IAEG NEWSLETTER

Issue No.3, 2025
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COVER STORY

South slope of the Mount Loinbo Gangri

Mount Loinbo Gangri (7095 m), despite being the highest peak in the Gangdise Mountains, is often overlooked due to the special religious status of Mount Kailash (6656 m). The Gangdise Mountains are the oldest mountain range on the Qinghai-Xizang Plateau. Along its main ridge, more than ten peaks exceeding 6,000 meters in altitude are continuously distributed. Mount Loinbo Gangri, at 7,095 meters, is the highest peak, 439 meters higher than the main peak, Mount Kailash. Generally, the highest peak and the main peak are often on the same mountain, but in the Gangdise Mountains, the main peak and the highest peak are separate.

Mount Loinbo Gangri is located in Rujiao Township, Saga County, Xigaze City, Xizang. The main lithology of the Mount Loinbo Gangri is Neogene medium-fine grained granite. To the east of the Mount Loinbo Gangri lies the Zhongba Rift Valley, one of the eight major north-south trending rift valleys in southern Xizang. Within the rift valley, a series of NW-trending normal faults have developed, exhibiting significant scale and high activity. The Rujiao normal fault, trending northwest and dipping northeast, is located on the eastern side of Mount Loinbo Gangri. This Late Pleistocene active fault, approximately 66 km long, controls the selection of route alignment and engineering design of the transportation engineering.

Provided, by Luo Feng from China Railway First Survey and Design Institute Group Co., Ltd

Contents

Issue No.3, 2025

1.
NEWS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Official Gold Sponsor:

Official Silver Sponsors:

4th African Regional Conference of IAEG Windhoek, Namibia

The 4th African Regional Conference of IAEG was held in Windhoek Country Club Resort in Windhoek, Namibia on September 6-10, 2025. Over 150 participants from 17 countries, 5 continents took part in the conference. The conference is organized jointly by South African National Group of IAEG together with Geological Survey of Namibia and Team Group of Botswana.

The conference program includes 7 invited keynote lectures, 7 technical sessions, 32 oral presentations, 2 workshops, 1 YEG session, 1 WEG session, 1 Exhibition and 2 field trips. The 7 invited keynote lectures are delivered by Dr. Vassilis Marinos, Dr. Mark Eggers, Prof. Salome Waziri, Mr. Israel Hasheela, Mr. Oliver Barker, Ms. Mampho Maoyi and Dr. Danny Djukem. The conference totally received 85 abstracts and 126 registrations.

IAEG Annual Working Meetings

- **IAEG Executive Committee Meeting**
  The Executive Committee meeting took place on Saturday September 6th at the Oryx 6 & 7 Room, part of the board members attended online. During the meeting, each member reported their working progress in the past year,

great ideas have been shared and important proposals have been made. This year IAEG has thriving membership with over 6,500 members and 2,000+ YEG members. A main task of the meeting is to focus on discussing the legal review of IAEG Bylaws and Statutes. The proposed items to be revised shall be reported to the Council. Important proposals have been discussed and will be presented to the Council for approval.

- **IAEG Council Meeting**
  The Council meeting took place on Sunday, September 7th in a hybrid form. The Council listened to the working progress presented by Executive Committee members, followed by voting and approving on important proposals. The Council approved two proposals of establishing new National Groups Cameroon and Kenya in Africa, as well as the proposal of establishing a new Commission on Dams & Levees. The number of IAEG's National/Regional Groups has reached 75. A series of important decisions has been approved with the purpose of supporting IAEG's activities and management, including EDI policy, Code of Conduct, professional membership Service, funding and Sponsorship foundation program, and social media management. We positively received several NGs/RGs' applications for hosting future IAEG regional conferences. The President reported the FedIGS updates to the Council that we are going to take part in the joint big event GeoEng 2030 Conference. Highlights of awards selection and election for next term have been addressed to the Council for considerations in advance and making valid nominations for both in 2026.

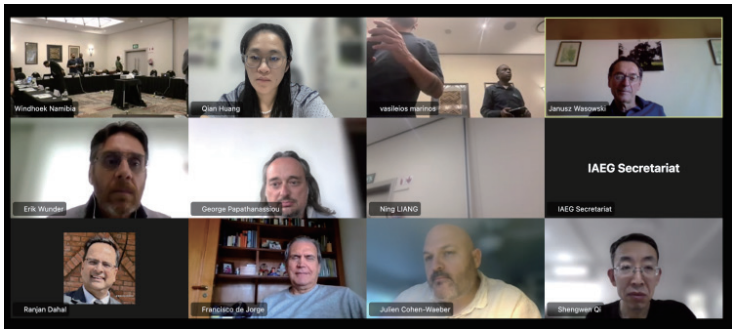


Fig. 1 2025 Executive Committee and Council Meetings

Fig. 2 Group Photo of Participants of 2025 Council Meeting

Technical Sessions

The technical program consisted of 7 invited keynote lectures, 7 technical sessions, 2 workshops, 1 YEG session and 1 WEG session. A total of 32 oral presentations in 7 sessions and paper posters are presented during the 4th African Regional Conference. Themes of technical Sessions includes:

- Open pit slopes
- Engineering Geology: Materials & Foundations
- Slopes: Rock/Soil Monitoring
- Environment and water
- Methods & case studies
- Energy & Environment
- Mine tailings

Fig. 3 Keynote Lectures at the African Regional Conference

Fig. 4 Exhibition and Poster during the African Regional Conference

The technical sessions were rich and insightful, covering core topics in engineering geology in the context of our changing world. Special recognition goes to the Women in Engineering Geology (WEG) and Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) groups for their dedicated sessions that brought new perspectives and energy.

Fig. 5 WEG and YEG Sessions

Workshops

The workshops are well organized during the conference focus on Engineering Geological Models and the Vadose Zone, led by Mark Eggers and Louis van Rooy, attracting over 60 participants taking part in the discussion of advancing research in each area, with efforts in continuously promoting technological progress in both research and industry.

Fig. 6 Workshops

Celebration of African Culture

The conference has provided warm and exceptional hospitality to all participants with local dancing and music which shows a fantastic celebration of African culture and friendship! Everyone is warmly welcomed and deeply inspired by the local land and people. The Namibian conference made this truly special and unforgettable experience strongly gathering IAEG community.

Fig. 7 Hospitality with local dancing and music

This conference ended up with the closing ceremony chaired by Louis van Rooy and Lindi Richer, special thanks to the South Africa National Group of IAEG, with special recognition to Louis van Rooy and Lindi Richer for their tireless support in IAEG and making this conference a truly memorable event. Also sincere thanks to all team members who contributed in the organizing committee of the conference. This event reaffirmed the strength and unity of the IAEG global family and our shared commitment to advancing engineering geology for a better, more resilient world.

Fig. 8 Closing ceremony speech

Fig. 9 Group of Participants of the 4th African Regional Conference

IAEG President's Visit to Canada and USA

From mid-to-late September, Vassilis Marinos had the honor of representing the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) as President at two major conferences in North America.

78th Annual CGS Conference (GeoManitoba 2025 Sept 21–24, Winnipeg, Canada)

Vassilis stated that it he was deeply honored to present IAEG's ongoing initiatives to all attendees, participate in the Legget Luncheon and Awards Banquet and numerous sessions. Vassilis delivered sincere gratitude to the Canadian Geotechnical Society, President Craig Lake, Prof. D. Jean Hutchinson, the CGS Board, and the Local Organizing Committee for the warm hospitality and the opportunity to strengthen collaboration with the Canadian National Group of IAEG.

Vassilis expressed that it was a great privilege and opportunity to contribute to the workshop "Application and Examples of Ground Risk Management and Mitigation in Different Engineering Sectors" organized by Prof. Nicholas Vlachopoulos, chair of the of the CGS Engineering Geology and Geological Engineering Division and as Canada's representative to the IAEG. A highlight was also attending the inspiring Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium by Prof. Jennifer Day.

Members of the Engineering Geology and Geological Engineering Division Executive of the CGS and Invited Speakers

AEG 2025 – 68th Annual Meeting (Sept 23–27, Chicago, USA)

Vassilis expressed his delight to participate in the opening of the conference with a speech on IAEG's mission and in the closing with remarks on IAEG–AEG collaboration. Together with our VP for North America, Julien Cohen-Waeber, were engaged in fruitful discussions with the AEG Board. During these exchanges, they introduced IAEG's dynamic activities, including the Summer School, the Richard Wolters Prize and new opportunities for US participation, to join IAEG today and connect the AEG membership to a global network of knowledge, training and influence.

He took pride in IAEG's role as an exhibitor, co-sponsor the Young at Heart Student/ Professional Event at the House of Blues. A very special moment for me was presenting the IAEG Honorary President Award to Past President Emeritus Prof. Scott Burns, in recognition of his outstanding leadership and lifelong dedication to our association. It was also a pleasure to have the VP of the Young Engineering Geology Group (YEG) Stratis Karantanellis of IAEG actively representing us at the IAEG booth and engaging with many young professionals and students.

He extended his warm thanks to the Organizing Committee and co-chairs Renee W. and Sarah Kalika, PG, CAC, CDPH Lead I/A/S for an excellent meeting.

At both conferences, special emphasis was placed on promoting the upcoming XV IAEG 2026 World Congress, to be held in Delft in 2026. Vassilis highlighted that the congress aims to deliver as a world-class reference

point for our field, with new contributions available starting on 1st of November.

He also shared that he greatly valued the opportunity to connect with colleagues and friends in Chicago and Winnipeg, two wonderful cities and looks forward to further strengthening the global community in engineering geology and the environment.

He wished the very best of success to the incoming boards of CGS and AEG as they continue advancing our profession.

Scott Burns Awarded 2024 IAEG Honorary President

IN TERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR **ENGINEERING GEOLOGY** AND THE **ENVIRONMENT**
A SSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE **G EOLOGIE DE L'INGENIEUR** ET DE L'**ENVIRONNEMENT**

Honorary President Award
IAEG awards former President Scott Burns

Dear members of IAEG, colleagues and friends,

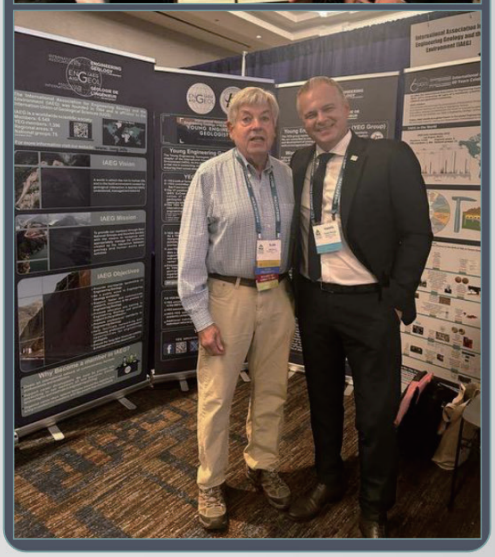
IAEG, with great enthusiasm, announces the award of the prestigious title of Honorary President of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) to former President Scott Burns, Professor Emeritus of Engineering Geology, Portland State University.

Honorary President membership is proposed by the IAEG Executive Committee & approved by the IAEG Council & represents our association's highest distinction. **It is awarded only in rare & outstanding cases**, in recognition of the extraordinary and long-term contributions & service of our Past Presidents.

Throughout his affiliation with the IAEG, during his tenure as President (2015–2018) & up to today, Scott Burns has been an unwavering ambassador of our association, promoting & elevating the global presence of IAEG with dedication & passion. **One of Scott's most significant contributions to IAEG is the visionary creation & management of the IAEG CONNECTOR,** one of our association's most dynamic & powerful communication tools, published almost every week, which has significantly highlighted the activities & work of IAEG worldwide.

Scott Burns' legacy as a communicator, an educator & an international leader in our profession is supreme. His lifetime of creative & groundbreaking research in engineering geology are remarkable contributions to our scientific community & his ability to blend scientific expertise with effective communication has advanced the association at a global scale.

The International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment



2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW NATIONAL GROUPS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE GÉOLOGIE DE L'INGÉNIEUR ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Announcement of the New National Group Cameroon

The Council of International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) has approved the proposal to establish the Cameroonian National Group with full votes at the Council meeting held on September 7th, 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, during the 4th IAEG African Regional Conference. We are officially announcing that the Cameroonian National Group has been established, Ligbwah Victor Wotanie is appointed as the President and Tiabou Anicet as the Secretary General of Cameroonian National Group.

Congratulations to Cameroonian National Group!

Best Regards,

V. Marinos

President
Vassilis Marinos

Faquan Wu

Secretary General
Faquan Wu

October 27th, 2025

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE GÉOLOGIE DE L'INGÉNIEUR ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Announcement of the New National Group Kenya

The Council of International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) has approved the proposal to establish the Kenyan National Group with full votes at the Council meeting held on September 7th, 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, during the 4th IAEG African Regional Conference. We are officially announcing that the Kenyan National Group has been established, Zachary Kuria is appointed as the President and Dan Odero as the Secretary General of Kenyan National Group.

Congratulations to Kenyan National Group!

Best Regards,

V. Marinos

President
Vassilis Marinos

Faquan Wu

Secretary General
Faquan Wu

October 27th, 2025

3. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW COMMISSIONS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE GÉOLOGIE DE L'INGÉNIEUR ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

Announcement of the New Established Commission No.43

The IAEG Council has approved the proposal on establishing the new IAEG Commission No.43 "on Dams and Levees" at the Council Meeting which was held on September 7th, 2025 in Windhoek, Namibia, during the 4th IAEG African Regional Conference.

Prof.Dr.Visty P. Dalal is appointed as the president and Dr. Brian Greene as secretary general of IAEG Commission No.43 "on Dams and Levees" from October 27th, 2025.This Commission will focus on Dams and Levees Practice and fostering collaboration between engineering geologists across the world in dams &levees arena that benefit the profession and public safety, by sharing knowledge through cross-institutional and cross-disciplinary networks.

Best Regards,

V.Marinos

President
Vassilis Marinos

Faquan Wu

Secretary General
Faquan Wu

October 27th, 2025

4.
YEG ACTIVITIES

YEG Article

Advanced Landslide Monitoring in Jebha Region (North Morocco) Using Persistent Scatterer Interferometry (PS- InSAR)

Rida Haddane

Geosciences laboratory, Department of Geology, Faculty of Sciences, Mohammed V University in Rabat, 4 Avenue Ibn Batouta, B.P. 1014-Morocco

rida_haddane@um5.ac.ma

Landslides are a significant hazard in mountainous regions like El Jebha, posing risks to life, infrastructure, and the environment. Traditional monitoring methods are often limited by accessibility, the vast area, and the complex nature of landslides. This study utilizes Persistent Scatterer Interferometric Synthetic Aperture Radar (PS-InSAR) analysis of 12 Sentinel-1A images acquired between January 17, 2019, and December 31, 2019, to assess the activity and intensity of suspected slow-moving landslides in El Jebha. The PS-InSAR technique effectively detected ground displacements ranging from 28 mm to -17 mm, highlighting the potential of Sentinel-1 data to identify regions with subtle, yet significant, movement, with uncertainty estimated to be within ±2 mm under optimal conditions. These results demonstrate the value of PS-InSAR in monitoring slow-moving landslides, even in challenging terrain, and contribute to a better understanding of landslide dynamics in El Jebha.

1. Introduction

Morocco faces significant risks from climatic, meteorological, geological, and biological phenomena, collectively posing threats that can severely impact socio-economic development in disaster-prone regions. Landslides are among these challenges, notably prevalent in the El Jebha region, where instances of land instability are increasingly common. These events disrupt sustainable development efforts, affect infrastructure, housing, agricultural lands, and can tragically result in human casualties.

The El Jebha region (Figure 1) is undergoing substantial socio-economic growth, marked by ongoing and upcoming large-scale infrastructure projects. These initiatives aim to stimulate tourism along the Mediterranean coast. However, the area's geological instability, characterized by frequent landslides, necessitates robust environmental protection measures. The occurrence and development of landslide events in El Jebha are influenced by many natural and anthropogenic factors, including topography, geology, hydrology, hydrogeology, rapid slope erosion, and urbanization.

