



## International Association of Engineering Geology and Environment – IAEG 2017 Annual Report

The International Association of Engineering Geology and Environment (IAEG) held its annual Executive committee and Council meetings in Kathmandu, Nepal, as part of the ARC-11, IAEG Asian Regional Conference. The Executive Committee met on 25 November 2017, and the IAEG Council met on 26 November 2017.

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

**Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting**, which was held in Cape Town, South Africa, on 31 August 2016.

**Report of the President and IAEG budget.** The IAEG president, Scott F. Burns, informed the Council that, in 2017, (i) the number of national groups has increased, (ii) the IAEG Bulletin continued to grow steadily thanks to the work of the Chief-editor, Martin Culshaw, and of a dedicated editorial board, (iii) the web site of the Association was updated regularly, thanks to the work of Giorgio Lolino and his dedicated team at CNR IRPI, in Torino, Italy, (iv) the Association secretariat office in Shaoxing, China, ran smoothly under the leadership of Faquan Wu, and (v) the finances of the Association have remained solid and stable, under the supervision of the IAEG treasurer, Jean-Alain Fleurisson. Three main regional conferences were supported by the IAEG in 2017, including the regional conference in Shaoxing, China, a conference in Zambia, Africa, and the ARC-11, IAEG Asian Regional Conference, in Kathmandu, Nepal.

**Report of the Secretary General.** The secretary general, Wu Faquan, informed the Council on the state of the Association. He showed that the Association has 58 national groups, with a total of 4323 members, including 1723 members that receive the Association journal – the Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment – 2378 members that choose not to receive the Bulletin, 20 associated members, and 2 individual members. In 2017, a significant increase in membership subscription was registered in Asia, South Africa, North America and Australia. A slight decrease in subscription was registered in Southern Europe, in Northern Europe and in South America. In 2017, the activities of the IAEG secretariat focused primarily on (i) the production and the dissemination of the IAEG Newsletter, with 4 issues published (compared to 2 issues in the previous years), (ii) the launch of an online survey about membership information and feedbacks from the Bulletin, that received 129 responses from 21 national groups, (iii) the organization and preparation of the Executive Committee meetings and the Council meetings. For 2018, Wu Faquan foresees that the main tasks for the secretariat will include (i) supporting the procedures for the election of the new Executive Committee, (ii) supporting the selection of the IAEG medals and awards i.e., the Hans-Cloos Medal, the Ricahrd Wolter's prize and the Marcel Arnould Medal [<http://iaeg.info/info/awards-and-prizes/>], and (iii) supporting the organization of the upcoming IAEG International Congress, which will be held in San Francisco, California, USA, on September 21-25, 2018. The IAEG secretary general further reported on an IAEG promotion plan, which consists of different actions, including (i) modifications to the Statutes and the Bylaws, to better reflect the long-term strategy of the association, (ii) improvement of the annual reports prepared by various



committees, to better inform the Executive Committee and the Council, (iii) changes in the terms of the committees, (iv) a larger number of IAEG awards, and (v) promotion of initiatives to support and increase membership to the association.

**Report from the Treasurer.** The IAEG treasurer, Jean-Alain Fleurisson, informed the Council on the finances of the Association. In 2016, the total revenues for the Association were slightly lower than in 2015, primarily due to a decrease in the number of paying members. Total expenses increased slightly, mainly due to an increase of the travel expenses. The Association revenues originated from three sources: (i) national groups and direct membership fees (80%), (ii) Springer royalties and Springer assistance to the Bulletin Chief-editor (17%), and (iii) interests from saving account and bonds (3%). Conversely, the expenses resulted from (i) the Bulletin editing costs and the assistance to the Chief-editor (58%), (ii) travel expenses (17%), (iii) running costs for the secretary and the treasurer (19%), shipping of the IAEG 50th anniversary book (4%), and (iv) other financial and banking costs (2%). The Council approved the 2016 budget balance and the 2017-2019 budget prepared by the treasurer. The treasurer further proposed a new membership fee structure, to be implemented beginning in 2019. The proposal includes variable membership fees, based on the 2017 World Bank classification in low-income and high-income Countries. The Council approved the proposal for the new membership fees, beginning in 2019.

