

OUTPUTS OF MID-YEAR EXCOM MEETING IN PARIS (MAY 2023)

A vision, a mission, goals and actions for the modernisation of IAEG were discussed and decided in a very effective 2-day meeting of the Executive Committee on May 2023. The members of the Executive Committee look forward to the materialisation of our plans in the following months and to the preparation of the relevant material towards our council in Chengdu, China (September 2023) on the occasion of the 14th World Congress of IAEG.

The main outputs of the Mid-Year ExCom meeting (May 2023) were:

IAEG Strategy

- Grow IAEG with new and young members. Improve membership service, communication and increase the involvement of our members within the association.
- Establish good networking between experienced professionals and Young geengineers, at regional and international levels towards i) professional development, ii) scientific advancement and iii) education and training
- Maximize the integration of Geology to Engineering. Revise Engineering Geology core values.
- Promote and establish, under the IAEG umbrella, new fields in Engineering Geology, especially in the geohazard, environmental and climate change topics.

Our strategy will follow the Strategic Plan (SP), established by the ExCom in 2016 and adopted in 2017 at the Katmandu Council meeting. The philosophy of the Strategic Plan (SP) was analytically presented to the Executive Committee by the Advisory Board.

The SP sets a framework to clarify the direction and priorities of the association and for the executive committee to take action. Furthermore, SP provides guidelines for measuring progress, acknowledges achievements and improves communication. Indeed, certain goals to promote and implement our strategy, for the next 4 years, were discussed. Numerous action items were set for IAEG VPs, YEG, Web editor to go after.

The SP was never followed in practice but now a Detailed SP will be established.

- **ACTION:** Advisory Board to prepare a preliminary Strategic Plan document based on the minutes of the Mid-Year ExCom meeting and present to the ExCom as a starting point.
- **ACTION:** ExCom to create a clear list of short-term goals. Each short-term goal must have a list of action items assigned to a specific responsible working group and a time frame within which progress is to be reported. If necessary, a budget can be proposed to the ExCom to implement those actions.

IAEG Membership

- IAEG members: ~4500 [(Europe (39%), Asia (30%), Australasia (17%)]
- Membership from 2019-2022 remains stable.
- Essential to increase the number of young members.
- New contract is finalised with Springer for our official Journal (BOEG). All members will benefit from a free access to our journal.
- Membership lists for all NG/RGs are due on May 31 of each year.
- It is proposed that existing NG/RGs which have not paid membership fees for 2 continuous years will be considered as inactive. Inactive groups are permitted to attend council meetings but lose their voting rights. It is suggested that NG/RGs that have not paid membership fees for 5 years will be removed from IAEG.
- Standards to define a new NG/RG. It is proposed to set a minimum number of 10 members for consideration as a new NG/RG. For countries with low population this rule can be reconsidered. A statement from the candidate NG, presenting their vision, goals and actions, is required. The activity of the NGs is monitored and supported by the VPs.
- Every NG should present a YEG representative in an annual base.

Diversity and Inclusion Policy

- An Equity Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) working group in IAEG has been founded.
- The EDI policy should aim to be reflected at every level of all issues, not only for gender equality and racial diversity, but also for age issues like young members.

- A 1st version of IAEG Diversity and Inclusion policy is planned to be presented in council 2023 (Chengdu 2023).
- “Women in Engineering Geology”. Launch a group to increase women’s participation in the association, beginning with representation in the ExCom (as ex-officio member), as invited guests to regional conferences, in organizing committees, as invited lectures and on awards juries.

Works from VPs

The strategic plan (SP) is expected to be implemented by the VPs working very close with their NGs. VPs should communicate the strategic plan vision, mission and actions to the NG leaders in order to promote the actions defined by the strategic plan objectives. VPs should be in a direct connection with the YEG group to increase the inclusion of young people around the world.

Working groups led by the VPs: the current IAEG administrative and operational framework proposes several working groups to be led by the VPs with the objective of improving IAEG membership and benefits, education and training, professional standards, funding sources, societal role, statutes and bylaws update and, last but not least, association visibility.

