

Graduate in Civil Engineering from the Madrid Polytechnic University (UPM), postgraduate degree from IESE (Barcelona) and Doctorate in Civil Engineering from UPM; Several years working for the Spanish State Research Department for Roads; Joined the RODIO group and was CEO from 1985 to 1994; Chairman of the civil engineering branch of the San Jose Construction Group from 1995 to 1999; Professor of Engineering Geology at Madrid Polytechnic University since 1994; Dean of the Civil Engineering School in Madrid; Deputy President of the European Foundation Association; President of the AEGAIN.

Gold Medal from UPM; Socio de Mérito de la Asociación Técnica de la Carretera.

I was elected president of the IAEG in Auckland (New Zealand), after having been vice president for Europe during the previous elective period.

I was well aware of the problems that had arisen in previous periods regarding the decreasing number of associates and right from the beginning of my mandate I devoted my efforts towards changing this decline and developing a plan to attract new members. I urged the Association's vice presidents to travel and visit their geographical areas and to create new national groups. In this endeavour, I counted on the invaluable help of the new secretary general Faquan Wu and his team, and we are now starting to see an increase in this respect.

Under my supervision, the secretariat was transferred from Paris (France) to Beijing (China). A meeting was held in Paris in January 2011 and copies of the Association's archives were sent to the secretariat offices; the original documents remain in Paris. I would like to remark on the invaluable help of the past secretary general, Sébastien Dupray, with this transfer.

With the help of Faquan Wu, a survey was carried out regarding the main expectations of IAEG members, the results of which have helped us to envisage and define a new orientation for the work of our Association.

Another of my priorities has been to improve communications through consolidation of the website and growth of the bulletin, which was a particular area of focus. Our objective was to increase the citation index and the numbers of papers published annually, whilst at the same time maintaining a high standard of papers. After the 2012, council meeting in Banff (Canada) I contacted Martin Culshaw and he accepted the new job as editor-in-chief of the bulletin. He took up the post a few months later and has worked with much enthusiasm, which is already bearing fruit.

The website, which is such an important window for our Association and is managed by Giorgio Lollino, has seen an increased number of visits. During my period in office, I enjoyed close collaboration with the treasurer, Pierre Potherat, who kept our finances in good health and prepared an orderly transition for his replacement after retirement. As a tribute to the memory of Marcel Arnould who passed away during the first year of my presidency, I suggested and strongly supported the creation of a Marcel Arnould medal in recognition of the outstanding merits of IAEG

members devoted to the promotion of the development of our Association, as Marcel had been. The suggestion was approved at the 2012 council meeting and will be awarded every two years, starting in 2014. A slight modification of our statutes was proposed by the French national group and implemented to award the Hans Cloos Medal for scientific merits and the Marcel Arnould Medal for outstanding services.

In 2012, I had the pleasure of presenting the Hans Cloos Medal to Victor Osipov and the Richard Wolters Prize to Haris Saroglou in Banff (Canada).

As president of the IAEG, I travelled frequently to support our national groups at their symposiums and meetings, and I kept in regular contact with the Association's vice presidents to discuss pending matters. I also promoted symposiums including: Moscow 2011, Bangalore 2012, Banff 2012, Shanghai 2012 and Beijing 2013; each with a focus on different aspects of engineering geology.

The 2014 congress in Turin (Italy) sees the results of all our efforts, with a large number of attendees, and confirms the well-being of our Association. The congress coincides with the 50th anniversary of the IAEG, which was founded in 1964. To commemorate and celebrate this half a century, the Association has produced this book to provide a reflection on the past, present and future of the Association. The book explains our history from the early founders, scientists and professionals who dedicated their efforts to develop and expand the IAEG, thus consolidating engineering geology as a respected discipline with an important role within the earth sciences, to the present day. The book has been written through the enthusiastic collaboration and dedication of a small group of editors, with the support of many of our members, who have all dedicated many hours of their time to write and correct this valuable record of our history, and I am extremely grateful to them for all their efforts.

I would like to mention especially the past presidents Ricardo Oliveira and Paul Marinos, and the secretaries general Sébastien Dupray and Faquan Wu among many others. Finally, thank you to my two assistants during my period as president, namely Juan Ramón Balboa and Fernando Silió Martínez.

*Carlos Delgado*