**Reports from the vice Presidents.** The vice Presidents reported on the activities of the national groups in various geographical areas. For Africa, vice-president Louis Van Rooy reported that Nigeria and South Africa remain active national groups. The establishment of new national groups in Mozambique, Eastern Africa and Ethiopia remains a high priority, and will be pursued personally from prominent IAEG members. For Asia, vice-president Yogendra Deva was actively involved in the Membership Committee to promote the membership service. Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei and Iraq have submitted proposals to establish new national/regional groups. Myanmar and Bhutan are working on proposal to join IAEG in the near future. For Australasia, vice-president Mark Eggers reported that Australia and New Zealand keep their active role in group activities in national societies. Membership has increased 11% in 2017. Both Australia and New Zealand hold annual symposia. The next regional conference will be held in Perth, Western Australia, in 2019. For North America, vice-president Jeffrey R. Keaton reported that the Canadian and USA national groups have been active. Efforts are underway in Mexico to form a new national group. He expects that the Mexico national group may be discussed and established at the 2018 IAEG Congress in San Francisco. For South America, vice-president Maria Heloisa Barros De Oliveira Frascá reported that Paraguay has established a new national group. Instead, due to lack of members, Uruguay has difficulty to establishing a national group. Efforts are underway and will be continued to bring back into the association the national groups of Peru and Chile. For Southern Europe, vice-president Giorgio Lollino [absent, represented by Paolo Allasia] reported the intention to organize in 2018 a workshop to bring together representatives from all national groups in Southern and Northern Europe to discuss common issues and to foster synergies between the national groups. For Northern Europe, vice-president Rafiq Azzam supported the proposal of Giorgio Lollino.

**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 available online [<http://www.springer.com/earth+sciences+and+geography/engineering+geology/journal/10064>]. The Editor-in-Chief, Martin Culshaw, informed the Council that the journal keeps growing at an accelerated pace with an increasing number of papers submitted and published. Authors from over 50 different countries have submitted manuscripts for possible publication in the journal, which has increase the impact factor to 1.901, the highest ever. The manuscript rejection rate remains high, with almost 80% rejected in 2016. Louis Wong and Resat Ulusay will take over as joint Editors-in-Chief in 2018/2019. The journal will be published digital-only beginning in 2019. Finally, Editor-in-Chief reported that in Springer, the Bulletin has an excellent and very supportive publisher.

**IAEG strategy and implementation plan.** The president proposed changes to the IAEG Strategy Statement originally presented to the Council in Cape Town, in August 2016. The proposed changes included: (i) IAEG Vision: “Our vision is a world in which the risk to human life and to the built environment caused by geological interaction is appropriately understood, managed and reduced”; (ii) IAEG Mission: “To provide our Members through their National Groups and therefore society with the means to recognize and appropriately manage the problems created by the interaction between geology and human works and activities”; (iii) IAEG Strategic Objectives: (a) Provide worldwide leadership in Engineering Geology, (b) Be a public voice in Engineering Geology worldwide, (c) Support, foster & communicate research, innovation & the practice of Engineering Geology, (d) Promote education & training in Engineering Geology & provide support to the profession, (e) Promote professional standards in Engineering Geology, (f) Help facilitate networking and continuing professional development opportunities for engineering geologists, and (g) Ensure the long term financial viability & management of the Association; and (iv) IAEG Strategic Plan: (a) Strategic goals - a shorter term step in achieving the longer term objective for example, it may be a specific target or project, (b) Actions – the work and activities to be carried out to complete each goal, (c) Different way of thinking about the same set of issues and decisions to help set the direction our Association, (d) Plan forms the basis for Executive action which will form the basis for handover to the new Executive, (e) Helps with communication, Internally - remind National Groups and Members “this is who we are” and “this is what we want to achieve”, Externally–help inform the “outside world” about the IAEG, (f) A Strategic Plan is a “living document” that is under regular review and change. The Council approved all proposed amendments to the IAEG Strategy Statements.

