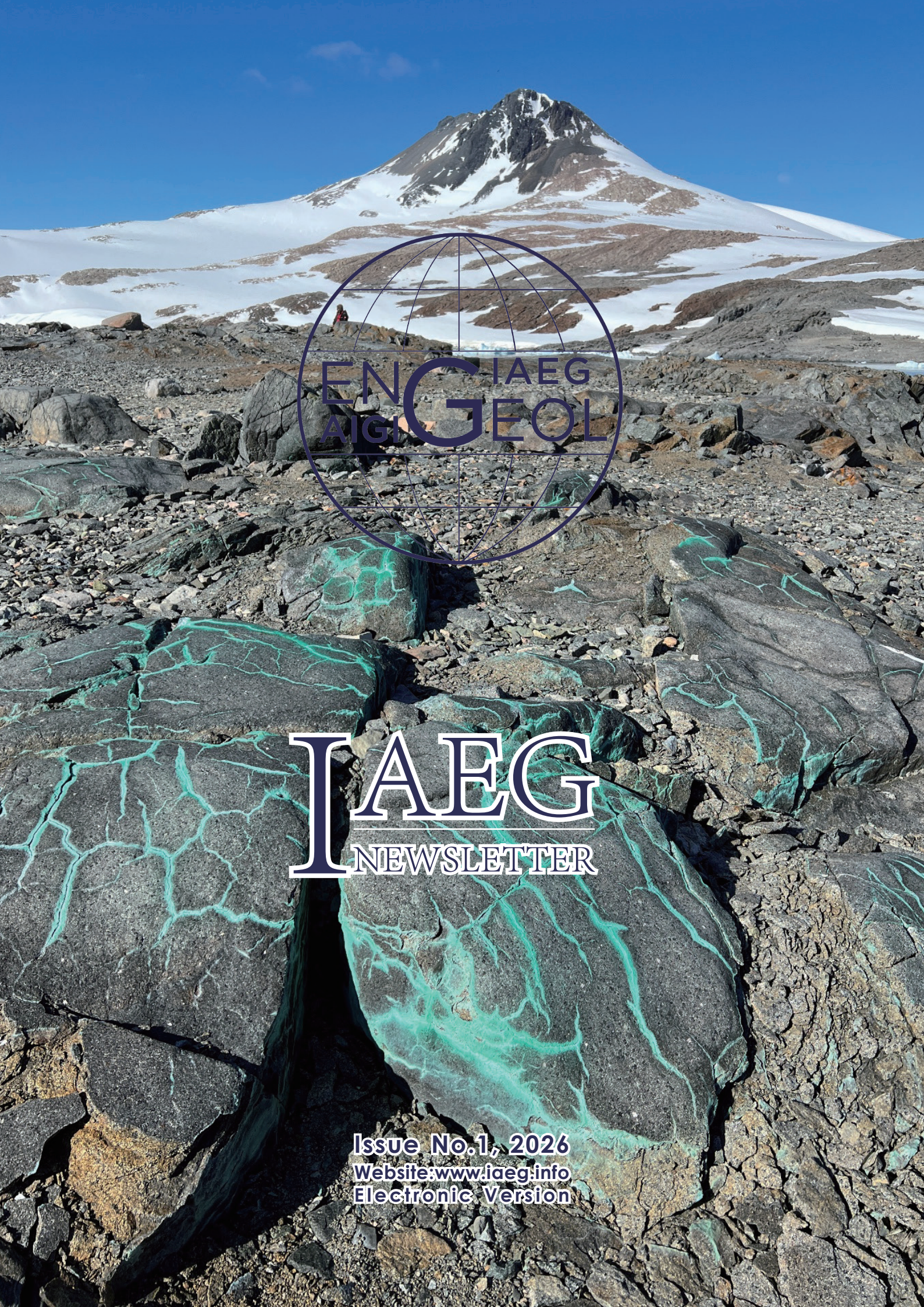


IAEG NEWSLETTER

Issue No.1, 2026
Website:www.iaeg.info
Electronic Version

Issue No.1, 2026
Website:www.iaeg.info
Electronic Version

COVER STORY

Horseshoe Island, West Antarctican

Horseshoe Island is a small island 12 km long and 6 km across, occupying the entrance to Square Bay, along the west coast of Graham Land, Antarctica. The island forms part of the Antarctic Peninsula in West Antarctica. The geology of the peninsula and its associated islands was largely formed in the cauldron of a now-extinct subduction zone west of the peninsula. The resulting arc magmatism was responsible for the formation of the gabbros that host the vibrantly green malachite veins seen in the cover image. Malachite is a copper carbonate mineral, and the veins formed as a result of mineral precipitation within joints from copper-bearing fluids and subsequent oxidation. The Antarctic Peninsula is one of the Earth's fastest-warming regions, heating up nearly 3°C in the last 50 years, which is about five times the global average, leading to significant glacier melt, ice shelf collapses, and accelerated ice loss impacting sea levels, with West Antarctica also warming rapidly. The photo was taken close to Station Y, a British Antarctic Survey research station that was active from 1955-1960 for purposes of research into geology, meteorology and geophysics.

Text and photographs by Prof. Atle Rotevatn, University of Bergen, Norway

Contents

Issue No.1, 2026

1.
NEWS OF PRESIDENT

Message From IAEG President Vassilis P. Marinos

I am proud to see our global Engineering Geology community continuing to grow with such strength and purpose.

A +34.5% membership increase in just two years and more than 6,600 members worldwide is not only a milestone, it is a clear signal of the global momentum of our discipline.

Under IAEG's vision, the active involvement of Women in Engineering Geology (WEG), early-career professionals and young colleagues is not only encouraged but it is essential to the sustainable growth of our discipline.

What makes this growth even more meaningful is that nearly 30% of our community is made up of Young Engineering Geologists (YEG). Their energy, innovation and commitment are shaping the future of our profession and reinforcing its relevance in addressing today's complex challenges.

This progress reflects the dedication of our members across all regions, our national groups and our volunteers who work tirelessly to advance engineering geology worldwide.

Together, we are not only growing, we are strengthening the impact of our profession globally.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to this shared journey with many efforts to promote and develop our profession.

-By Vassilis P. Marinos
President of IAEG

New IAEG Podcast Series More Than Rocks: An Initiative by Dr. Louise Vick