Numerous studies in the El Jebha area have employed various methodologies and research techniques to understand landslide processes (Bouchra et al., 2020; Byou et al., 2021). Our study focuses on utilizing Persistent Scatterer Interferometry Synthetic Aperture Radar (PS- InSAR) throughout 2019 to monitor landslides.

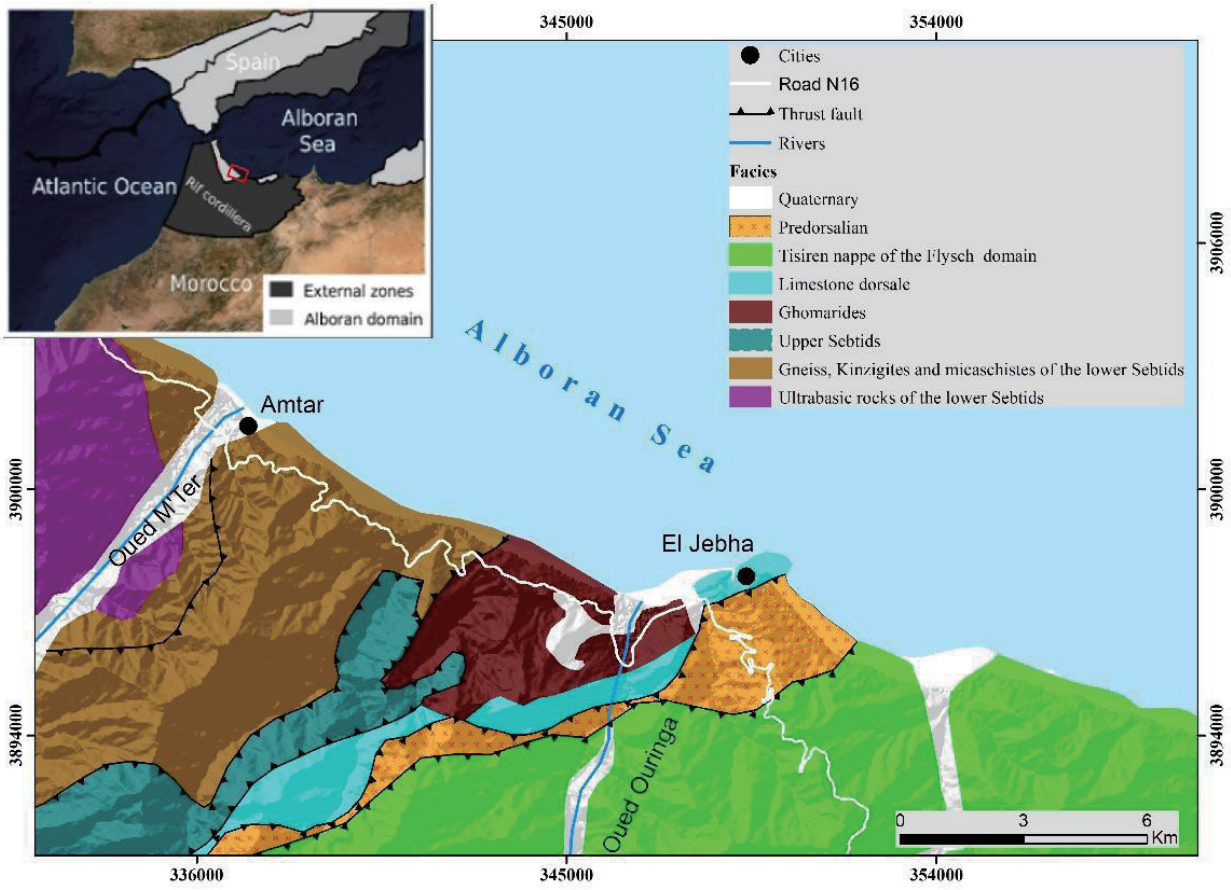


Figure 1 Geological map of the study area (modified from DIR. GEOL. MAROC, 2011; Kornprobst and Wildi, 1980).

2. Methodology

For this study, PS-InSAR was employed to monitor landslide activity in the Jebha region of North Morocco. This method is particularly effective in identifying and monitoring ground displacement in areas with stable reflectors, known as persistent scatterers, which provide consistent radar reflections over long periods (Ferretti et al., 2001; Hooper et al., 2004).

A total of 12 images from the Sentinel-1A satellite, all acquired in ascending mode, were utilized for this analysis. These images were acquired between January 17 and December 31, 2019, with an average frequency of one image per month.

Table 1 Data Used for PS-InSAR analysis

Satellite	Year of acquisition	Sensor	Type of product	Polarization	Mode of acquisition
Sentinel 1A	2019	SAR-C	SLC	VV et VH	IW

3. Results and Discussion

In total, 167,399 Persistent Scatterer (PS) points were identified across the study, providing a detailed dataset for the PS-InSAR analysis. Cumulative ground movement over the 12-month observation period in 2019 ranges from 28 mm to −17 mm (rounded to nearest millimeter). Based on the coherence levels and standard PS-InSAR performance using Sentinel-1A data, the expected measurement uncertainty in this study is estimated to be within ±2 mm under optimal conditions, in line with values reported in Ferretti et al. (2001). Figure 2 shows

the average Line-of-Sight (LOS) velocity in mm/year derived from cumulative displacements.

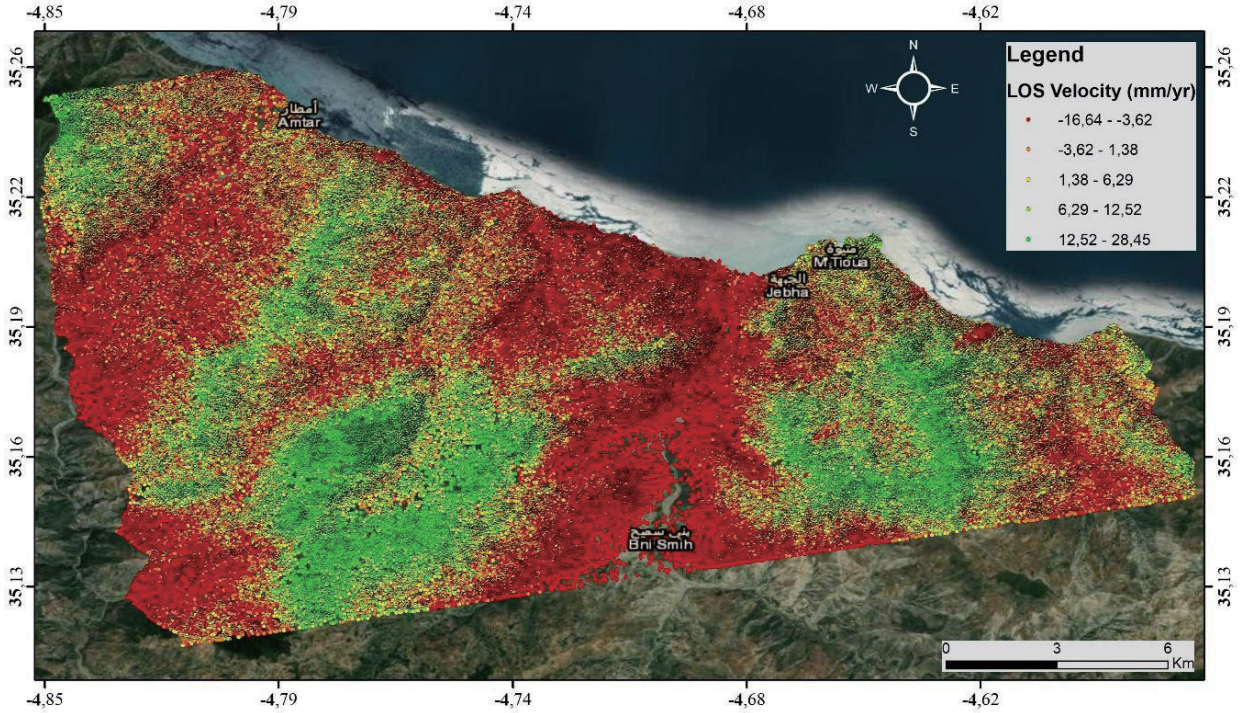


Figure 2 Average Line–Of–Sight Velocities (from the 2019 PS–InSAR dataset) for Ascending Mode in El Jebha (North Morocco).

4.Conclusion

This study successfully demonstrates the effectiveness of PS-InSAR analysis using Sentinel- 1A data in monitoring slow-moving landslides in the challenging terrain of El Jebha. The identified ground displacements, ranging from 28 mm to -17mm over a 12-month period, highlight the ability of the technique to detect subtle movements often missed by traditional methods. The results underscore the potential of this approach for understanding landslide dynamics in the region, contributing to improved hazard assessment and mitigation strategies. Further investigation using a longer time series of Sentinel-1 data is recommended to refine our understanding of landslide behavior and potential future risks in El Jebha.

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Author Responsibility Disclaimer

During the preparation of this work, generative AI and AI-assisted technologies were not used in the writing process. The author takes full responsibility for the content of the publication and for properly referencing all figures, tables, and information included in the article.

Geotechnical Failures of Pavement Structures in Abakaliki, Southeastern Nigeria

Victor Obinna Nwaejigh

Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, Ebonyi State, Nigeria

nwaejigh.victor@funai.edu.ng

This article presents a focused geotechnical investigation of the Abakaliki-Ogoja Road in southeastern Nigeria, based on original field and laboratory work. It examines how poor subgrade conditions, high soil plasticity, inadequate base and sub-base thicknesses, and ineffective drainage systems contribute to premature pavement failure. The study highlights construction flaws observed on-site and provides targeted recommendations such as proper soil stabilization, moisture-controlled compaction, and improved drainage design, emphasizing practical solutions drawn from engineering assessment and field data.

1.Motivation/Introduction

Having experienced the frustrations of driving on deteriorating roads in southeastern Nigeria, I was compelled to investigate the root causes of these persistent failures. Among the most notorious examples is the Abakaliki-Ogoja Road, a key economic artery linking Ebonyi State to neighboring regions. Despite several rehabilitation efforts, this road continues to suffer from severe pavement degradation. As a geologist, I suspect that the problem lies not merely in surface treatments or budget limitations but within the ground, specifically in the properties of the soils and the construction practices used. This study focuses on understanding how ground properties, material quality, and pavement design contribute to the rapid failure of flexible pavements along the Abakaliki-Ogoja Road. The article provides practical recommendations based on localized data and field observations.

2.Geotechnical and Construction Realities on the Abakaliki-Ogoja Road

The Abakaliki-Ogoja Road is primarily a flexible pavement, designed to support heavy commercial traffic. Yet, recurrent failures such as rutting, cracking, and potholing are commonplace, especially during and after the rainy season. Visual assessments of the road surface revealed extensive fatigue cracking and deformation. These defects prompted a detailed geotechnical investigation of the subgrade and pavement structure.

Both visual inspections and test data indicate that the asphalt layer is often too thin (less than 40 mm in some segments) and lacks durability (Figure 1). The base course and sub-base layers were measured to be below the standard thresholds, ranging between 100–150 mm, with some stretches having no distinct sub-base layer at all. These thin and sometimes poorly compacted layers, combined with the absence of geotextiles or proper separation between layers, result in structural instability. Additionally, the subgrade soil, composed largely of clay-rich silty material exhibiting expansive behavior due to its clay fraction, shows high plasticity and is prone to swelling and shrinkage. Without proper stabilization (e.g., with lime or cement), the subgrade fails to provide a firm foundation, leading to rutting and cracking under repeated traffic loads. Thus, the deficient layer thickness, poor materials, and lack of stabilization techniques contribute to the pavement failures observed along the Abakaliki-Ogoja Road.

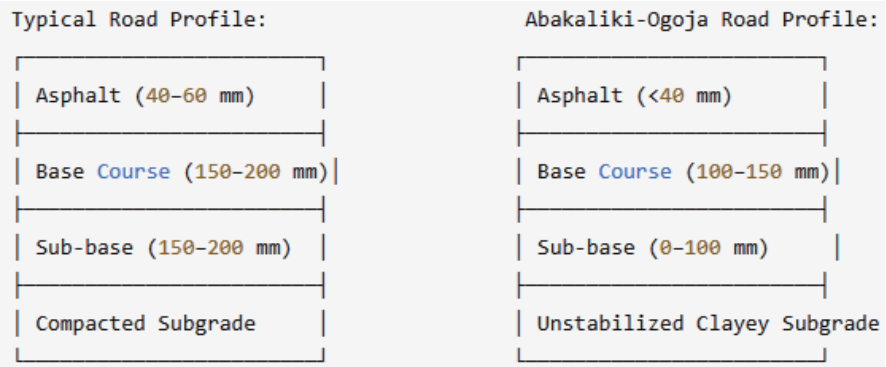

Figure 1 Comparison between a typical flexible pavement profile and the observed profile of the Abakaliki–Ogoja Road (Typical profile data adapted from FMWH, General Specifications for Roads and Bridges in Nigeria, 2nd Edition, 1997; Observed profile from Author's field–based measurements, 2025).

Further field and laboratory tests were conducted, such as grain size distribution, Atterberg limits, compaction, and California Bearing Ratio (CBR). The results revealed weaker load-bearing characteristics as some road segments were well graded, while some extensions were poorly graded; consistency tests revealed that the soil had high plasticity indices due to its silty-clayey composition derived from shale bedrock. The presence of poorly graded and high plasticity soils reduces the strength and stability of the pavement structure. These soil types retain water and swell when wet, leading to heaving and shrinkage cracks during dry conditions.

There exists uneven compaction due to inconsistency in the Maximum Dry Density and Optimum Moisture Content caused by uncontrolled moisture conditions during construction, which compromises the bond between pavement layers, resulting in delamination, surface rutting, and premature cracking.

Finally, the result revealed inconsistent subgrade strength, often falling below the 30% CBR benchmark (as specified by FMWH, 1997), suggesting that certain sections of the road may not provide sufficient support for anticipated traffic loads. Combined with inadequate soil stabilization (needed because of the high fines content) and poor drainage, these factors lead to water infiltration, softening of the subgrade, and eventual collapse of the pavement. Hence, the observed damage, such as potholes, fatigue cracking, and deformation, can be expected.

Drainage infrastructure also played a critical role. Although U-shaped concrete drains (Fig.2) were installed, some medians were porous and unlined, allowing water infiltration. This led to subgrade saturation and swelling of the clay-rich soils, reducing the pavement's bearing capacity. The combination of high plasticity soils, inadequate sub-base thickness, and poor drainage explains the recurrence of rutting and alligator cracking in specific locations.

Figure 2 The Enugu – Abakaliki Road with potholes, ruts, alligator cracking, fatigue concrete & U–Shaped concrete drains (Source: Babadiya & Igwe 2021)

3.Conclusion

The recurring pavement issues along the Abakaliki-Ogoja Road underscore the need for more detailed geotechnical assessment and consistent implementation of design and construction guidelines to improve service life. This case study demonstrates that compliance with minimum standards is not sufficient if localized ground behavior and environmental conditions are ignored. The clayey nature of the subgrade, combined with limited use of stabilization techniques, variable layer thicknesses, and insufficient drainage provisions, appear to have influenced the structural performance of the pavement. Lasting infrastructure cannot be achieved by surface-level fixes; it requires an understanding of ground conditions, appropriate material selection, and adherence to structural standards. Roads must be built from the ground up, not patched from the top down. As the saying goes, "A structure is only as strong as its foundation,"—and in southeastern Nigeria, that foundation begins with the soil.

Acknowledgments

I sincerely appreciate the support of my working group at the Department of Geology/ Geophysics, Alex Ekwueme Federal University, Ndufu-Alike, especially my supervisor, Prof. Aghamelu O. P., and Dr. Nweke O. M., whose guidance, feedback, and expertise were vital to the successful completion of this study.