Working groups:

- Establish minimum guidelines for **engineering geology professional activity and academic curricula** around the world. These standards and practices can be really valuable for several NGs that are still conflicted with respect to the practices and competences of Engineering Geology in Geo-engineering works.
- Form a Technical Oversight Committee led by VPs of the ExCom with a focus on boosting and revitalizing the activity of **IAEG Commissions**.
- The **establishments of new awards**, like Best Performing National Group, outstanding commission award, YEG award, best reviewer in BOEG, were primarily discussed.
- Create a **funding mechanism** from private sector for supporting IAEG activities (workshops, summer school, lecture tours and awards)
- Bylaws and Statute Update:
 - A Working Group on the Revision of Bylaws and Statutes continues the works of the previous office. Two briefing documents were produced out of the previous ExCom with specific issues relating to bylaws and statutes. Three main outcomes of these documents included: 1. modernization of bylaws, 2. representation and voting rights, 3. roles of office bearers.
 - Update the Bylaws to reflect the decisions made during the current mid-year ExCom meeting on issues of Council representation and voting.

Individual works per VP:

- Monitor and collect membership status (till 31st of May) and their reports in time.
- Establish YEG local contacts. Each national group needs a young member to take an active role in YEG structure. **VPs should be the connection line.**
- Forward to all NG chairmen/representatives regularly official IAEG material (from all possible sources) requesting to be shared to all members.
- Built a close communication with all NGs. If possible, accomplish in person meetings-events promoting IAEG and our profession in different countries. Get their feedback-proposals.

Communication and promotion

- Promote IAEG through a comprehensive web and social media campaign
- A new **Website** is under way and will be launched within June.
- **New social media** (LinkedIn, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter) being run by our YEG group are already active. Stay tuned, share and follow!
- **Online survey.** Conduct an online survey and receive feedback from IAEG members with respect to IAEG activities.
- A **presentation** for IAEG introduction/promotion to be used by VPs and NGs will be compiled: “Why become of member of IAEG”.
- Compile a series of **colorful infographics** introducing the contribution of Engineering Geology to the Society, to the design and construction of Engineering works and to Geohazard management.
- Support publishing and consider long term plans for maintaining the **IAEG e-Connector and Newsletter**.
- A **new logo** will be designed, in the occasion of the 60 years (in 2024) of IAEG based on our present logo.

- Dedicated actions will be designed from the YEG group for the IAEG 60 years.
- ExCom to collaborate with a professional **communication manager** for a better visibility and promotion.

BOEG: IAEG's Official Journal

- Discussion on promoting the international character of our journal and how more practitioners could use and subscribe to our journal.
- Preserve and retain the engineering geological character of the journal.
- Emphasis on the importance of recognizing and rewarding long-serving, high-quality reviewers. Extending invitations for them to join the editorial board.
- Include Technical note/"Case Study" as a manuscript submission type which can be also presented in special editions. These papers have proved to be very useful for practitioners.

Young Engineering Geology – YEG group

- Organisation of e-YEG webinars (every 2 months)
- Establish IAEG-YEG exchange program (Collaborative action with IAEG) in collaboration with VPs by engaging universities and academic contacts for further collaboration.
- Include monthly YEG article in IAEG connector.
- Found Travel grant awards for the participation of YEGs in the:
 - IAEG Summer school (annually)
 - Regional conference (annually)
 - World congress (4 years)
- Establish YEG local contacts. Each national group needs a young member to take an active role in YEG structure. VPs should be the connection line.
- Increase the budget of YEG for their increasing activities.
- Provide YEG members with discounts when attending IAEG meetings. (YEG member can be the same with the student fee).
- Develop additional training courses based on the needs of an individual group.
- Further support YEG activities by seeking sponsorship from private funds.
- Establish a sponsorship program to promote membership of young generation with priority to low-income countries or the best performed National Group. The program is proposed to be funded by voluntary donations from High Income Countries.
- **The ExCom proposed to add a VP position for the YEG group in the ExCom.** VP-YEG will be elected in the council meeting and hence can have voting rights. VP - YEG will be able to officially join the ExCom in 2024 after elections. This VP officer will initially have 2-year service (first call for a period 2024-26). Then the service will be in a 4-year term.

