

# ISRM address at the opening session of EuroEngeo 2024 to congratulate the 60th Anniversary of IAEG

Dubrovnik, Croatia, October 10, 2024



Distinguished Guests, Esteemed Colleagues, and Friends of the IAEG,

On behalf of the International Society for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering (ISRM), I extend my congratulations to the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) on its 60th anniversary.

Under the FedIGS umbrella, ISRM, as a sister society, shares various goals and activities with IAEG and maintains a collaborative relationship. I am honored and grateful for the opportunity to deliver this congratulatory message at the 60th Anniversary Symposium of IAEG.

Founded in 1964, IAEG aims to advance the field of engineering geology through the research and technical activities of its members, improve training and education in engineering geology, and collect, evaluate, and disseminate relevant results. Over the past 60 years, IAEG has made significant contributions to the fields of engineering geology, environmental protection, and geotechnics. I would like to express my respect and congratulations to President Prof. Vassilis Marinos, the executive committee members, and all the members of IAEG.

The history of IAEG is not just the history of an organization but also a record of academic and technical advancements that have deepened our understanding of fundamental processes related to Earth's geological formations and changes. It is a history of efforts to study the interactions between nature and humans, ensuring the safety and sustainability of human life.

ISRM has had the privilege of collaborating with IAEG for a long time. Through this partnership, we have enhanced our understanding of geological phenomena and applied this knowledge to engineering practices, improving infrastructure, environmental protection, and social safety. Our joint efforts have materialized through the organization of joint academic conferences and activities under the Joint Technical Committee. The interdisciplinary cooperation between rock mechanics and engineering geology will continue to expand, based on the premise that sustainable development cannot be achieved without a deep understanding of geology and the ground.

As we reflect on the achievements of the past 60 years, we recognize that the future presents challenges and tasks that we must address. Climate change, energy transition, digital transformation, sustainable resource development, and urbanization present

clear challenges and opportunities. I am confident that through interdisciplinary collaboration, we can foster the next generation of professionals and achieve innovative advancements to meet these challenges. The achievements of the next 60 years are highly anticipated.

IAEG has been publishing its professional academic journal, *Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment* since 1998, and I believe the organization has been very successful in its governance by addressing EDI (Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) issues through internal groups such as the Young Engineering Geologists' (YEG) group and Women in Engineering Geology (WEG), which are well acknowledged from our academic community.

I understand that following events in the UK in June and Brazil in September, a commemorative event of 60th anniversary will be held in Belgium in November. I hope that these events will serve to share IAEG's accomplishments over the past years and foster further opportunities in both engineering geology and rock mechanics, leading us all to a better future.

Once again, I sincerely congratulate IAEG on its 60th anniversary and wish for its continued prosperity and great success. Thank you very much.

Prof. Seokwon Jeon

ISRM President