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Call for Candidates: Join the YEG Management Committee

The Young Engineering Geologists Committee was formally established by the IAEG Council in 2016 and recognizes younger members (under 40) of the IAEG. We are seeking new members for a 2-year term.

The YEG Committee is focused on promoting activities and engagement for younger members of IAEG, as well as providing services to these young members.

For more information, visit our website: http://www.iaeg.info/yegs

Young Engineering Geologists (YEG)

The YEGs are the active young members (under 40 years old) chapter of the IAEG. The YEG membership is represented by a dynamic network of YEG representatives from many regions around the world, which form the local YEGs or national representatives. The Management Committee is the main core of the YEG network and they are responsible for the YEG outcome. Our goal is to promote the interests of young members and their involvement within the IAEG, by facilitating networking and organizing relevant events around the world. All under 40 Geo experts are invited to join our group.

YEG's objectives

- Provide worldwide leadership in Engineering Geology
- Be the voice of the international Engineering Geology profession
- Support, foster and communicate research, innovation and the practice of Engineering Geology
- Promote education and training in Engineering Geology and provide support to the profession
- Promote professional standards in Engineering Geology and provide networking opportunities

for Engineering Geologists

How to Apply:

YEG is seeking current IAEG members under the age of 40 who wish to be part of the international association that provides global leadership in Engineering Geology, facilitates professional development, and fosters new friendships around the world. The application needs to include:

- Short video presentation (5-10 minutes)
- The video should introduce yourself and your background and cover your proposed initiatives, ideas, and actions for the role.
- Short resume (2-3 pages)
- Official letter from the National IAEG Group or the Vice-President of the region (Letter of support from the National Group of the candidate signed by the President)
- Maximum of two candidates per National group

Applications are to be submitted electronically to the YEG email (iaeg.yeg@gmail.com) by **31st of December 2025**.

5.
WEG ACTIVITIES

WEG Events at the Upcoming 15th Asian Regional Conference of IAEG

6. OBITUARY: FORMER IAEG PRESIDENT PROF. SIJING WANG

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE GEOLOGIE DE L'INGENIEUR ET DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT

IAEG farewells Professor Sijing Wang

Dear members of IAEG, colleagues and friends,

We are all saddened by the news of Professor Sijing Wang's passing.

Professor Sijing Wang, former President of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) from 1998 to 2002, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, former Director of the Institute of Geology and Geophysics at the Chinese Academy of Sciences and an internationally renowned scientist in the fields of engineering geology, rock mechanics and environmental geology, passed away in Beijing at 5:46 on September 15, 2025, at the age of 91.

Professor Wang dedicated his career to interdisciplinary and integrated research spanning geology, engineering and mechanics. He was a key founder of rock engineering geomechanics in China, proposing the theory of interaction between major human engineering activities and the geological environment and establishing principles and methodologies for stability analysis in rock engineering. His work included critical research and demonstration for major national projects such as the Three Gorges Dam. With long-standing focus on urbanization and sustainable development strategies, Professor Wang made outstanding contributions to both the advancement of international engineering geology and national infrastructure development.

Professor Wang served two terms as IAEG Vice President for Asia (1982–1986 and 1992–1996) and later as IAEG President (1998–2002). He was awarded the Mayor's Medal of Lyon, France, in 2005 and was appointed Knight of the French National Order of Academic Palms in 2007. In 2008, he received the IAEG Hans Cloos Medal and in 2017, he was honored with the Evgenii M. Sergeev Outstanding Contribution Medal by the Russian Academy of Sciences.

During his second term as IAEG Vice President for Asia, Professor Wang successfully organized the IAEG Executive Committee and Council meetings and hosted the IAEG Annual Academic Conference as part of the 30th International Geological Congress (IGC) held in Beijing in 1996. As IAEG President, he actively promoted the development of engineering geology communities in developing countries—particularly in Asia, South America and Africa. He initiated the IAEG Asian Regional Conference, which became a major and enduring academic event within the association, significantly enhancing academic exchange among Asian countries and between Asia and the world. Under his leadership, three major annual academic events were held in developing countries: Kathmandu, Nepal (1999); Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (2000); and Durban, South Africa (2002). These gatherings received enthusiastic support from local IAEG national groups and colleagues across the global engineering geology community, fostering academic dialogue, friendship and peace.

We deeply mourn the passing of Professor Sijing Wang and pay solemn tribute to his life and legacy. His contributions will forever be remembered.

The International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment

Professor Sijing Wang (1934 - 2025)

7.
EDI POLICY AND CODE OF CONDUCT

10 May 2025

IAEG Policy: Equity, Diversity and Inclusivity in Engineering Geology and the Environment
Version date: 10 May 2025

Purpose

This policy is intended to guide all members and office holders in how the IAEG will enact its commitment to equity, diversity and inclusion. We will serve society better by attracting and retaining the widest possible talent and fostering a greater diversity of ideas, research and technology.

Objectives

The IAEG EDI Policy is focussed on:

1) Increasing the participation of diverse people in the engineering geology profession, by accepting and including their ideas and perspectives.
2) Ensuring that the effectiveness of the EDI Policy is reported, monitored, analysed and updated on a regular basis.
3) Facilitating access to and developing EDI documentation, guidance and training opportunities for IAEG National Groups and their members.

Policy

In the course of our work with, and activities for, the IAEG, we will ensure that:

- The IAEG is an organisation that is committed to promoting equity, diversity and inclusivity (EDI) in engineering geology and the environment.
- The IAEG reflects the diversity of all the regions it serves.
- We take account of the ways that individual working styles and personal preferences are influenced by national cultures.
- We promote and accept the things that distinguish us from those around us so that all of our members feel safe, welcome and valued.
- We are receptive to the needs of all of our members, and are supportive and inclusive of them.
- We are aware of our natural biases and actively work to overcome them.
- We bring matters to the notice of the relevant regional Vice President and/or the President of the IAEG if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a breach of this policy has taken place which has, or could have, adverse consequences.

Definitions

- **Diversity** includes all the ways in which people differ, including different social and ethnic backgrounds, individual attributes, skills and perspectives. These include gender identity, disabilities and visible minorities, at a basic level. Additional considerations include age, family status and care giving responsibilities, cultural and ethnic backgrounds, sexual preference and religion.
- **Equity** is the fair treatment, access, opportunity and advancement for all people, by identifying and removing barriers that prevent the full participation of individuals from marginalized groups, and correcting conditions of disadvantage in education, opportunities and employment.
- **Inclusivity** requires the creation of environments in which individuals and groups feel welcomed, respected, supported and valued in the course of their full participation as members, partners and leaders. Inclusive learned societies and workplaces create a culture that values and respects differences, and benefits from diverse perspectives, understanding and contributions.

Representing the IAEG

Most countries have legislation that protects everyone in those counties from discrimination. When representing the IAEG no-one can discriminate against:

- Age,
- Gender or sexual orientation
- Having a family or not
- Colour, race, ethnicity, religious belief
- Any kind of disability, impairment or illness (unless it restricts the person from completing the role).

Activities of the IAEG
IAEG Sponsored Conferences, Congresses, Symposia, Workshops

All IAEG endorsed or sponsored events must comply with the IAEG Code of Conduct and EDI Policy. In the selection of keynote speakers, session chairs and participants, the organisers agree to select people for these roles that have a diverse background, giving fair consideration to gender, age, ability, race and ethnicity.

Keynote speakers will normally include at least one third female and one third young engineering geologists.

10 May 2025

IAEG Policy: Code of Conduct
Version date: 10 May 2025

Opening Statement

Our code of conduct represents the way we do things in the IAEG. It provides a framework for the standards to which we hold ourselves and supports us in making decisions that are ethical, trustworthy and fair.

Who does this apply to?

This code applies to all members and office holders of the IAEG.

Where we see any deviation from our Code of Conduct we will speak up and raise it with a member of the Executive of the IAEG and/or the President of the IAEG. We will investigate all allegations of unethical, discriminatory or illegal behaviour and will not tolerate discrimination or retaliation of any kind against anyone making such a report in good faith.

Working Together

We are a diverse group of people from many different backgrounds and cultures, with many different ideas and experiences. We value and support each other's contributions and treat each other with honesty, respect and dignity (refer IAEG EDI Policy).

We believe everyone should have an equal chance to participate in the activities of the IAEG. We recognise the different strengths and talents each person brings. We have zero tolerance of behaviours or actions that amount to bullying, harassment, intimidation or discrimination.

Before we act, we must ask ourselves whether our actions could be perceived as disrespectful or exclusionary, could put anyone's well-being or safety at risk, or might negatively impact the reputation of the IAEG.

The IAEG will not tolerate bribery, corruption, fraud, collusion or any other form of dishonesty.

Obligations

In the course of our work with and activities for the IAEG, we will:

- Act with honesty, objectivity, and integrity.
- Treat people with respect and courtesy.
- Disclose and appropriately manage conflicts of interest.
- Take reasonable steps to safeguard the health and safety and well-being of people.
- Consider reasonably foreseeable effects on the environment resulting from our activities, and remedy adverse effects.
- Have regard to the need for sustainable management of the environment (that is, meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own reasonably foreseeable needs).

- Bring matters to the notice of the relevant regional Vice President and/or the President of the IAEG if there are reasonable grounds to believe that a breach of this code has taken place which has, or could have, adverse consequences on an individual or a group of individuals.

In the course of your activities for the IAEG you must not:

- Offer or promise to give to any person anything intended to improperly influence a decision.
- Accept from any person anything intended to improperly influence your IAEG activities.
- Engage in or support corrupt practices.

If you have reasonable grounds to believe that other member(s) have committed a significant breach of this policy, you must report the matter to the President of the IAEG.

8.
NEWS OF FEDIGS

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR **ENGINEERING GEOLOGY** AND THE **ENVIRONMENT**
ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DE **GEOLOGIE DE L'INGENIEUR** ET DE L'**ENVIRONNEMENT**

FedIGS 2025 Annual Meeting Concludes with Decision to Organize GeoEng2030 II, a Mega Conference

The IAEG was honored to participate in a very successful & productive meeting of FedIGS (Federation of International GeoEngineering Societies) in GOA, India on 6–7 October 2025, during the Geotech Asia 2025. The meeting gathered the presidents, immediate past presidents & secretary generals of the sister societies, ISSMGE, ISRM & IGS, under the FedGIS framework to discuss shared initiatives & strengthen collaboration in research, education & professional practices within the global geoengineering community.

A major decision was made in this meeting. To organize **a Mega Conference: GeoEng2030 II**, 30 years after the successful & memorable GeoEng2000 in Melbourne.

With the participation of ISSMGE, ISRM, IAEG and IGS, the conference will celebrate collaboration, innovation, advanced technologies & resilient solutions across all disciplines of Geo-Engineering. We will be working in FedIGS to bring more info soon & release the call for this Mega Geoengineering Conference of FedIGS.

The IAEG community is very excited about GeoEng2030 & is committed to contributing with a key role in organizing the conference, promoting the work & significance of Engineering Geology & the Environment across all interdisciplinary Geo-Engineering topics.

JTC3 works in Education and Training, led by IAEG, were presented, while the "Large" workshop jointly organised by the JTC1 & JTC3 in Queenstown, New Zealand, next April was more analytically introduced to all sister societies.

We would like to offer our sincere thanks to the organizing committee of GEOTECH ASIA & the ISSMGE for generously hosting us and providing a unique venue for our meeting & to FedIGS President Prof. Chungsik Yoo for leading this successful meeting.

Future updates about the call for organising the GeoEng2030 will be published on the FedIGS & IAEG website.

SCAN

FedIGS website

IAEG website

9. NEWS OF NATIONAL / REGIONAL GROUPS

ALGERIA

Throughout 2025, efforts were dedicated to raising awareness within the Algerian scientific community about the critical role of engineering geology. The group emphasized its importance not only in supporting the launch and growth of the national economy but also as a cornerstone in the design, construction, and long-term sustainability of Algeria's infrastructure.

Algerian national group has outlined a proactive agenda for 2026, focused on capacity building and enhancing national visibility. Two key initiatives are planned:

Workshop on GIS for Disaster Management (Focus on Landslides)

Titled *Application of GIS in Disaster Management: Focus on Landslides*, this workshop aims to train researchers, postgraduate students, engineers, and decision-makers in using GIS for hazard assessment and mitigation.

National Conference on Engineering Geology in Algeria

Under the theme *The Importance of Engineering Geology in Algerian Society and Economy*, the conference will highlight the discipline's contributions to infrastructure, energy, water resources, and environmental projects.

Long-term goals include engaging more young professionals and students, developing scientific collaborations with other North African and Mediterranean IAEG groups, and strengthening the group's advisory role in natural risk prevention and environmental management.

ARGENTINA

3rd Congress of Argentinian NG successfully held in Córdoba, Argentina -50th anniversary of the Argentine Association of Engineering Geology (ASAGAI)

On September 24-27th, 2025, IAEG had the pleasure of participating in the 3rd Congress on Engineering and Environmental Geology, held in Córdoba, Argentina, an inspiring event that celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Argentine Association of Engineering Geology (ASAGAI).

The Congress brought together professionals, researchers, and students from around the world, creating a vibrant space for scientific exchange, collaboration, and dialogue on the future of engineering and environmental geology. Through keynote lectures, oral presentations, and poster sessions, participants shared innovative research, case studies, and methodologies addressing real-world environmental and infrastructural challenges.

Beyond its scientific dimension, the event was a celebration of five decades of dedication and progress, highlighting the importance of cooperation between academia, industry, and institutions to advance sustainable development.

IAEG extends heartfelt congratulations to ASAGAI for this remarkable milestone and thanks all participants for their valuable contributions to such a successful and inspiring congress.

AUSTRALIA

Report on the 1st Australian Conference on Engineering Geology (ACEG 2025) Brisbane 23-25 July

In June 2024, Anthony Bowden, VP for Australasia of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) and the AGS secretary (Jon Gibbs), approached Mark Eggers, Megan Packer and Christopher Bennett to ask if they would be interested in hosting a small symposium the following year; the first of its kind to specifically target the engineering geology

discipline. The event developed into a sophisticated three-day conference with 215 delegates at the Sofitel in Brisbane's CBD.

The final ACEG program comprised two full days of technical presentations covering a wide range of topics, showcasing the variety and important work our profession is involved in. The third day included two separate field trips: a full day bus trip to explore slope stability challenges within weathered basalts surrounding the Glasshouse Mountains, and a walking tour of the impressive cliff exposures along the Brisbane River.

Engineering geology is a cornerstone of modern infrastructure development, providing the essential link between geological science and engineering practice. Our work underpins the safety, sustainability, and resilience of the engineering structures and systems that form the backbone of our societies. From the integrity of our transportation networks to the management of our natural hazards, or the construction of major new infrastructure, the contributions of engineering geologists are essential to ensuring safe and economic outcomes in the future.

ACEG 2025 developed off the momentum from the AGS Special Edition Journal (published in September 2024) which celebrated the 60th anniversary of the IAEG. This was the catalyst for our profession to become more organised and disciplined in supporting each other and consolidating recognition of our importance more broadly within industry.

Technical Program

The ACEG 2025 conference was designed to be a platform for the exchange of knowledge, ideas, and innovations. It included 38 technical paper presentations, two keynote speakers, three invited speakers and a panel discussion session covering key challenges faced by our profession in Australia.

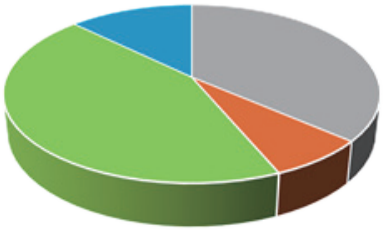
The support from the Engineering Geology community was strong from the outset with 82 abstracts initially submitted.

The final technical paper count (to be published in the formal conference proceedings) was 40.

ACEG 2025 was based around four themes where engineering geology is practiced, these being:

- Civil infrastructure
- Mining
- Geohazards
- Energy

The themes were targeted to showcase how geology is applied to engineering, as in the words of Daniel Moye, it is "geology which is useful in engineering". The distribution of paper submissions according to theme allocations are shown which may reflect the current focus of engineering geologists who are AGS members. The proportion of professionals working in the mining field is anticipated to be much larger when considering the overall engineering geology community in Australia, beyond the AGS membership. It will be interesting to reflect on how the focus changes or develops with time.