IAEG Commissions

- Form a Technical Oversight Committee led by VPs of the ExCom with a focus on boosting and revitalizing the activity of IAEG Commissions.
- Apply the IAEG policy for monitoring the activity of the commissions.
- Pause at least 4 inactive ones.
- Reform the **Education and Training commission**.
- Strengthen the communication with the active commissions.
- Encourage commission activity by preparing special BOEG issues or sessions at conferences.

New Posts and people in IAEG administration

- A new Web-Editor has been appointed. Dr. George Papathanassiou, Assistant Professor of Engineering Geology in the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki from Greece, is the new Web-Editor for IAEG.
- ExCom proposes to add a VP post for YEG
- ExCom proposes to add an ex-officio member in the ExCom with title "Women in Engineering Geology"

Awards

- ExCom proposes to award **Giorgio Lollino** and **Paolo Allasia**, who have extraordinarily served as Web-Editors IAEG for more than 12 years, with the title of "**Honorary Member**"

- "Paul Marinos Distinguished International Lecture Tour". The first speaker of the Paul Marinos distinguished international lecture tour will be decided in 2023 during the 14th IAEG congress.
- Science and Technology Awards for academic achievements and technical progress, as well as the candidates for the HCM, MAM, RWP, to be awarded in 2023 at the 14th IAEG Congress.
- The establishments of **new awards**, like Best Performing National Group, outstanding commission award, YEG award, best reviewer in BOEG, were primarily discussed.

IAEG Summer School

- The 2nd IAEG Summer School is taking place in July 2023 (3-11) in Aosta valley, Italy. This year's theme is: "Climate change: Improving knowledge to help reducing geo-hydrological risks of extreme events".
- The school is dedicated to PhD students in Earth Sciences and Engineering Geology.
- No registration fees are required.
- The ExCom proposes to provide individual membership to the Summer School students. The terms of this membership will be decided at the next ExCom meeting.

Funding Working Group

- Create a funding mechanism from private sector for supporting IAEG activities (workshops, summer school, lecture tours and awards)

Congresses and Regional Conferences

- The 14th World Congress of IAEG is organised in Chengdu, China (September 2023). A presentation of the Organising Committee was made, while a more detailed and updated presentation, after the ExCom comments, will take place in the interim remote ExCom meeting (June 2023).
- There is one proposal for organizing the 15th International Congress of IAEG in 2026 by the NG of Netherlands. A presentation to bid the organization of the 15th Congress is planned for the council meeting (Chengdu, China).
- Four (4) Regional Conferences are planned for 2024: in Chile (Latin America), Botswana (Africa), Croatia (Europe) and Malaysia (Asia).

Dates and venues of future ExCom and Council Meetings

- An interim remote ExCom meeting is scheduled for the 19th of June 2023, to follow up the works of the May meeting.
- The next ExCom meeting will take place in person (but also remotely) in Chengdu on the 20th of September.
- The next Council meeting will take place in person (but also remotely) in Chengdu on the 21st of September.
- All regional conference organizers to prepare presentations and present them in the ExCom and at the Council Meeting in September this year. The Council will vote on the venues for 2024 ExCom and Council meetings at the Council meeting 2023 among these regional conferences. At the moment there is no candidate for 2025 meetings.

IAEG support to Research

Current international research programs include the deep-time digital earth of IUGS, the international consortium on landslides and the second international research program of IAEG. One important direction of research focus is "Engineering Geology and Sustainable Development".

Celebration activity for 60th Anniversary of IAEG, in 2024

- A celebration Video for IAEG's 60th Anniversary will be created. The effort will be led by YEG.
- Distinct designing of dedicated promotional material for the 60th celebration – YEG action
- Design a new IAEG logo for IAEG's 60th Anniversary.
- Organize a special issue in BOEG with proposed themes "Engineering Geology: then, now and the future." or "Engineering Geology for the future".
- Celebration activities will be organized in all 4 regional conferences in 2024.



**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION
FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY
AND THE ENVIRONMENT**



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MAY 2023