the recent period. On average, the journal publishes 120 papers every year. In 2015, the journal received 493 submissions (18 from Italy, 2.9%), and published 295 papers (7



from Italy, 1.9%) In 2016, the journal impact factor has increased to 1.252, with a rejection rate exceeding 70%. The journal has an editorial board of 64 members (including four from Italy). In 2018, Louis Wang will join Martin Culshaw as chief editor, and the journal will have two chief editors. In 2019, Martin Culshaw will step down, and Reseat Ulusay will join Louis Wang as chief-editor. Martin Culshaw prompted a discussion on the possibility to offer an “open access” policy in the journal. No decision was taken on the issue. Following a decision of the Publisher (Springer International Publishing AG), from 2019 the journal will only be available online and in digital format.

Association fees. The committee on the association fees had proposed to the IAEG Executive Committee different schemes for the association fees. The Executive Committee has examined the proposals, but no final decision was taken. No change has been made to the structure of the membership fees. The Committee informed that only a very small number of members pays an individual subscription i.e., outside the national groups.

Reports from the Vice Presidents. The vice presidents reported on the activities of the national groups in various geographical areas. It was reiterated that negotiations are ongoing to establish six new national groups in Algeria, Egypt, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sudan and Tunisia. The IAEG secretariat can provide details on the individual groups to interested members.

IAEG strategy and implementation plan. The president informed the Council that during the meeting of the executive committee in London, in May 2016, a strategy for the further development of the Association was proposed. The strategy includes a long-term vision, a mission, and nine objectives (tasks). The strategy, the mission and the objectives were presented and discussed, but no final decision was made on how to implement the proposed strategy. It was decided to come to a final agreement on the long-term vision and the mission for the Association by the end of 2016, and on the strategic goals and the appropriate actions to achieve them, in 2017.

Reports from Commissions. Reports were presented on the results achieved by four commissions, namely the commissions C4 - Education and training, C10 - Buildings and ornamental rocks, C17 - Aggregates, and C35 - Monitoring methods and application in engineering geology applications. The secretariat can provide further details on the reports of the individual commissions. It is worth noticing that in New Delhi, the Council had decided to establish the new Commission C37 on “Landslide nomenclature”.

Report of the web-editor. The web-editor informed that the IAEG web site had suffered a number of attacks from hackers. For this reason, the site will be re-engineered to improve the security of the site. The new web site will present the existing and new information using new technology and a more modern layout. The web-editor also informed of a new editorial strategy for the site, that will include the production and publication of video lectures (<http://iaeg.info/lectures-webinars/webinars/>) and news from members and others (highlights, newsletter, webletter). A survey will be conducted among the IAEG members.

IAEG sponsored meetings. The following meetings were presented, and will be sponsored by the IAEG: (i) the International Symposium on Marine Engineering



Geology, Qingdao, China, on 21-23 October 2016; (ii) the Engineering Solutions for Sustainability: Materials and Resources, Denver, Colorado (SA), on 18-19 February 2017; (iii) the 3rd North American Symposium on Landslides, Roanoke, Virginia (USA), on 4-8 June 2017; (iv) the Shaoxing international Forum on Rock Mechanics & Engineering Geology (SXFRG), Shaoxing, China, on 28-30 October 2017; and (v) the 11th IAEG Asian Regional Conference (ARC-11), Kathmandu, Nepal, on 28-30 November 2017. It is also worth noticing that the **13th IAEG Congress “Engineering Geology for a Sustainable World”** will be held in San Francisco, California (USA), on 17-21 September 2018.

Next IAEG Council meeting. The next IAEG Council meeting will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal, on 28-30 November 2017, as part of the ARC-11, IAEG Asian Regional Conference.

Additional information on the IAEG and its activities in 2016 is available from the IAEG newsletters, available at the following link: <http://iaeg.info/news/newsletter/>.

Main activities of the Italian IAEG national group

The President of the Italian IAEG national group is Prof. Giovanni B. Crosta, Università Bicocca, Milano, and the national executive committee is composed of Angelo Doglioni, Claudia Meisina, Daniele Giordan (secretary), Lisa Borgatti, Massimo Arattano, Marina De Maio, Mario Parise and Silvia Peppoloni.

Based upon an agreement signed in 2015, CNR IRPI has provided logistic and technical support to the Italian section of the IAEG, including office space and part time support staff at the CNR IRPI centre in Torino. The support includes the hosting and maintenance of the IAEG Italian and International web sites.

The Italian IAEG national group has organized two twin workshops, namely: (i) “L’uso dei droni in Geologia Applicata: Esperienze e Prospettive”, held in Torino, on 28 October 2016, and (ii) “L’uso dei dati rilevati in Geologia Applicata: Esperienze e Prospettive” held at the Dipartimento di Scienze Biologiche, Geologiche e Ambientali, University of Bologna, on 25 November 2016.

The Italian IAEG national group has granted two fellowships for Master Wash, a master on “Gestione delle risorse idriche nella cooperazione” [<http://masterwash.unimib.it/>] offered by the Dipartimento di Scienze dell’Ambiente e della Terra, Università Milano Bicocca, Milano.

For 2017, The Italian IAEG national group has planned the following activities: (i) the workshop “I terrazzamenti del paesaggio ligure: bene da salvaguardare e rischio geo-idrologico da mitigare” to be held in Genoa, on 26 May 2017, and (ii) five grants for students to the 2017 LARAM school, to be held in Salerno, Italy, from 4 to 15 September 2017.

Additional information on the IAEG Italian national group and its activities is available from <http://www.iaeg.it/>.



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ISTITUTO DI RICERCA PER LA PROTEZIONE IDROGEOLOGICA



Perugia, 9 May 2017

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