Distribution of technical papers according to themes

Professor Xuanmei Fan with Conference Co–Chairs Christopher Bennett and Megan Packer

Keynote and Invited Speakers

The conference commenced with Prof. Dr Xuanmei Fan who presented the Paul Marinos Distinguished World Lecture "Towards the Next Generation of Engineering Geology". The presentation detailed how rapidly changing technology and infrastructure development require engineering geologists to use everything that is available to deliver the best outcomes. Her research focuses on earthquake- and climate change-induced geological hazard chains, long-term landscape evolution, and disaster risk reduction.

Fred Baynes gave the keynote speech on the second day with his "Call to Arms!", addressing how engineering geologists must incorporate the key engineering geological model (EGM) principals to relate the geology, the risk, engineering considerations and uncertainties to our stakeholders.

Fred Baynes commanding the troops towards EGMs

Three invited speakers provided personal insights from connecting their experience with the overall theme of the conference. These were presented by:

- Prof. Dr Jean Hutchinson: *The impact of industry supported field courses on educational and professional outcomes*
- Don Macfarlane: *Landslides and reservoirs, the Clyde Dam experience*
- Dr Ranjan Dahal: *Uncovering geohazards impacting infrastructure in the Himalayas*.

A panel session discussing the importance of supporting education, training and professional accreditation rounded up the last session on the first day. This panel followed on from a poignant assessment of the future of engineering geology by Julia Bota and the invited presentation by Jean Hutchinson on the impact of industry supported field courses and professional training.

The discussion panel was facilitated by Mark Eggers, who introduced the current status of university training available for Australian professionals. Panel members consisted of:

- Joanna Sylvester: AGS and Australian Geosciences Council school initiatives
- Anthony Bowden: AGS training initiatives and ongoing development
- Megan Packer: professional accreditation pathways
- Jean Hutchinson: international perspective for training and accreditation.

Education, training and accreditation panel session

Conference Dinner

The conference dinner honored Phil Flentje with the AGS Lifetime Achievement award and was presented by Mark Eggers and Tim Thompson. Mark gave a short speech highlighting Phil's passion for teaching others and his ongoing commitment to the Engineering Geology profession.

Phil Flentje receiving a Lifetime Achievement Award from Tim Thompson and Mark Eggers

AGS chair Tim Thompson addressed the dinner guests, explaining how the AGS has grown in its involvement in teaching and the continued contributions from individuals and companies to the AGS through direct involvement and high-quality technical contributions to Australian Geomechanics journal publications.

Field Trips

Field trips were offered on the third day; which were quickly oversubscribed. A full-day bus trip to Maleny was hosted by Warwick Willmot, who discussed the landscapes and engineering geology attributes on the basalt escarpments.

Enjoying the Glasshouse Mountains vista

Concurrently, a Brisbane walking trip was hosted by Laurie Hutton focusing on the many more obvious geological features in and around the Brisbane CBD.

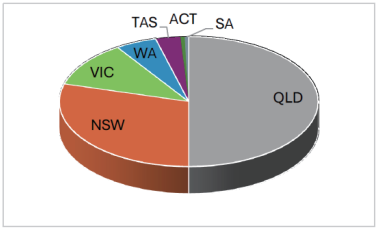
Attendees

Individual delegates totaled 215 over the two days including overall participants and day delegates. Participant statistics include:

Country of Origin

- 194 Australia
- 10 New Zealand
- 4 Mongolia
- 3 China
- 2 Canada
- 1 Nepal

State of Origin (Australia) as shown below.



State of Origin distribution of Australian based delegates

Exhibition and Sponsors

ACEG 2025 were privileged to have 24 sponsors for the event, with over half having not sponsored an AGS event within the past three years. There was a rapid uptake of sponsorship which led to the exhibition space being filled to capacity three months prior to the conference. The conference organisers are grateful for the enthusiasm from all companies who sponsored the event and appreciate the patience and effort given to sponsorship material throughout the conference.

Thanks go to our Gold (Brugg Geobrugg, Scopegeo, GHD, Ischebeck Titan and PSM), Silver (Rocscience, Rockwell Drilling, Macquarie Geotech, Mine Geotech, Mapstone Geotech Services, Geochempet Services, FINE Geo5 ETIA Training, Dywidag, Intrax Land, Insitutek, Alliance Geotechnical, Australian Institute of Geoscientists, Seequent, Tetra Tech Coffey and Sunwater) and to bronze sponsors (Precision Geotechnical Services, Douglas Partners, Intelligent Resources Software, Sigra).

Foyer exhibition space for gold and silver sponsors

2nd ACEG 2029

The intent is for the ACEG to be included on the permanent AGS conference roster and be hosted on a four-year basis throughout Australia. The next conference venue is yet to be decided but the 2nd ACEG is intended to be held in July 2029. We encourage geotechnical engineers and other associated profession and industry organisations, such as AusIMM, AIG and GSA, to further engage in this event as we develop our continued recognition of the interdependent nature of our work.

Acknowledgements

The Organising Committee would like to thank everyone involved in making this conference such an outstanding success. This included (amongst many): the positive responses to abstracts and papers requests, the technical paper reviewers and sub-editors, gold / silver / bronze sponsors, field trip hosts, session chairs, presenters and all delegates. It was an overwhelming experience to have so many motivated and optimistic professionals actively participating in this inaugural event to celebrate the specialist field of Engineering Geology. We are hopeful that future ACEG events will continue to grow and develop in future.

For those individuals interested in personally contributing to future development of the following please reach out to the contacts listed below:

- High school education: Joanna.Sylvester@ghd.com
- Undergrad and postgraduate university education: Mark.Eggers@psm.com.au
- Professional registration and accreditation: Megan.Packer@psm.com.au and Christopher.Bennett@ghd.com
- AGS Landslide Guidelines updates: Darren.Paul@wsp.com

ACEG 2025 Organising Com–mittee with AGS Chair

Conference Photos

Invited Speaker Prof. Jean Hutchinson

Invited Speaker Don Macfarlane

Invited Speaker Dr Ranjan Dahal

AGS Landslide Guidelines update from Committee and Sub–committee chairs

Welcome drinks hosted by Qld AGS Chapter and YEG

Opening of ACEG 2025

Jon Gibbs in command of the stage

WEG Networking Drinks

AUSTRIA

The 74th Geomechanics Colloquium – A Resounding Success!

The 74th Geomechanics Colloquium in Salzburg (Austria) was a great success. With three accompanying workshops and a diverse supporting program, the event once again proved to be a key meeting point for the geotechnical community.

Engaging presentations and discussions covered topics such as:

- Generational Dialogue in Geotechnics
- International Mega Projects
- Underground Hydraulic Structures
- Structural Aspects in Tunnel Construction

The impressive attendance numbers highlighted the strong interest: approximately 950 professionals, 130 technical school students, and 57 exhibitors contributed to lively exchanges.

Several workshops provided valuable insights and attracted around 150 participants, comprising a workshop on:

- Sustainability in Infrastructure Construction
- Segmental Lining Systems and Design
- Generating Knowledge from Data

The accompanying technical exhibition offered an ideal platform for networking and professional exchange. The program was further enriched by a gala evening, a concert, and two excursions – one to the Brenner Base Tunnel and another to the Ebensee pumped-storage power plant – which rounded off the event in an impressive manner.

BELARUS

The IV International Scientific Conference *Problems of Regional Geology of the East European Platform and Adjacent Territories* was held at the Faculty of Geography and Geoinformatics of BSU from September 30 to October 3, 2025.

Conference Participants

The conference was attended by over 60 researchers from leading organizations of the Republic of Belarus (BSU, Institute of Nature Management of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus, BNTU, Brest State University named after A.S. Pushkin, Gomel State University named after Francisk Skaryna, Vitebsk State University named after P.M. Masherov, Institute of Geology of the State Enterprise Scientific and Practical Center for Geology, Belgorkhimprom), the Russian Federation (Institute of Geography of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Lomonosov Moscow State University, A.P. Karpinsky All-Russian Geological Research Institute, Herzen State Pedagogical Univ. of Russia, E.M. Sergeev Institute of Geoecology of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geology of the Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Geological Institute of the Kola Science Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences), as well as Moldova (Transnistrian State University named after T.G. Shevchenko), Uzbekistan (Namangan State University), China (Tongji University, Department of Hydraulic Engineering) and Canada (University of Ottawa).

The aim of the conference was to consolidate the efforts of geologists in the field of Quaternary geology, discuss current issues, the latest achievements and prospects for scientific research, and promote international scientific and educational contacts among specialists in Quaternary geology.

The Opening of the Conference on September 30, 2025

sections were held:

Section 1: *Current Issues in Theoretical Geology*, which discussed issues of neotectonics, stratigraphy, and paleogeography of the Quaternary, as well as regional geology of the East European Platform.

Speech in Section 1

Section 2: *Modern Issues in Applied Geology*, which addressed mineral exploration, engineering geology and geoecology, geochemistry and petrography, and modern methods in geology.

Speech in Section 2

On October 2, 2025, a field trip was held to explore marginal glacial formations of the Middle Pleistocene of the Minsk Upland (Radoshkovichsky quarry), and lacustrine and lacustrine-bog deposits of the Muravinsky interglacial in the Khmelevka outcrop near Zaslavl. During the excursion, conference participants learned about the geological features of the marginal formations of the Minsk Glacial-Accumulative Upland. The role of the bedrock structure in the formation of the upland was demonstrated, and the significance of pressure terminal moraines and fluvioglacial formations in the upland's relief was

Field trip

demonstrated.

Conference participants visited a reference section of the Muravinsky interglacial deposits near the town of Zaslavl, learned about their occurrence and structure, and collected peat samples for paleontological research. Conference participants also visited the Zaslavl Historical and Cultural Museum-Reserve and the historic center of Zaslavl, featuring preserved archaeological and architectural monuments from the 10th to 20th centuries.

BRAZIL

The Brazilian IAEG National Group ABGE promoted its 18th Brazilian Congress on Engineering Geology and the Environment on August 17-21, 2025.

Today, there are more than 8.2 billion people on planet Earth, twice as many as 50 years ago. in Brazil there are nearly 213 million Brazilians, more than 90% living in urban areas. That is the importance of "Extreme Events and their Repercussions on Engineering and Environmental Geology," the central theme of the XVIII Brazilian Congress of Engineering Geology and Environmental Geology (XVI CBGE).

The event took place from Aug. 17-21, featuring conferences, lectures, roundtable discussions, field visits, technical courses and presentations of technical articles in the Agora Space, where the dynamic always fosters the exchange of ideas and development of new ones. The coffee breaks were, as always, a perfect opportunity for reunions and new encounters.

But above all, we had the presence of geoscientists and geo-technicians, colleagues of all ages, from different regions of Brazil and from others Brazilian technical associations. So much so that the XVIII CBGE had the largest number of participants in its history. It was truly a success.

CANADA

Stronger Together: A Successful Joint Special Session on Ground Risk Management at GeoManitoba 2025

By: Nicholas Vlachopoulos

The Engineering Geology and Geological Engineering Division and the Rock Mechanics Division of the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) came together to host an outstanding Special Session on "*Applications and Examples of Ground Risk Management and Mitigation in Different Engineering Sectors*" at GeoManitoba 2025. Held on Monday, September 22nd, the session drew a full and highly engaged audience, reflecting the growing interest in interdisciplinary collaboration to tackle complex geotechnical and environmental challenges.

The session was masterfully chaired and emceed by **Dr. Renato Macciotta** of the University of Alberta, who ensured a seamless flow

and engaging discussion throughout. The lineup of speakers represented a cross-section of leaders in Canadian and international geoscience and engineering practice:

- **Dr. Nicholas Vlachopoulos** (Royal Military College of Canada / Queen's University) opened with "*Defining the Role of Rock Mechanics within Geological Engineering through Practice and Experience*." His presentation highlighted the evolving integration of rock mechanics into geological engineering education, research, and professional application, grounded in over two decades of multidisciplinary field experience.
- **Ms. Gabriele Mellies** (Stantec, St. John's) shared a compelling talk on "*Strategic Monitoring to Mitigate Risk Related to Rockfall Hazards*." Her presentation illustrated how advanced monitoring and geotechnical design principles are applied to safeguard civil and mining infrastructure.
- **Dr. Omid Mahabadi** (President & CEO, Geomechanica Inc.) presented "*Reducing Risk and Uncertainty in Mining Applications Through Advanced Numerical Modelling*." He demonstrated how innovative simulation tools such as Irazu bridge the gap between research and field-scale application in rock mechanics and mine design.
- **Dr. Zoë Coull** (Founder, ICE Dragon) explored "*The Importance of Understanding Groundwater Corrosivity for Buried Infrastructure Durability*." Her work emphasized the critical link between geochemistry, materials science, and long-term risk management in industrial and municipal systems.
- **Dr. Joe Carvalho** (WSP Canada Inc.) presented his talk on "*Supreme Court Rocky Escarpment: Risk Analysis of a Multi-use Pathway – Individual and Societal Risk*." His case study elegantly demonstrated how quantitative risk assessment methods can inform safer urban planning decisions.

The session also concluded with **Dr. Vassilis Marinos**, President of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), who delivered insightful remarks on the role of engineering geology in today's rapidly changing world. His talk underscored the global importance of geotechnical collaboration, innovation, and knowledge exchange, aligning perfectly with GeoManitoba's theme of "Stronger Together."

In the photo above are the speakers, organizers, and select divisional representatives who contributed to making this session a success. In particular, **Jonathan Aubertin, Lucie Kijak, Andrew Peach, Stephen Butt, Eliane Cabot, David Wood, Julian Solano** and **Sofia Becerra** should also be mentioned. Their combined expertise and enthusiasm exemplify the strength of the Canadian Geotechnical Society's technical divisions and their commitment to advancing the profession.

The divisions would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the GeoManitoba 2025 Organizing Committee for hosting such a successful and inclusive

conference, and for recognizing the value of joint divisional initiatives that promote dialogue and innovation across disciplines.

This session reaffirmed the power of collaboration between the Engineering Geology and Geological Engineering Division and the Rock Mechanics Division. Both groups look forward to hosting more such venues that foster professional development, mentorship, and the cross-pollination of ideas essential to addressing Canada's most pressing geotechnical and environmental challenges.

Together, we build not just stronger structures and foundations, but a stronger professional community; one founded on shared knowledge, respect, and purpose.

CHILE

II ACHIGEO Symposium - Engineering Geology for Resilient Communities on October 15-18, 2025, in Talca, Chile.

More than 120 geoscientists, 40% of whom were women, including professionals, academics, and students from the field of geological engineering, representing various universities, research centers, and industry, gathered to analyze how applied geology can contribute to the resilience of communities facing geological hazards and climate change. The event was a testament to the power of collaboration, with activities such as pre-Symposium courses, keynote lectures, a Panel on Technical and Scientific Guidelines for the comprehensive study of alluvial threat, a Conversation on Geological Risk: Collaboration between the Academy, SENAPRED and SERNAGEOMIN, and more than 65 presentations of high-quality oral works and/or posters. The field trip to the Laguna del Maule Volcanic Complex further strengthened our sense of unity and teamwork.

Venue Photo

All Attendees at the Symposium

field trip to the Laguna del Maule Volcanic Complex

CHINESE TAIPEI REGIONAL GROUP

The 2025 Taiwan Rock Engineering and Engineering Geology Symposium was held on October 16 and 17 in Taichung, Taiwan. A special highlight of this year's event was a dedicated international section designed to foster greater interaction with global scientists and promote the sharing of new experiences and technologies. The section was chaired by Dr. Jui-Ming Chang and Dr. Tsai-Jung Wu, two early-career scientists from National Yang Ming Chiao Tung University, reflecting the event's commitment to gender equality and supporting the next generation of researchers.

