

IAEG - International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment

Activities' Report - Year 2023

Daniele Giordan

1. Introduction

IAEG was founded in 1964 and is affiliated with the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS). The IAEG is a global scientific society with over 4500 members and approximately 70 national/regional groups (as of December, 2023).

The main objectives of the IAEG are the following:

- promote and encourage the advancement of applied geology through technological and research activities;
- improve teaching and training in applied geology;
- collect, evaluate and disseminate the results of geological engineering activities on a global scale.

For further information on the organization, consult the website: <https://www.iaeg.info/>

The 2023 started with the new President and Executive Committee for the term 2023-2026:

President: Vassilis Marinos (Greece)

Secretary: Faquan WU (China)

General Treasurer: Jean-Alain Fleurisson (France)

Vice-Presidents:

Asia: Ranjan Kumar Dahal (Nepal)

Asia: YongSeok SEO (Korea)

Africa: Moshood Niyi TIJANI (Nigeria)

Australasia: Anthony Bowden (Australia)

Europe: Helen Reeves (UK)

Europe: Janusz Wasowski (Italy)

North American: Julien Cohen-Waeber (USA)

Latin American: Víctor Manuel Hernández Madrigal (Mexico)

During the first Ex Com meeting, the President nominated the new IAEG Advisory Board: Marck Eggers, D. Jean Hutchinson, Daniele Giordan.

2. Main activities carried on by IAEG during 2023 relevant for Italy and for CNR

The IAEG plays an extremely significant role in spreading the culture of applied geology in Italy and in supporting CNR/university professionals and researchers, both nationally and internationally, to implement

their knowledge in the field of applied geology through workshops and meetings. Furthermore, the recently established YEG – Young Engineering Geology group offers a series of activities dedicated to young researchers in order to implement the culture of engineering geology.

In Italy, the activities of the Italian National Group of the IAEG have aimed at high-profile scientific dissemination, through the organization and sponsorship of scientific conferences and workshops such as:

- The workshop of the RITA Project: Answers to the impacts of Alex tempest– Aosta, March 25 2023;
- The 9th International Course on Geotechnical and Structural Monitoring (2-6 May, 2023)
- The ISPRA summer school: Workshop action 2020-2-21: Copernicus for cultural heritage – Roma 13-16 giugno 2023;
- The Workshop: Advanced technologies for landslide identification – Cagliari, September 29 2023.
- International workshop on natural disaster reduction – Torino, October 12 2023.

The Second IAEG Summer School “climate change: improving knowledge to help reducing geo-hydrological risks of extreme events” was held in Italy (July 2023). The Summer school held in Italy is the only official IAEG Summer school organized internationally and took place with the support of the CNR IRPI.

3. Activities carried on by Daniele Giordan within the IAEG during 2023 and impact on the Italian scientific community

The CNR Representative was appointed by the IAEG President as a member of the Advisory Board for the period 2023-2026. In this way, two CNR members are part of the current Executive Committee.

In 2023, the CNR representative participated in the following meetings of the Executive Committee:

- 2-5 May at the Ecole des Mines in Paris
- September 21 in Chengdu, China, during the 14th IAEG Congress.
- Online on December 5th.

On these occasions the CNR representative, in concert with his CNR colleague Wasowski, had the opportunity to speak with many members of the IAEG management group (Executive Committee and Council of the IAEG), including the President of the IAEG (Prof. Vassilis Marinos) , the Secretary General, Prof. Faquan Wu and the second Vice-President for Europe, Helen Reeves. These activities allowed us to speak personally with the top executives of the IAEG and promote "Italian" causes within the Organism, for example. increase the presence of the CNR in the management and commissions of the IAEG.

Furthermore, during 2023 the CNR Representative had numerous online working meetings with the President of the Italian National Group IAEG (Dr. Claudio Margottini).

All this to obtain the sponsorship and support of the IAEG for scientific and educational initiatives in the field of Applied Geology in Italy, such as the organisation of national and international courses, as well as conferences or workshops. Furthermore, the scientific-organizational work in the main IAEG conferences has favoured collaborations between Italian research groups and those of other countries and, therefore, the internationalization of our scientific community of applied geologists.

4. Evaluation of the participation in terms of benefits and membership cost

The cost-benefit ratio is extremely favourable for the CNR, as listed in points 2 and 3.

5. Evaluation of Italians' attendance and how to improve interest and involvement

The Vice-President for Europe, Janusz Wasowski, CNR First Researcher Associate, and the writer participated in the Council Meetings and Executive Committees of the IAEG. Therefore, the conditions exist for greater involvement of CNR researchers in the IAEG in general and in the IAEG management, particularly through involvement in the currently active Research Commissions or the establishment of new ones. Activities related to the organisation of meetings and conferences are gradually returning to normality after the COVID period. CNR researchers in the field of engineering geology are particularly active both nationally and internationally through participation in conferences (including several organised directly by IAEG) and the proposal of thematic sessions or study days; this involvement could certainly be further strengthened but, naturally, all this would imply greater expenses and require greater support from the CNR.

6. Italian experts with important roles within the IAEG or within related Commissions and Programs

The CNR representative is a member of the IAEG Advisory Board, a member of the Scientific Committee of the IAEG Summer School, a Chairman of the IAEG Commission C 35 “Monitoring methods and approaches in engineering geology applications”, and a member of the Board of Directors of the Italian Section of the IAEG.

Dr. Janusz Wasowski, First CNR Associate Researcher, has been elected IAEG Vice President for Europe with a 4-year mandate, starting in January 2023.

The engineer Giorgio Lollino, First Associate Researcher of the CNR-IRPI, is one of the members of the IAEG Council (ex officio member) as well as President of the IT Board Committee of the Information Technology of IAEG and Manager of the IAEG International website (Web Editor).

Engineers Giulia Bossi (CNR-IRPI Researcher), Dr. Martina Cignetti (CNR-IRPI Researcher), and Dr. Davide Notti (CNR-IRPI Researcher) serve on the Board of Directors of the Italian Section of the IAEG in various capacities.

In 2023, Eng. Giorgio Lollino (First CNR Associate Researcher) and Eng. Paolo Allasia (First CNR Technologist) was awarded the IAEG Honorary Membership for the services performed in favour of the IAEG.

7. If Union with CNR Commission, short summary about the 2023 CNR Commission activities

N/A

8. Notes (if any)

For further information on the Italian National Group IAEG, consult the website <https://www.iaeg.it/>

9. Conclusions

The CNR continues to be active at different levels within the IAEG. Some CNR researchers currently hold high-level positions within the IAEG. Since January 2023, the writer has been part of the IAEG Advisory Board, and the IAEG Vice President for Europe is a Senior Research Associate of the CNR. In this favourable context, the CNR now has a good opportunity to further strengthen its role in the IAEG.

Torino, April 23 2024

Dott. Daniele Giordan