



## IAEG President's message

Dear members of IAEG, colleagues and friends,

As I enter my second year as President of the IAEG I would like to inform you about our progress, activities and next steps towards our strategic plan. Through tight collaboration with the VPs, secretary general, treasurer, Advisory Committee, YEG, WEG, Web Editor, and our Editors in Chief of our journal, we have set a number of short- and long-term goals. Our aim is to foster significant changes that will enhance this already remarkable association.

Before doing so though, **join us in celebrating a remarkable milestone!** 2024 marks the **60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the IAEG**, and we couldn't be more excited to share this moment with you. Over the past 60 years, we've made incredible achievements, strong connections and memories that will last a lifetime.

The energy of our board in this term (2023-2026) and my priorities are targeted to the membership service, the training and education of our members, the employment of young colleagues in IAEG, taking pivotal steps towards promoting greater gender diversity and inclusion within our association and create opportunities for networking.

Very briefly, I would like to present here some of our activities. A more detailed report can be found on our website.

### 60th anniversary of the IAEG

As we gear up to celebrate our 60th anniversary, we are embarking on a series of exciting initiatives to commemorate this significant milestone. Among the highlights, we are thrilled to unveil a **brand new IAEG logo**, symbolizing our continuing evolution and commitment to excellence. Additionally, our Youth Engineering Geologists (YEG) are spearheading the creation of a **celebratory video**, capturing the essence of our journey and the spirit of our community. Special **promotional materials** that are designed to showcase the rich history and achievements of IAEG are in the works. Furthermore, we are proud to announce the **publication of a special issue in the Bulletin of Engineering Geology (BOEG)**, titled "Advances and Challenges in Engineering Geology: Celebrating 60 Years of IAEG," offering insights into our past accomplishments and future endeavours. These endeavours are a testament to our enduring legacy and the vibrant future ahead. **Finally, we invite all NGs/RGs and Commissions taking part in the IAEG's 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary by organising celebration activities in different forms during their annual conference or meeting. You will have the help of our VPs on that.**

### Membership service

Looking inward to focus on IAEG, we must ask, what benefits can IAEG provide to its members? **"Why become a member of IAEG?"** This priority is at the forefront of our new Executive Office's agenda. By joining IAEG members gain access to a vast network of like-minded professionals and experts, facilitating collaboration, knowledge sharing and mentorship opportunities. Additionally, membership provides exclusive access to cutting-edge research, publications and resources empowering members to stay abreast of the latest developments and advancements in the field. IAEG also offers various platforms for professional development, including conferences, workshops, and training programs, allowing members to enhance their skills and expand their expertise. IAEG, 60<sup>th</sup> years now, has been at the forefront of advancing engineering geology and geoenvironmental sciences, fostering international collaboration, and promoting sustainable practices worldwide.

## Digital Registration

We must modernize IAEG. Digital registration enhances efficiency, accessibility, and security of information and services, benefiting both organizations and users alike.

It offers **accessibility** since it allows users to access information and services from anywhere and on any device with internet connectivity. Furthermore, **efficient and easier management** of data and information can be facilitated, saving time and resources compared to traditional paper-based registration systems. Information can be updated and accessed instantaneously thus streamlining administrative processes. **Networking** between all IAEG members, from any place of the world, can be then boosted. **Data security** can be guaranteed with digital registration systems since they can provide advanced security measures to protect user data, such as encryption, authentication protocols, and secure storage methods.

**Digital registration will be available in a couple of weeks!**

## Conferences

The annual IAEG meetings, either in regional or world level, are our scientific and **social highlight of the year(s)**. Here, I would like to warmly thank the organizing committees of the Chinese NG for the organization of the 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress in 2023, the organizing committee of the Malaysian NG for the organization of the Asian Regional Conference – 14<sup>th</sup> ARC (February 2024), the Croatian NG for the organization of the **4<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference (Dubrovnik, October 2024)**, the Chile NG for the organization of the **Latin America Regional Conference – PANAMGEO (La Serena, November 2024)** and the Dutch NG for the organization of the **15<sup>th</sup> World Congress in 2026 (Delft, October 2026)**.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> IAEG Summer School

Our IAEG Summer School continues to be a cornerstone event, offering immersive learning experiences. The **upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> Summer School**, set against the picturesque backdrop of the Alps **in Italy next June**, promises to be an enriching opportunity for all participants.