The first session, which took place on the morning of October 17, featured a dynamic range of presentations focused on cutting-edge analytical methods for natural hazards and geology. The block kicked off with a presentation by Dr. Jui-Ming Chang, who introduced an innovative use of AI agents and light ensemble machine learning to create a more efficient debris flow warning system using seismic data. This was followed by Prof. Hyuck-Jin Park from Sejong University, who explained how probabilistic back analysis can significantly improve the accuracy of landslide susceptibility maps by reducing uncertainty from limited data. The session continued with Prof. Jaehyung Yu from Chungnam National University, who demonstrated a novel framework for 3D geological mapping that integrates LiDAR and hyperspectral remote sensing data using machine learning. Next, Dr. Jung-Hyun Lee, also from Sejong University, presented a method using fuzzy logic to fuse the outputs of physically-based and data-driven models for a more robust landslide susceptibility analysis. The session concluded with a look into the past, as Prof. Seong-Seung Kang from Chosun University shared research on using calcite twins in limestone to reconstruct paleo stress fields and understand the tectonic evolution of South Korea.

Similar to the first international session, the second session also featured a diverse range of topics, encouraging interdisciplinary exchange among researchers from Taiwan and Japan. The session covered subjects from marine geophysics and slope deformation to environmental and engineering geology, providing an opportunity for sharing insights into understanding geotechnical and geological conditions from different perspectives.

Dr. Tsai-Jung Wu opened the session by presenting an innovative underwater multichannel analysis of surface waves approach that improves the stability and reliability of Scholte-wave interpretation in offshore investigations. Transitioning the focus from offshore to onshore settings, Dr. Shintaro Yamasaki from Kyoto University followed with an in-depth presentation on how microscopic structures and physicochemical processes in layered rocks influence slope deformation. Sharing a similar concern about slope behavior but with a stronger emphasis on collapse events, Dr. Teruyuki Kikuchi from Suwa University of Science then introduced a long-term monitoring framework based on vibration measurements, demonstrated through in-situ tests at smaller streams and rivers. Expending the discussion from local to regional investigations, Dr. Duc-Huy Tran examined the role of spatial borehole density in constructing three-dimensional heterogeneous models, highlighting how data distribution affects model construction and geological interpretation. The session concluded with Dr. Satoshi Murao from the Geo-pollution Control Agency in Japan, who shared the current status and future directions of the Japanese Society of Geo-pollution Science, Medical Geology, and Urban Geology.

Through this diverse lineup, the session successfully bridged multiple research domains—from microscopic rock structures to large-scale geological and environmental systems—providing a valuable platform for scientists and engineers to exchange ideas and strengthen international cooperation in rock engineering and geohazard mitigation.

(From left to right) Prof. Seong–Seung Kang, Prof. Jaehyung Yu, Prof. Jia–Jyun Dong, Dr. Jui–Ming Chang, Dr. Tsai–Jung Wu, Dr. Jung–Hyun Lee, Prof. Hyuck–Jin Park.

(From left to right) Dr. Shintaro Yamasaki, Dr. Teruyuki Kikuchi, Prof. Jia–Jyun Dong

An ice break held by Prof. Jia–Jyun Dong before the Symposium.

GERMANY

The DGGT Section Days Geotechnics in Würzburg and the associated 24th Engineering Geology Conference with the integrated members' meeting of the IAEG German National Group are behind us. We would like to briefly review the event and share with you our still-fresh memories of the successful conference.

24th Engineering Geology Conference – Section Days Geotechnics

The 24th Engineering Geology Conference took place in Würzburg on October 7th and 8th as part of the Section Days Geotechnics of the German Geotechnical Society (DGGT). We look back on a successful event, featuring a total of 34 exciting presentations from research and practice, including 13 in the Forum for Young Engineering Geologists (YEGs). A total of just over 500 participants attended the sections days. The sold-out trade exhibition was actively used to network at the company booths and learn about new developments and current topics. The get-together also took place in the exhibition area on the first evening of the event, which the majority of participants used for further discussion.

Since supporting YEGs is very important to us and we see it as our mission to provide a platform for young talent, we were once again delighted to host the "Forum for Young Engineering Geologists". This now firmly established part of the Engineering Geology Conference is largely thanks to the young speakers, whom we would like to thank once again for their commitment and fascinating contributions. We would especially like to congratulate the forum's award winners and are delighted that we were once again able to award them with prize money. Our congratulations go to:

1. Prize: M.Sc. Saskia Eppinger, Chair of Landslide Research, Technical University of Munich

2. Prize: M.Sc. Florian Engels, Baugeologisches Büro Bauer Munich & Chair of Engineering Geology, Technical University of Munich

3. Prize: B.Eng. Florian Leusink, OTH Regensburg

4. Prize: M.Eng. David Schneider, TH Köln – Technology, Arts, Sciences

Figure 1: Winners "Forum for Young Engineering Geologists" from left to right: M.Eng. David Schneider, M.Sc. Saskia Eppinger, M.Sc. Florian Engels, B.Eng. Florian Leusink.

We are therefore already eagerly anticipating the next section meetings and the 25th anniversary of the Engineering Geology Conference, which will then take place in Baden-Baden. Please mark this event in your calendar for September 21 and 22, 2027; we are already looking forward to seeing you again. Please note that the conference will be held in German.

Members' Meeting of the IAEG German National Group

As part of the Section Days Geotechnics in Würzburg, we were also able to hold the biennial members meeting of the IAEG German National Group. Many thanks to everyone who attended the meeting. We were particularly pleased by the increased number of participants compared to the previous meeting and also by the fact that we were able to welcome new members there.

Authors: Anika Braun (Berlin), Fabian Carlo Fähnle (Sengenthal)

HONGKONG REGIONAL GROUP

Celebrating Excellence in Geoscience

On March 21, 2025, the Geological Society of Hong Kong proudly hosted the prestigious Workman-Malpas Medal Ceremony at the Annual Dinner of Geological Society of London HongKong Regional Group. This special evening was a tribute to the remarkable contributions made in the field of geoscience. Attendees were treated to inspiring speeches from distinguished figures including Prof. John Malpas, one of the medal's founders, and Prof. Andrew Malone, the 2023 awardee, alongside our outstanding 2024 recipient, Prof. Wyss Yim.

This year, Hongkong Regional Group was thrilled to honor Prof. Wyss Yim, whose illustrious career began at The University of Hong Kong in 1974. His keen observations led to the discovery of asbestos in the Hui Oi Chow Building, prompting significant safety improvements across our university. In his speech, he shared his findings of the volcano impacts on climate change with audience. As a founding member of both the Geological Society of Hong Kong and the Department of Earth Sciences at HKU, Prof. Yim's influence is profound and far-reaching

The Geological Society of Hong Kong extended warmest congratulations Prof. Yim on receiving the Workman-Malpas Medal for 2024! His legacy is a testament to the spirit of inquiry and dedication that drives our field forward.

On 25 April, 2025, Mr. Edison Tse delivered a seminar on "A Brief Natural History of Hong Kong". During the seminar, Mr. Tse provided in-depth insights into the geology and history of palaeontology in Hong Kong. He elaborated on various fossil specimens found in the region, offering detailed explanations and showcasing the natural heritage of Hong Kong. Through his presentation, the members gained a deeper understanding of the geological evolution and palaeontological significance of Hong Kong.

Groundwater in Hong Kong Seminar: Opportunities and Challenges

Geological Society of Hong Kong extended its heartfelt thanks to Prof. Jimmy JIAO and all the audience at the seminar *Groundwater in Hong Kong*, co-organized by the Geological Society of Hong Kong and The Jockey Club Museum of Climate Change. Attendees gained a deeper understanding of the historical context of groundwater in Hong Kong, exploring its significance and comparing local cases with those from other regions. Prof, JIAO also shared innovative approaches to use this vital resource, emphasizing research projects that could enhance our understanding and management of groundwater in Hong Kong. The seminar also highlighted potential sources of ground water and the presence of minerals within it, revealing the complexities and opportunities that lie beneath our feet.

Besides, the seminar sparked fruitful conversations among experts from engineering, construction, environmental, and energy sectors regarding potential projects aimed at extracting groundwater for local use. Together, we are paving the way for sustainable practices that ensure the longevity and quality of our groundwater resources.

KOREA

The 2025 Spring Conference of KSEG

The 2025 spring conference of KSEG was held at Busan Hanwha Resort on April 2-4, 2025, with 131 participants and 54 papers (17 oral presentations and 37 poster presentations). This conference was held as an offline conference. The conference featured two keynote lectures, a comprehensive short course program (April 2-3), and a career development program (April 4) focusing on landslide prediction, slope stability analysis, and professional opportunities in geotechnical engineering.

The conference opened with two distinguished keynote lectures addressing current challenges in slope stability and disaster management. Prof. Seung-rae Lee from KAIST delivered a presentation titled “Debris flow disaster prediction and mitigation using timely meteorological data.” Section Chief Sung-hee Kang from the Ministry of the Interior and Safety presented on “Steep slope policy and safety management.”

The short course offered five intensive lectures covering fundamental and advanced topics in slope stability analysis. On April 2nd, Dr. Young-seok Song from KIGAM presented “Shear strength and unsaturated soil fundamental theory” (13:30-14:30), followed by Dr. Jun-young Park from KIGAM on “Stability analysis of soil slopes” (14:30-15:30). Prof. Jung-hae Choi from Kyungpook National University delivered a lecture on “Stability analysis of rock slopes” (15:30-16:30), and Dr. Moon-se Lee from Korea Slope Safety Association concluded the first day with “Landslide/slope stabilization methods and application cases” (16:30-17:30). On April 3rd, Dr. Jung-hyun Lee from Sejong University presented an extended session on “Landslide susceptibility analysis techniques (physics-based model / data-based model)” (09:30-11:30).

The conference also featured a career development program on April 4th, with participation from five major organizations: Korea Mine Reclamation and Technology Corporation (KOMIR), Korea Rural Community Corporation (KRC), Korea Expressway Corporation, Korea Water Resources Corporation (K-water), and Korea Radioactive Waste Agency (KORAD), providing valuable networking and career opportunities for participants.

2025 Second Joint Workshop of the Academic Consortium for Radioactive Waste Disposal

The 2025 Second Joint Workshop of the Academic Consortium for Radioactive Waste Disposal was held at Taebaek O2 Resort on August 5-6, 2025. This workshop was organized by the Academic Consortium for Radioactive Waste Disposal in collaboration with ten leading academic societies: Korea Society of Economic and Environmental Geology (KSEG), Korean Society of Engineering Geology, Geological Society of Korea (GSK), Korean Radioactive Waste Society (KRWS), Korean Society for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering (KSRM), Korean Nuclear Society (KNS), Korean Society of Earth and Exploration Geophysicists, Korean Society of Soil and Groundwater Environment (KSGE), and Korean Society for Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology (KTA). This collaborative workshop brought together researchers, experts, and professionals from diverse geological, geophysical, and nuclear engineering disciplines to address the multidisciplinary challenges in radioactive waste disposal research and to foster inter-society cooperation in advancing safe and sustainable waste management solutions.

MOROCCO

Currently, the Morocco National Group has a total of 7 registered members. Additionally, there are 5 applications in the process of joining. They are actively working on creating the website which will serve as an information and communication platform for their members and the public. This site will allow them to share resources, news, and events related to our activities. It is expected to launch by the end of the year.

A general assembly is scheduled for September 25, 2025. This event will be an opportunity to discuss and plan the future activities and encourage active participation from all members. They hope for strong engagement during this meeting.

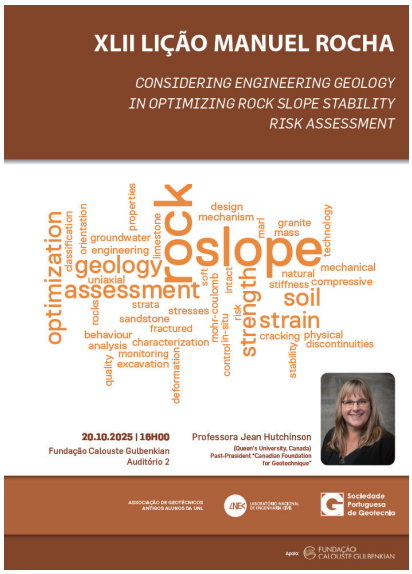
The first conference of the Association for Geology Engineering and Environment, is scheduled for October 26-27, 2026. This event will bring together experts, researchers, and students to exchange the latest advancements. They hope that this conference will be an enriching platform for all participants and that it will contribute to increasing the visibility of the Moroccan group while strengthening the ties among the various stakeholders in the field.

PORTUGAL

The SPG – Portuguese Geotechnical Society, the Association of Geotechnical Alumni of Universidade Nova de Lisboa, and the LNEC – National Laboratory for Civil Engineering jointly organized the XLII Manuel Rocha Lecture, held on October 20 at the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in Lisbon, Portugal.

The lecture proudly welcomed Prof. Jean Hutchinson, distinguished member of the IAEG Advisory Board, who delivered an engaging presentation titled *"Considering Engineering Geology in Optimizing Rock Slope Stability Risk Assessment."* Her lecture highlighted the crucial role of engineering geology in rock slope risk assessment and emphasized modern approaches to enhancing infrastructure safety and resilience. Prof. Ricardo Oliveira, IAEG Honorary President, introduced Prof. Hutchinson, further enriching the session.

The event provided an excellent opportunity for the geotechnical community to reflect on the practical application of scientific research in engineering geology and reinforced the importance of practices grounded in specialized technical knowledge.



Following the XLII Manuel Rocha Lecture, the 1st SPG Gala took place at the Hotel Myriad in Lisbon. The event offered a distinguished setting to celebrate and honour exceptional contributions to geotechnical science. The evening featured the presentation of several prestigious prizes and awards, including the Manuel Rocha Prize, Young Geotechnical Award, and various special distinctions — notably, the SPG Sustainability Award, recognizing the best project employing innovative and sustainable geotechnical techniques in 2024–2025, and the SPG Research Award, honoring the best paper published in an international journal during the same biennium. Individual and corporate members with over 25 and 50 years of affiliation were also recognized.

During the Gala, it was announced that Portugal was selected to host two major upcoming events — the ITA Awards 2026 and the 9th European Geosynthetics Congress (EuroGeo9) in 2029.

The ceremony also paid tribute to the editorial board members of the *Geotecnia* and *Soils and Rocks* journals, to the outgoing SPG Executive Committee, and to the organizing committees of recent international events — the ECSMGE 2024 and the 12th Luso-Brazilian Geotechnics Congress / 8th Luso-Spanish Geotechnics Journeys — acknowledging their dedication and remarkable contributions to the advancement of geotechnical engineering.

Special guests included Prof. Jean Hutchinson, Prof. Ricardo Oliveira, and Prof. Lyesse Laloui, Vice-President for Europe of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.

Prof. Ricardo Oliveira received the SPG Career Award — a well-deserved recognition of his outstanding lifetime achievements and seminal contributions to geotechnical research and practice.

**SINGAPORE*

Singapore has developed a wide range of underground structures over the past decades, including metro tunnels, sewer tunnels, power cable tunnels, shafts and underground stations, as well as large-scale oil storage caverns. Various design and engineering methods have been developed and applied for underground works in rock masses. However, the current codes, criteria, standards, and practices are primarily based on soil mechanics. When projects are executed in rock masses, the design approaches or philosophies of rock mechanics

are seldom applied due to the absence of commonly adopted guidelines or standardized practices.

To address this gap, the Society for Rock Mechanics and Engineering Geology Singapore (SRMEG) has been developing a guideline for the design of underground structures in rock masses through a series of workshops and seminars involving relevant professional societies, authorities, and consultants throughout 2025. The guideline, scheduled for publication in December 2025, will provide general principles and procedures for the design and analysis of underground structures in rock.

In 2026, SRMEG will continue to promote this initiative by organizing joint workshops and seminars with other professional societies, such as the Tunnelling and Underground Construction Society Singapore (TUCSS) and the Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS), to disseminate and advocate the philosophy and principles outlined in the guideline.