**Report of the Young Engineering Geologists Committee.** The Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) Committee was established after the Council’s approval on August 26, 2016, in Cape Town. Louis Vick, chair of the Committee, informed the Council that the YEG Committee organized the first YEG Event during the 11th ARC in Kathmandu, with technical talks, a Q&A panel, and a prize for the best talk. The Committee intends to organize the next YEG Event in San Francisco during the IAEG 2018 Congress. The chair further reported that the main challenges for the YEG Committee’s work are the infrequent meeting opportunities and the lack of involvement of the regional representatives.



**Report of the web-editor.** The official website of the Association is <http://iaeg.info/>. The IAEG web-editor informed the Council of a detailed analysis of the website performance in the period from October 1, 2016, to October 15, 2017. The analysis revealed a large number of new visitors (+68%), with a bounce rate of 53%. Site visitors are primarily from China, the USA and Italy, with the most visited sections related to the IAEG congress and workshop lectures [<http://iaeg.info/lectures-webinars/congress-lectures-and-workshops/>] and webinars [<http://iaeg.info/lectures-webinars/webinars/>]. The figures outline the need for increasing the number of lectures and congress video-recorded sessions and lectures. In 2017, the Web Editor proposed to the IAEG website mailing list a survey (> 2900 contacts) on their interests in Engineering Geology activities. The number of responses (129) was too small compared to the number of IAEG members to allow for any meaningful analysis. Finally, the web-editor stimulated the Council to produce new and updated contents for the association web site.

**New National Groups.** The IAEG Council approved the establishment of the Bangladesh, Chinese Taipei and Iraq national groups.

**IAEG sponsored meetings.** The following meetings were presented, and will be sponsored by the IAEG: (i) 3rd International Conference on Buildings, construction and Environmental Engineering (BCEE3-2017), held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, October 23-25, 2017, (ii) 80th European Association of Geoscientists & Engineers (EAGE) Annual Conference and Exhibition, to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, June 11-14, 2018, (iii) the Resources for Future Generations 2018 (RFG 2018), to be held in Vancouver, Canada, June 16-21, 2018, (iv) 11th International Conference on Geosynthetics, to be held in Coex, South Korea, on September 16-21, 2018, (v) GeoMEast 2018, International Congress and Exhibition on Sustainable Civil Infrastructures Structural Integrity, to be held in Cairo, Egypt, November 24-28, 2018, and (vi) the 12th Asian Regional Conference of the IAEG to be held in South Korea in 2019.

**FedIGS Meeting.** The IAEG president, Scott Burns, informed the Council of a meeting of the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies (FedIGS), which was held in Seoul, South Korea, on September 21, 2017. Scott Burns and Carlos Delgado attended the meeting on behalf of the IAEG. At the meeting, they were informed that the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) has changed its name to International Society for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering, maintaining the same acronym (ISRM). The Joint Technical Committee JTC 1 - Natural Slopes and Landslides, held a meeting in conjunction with the 4th World Landslide Forum, held in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The next meeting of the JTC 1 will be held in Colombia, in 2018. The new chair of the JTC 2 - Geo-Engineering Data, is Hehua Zhu, China. The next FedIGS meeting will take place in San Francisco, after the IAEG 2018 Congress. Jean-Louis Briaud, past president of ISSMGE, and Tingfeng Xia, president of ISRM, will run for the next president of the FedIGS.

**Next IAEG Council meeting.** The next IAEG Executive Committee and Council meetings will be held in San Francisco, USA, on September 15-23, 2018, as part of the 13th IAEG Congress [<http://iaeg.info/news/highlights/xiii-iaeg-congress-san-francisco-2018/>].



Additional information on the IAEG and its activities in 2017 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 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.

CNR IRPI continued to provide 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.

In 2017, the Italian IAEG national group consisted of 75 members, with 12 new subscriptions.

In 2017, the IAEG national group has organized two workshops, namely: (i) “Terraces of Liguria landscape: heritage to preserve and geo-hydrological risk to manage”, held in Genoa, on 28 October 2017, and (ii) “Methods and technologies for environmental monitoring and modelling: emerging signals, risk perception and management”, held in Matera, in September 14-16, 2017.

The Italian IAEG national group has granted two fellowships for 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.

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

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