## Training & Education

Another critical mission of IAEG is to educate our young professionals and practitioners and also educate-inform the people about the role of Engineering Geology to the society. It is imperative that we articulate our steadfast stance on this matter within the pertinent Joint Technical Committee (JTC3) alongside our affiliated societies within the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies (FedIGS).

IAEG organizes a series of webinars from experts in a wide spectrum of engineering geological subjects which are uploaded with free access in our website. Many of the webinars are led by the YEG and operating every two months. Another target is to train our members through the leadership and scientific concentrations of our Technical Committees or active parts (WEG, YEG, VPs) of our associations in all regions. Workshops from the TC25 are being organized to be held in the upcoming months in Australasia. Others, like the use of GIS in geoenvironmental works are also planned in Asia. Such workshops will be standardized and run to more regions. VPs will see to that. We are looking forward.

## Young Engineering Geology (YEG Group)

The Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) initiative is poised to undergo significant expansion and empowerment within our association. To ensure their voices are heard and their needs addressed, **a VP position dedicated to YEG will be introduced** within the ExCom, with the incumbent elected during the council meeting.

Together, we are shaping the future of our organization! Collaborating closely with the YEG group, we aim to cultivate a strong cohort of YEG members within IAEG by promoting national group membership. Looking ahead, **our focus lies in organizing summer schools, field trips, and a variety of YEG activities**, including webinars, specialized workshops held during IAEG events, and career days. We are committed to create an environment where the participation and development of young professionals in engineering geology are both encouraged and fully supported. **We are looking forward to a well-structured YEG** where young members can be actively involved and benefit from our networking and training plans.

## Women in Engineering Geology (WEG)

The establishment of "Women in Engineering Geology" (WEG) marks a pivotal step towards fostering greater gender **diversity and inclusion** within our association. By launching this dedicated group we aim to amplify women's participation across various facets of our organization.

## Networking

Establishing a robust networking framework serves as a catalyst for multifaceted growth, spanning education and training, scientific advancement and professional development. By facilitating knowledge exchange and mentorship opportunities, seasoned experts can impart invaluable insights and guidance to emerging talents, nurturing their potential and shaping the future of the field.

## Review of Bylaws and Statutes

Inspect how our bylaws and statutes are compliant with French Law (official offices of IAEG) and to check the liability of officers (President, Treasurer and SG) and provide recommendations for changes that must be made to comply with the law.

Another important issue that concerns our administration is Data Privacy.

## Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment (BOEG)

IAEG's flagship official journal, has served as a very important journal in the field of Engineering Geology. Our dedicated and tireless editors-in-chief, Dr. Louis Wong and Dr. Arindam Basu, with the support of the Editorial Office, have been serving IAEG for more than 5 years now. The BOEG stands as a cornerstone publication in the field, boasting an **impressive Impact Factor of 4.2** as of 2022 (4.4 in 5-year factor). Our journal is now accessible to all members, online only.

## Promoting IAEG and Engineering Geology profession

Promoting the field of Engineering Geology is essential for raising awareness about its vital role in society and **we're committed to showcase its significance through various channels**. Our **conferences** serve as dynamic platforms for sharing cutting-edge research, best practices and fostering collaboration among professionals worldwide. Additionally, **workshops** hosted by our technical committees provide invaluable opportunities for hands-on learning and skill development. To reach a wider audience, we're creating a **corporate video** that highlights the diverse applications and impact of Engineering Geology. We're also launching a series of **colourful infographics**, each one illustrating the crucial contributions of Engineering Geology to society, engineering projects, and geohazard management.

