

President, Scientific Council of COBA Group, Engineering and Environmental Consultants  
President of COBA Group until September 2011  
Emeritus Professor of Engineering Geology and of Rock Mechanics, New University of Lisbon  
International Consultant for Dams and Underground Works  
President Executive Committee CRP (Portuguese Road Center)  
Specialist Degree (PhD level) in Engineering Geology (1965), LNEC, Portugal  
Senior Research Degree (Full Professor level) in Geotechnique (1983), LNEC, Portugal  
Doctor Honoris Causa, Complutense University of Madrid, Spain. 1998  
Visiting Professor at several Universities, namely in Brazil; Canada, Soviet Union, Spain, and Switzerland  
Author of over 200 scientific papers, general reports and chapters of national and international books  
Member of several scientific and professional Portuguese and International associations  
Member of the Portuguese Academy of Engineering  
Member of the Brazilian National Academy of Engineering  
Received several distinctions and honourable mentions from national and international scientific bodies namely the Hans Cloos Medal (IAEG, 1996), Manuel Rocha Research Prize (LNEC, 2002) and André Dumont Medal (Belgian Group of IAEG, 1993)  
Delivered the IX Manuel Rocha Memorial Lecture (Lisbon, 1992)  
Was awarded the Insignia "Grande Oficial da Ordem de Mérito" by the President of the Republic of Portugal (2006)  
Deputy Director of LNEC (1983/1991)  
Secretary General ISRM (1968/1974)  
Vice President Europe IAEG (1986/1990)  
President IAEG (1990/1994)

I was elected president of the IAEG in Amsterdam in 1990, at the time of the 6th International Congress of the IAEG, succeeding Owen White who was the first elected president from North America. I was very much aware of the executive committee's duties and responsibilities as I had been the vice president for Europe from 1986 to 1990, elected in Buenos Aires and I had attended all the council meetings as representative of the Portuguese national group, since 1972.

During my time as president I increased communication with all the members through the publication of more frequent newsletters (six editions were published; numbers 17 to 22). I also worked to increase the number of national groups and individual and associate members, as well as to improve the efficiency of the technical commissions. Moreover, I travelled a lot during my term as president

visiting many national groups and lecturing on several engineering geology topics at every opportunity.

The Portuguese national group had been elected to organise the 7th IAEG International Congress in Lisbon in 1994 and I was appointed as president of the organising committee. The work performed by the organisation over four years was intense but rewarding since the congress was a success, according to the opinion of almost 600 participants and 100 people accompanying them.

In my term as IAEG president, the executive committee and the council met every year. In 1991, the IAEG was hosted by the Tunisian national group at the occasion of the "International symposium on urban geology". In 1992, we were hosted by our Japanese colleagues in Kyoto who organised a very interesting symposium included within the programme of the 29th International Geological Congress; and in 1993, the IAEG met in Montpellier (France) in connection with the international symposium on "Geology and confinement of toxic wastes" organised by the French national group. The last annual meeting took place in Lisbon just before the 7th IAEG congress, in 1994. At the end of this last council meeting Paul Marinos was elected as the new IAEG president. We had already developed a strong friendship, which continues today, since he was a member of 'my' executive committee as vice president for Europe.

One of the most significant achievements of my term in office was the approval of the new version of the statutes of the Association, 25 years after the first statutes were settled at the initiation of the IAEG. The decision to update the statutes was taken during Owen White's term as president, but the work to finalise the new version required some years of intense discussions to accommodate different sensibilities concerning the aims and the responsibilities of engineering geology. Finally, the statutes were approved by the council in Kyoto (Japan) in 1992.

I also remember well a Lecture Tour across Canada in 1990 that I made by invitation of the Canadian national group. Over a period of two weeks I lectured in eight cities from Halifax to Vancouver and had the opportunity to meet many colleagues from within the Canadian Geotechnical Society.

Also during my term in office, the permanent coordinating secretariat of the three sister societies (ISSMFE, ISRM and IAEG) was kept active through regular meetings of the three secretaries general. The three presidents (N Morgenstern, C Fairhurst and I) also met in Lisbon (Portugal) in 1993, during EUROCK 93.

All the travel and meetings resulted in strong and long lasting friendships with many colleagues from all corners of the world. Unfortunately some of them, still so active in the early nineties, have already passed away, but they leave their mark on the life of the IAEG.

In 1990, there were 4,800 members from 55 national groups; by 1994 this had increased to more than 6,000 members and 120 associate members from 65 national groups, many of these groups being represented at the IAEG meetings. A

final version of the IAEG 's "List of members" was published in 1993 and distributed to all members of the Association.

In the four year period from 1990 to 1994, eminent colleagues were distinguished through the award of the most prestigious distinction of the Association, the Hans Cloos Medal. In 1990, Bill Dearman received the medal from Owen White. In 1992, I had the privilege of presenting the medal to the former IAEG president and eminent scientist Michael Langer, and in 1994 to William Judd (received on his behalf by Richard Gray) from the USA for his reputation and outstanding merits.

I had the privilege also of presenting the Richard Wolters Prize to a young scientist Lorenz Dobereiner from Brazil. This prize was created to distinguish young engineering geologists, less than 40 years of age, and had only been presented once since it was established in 1986. Lorenz Dobereiner had worked with me and we had developed a strong friendship which lasted until the tragic accident which took his life in 1996.

During this period, I received strong support from my colleagues in the executive committee: past president O White; vice presidents: H Ben Dhia (Africa), K Kojima (Asia), J Braybrook (Australasia), K Angelov (Europe), L Espinosa-Graham (North America) and G Guidicini (South America); secretary general L Primel and treasurer Ph Masure. We met every year during the IAEG meetings and exchanged our views frequently by correspondence. Obviously my contacts with Louis Primel were much more frequent and his permanent cooperation was invaluable.

This was the only executive committee that had a vice president for North America who came from Mexico; all the others were either from the USA or Canada. It also included Ben Dhia, from Tunisia, who was the last vice president for Africa not to come from South Africa, as has been the case for all subsequent vice presidents of Africa until today.

To finalize this memoir, I would like to remember the names of all the presidents of the IAEG who served the Association before me and the secretaries general who helped them in that tough but rewarding task. I met all of them and developed with most of them and their families very friendly relationships that have lasted for many years. Shadmon (64-68), Záruba (68-72), Arnould (72-78), Sergeev (78-82), Langer (82-86) and White (86-90). Secretaries general were Arnould (68-72), Wolters (72-82) and Primel (82-98).

I could list in this memoir the names of many other personalities that I have met in my activities related to the IAEG over the last forty years, all of whom have deeply touched and influenced me.

A final word of thanks goes to the National Civil Engineering Laboratory (LNEC) for all the support given to my activities as IAEG president during this important period of my life.

*Ricardo Oliveira*