USA

At the Closing Ceremony of the AEG Annual Meeting in Chicago, IAEG proudly presented a proposal for future collaboration with AEG.

This initiative marks an exciting step toward stronger partnerships between IAEG and AEG, joint efforts in addressing global engineering geology and environmental challenges, and enhanced opportunities for students and young professionals worldwide.

It is believed that by working together, AEG and IAEG can create even greater impact, advancing science, supporting communities, and building a resilient future.

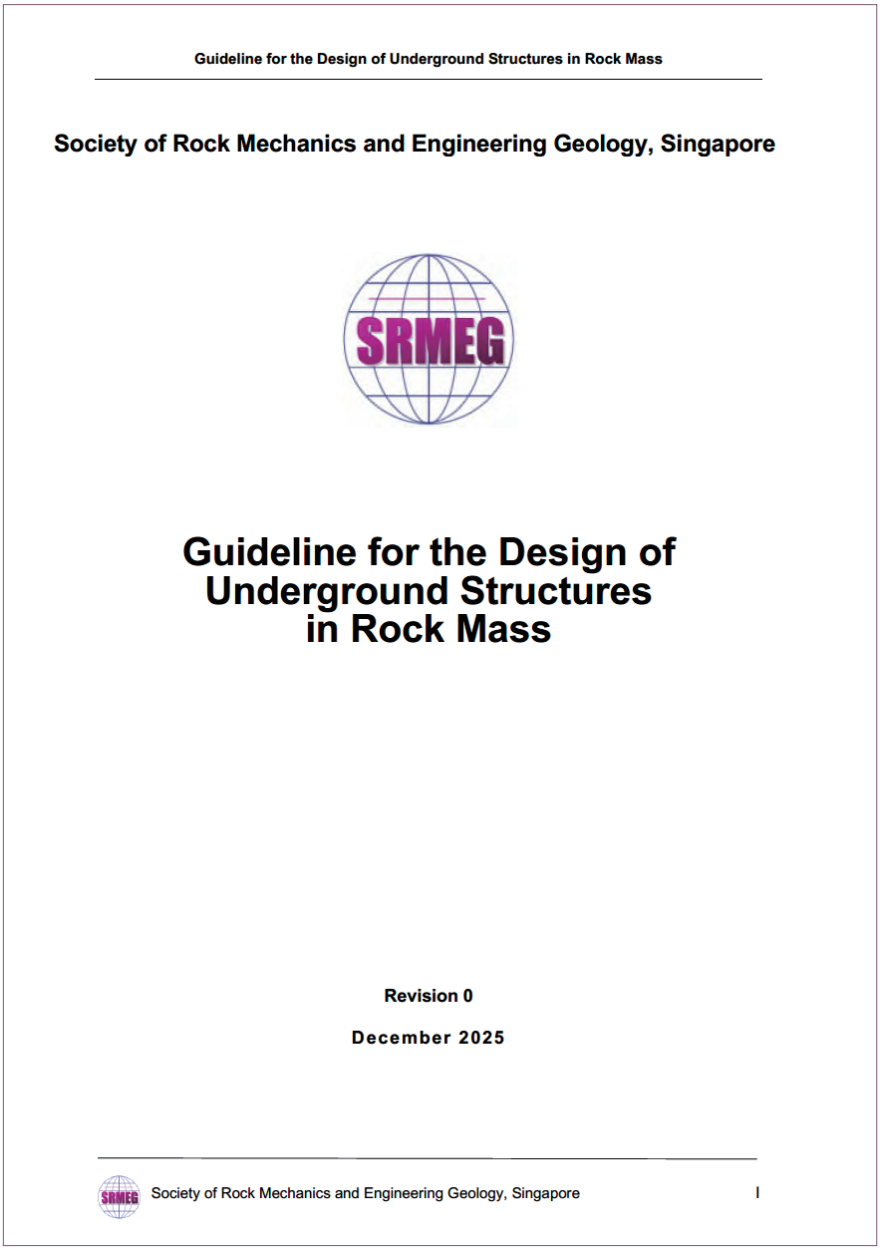
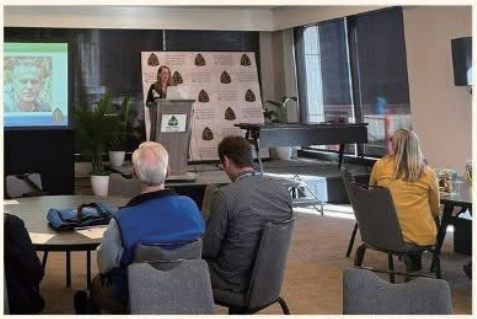


Figure: Cover page of Guideline to be published in December 2025

IAEG Proposal for AEG-IAEG Collaboration



- IAEG at the Closing Ceremony - Presenting our vision for collaboration
- Proud to share IAEG's proposal with AEG members & audience
- Active participation, inspiring discussions, stronger connections

10.
NEWS OF COMMISSIONS

COMMISSION 36

The 6th International Symposium on Unsaturated Soil Mechanics and Waste Disposal (UNSAT-WASTE 2025) concluded successfully in Yichang, China

The 6th International Symposium on Unsaturated Soil Mechanics and Waste Disposal (UNSAT-WASTE 2025) was successfully held in Yichang from September 26th to 29th. The conference was organized by Commission on Waste Disposal (C36) of IAEG, Technical Committee on Unsaturated Soils (TC 106) of ISSMGE, Commission on Radioactive Waste Disposal (ISRM), and Commission on Underground Waste Disposal of CSRME. It was hosted by China Three Gorges University, Tongji University, and École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC). Co-hosts included the Journal of Rock Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, the Chinese Journal of Rock Mechanics and Engineering, and the Rock and Soil Mechanics, as well as China Yangtze Power Co., Ltd. The opening ceremony featured addresses by Prof. Dongsheng Li, Vice President of China Three Gorges University; Prof. Enrique Romero, Chair of TC106; and Prof. Weimin Ye, Chair of C36. The ceremony was presided over by Prof. Huafeng Deng, Dean of the College of Civil Engineering & Architecture at China Three Gorges University.

The conference focused on unsaturated soil mechanics and the safe disposal of high-level radioactive waste. It attracted nearly 200 experts, scholars, and industry representatives from numerous research institutions, universities, and engineering organizations in countries including Finland, France, New Zealand, Switzerland, Singapore, and China. During the symposium, participants engaged in lively and in-depth discussions.

The conference was structured around 2 main sessions and 7 parallel thematic sessions, including 14 keynote presentations, 31 invited lectures, and nearly 90 presentations. Delegates engaged in in-depth discussions and exchanged innovative ideas and solutions across a wide range of topics, such as Advances in unsaturated soils, advances in problematic soils, new advances in waste disposal, new advances in CO_2 and H_2 storage, conservation of rock/soil cultural relics, advanced equipment and testing methods, numerical modelling and analysis, T-H-M-C coupling processes, etc.

At the closing ceremony, the event was brought to a close by Prof. Qiong Wang from Tongji University, who also served as the Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee. Professor Wang delivered a comprehensive summary report and extended a warm invitation to all scholars and experts for the 7th conference, which will be hosted by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University in 2029. Additionally, the awards for outstanding presentations by graduate students were presented by the Chairs of the Academic Committee: Prof. Cui Yujun from École Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées (ENPC), Prof. Ye Weimin from Tongji University, and Prof. Enrique Romero from the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya (UPC).

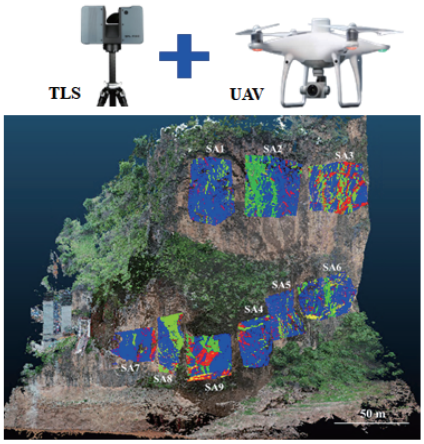
The UNSAT-WASTE conference, as a premier international forum in this field, has consistently been dedicated to fostering dialogue and collaboration among scholars worldwide. The hosting of UNSAT-WASTE 2025 in Yichang not only underscores China's growing international influence in the research of unsaturated soil mechanics and waste disposal but also injects new momentum into promoting the engineering application and standardization of related technologies.

COMMISSION 40

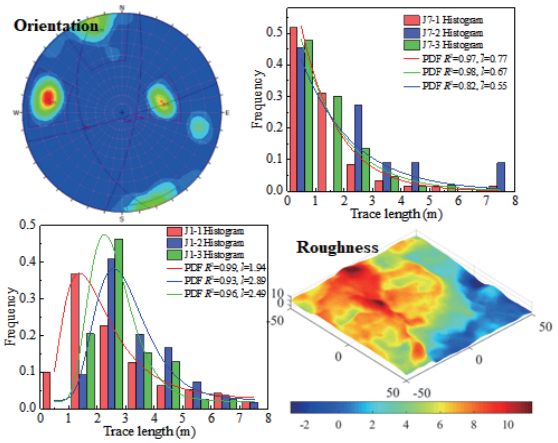
Current Research/Projects Underway:

- **Intelligent characterization of discontinuities and heterogeneity evaluation of potential hazard sources in high-steep rock slope by TLS-UAV technology**

Rock discontinuities within TLS-UAV datasets were systematically identified, enabling quantitative extraction and statistical analysis of key geometric parameters, including orientation, trace length, spacing, and roughness.



Intelligent characterization of discontinuities within high-steep rock slope

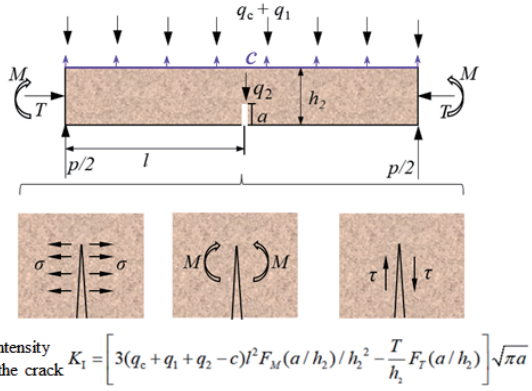


Quantitative extraction and statistical analysis of key geometric parameters

(Liu et al., Journal of Rock Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, 2025)

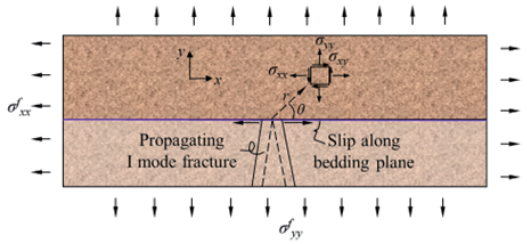
- **Bedding effect on progressive crack propagation in layered sandstone grotto roof**

A fracture mechanics model for crack propagation in layered roofs was established considering the bedding effect, and the criteria for vertical expansion of cracks in grotto roofs was derived. Moreover, the fracture criterion of crack competition was modified in combination with the bedding effect.



Stress intensity factor at the crack $K_I = \left[3(q_c+q_1+q_2-c)l^2 F_M(a/h_2)/h_2^2 - \frac{T}{h_2}F_T(a/h_2)\right]\sqrt{\pi a}$

A fracture mechanics model for crack propagation in layered roofs



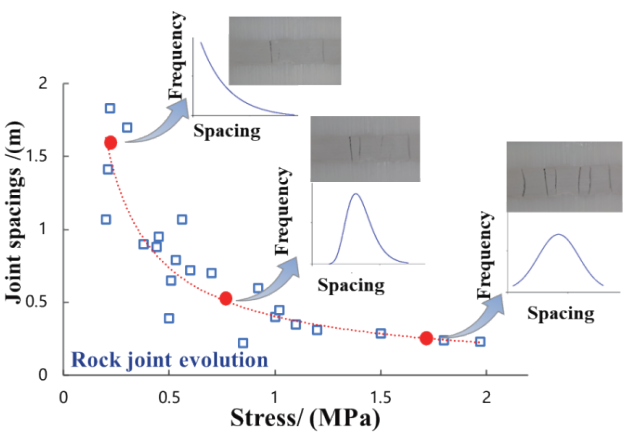
Criterion of interface deflection $\frac{-\sigma^r_{yy}}{\sigma_t - \sigma^r_{xx}} < \frac{\cos\frac{\pi}{4}(1-\sin\frac{\pi}{4}\sin\frac{3\pi}{4}) + \frac{1}{\mu}(|\sin\frac{\pi}{4}\cos\frac{\pi}{4}\cos\frac{3\pi}{4}|)}{\cos\frac{\pi}{4}(1+\sin\frac{\pi}{4}\sin\frac{3\pi}{4})} = \frac{0.35+0.35/\mu}{1.06}$

Fracture criterion of crack competition was modified in combination with the bedding effect

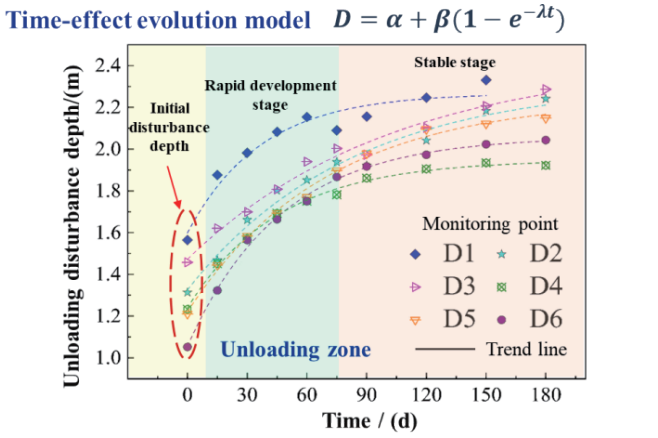
(Liu et al., Tunnelling and Underground Space Technology, 2024)

- **Rapid Assessment Method for Quality Differentiation and Evolution of Rock Masses**

A three-stage evolution law of joint spacing was identified during the rock mass fracturing process, transitioning from a negative exponential distribution to a normal distribution. This reveals the temporal evolution of unloading disturbance depth and leads to the development of a differential evolution model for rock mass quality under disturbance.



Three-stage evolution law of rock joint states

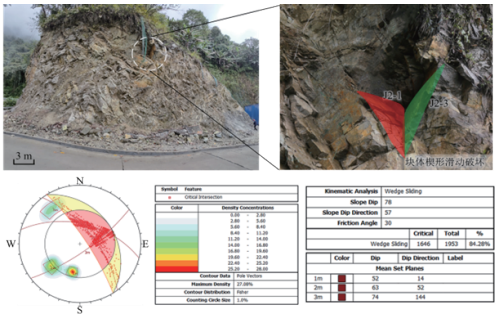


Temporal evolution process of unloading disturbance depth in rock masses

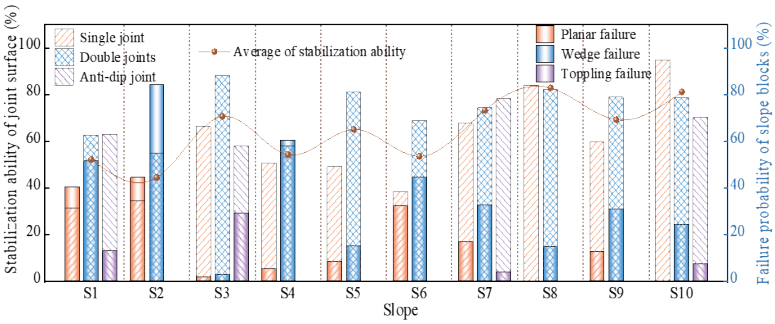
(Bao et al., Journal of Structural Geology, 2024)

- **Failure evaluation and control factor analysis of slope block instability along traffic corridor in Southeastern Tibet**

A rapid method evaluating the control effects of rock mass structures was proposed through field statistics of the slopes and rock mass structures along TCST, which combined the stereographic projection method, modified M-JCS model, and limit equilibrium theory.



Typical wedge failure, control-type joints, and corresponding kinematic analysis result of slope.



