

Asher Shadmon was the initiator and one of the founders of the International Association for Engineering Geology (IAEG) and served as its first president.

The establishment of the IAEG, Shadmon's idea, goes back to 1964, on the occasion of the International Geological Congress held in New Delhi. The idea arose due to the lack of a section on engineering geology and the rejection by the organizers of including the correspondent items in a section called "miscellaneous". As a result of this, it was decided to create an IUGS Committee of Engineering Geology, which was established in December 1964, Shadmon being its president. With the support of several colleagues, in particular Marcel Arnould and Quido Záruba, these IAEG pioneers succeeded to have the IAEG recognized and affiliated to the IUGS at the beginning of 1967. Asher Shadmon was president of this committee until 1968.

Always active and concerned with the IAEG, Shadmon gave lectures and wrote several papers on the role of engineering geology.

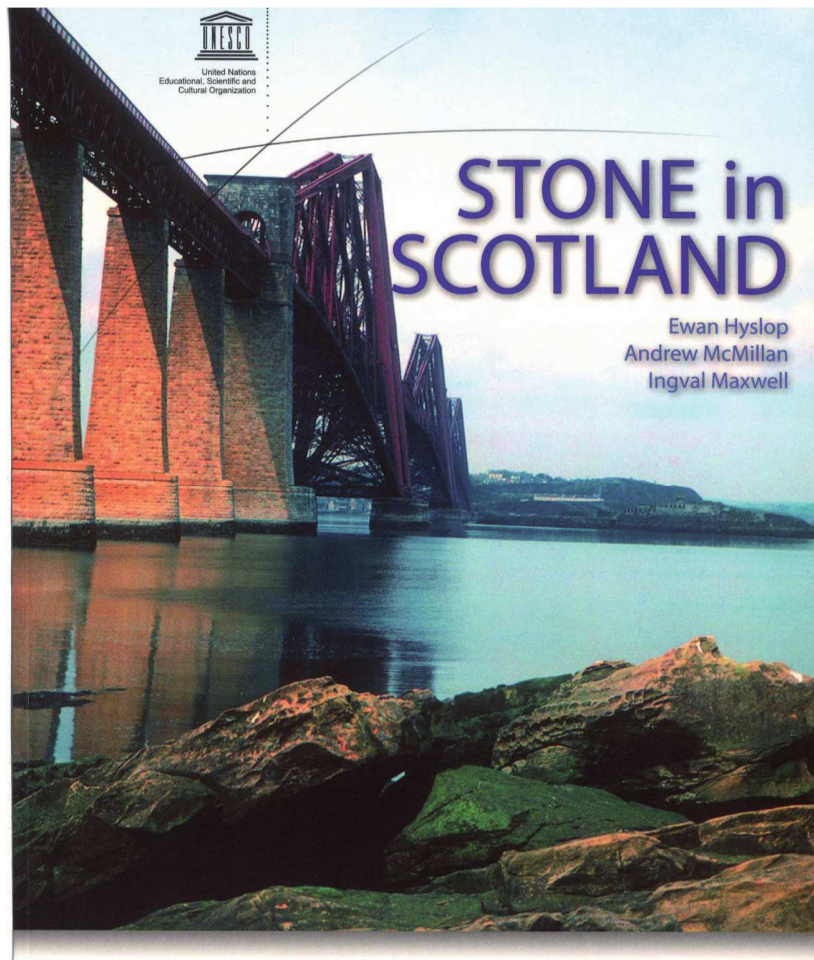
For example, in 1999 Shadmon gave a presentation entitled "The Homecoming of Engineering Geology" (reproduced in Newsletter 1999 27/1), in which he said,

*"the IAEG is reaching maturity and today only very few natural and human activities are not benefiting from the application of engineering geology... [The Association] has achieved national and international recognition, academic, industrial, scientific and technological levels and has been going from strength to strength... The last thirty years has seen the engineering geologist turned into a recognized professional, playing his part in providing a better quality of life, someone who guides rock and rock material into applications which in turn improve our living standards, and aim at a better world."*

Shadmon served on the United Nations International Commission on Building Stones and was a distinguished international consultant on stone as a building material. He was one of the world's experts on marble and other building stones, having written many books on the subject. For the IAEG he initiated and chaired commission C10 on "Building stones and ornamental rocks", which continues to this day. Thanks to Asher's continuous involvement and commitment it has been one of the most active of all the IAEG commissions. Over the years, the commission had meetings all over the world with a wide selection of important, related bodies including Unesco, the Natural Environment Research Council (UK) and the Geological Survey (Finland) as well as companies related to the production and processing of ornamental stones. Asher Shadmon was the chair at almost all of those meetings. The meetings and collaborations resulted in several standards and many prominent publications being written, with Shadmon playing a crucial role in every project. He participated actively in most of the IAEG council meetings all over the world until 2006, when he joined all the past presidents alive at the time during the Nottingham IAEG congress. In 2006, the Association recognized his devotion and contribution to the IAEG through a special 'Asher Shadmon session' and

through awarding him honorary membership of the IAEG. Raimo Uusinoka, former secretary of commission C10, remarked, "... these words are not able to completely account for Professor Shadmon's unparalleled activities in the commission work, neither in the whole field of building stones. Let me express my most sincere congratulations to Professor Shadmon and warmest thanks to the IAEG for allotting him the quality of IAEG honorary member. "

On his death in 2011, Paul Marinos said, "Asher was a pioneer for the IAEG and a good friend is now missing, and Carlos Delgado commented, " the IAEG will always be indebted to him for his decisive contribution to the creation of our Association. He was also one of the most relevant members of the commission on building stones. His figure is an example for the younger generations of IAEG members. "



➤ One of the many books on ornamental stone that Shadmon assisted in the production of