## IAEG awards

Our prestigious awards, **Hans Closs medal, Marcel Arnould Medal and Richard Wolters Prize have been called for 2024**. We urge you to promote our awards. **Recruit your best PhDs in Engineering Geology** and apply for the Richard Wolters prize of IAEG. The best PhD works will contest in October 2024 for the most prestigious award of our Young Professionals-Researchers. The deadline for applications is 15<sup>th</sup> of June.

**Paul Marinos Distinguished World Lecture Tour**. A newly established award to commemorate the contributions in the field of Engineering Geology of the Past President and Honorary President of the Association the late Professor Paul Marinos. We had 5 nominations for the 2024-2025 and the winner will be announced the next month.

## An Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy report of IAEG

An EDI policy report was presented by a relevant working group and has been approved in the council meeting of 2023 in Chengdu. Building on this momentum, the working group continues to lead efforts to **implement policies and initiatives that prioritize equity, celebrate diversity, and create opportunities for all members to thrive**.

## President's Activities – Meetings

- ExCom Mid-Term Meeting (Paris, May 2023). The 1<sup>st</sup> physical meeting of the board setting the strategic plan, short- and long-term goals.
- 84<sup>th</sup> AEGE meeting (Vienna, June 2023). IAEG booth rep.
- 14<sup>th</sup> World Congress ExCom and Council meetings (Chengdu, September 2023). Opening speech about IAEG and keynote lecture
- FedIGS meeting (Salzburg, October 2023). Board member. IAEG activity report
- ISRM's 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress (Salzburg, October 2023). Brief the ISRM council about IAEG activities. FedIGS lecture in opening plenary session.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> MLS (Mediterranean Landslide Symposium) (Tunis, October 2023). Keynote lecture. Effort to form Tunis NG for IAEG.
- 6<sup>th</sup> World Landslide Forum (November, Florence 2023). IAEG booth. Discussions for cooperation agreement – memorandum of understanding between IAEG and ICL.
- Day Meeting with the organizing committee – Dutch NG - of the 15<sup>th</sup> World Congress (Delft, January 2024)
- Conference «La Géoscience et les Géorisques du Nord du Maroc» (Casablanca, February 2024). Opening speech about IAEG and keynote lecture. Effort to form Morocco NG for IAEG.
- 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference (Kuala Lumpur, February 2024). Opening speech about IAEG. Keynote lecture
- 25<sup>th</sup> Sergeev conference (Derbent, March 2024). Online presentation about IAEG.
- Meeting with the organizing committee – Croatian NG - of the 4<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference of IAEG (Dubrovnik, April 2024)
- Numerous on-line meetings for the formation of WEG, with the advisory board and working groups of IAEG, for awards procedures, web platforms, video production for the 60-year anniversary and promotion of IAEG, membership and registration management and others for the governance of IAEG.

## Upcoming events

Notably, this year, we eagerly anticipate our Regional Conferences scheduled to take place in Europe (Dubrovnik, Croatia 8-12 October 2024) and Latin America (La Serena, Chile, 12-16 November 2024).

**Two Executive meetings** have been arranged for the next months: **a mid-term meeting in Athens (8-10 of May 2024) and the annual meeting in Dubrovnik, on the 8<sup>th</sup> of October 2024** in the occasion of the European Regional Conference (EuroEngeo2024) of IAEG (10-12 October).

I would like to thank all members for the continued participation and enthusiasm in our community. Finally, I'd like to give a special shout-out of appreciation to the IAEG Executive Office members for their tireless work and support they provide each and every day. Thank you all!

**Hope to see you in our 2024 annual meeting in Dubrovnik next October**, when we will celebrate the 60th anniversary of IAEG with numerous festivities planned and a superb venue exactly next to the sea.

Gratefully,



Vassilis P. Marinos  
President of IAEG