Stabilization ability of rock mass structures and instability probability of blocks in representative slopes.

(Liu et al., Journal of Mountain Science, 2024)

11.
2025 MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By October 30, 2025 the number of IAEG memberships is 6573 from 74 national/regional groups.

VP	No.	NG	total	Associate members
Anthony Bowden	1	Australia	561	
	2	New Zealand	815	
Janusz Wasowski	3	Albania		
	4	Austria	21	
	5	Bulgaria	10	
	6	Croatia	29	
	7	Cyprus		
	8	France	103	
	9	Georgia	14	
	10	Greece	84	
	11	Hungary		
	12	Italy	131	
	13	Portugal	63	
	14	Romania	21	
	15	Serbia		
	16	Slovenia		
	17	Spain	19	
	18	Switzerland	61	
	19	Turkey	131	
Helen Reeves	20	Belorussia	8	
	21	Netherlands	37	
	22	Lithuania	18	
	23	The United Kingdom	297	
	24	Belgium	60	
	25	Czech Republic	32	
	26	Denmark		
	27	Estonia		
	28	Finland		
	29	Germany	440	
	30	Iceland		
	31	Ireland		
	32	Norway		

VP	No.	NG	total	Associate members
Helen Reeves	33	Poland	30	
	34	Russia	89	
	35	Slovak Republic	10	
	36	Sweden	48	
	37	Uzbekistan		
Moshood N. TIJANI	38	Algeria	5	
	39	Cameroon		
	40	Kenya		
	41	Nigeria	100	
	42	South Africa	171	
	43	Morocco	7	1
Julien Cohen-Waeber	44	Canada	96	
	45	USA	224	
Francisco de Jorge	46	Argentina	24	
	47	Bolivia	18	
	48	Brazil	516	
	49	Chile	65	
	50	Colombia	9	
	51	Costa Rica	19	
	52	Mexico	17	
	53	Paraguay	40	
	54	Peru	45	
Ranjan Kumar Dahal & Shengwen Qi	55	Bangladesh	72	
	56	Bhutan	21	
	57	China	833	
	58	Chinese Taipei	97	
	59	Cambodia	22	
	60	HongKong	9	
	61	India	121	
	62	Indonesia		
	63	Iran		
	64	Iraq		
	65	Japan	80	6
	66	Korea	19	
	67	Malaysia	23	
	68	Mongolia	27	
	69	Myanmar		
	70	Nepal (NGS)		
		Nepal (NSEG)	534	
	71	Pakistan	55	
	72	Singapore	130	
	73	SEAGS	5	
	74	Vietnam	31	
Individual Member			5	
Associate Member			2	
Total			**6573**	**7**

12.
IAEG CONGRESS

Congress themes in detail

The **IAEG 2026 World Congress** will bring together groundbreaking ideas and expertise, from every continent and every corner of engineering geology. Dive into the congress themes that will shape our future.

Overarching Topics

Climate Change Mitigation &

&

Sustainable Global Development

1. Innovation in Ground Modelling

From Site Investigation to Ground Models.
Showcase of new Engineering Geology tools for (sub)surface investigation and modelling. Emphasis on new technology for geotechnical property determination, 3D modelling, and in situ monitoring. Special attention to challenging environments: offshore, onshore, cities, nature reserves, mountains and outer space.

2. Low Lying, Coastal, Soft Soil Countries

Engineering Geology for a future in densely populated low lying, coastal, deltaic, and soft soil countries. Priority on subsidence, coastal erosion, and flood protection, including water management.

3. Geohazards

Engineering Geology and managing natural and man-made geohazards through identification, monitoring, modelling, prevention, mitigation, and adaptation. Focus on landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes, tsunamis, karst subsidence, droughts, erosion, and flooding. Special attention to cascading multi-hazards.

4. Engineering Geology in the Energy Transition

Role of Engineering Geology in CO_2 sequestration, energy storage, geothermal energy, wind energy, hydropower, and nuclear energy.

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5. Use of the (sub)surface

Emphasis on successes, failures, and forensic analyses in geotechnical engineering. Special attention to challenging environments and prestigious projects.
Engineering Geology focus on mining ores, rare earths and aggregates, induced geohazards, (post)mining risk management, resilient infrastructure, dredging and compensation for nature, building-with nature and smart bio-geomaterials.

6. Environmental Engineering

Engineering Geology for a virtuous clean water cycle and circularity in waste management. Focus areas include landfills, tailings dams, desalination, contaminant transport and treatment, innovative microplastic removal techniques, and sludge recycling.

7. Engineering Geology for preservation of heritage

Highlight of Engineering Geology techniques for the characterization and preservation of geological, archaeological and industrial sites combined with policy and management. Special attention to building stones and ancient mines.

8. EG in the Digital transition and AI revolution

Focus on 3D geo-mapping, learning from big data sets, Artificial Intelligence, and Virtual and Augmented Reality in Engineering Geology.

9. Boosting Engineering Geology

Added value of Engineering Geology. The **B**ulletin **o**f **E**ngineering **G**eology and the Environment: past, present, future. Innovations in Education and training in Engineering Geology. The **Y**oung **E**ngineering **G**eology group and **W**omen in **E**ngineering **G**eology.

A final, key point

The congress will showcase engineering geology across all environments, covering soil and rock conditions from shallow to great depths. Traditional topics in engineering geology remain a vital part of the program and are warmly welcomed. At the same time, we especially encourage contributions that highlight sustainability, with a focus on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Case studies illustrating practical applications are also strongly encouraged.

We appreciate your suggestions. Please share them with us at info@iaeg2026.org.

High visibility for your work

All accepted 250-word abstracts will be published in the open-access *IAEG 2026 Book of Abstracts*.
Optional papers will:

- receive individual DOI numbers,
- be published free of charge in the open-access IAEG 2026 Congress Proceedings, and
- be submitted for indexation in Scopus or an equivalent database.

Important dates

01 Feb 2025	Call for 250-word Abstracts
01 July 2025	**Abstract Submission Deadline**
15 July 2025	Notification of Abstract Acceptance
01 Sep 2025	**Abstract Re-submission Deadline**
01 Nov 2025	Call for Papers*
01 Feb 2026	**Paper Submission Deadline** & Registration opening
01 May 2026	Review comments to authors
01 July 2026	**Paper Re-submission Deadline**
15 July 2026	Notification of presentation acceptance
01 Sep 2026	**Congress Speaker Registration due**
01 Nov 2026	Publication of Book of Abstracts and Congress Proceedings

* with or without an already approved 250-word abstract

Join the IAEG 2026 congress and let us build solutions for a better tomorrow.

Scientific committee
Leon van Paassen, chair
Denise Maljers, co-chair
Dominique Ngan-Tillard, co-chair

13.
REGIONAL CONFERENCE

The 15th Asian Regional Conference of IAEG in Kathmandu, Nepal on November 27-29, 2025

Conference Information

Website: https://arc15.nseg.org.np/

Email: arc15ktm@gmail.com

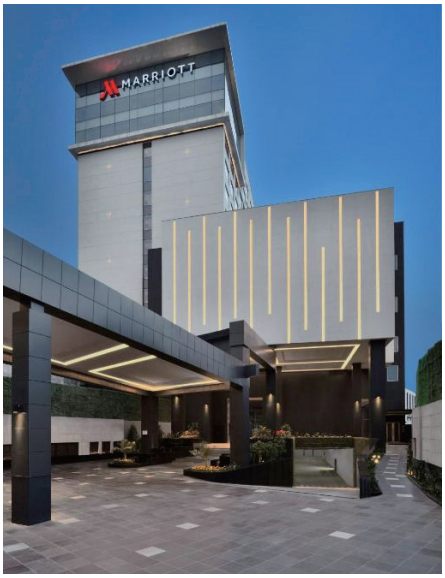
Tel: +9779851060464

Abstract Submit: https://ajeg.nseg.org.np/index.php/ajeg/arc15abstract

Template: https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fnseg.org.np%2FajegTEM.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK

Register: https://arc15.nseg.org.np/registration/

Conference Venue: Marriott Hotel Kathmandu



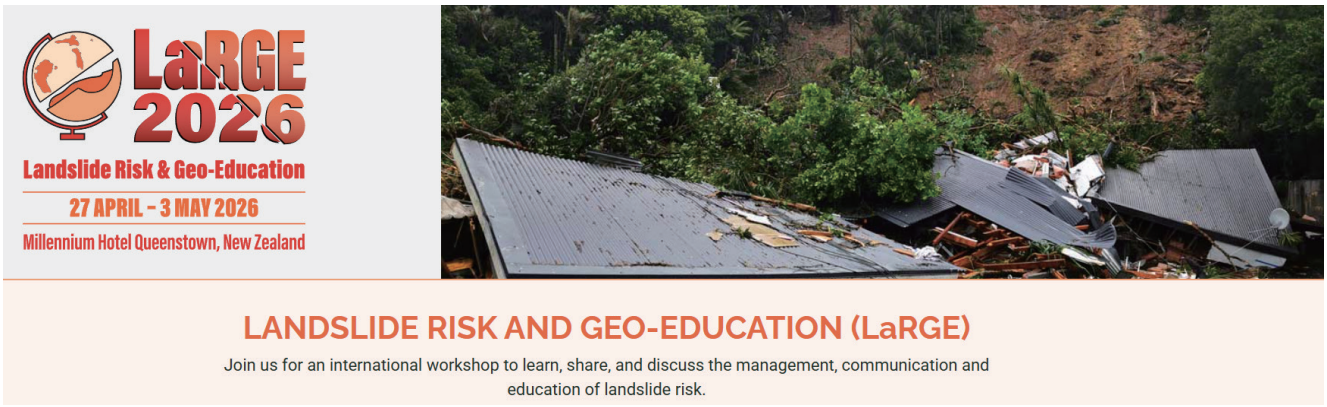
3rd Circular of ARC-15 Announced

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/jeydvvjy3954p7oql0go5/THIRD_Circular.pdf?rlkey=jqvqq2wn3rvo67su4wkvuewko&st=4abv31w5&dl=0 for the 3rd Circular of ARC-15.

14.
MEETING INFORMATION

New Delhi, India, December 1-3, 2025
EGCON 2025

Queenstown, New Zealand, April 27-May 3, 2026
Landslide Risk and Geo-education (LaRGE)



The New Zealand Geotechnical Society is delighted to invite you to the First International Joint Workshop of Joint Technical Committee 1 and Joint Technical Committee 3 on Landslide Risk Assessment, Communication and Geo-education. We will share the latest research and develop best practice guidelines in the stunning New Zealand city of Queenstown.

Our theme "Landslide Risk and Geo-Education" unifies the full lifecycle of landslide risk management. It encompasses the needs to educate the next generation of landslide risk managers, to robustly understand landslide risk, and to communicate that risk to the public and decision makers so that real change is implemented.

This landmark international event unites JTC1 and JTC3 to advance landslide risk assessment, education, communication, and outreach – creating a unique opportunity to make a real change, and will be attended by leading experts from around the world.

Meeting Information

Website: https://landsliderisk.nz/; Email: large2026@confer.co.nz; Tel: +6443841511

Venue: Millennium Hotel Queenstown

Key Dates:

Deadline for paper submission: 23 November

Notification of paper acceptance, with reviewer feedback: mid-December

Deadline for revised paper submission: 25 January 2026

15. CONTACT INFORMATION

IAEG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2023-2026

Vassilis Marinos School of Civil Engineering - Geotechnical Department National Technical University of Athens (NTUA) 9, Iroon Polytechniou Street, 157 80 Zografou **GREECE**	Mob: +30 6944833898 Fax: +30 2310 998530 Mail: marinosv@civil.ntua.gr	President
Rafig Azzam Engineering Geology RWTH Lochnerstr. 4-20 52064 Aachen **GERMANY**	Tel: + 49 241 8095741 Fax: + 49 241 8092280 Mail: azzam@lih.rwth-aachen.de	Immediate past president
WU Faquan Shaoxing University No.508 Huanchengxilu Shaoxing City, Zhejiang Province **CHINA**	Tel: + 86-0575-88346551 Fax: + 86-0575-88346551 Mail: iaegsg@163.com	Secretary general
Jean-Alain Fleurisson MINES Paris – PSL University Centre de Géosciences. 35, rue Saint Honoré. 77305 Fontainebleau **FRANCE**	Tel: +33 1 64 69 48 13 Mob: +33 6 67 91 73 10 Mail: jeanalain.fleurisson@gmail.com	Treasurer
Moshood N. TIJANI (Hydrogeologist/Environmental Geologist) Department of Geology, University of Ibadan, IBADAN **NIGERIA**	Tel: +234(0)8039173275 Mob: +234(0)8023252339 mail: tmoshood@yahoo.com mn.tijani@ ui.edu.ng tmoshood@gmail.com tmoshood@daad-alumni.de	Vice-president for Africa [National groups: Algeria; Cameroon, Kenya, Morocco, Nigeria; South Africa]
Ranjan Kumar Dahal Central Department of Geology, Tribhuvan University, Kirtipur, Kathmandu 44618 **NEPAL**	Tel: +977 1 4112090 Mob: +977 98510 60464 Mail: rkdahal@gmail.com	Vice-president for Asia [National and regional groups: Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Chinese Taipei regional group; Hong Kong regional group; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Japan; Pakistan; South Korea; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Singapore; South-East Asia; Vietnam]
Shengwen Qi Beituchengxilu 19, Chaoyang District, Beijing 100029 P. O. Box 9825 **CHINA**	Tel: +86-10-82998055 Mail: qishengwen@mail.iggcas.ac.cn	Vice-president for Asia [National and regional groups: Bangladesh; Bhutan; Cambodia; China; Chinese Taipei regional group; Hong Kong regional group; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Japan; Pakistan; South Korea; Malaysia; Mongolia; Myanmar; Nepal; Singapore; South-East Asia; Vietnam]
Anthony Bowden 10 Sydney Road East Lindfield NSW, 2070 **AUSTRALIA**	Mob: 0418411749 Mail: anthonyjh.bowden@gmail.com	Vice-president for Australasia [National groups: Australia; New Zealand]

Julien Cohen-Waeber Exponent 15375 SE 30th Place Suite 250 Bellevue, WA 98007 **USA**	Tel: + 1 (425) 519-8758 Mob: + 1 (310) 488-8975 Mail: jwaeber@gmail.com	Vice-president for North America [National groups: Canada; United States of America]
Francisco de Jorge Rua Prof. Artur Ramos, 183 Conj. 64, Jardim Paulistano, São Paulo, SP, CEP 01454-011 **BRAZIL**	Tel: +55 11 3034-6150 Mob: +55 11 99932-0120 Mail: fndejorge@gmail.com	Vice-president for Latin America [National groups: Argentina; Bolivia; Brazil; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Mexico; Paraguay; Peru]
Janusz Wasowski CNR-IRPI Amendola 122i Bari 70126 **ITALY**	Tel: +39 080 5929583 Mob: +39 3338350112 Mail: j.wasowski@ba.irpi.cnr.it	Vice-president for Europe [National groups: Albania; Austria; Bulgaria; Croatia; Cyprus; Estonia; France; Georgia; Greece; Italy; Lithuania; Netherlands; Poland; Portugal; Romania; Slovenia; Serbia (Yugoslavia); Spain; Switzerland; Turkey]
Helen Reeves 74 Hawkstone Ave., Guiseley, Leeds. LS20 8ES **UK**	Tel: +447714367526 Mob: +447714367526 Mail: helen.reeves@jacobs.com	Vice-president for Europe [National groups: Belgium; Belorussia; Czech Republic; Denmark; Finland; Germany; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Kyrgyzstan; Norway; Russia; Slovak Republic; Sweden; United Kingdom; Uzbekistan]
Stratis Karantanellis Department of Earth and Environmental Science SCALE laboratory, University of Michigan, 2534 North University Building 1100 North University Avenue, Ann Arbor **GREECE**	Mob: +30 6947243602 Mail: skarantanellis@gmail.com	Vice-president for Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) Committee

IAEG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE EX OFFICIO MEMBERS 2023-2026

George Papathanassiou School of Geology, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) 54124 Thessaloniki **GREECE**	Mob: +306944430466 Mail: gpapatha@geo.auth.gr	Web Editor in Chief Ex officio member
Arindam Basu Department of Geology & Geophysics Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur, Pin- 721302 India **INDIA**	Tel: +91-3222-283366 Mob: +91-9732527275 Mail: abasu@gg.iitkgp.ac.in abasu.arindam@gmail.com	Bulletin Editor in Chief Ex officio member
Louis N.Y. Wong Department of Earth Sciences The University of Hong Kong Pokfulam Road **HONG KONG**	Mob: +852 67395085 Mail: LNYWONG@hku.hk	Bulletin Editor in Chief Ex officio member
Mark EGGERS Pells Sullivan Meynink G3, 56 Delhi Road North Ryde NSW 2113 **AUSTRALIA**	Tel: +61 2 98125000 Mob: +61 418 677173 Mail: mark.eggers@psm.com.au	Chair of Advisory Board Committee Ex officio member
Jean Hutchinson Dept Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering Miller Hall, 36 Union St Queen's University Kingston, Ontario, K7L 2G8 **CANADA**	Mob: +1 613 770 2623 Fax: +1 613 533 6592 Mail: hutchinj@queensu.ca	Member of Advisory Board Committee Ex officio member
Daniele Giordan CNR-IRPI Strada delle Cacce, 73 10135 Torino **ITALY**	Mob: +39 348 6540198 Fax: +39 011 39.77.821 Mail: daniele.giordan@irpi.cnr.it	Member of Advisory Board Committee Ex officio member
Ann Williams c/- Beca Ltd 21 Pitt St P O Box 6345 Auckland 1141 **NEW ZEALAND**	Mob: +64 21809162 Mail: ann.williams@beca.com	Chair of Women in Engineering Geology (WEG) Committee Ex officio member

IAEG National and Regional Groups

Defrim SHKUPI
President
drusishkupi@gmail.com
ALBANIA

Boulabeiz Mahrez
President
mboulabeiz@univ-khenchela.dz
Daas Amiour Mohamed
Vice President
mohamed.dassamiour@umc.edu.dz
Daifallah Tarek
Secretary
daifallah.tarek@univ-khenchela.dz
ALGERIA

Norberto Jorge Bejerman
President
presidente@asagai.org.ar
ARGENTINA

Tim Thompson
President
chair@australiangeomechanics.org
Jon Gibbs
Secretary
secretary@australiangeomechanics.org
AUSTRALIA

Christian Zangerl
President
christian.J.zangerl@boku.ac.at
Georg Erharter
Secretary
georg.erharter@ngi.no
AUSTRIA

A.T.M.Shakhawat Hossain
President
shakhawathos2004@yahoo.com
Mohammad Feruj Alam
Secretary
ferujgsb@yahoo.com
BANGLADESH

LEGRAIN Hughes
President
h.legrain@bcrc.be
DELHAYE Lionel
Secretary
info@rockengeo.be
BELGIUM

Aleksandr Galkin
President
galkin-alexandr@yandex.ru
Irina Krasovskaya
Secretary
iakrasovskaya@yandex.ru
BELORUSSIA

Karma Tempa
President
karmatempa.cst@rub.edu.bt
Ugyen Dorji
Secretary
ugyendorji.cst@rub.edu.bt
BHUTAN

David Vásquez Torrez
Secretary
davidvasqueztorrez@gmail.com
BOLIVIA

Fabio Soares Magalhães
President
fabio.magalhaes@walmengenharia.com.br
Erik Wunder
Vice President
erik.geomecanica@gmail.com
BRAZIL

Kiril Anguelov
President
angelov@bondys.bg
Ivailo Ivanov
Secretary
bulgeo@dir.bg
BULGARIA

Ligbwah Victor Wotanie
President
ligbwah.victor@ubuea.cm
Tiabou Feudjio Anicet
Secretary
tiaboufa@yahoo.fr
CAMEROON

Rob Kenyon
President
President@cgs.ca
Secretary / Administrator
Lisa Reny
admin@cgs.ca
CANADA

Alejandra Serey Amador
President
Alejandra.serey@uoh.cl
Katherine Toro
Vice President
katherine.toro@gmail.com
Eleonora Muñoz
Secretary
emunoz.emt@gmail.com
CHILE

Tola SREU
President
sreu.tola@gmail.com
Sotheara KONG
Secretary
kongsotheara.edu@gmail.com
CAMBODIA

Faquan Wu
President
wufaquan@mail.iggcas.ac.cn
Shengwen Qi
Secretary
qishengwen@mail.iggcas.ac.cn
P. R. of CHINA

DONG Jia-Jyun
President
jjdong@geo.ncu.edu.tw
YANG Che-Ming
Secretary
stanleyyangcm@gmail.com
CHINESE TAIPEI Regional Group

Monica Fernanda Bedoya-Martinez
President
sociedadcolombianadegeotecnia@scg.org.co
scgeotecnia1@gmail.com
COLOMBIA

Sergio Mora Castro
President
smoracastro@consultarx.com
Randall Carballo Benavides
Secretary
rcarballo.geo@gmail.com
COSTA RICA

Ivan Kosović
President
ikosovic@hgi-cgs.hr
Lovorka Libric
Secretary
llibric@grad.hr
CROATIA

Stavri Pikoula
President
geominescy@gmail.com
Niki Koulermou
Vice-President
niki.koulermou@gmail.com
CYPRUS

Gianvito Scaringi
President
gianvito.scaringi@natur.cuni.cz
CZECH REPUBLIC

Jan Dannemand Andersen
President
jda@geo.dk
John Kærgaard Frederiksen
IAEG representative for the Board of the Danish Geotechnical Society
JRF@ramboll.dk
DENMARK

Johannes PELLO
President
Tallinn Technical University
Room III-217 Ehitajate tee 5
Tallin 19086
ESTONIA

Arto Koskiahde
President
artokoskia@gmail.com
Pekka Ihalainen
Secretary/Treasurer
pekka.ihalainen@ykl.fi
FINLAND

Jean-David Vernhes
President
jean-david.vernhes@unilasalle.fr
Johan Kasperski
Secretary
johan.kasperski@developpement-durable.gouv.fr
FRANCE

Zurab Kakulia
President
zukakulia@yahoo.com
Ludmila Glonti
Secretary
GEORGIA

Kurosch Thuro
President
thuro@tum.de
Managing Director
service@dggt.de
GERMANY

Georgios Stoumpos
President
gstoumpos@emetro.gr
Haris Saroglou
Secretary
saroglou@central.ntua.gr
GREECE

Louis N.Y. Wong
President
lnywong@hku.hk
Hong Kong Regional Group

Akos TOROK
President
torokakos@mail.bme.hu
HUNGARY

Aldís Ingimarsdóttir
President
aldisi@ru.is
Haraldur Sigursteinsson
Secretary
hafdis.e.jonsdottir@vegagerdin.is
ICELAND

Mandapalli Raju
President
geolraju@gmail.com
Mridul Srivastava
Secretary
india.seg@gmail.com
INDIA

Imam A. SADISUN
President
imam@gc.itb.ac.id
INDONESIA

M. Fatemi
President
fatemi@khu.ac.ir
Zieaoddin Shoaei
Secretary
zshoaei@gmail.com
IRAN

AQEEL Al-ADILI
President
aqeeladili@hotmail.com
Jaffar Hussain Al-Zubaydi
Secretary
Jafar_hussain68@yahoo.com
IRAQ

Claudio Margottini
President
claudio.margottini@gmail.com
Martina Cignetti
Secretary
segreteria@iaeg.it
ITALY

OSADA Masahiko
President
Nobusuke Hasegawa
Secretary General
iaeg-japan-ng@jseg.or.jp
Daisuke Yamada
Secretary
daisuke_yamada@kk-grp.jp
JAPAN

Zachary Kuria
President
kuriazack@yahoo.com
Dan Odero
Secretary
odero_dan@yahoo.com
KENYA

Saulius Gadeikis
President
saulius.gadeikis@gf.vu.lt
Ieva Lekstutyte
Secretary
ieva.lekstutyte@chgf.vu.lt
LITHUANIA

Abd Rasid Jaapar
President
arjaapar@gmail.com
Afikah binti Rahim
Secretary
info@segrm.org
MALAYSIA

Cecilia Irene Villaserior Reyes
President
presidencia.amerhid@gmail.com
Marlene Vargas Sánchez
Secretary
secretaria.amrh@gmail.com
Treasurer
tesoreroamerhid@gmail.com
MEXICO

BOLORMAA YANSAN
President
bolormaay@must.edu.mn
ERDENETSETSEG ALTANGEREL
Secretary
erkaa5001@gmail.com
MONGOLIA

Sahar EL KASMI
President
s.elkasmi@um5r.ac.ma
Boubker BOUKILI
Secretary
b.boukili@um5r.ac.ma
MOROCCO

Siefko Slob
President
siefko.slob@cohereconsult.com
Dominique Ngan-Tillard
IAEG representative Ingeokring
D.J.M.Ngan-Tillard@tudelft.nl
NETHERLANDS

Bhaskar Khatiwada
President of Nepal Geological Society
geologistvaskar@gmail.com
Ranjan Kumar Dahal
Nepalese Society of Engineering Geologists
rkdahal@gmail.com

NEPAL

Philip Robins
President
chair@nzgs.org
Teresa Roetman
Secretary
secretary@nzgs.org
NEW-ZEALAND

Waliu O. Adeolu
President
ad_2will@yahoo.com
Lukman Azeez
Secretary
naegesecretariat@gmail.com
NIGERIA

Basit Masub
President
basitgtec@gmail.com
Mian Sohail Akram
Secretary
info.aegp@gmail.com
sohail.geo@pu.edu.pk
PAKISTAN

Sandra Paula Villacorta Chambi
President
villacortasp@gmail.com
Claudia Sanchez
Secretary
clau.san5h@gmail.com
PERU

Juan Nicolás Zabrodiec
President
info@spg.org.py
PARAGUAY

Pawel Dobak
President
p.dobak@uw.edu.pl
Beata Łuczak Wilamowska
Secretary
b.luczakw@uw.edu.pl
POLAND

Paulo da Venda Oliveira
President
pjvo@dec.uc.pt
Magda Roque
Secretary
mcrroque@gmail.com
PORTUGAL

Mihaela Stănciucu
President
stanciucumihaela@yahoo.com
Alexandru Balint
Secretary
alexandruioan.balint@yahoo.com
ROMANIA

Eugene A. Voznesensky
President
arnoldych@gmail.com
Olga N. Eremina
Secretary
sci-council@geoenv.ru
RUSSIA

Danusorn Korkusol
Secretary
seags@ait.ac.th
SEAGS

Biljana Abolmasov
President
biljana.abolmasov@rgf.bg.ac.rs
Vladimir Filipović
Vice President
vladimir.filipovic@sicip.co.rs
SERBIA

Wei Wu
President
wu.wei@ntu.edu.sg
Beatrice Goh
Secretary
srmeg.sg@gmail.com
SINGAPORE

Martin Ondrasik
President
martin.ondrasik@stuba.sk
SLOVAKIA

SUZANA SVETLIČIČ
President
suzana.svetlicic@dri.si
Timotej Verbovšek
Secretary
timotej.verbovsek@ntf.uni-lj.si
SLOVENIA

Robert Leyland
President
president@saieg.co.za
Yolandé van den Berg
Secretary
secretariat@saieg.co.za
SOUTH AFRICA

Hyuk-Jin Park
President
hjpark@sejong.ac.kr
Jaehyung Yu
Secretary
jaeyu@cnu.ac.kr
SOUTH KOREA

Carlos Delgado
President
carlos.delgado@upm.es
Javier Olmedo
Secretary General
SPAIN

Fanny Deckner
President
fanny.deckner@geomind.se
Patrik Vidstrand
Secretary
patrik.vidstrand@befoonline.org
SWEDEN

Diego Pozzorini
President
diego.pozzorini@inggeol.ch
Marco Filipponi
Secretary
marco.filipponi@inggeol.ch
info@inggeol.ch
SWITZERLAND

Remzi Karagüzel
President
remzikaraguzel@gmail.com
Halil KUMSAR
Secretary
kumsarh@gmail.com
TURKEY

Helen Reeves
President
helen.reeves@jacobs.com
UNITED KINGDOM

Sarah Kalika
President
president@aegweb.org
Sheri Maskow
Secretary
manager@aegweb.org
U.S.A.

Yu. D. Magrupov
Chairman
Abdukhalik Saparov
Secretary
info@uzgashkliti.uz
UZBEKISTAN

Ta Duc Thinh
President
taducthinh_dcct@yahoo.com
Pham Huy Giao
Vice President
Giaoph@pvu.edu.vn
hgiao@ait.asia
Nguyen Thanh Duong
Secretary
nguyenthanhduong@humg.edu.vn
VIETNAM

IAEG Commissions

C04 Education
Vassilis Marinos
President
marinosv@civil.ntua.gr

C10 Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks
Björn SCHOUENBORG
President
bjorn.schouenborg@ri.se
Nike LUODES
Secretary
nike.luodes@gtk.fi

C17 Aggregates
Atiye TUGRUL
President
tugrul@iuc.edu.tr
tugrulatiye@gmail.com
Murat YILMAZ
Secretary
yilmazm@iuc.edu.tr

C21 Engineering Geology of Permafrost Regions
Edward Yarmak
President
eyarmak@arcticfoundations.com
Dmitry Sergeev
Secretary
sergueevdo@mail.ru

C24 Neotectonics and Geohazard
Yin Yueping
President
yyueping@mail.cgs.gov.cn
Zhang Yongshuang
Secretary
zhys100@hotmail.com

C25 Use of Engineering Geological Models
Fred Baynes
President
fredb@iinet.net.au

C28 Reliability quantification of the geological model in large civil engineering projects
Antonio DEMATTEIS
President
antonio.dematteis@lombardi.group
Giovanna VESSIA
Secretary
g.vessia@unich.it

C29 Structure and Behavior of Soil and Rock Mass
Shengwen Qi
President
qishengwen@mail.iggcas.ac.cn
Li Lihui
Secretary
lhli2942@mail.igcas.ac.cn

C34 Marine Engineering Geology
JIA Yonggang
President
yonggang@ouc.edu.cn
Liu Xiaolei
Secretary
xiaolei@ouc.edu.cn

C35 Monitoring Methods and Approaches in Engineering Geology Applications
Daniel Giordan
President
daniele.giordan@irpi.cnr.it

C36 Engineering Geology for Waste Disposal
YE Weimin
President
ye_tju@tongji.edu.cn
CHEN Yonggui
Secretary
cyg@tongji.edu.cn

C37 Landslide Nomenclature
Hengxing Lan
President
lanhx@lreis.ac.cn
Renato Macciotta
Secretary
macciott@ualberta.ca
Langping Li
Secretary
iaeg_c37@163.com

C38 Rockmass Characterization with Emphasis in Rock Slope Hazards
Haris Saroglou
President
saroglou@central.ntua.gr
Christian Zangerl
Secretary
christian.j.zangerl@boku.ac.at

C39 Naturally Occurring Asbestos
R. Mark Bailey
President
Mark@AsbestosTEMLabs.com
Francesco Turci
Vice President
francesco.turci@unito.it
Sarah Kalika
Secretary
sarah@georx.ne

C40 Engineering Geomechanics for Rock Mass
Faquan Wu
President
Iaegsg@163.com
Han Bao
Secretary
baohan@chd.edu.cn

C41 Cascading Geohazards
Zhenming Shi
President
shi_tongji@tongji.edu.cn
Ming Peng
Secretary
pengming@tongji.edu.cn

C42 Engineering Geology for the sustainable conservation of ancient monuments and archaeologic sites
Claudio Margottini
President
claudio.margottini@gmail.com

C43 Dams & Levees
Visty P. Dalal
President
visty.dalal@maryland.gov
Brian Greene
Secretary
bgreene@gfnet.com