The International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) is pleased to announce the launch of its new official podcast series, ***More Than Rocks***, an important new initiative aimed at highlighting the people, experiences, and professional journeys that shape the global engineering geology community.

The podcast series has been introduced and led by Dr Louise Vick, Associate

Professor, Department of Geosciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway, whose vision and dedication have made this initiative possible. On behalf of IAEG, the President Vassilis P. Marinos was honored to participate in the first recorded episode of this new series.

The inaugural episode of the IAEG podcast was recorded in Tromsø, Norway, on Thursday, 5 March 2026, marking the beginning of what promises to be a valuable platform for knowledge exchange, professional reflection and inspiration for current and future generations of engineering geologists worldwide.

More Than Rocks is more than a podcast; it is a journey into the fascinating world of engineering geology. Through candid and thought-provoking interviews with leading practitioners and scientists, the series explores what it truly means to be an Engineering Geologist.

In Season One, the podcast will follow the unique career paths of professionals from around the globe, examining their education, experiences, achievements, challenges, and the lessons learned throughout their professional lives. These open and engaging conversations provide rare insights into the diverse roles and personal stories of those shaping the field today. The inaugural discussion, recorded over approximately two hours and will develop a 45-minute episode, following the broad arc of the President's professional career, including reflections on memorable projects, lessons learned from challenges and setbacks and advice for the next generation of engineering geologists.

This new initiative reaffirms IAEG's commitment to fostering dialogue, sharing professional experiences and strengthening the identity of engineering geology as a global discipline.

Members and friends of IAEG are warmly invited to follow the series and discover the many stories that reveal that our profession is indeed *more than rocks*.

IAEG extends its warmest congratulations and sincere appreciation to Dr Louise Vick for her outstanding voluntary contribution to the Association and to the advancement of our profession.

Her commitment and enthusiasm in developing this platform represent a significant service to the international engineering geology community.

IAEG also wish to express its gratitude to Ellery, Dr Vick's husband, for generously providing his professional studio facilities and technical oversight, ensuring the high quality of the inaugural recording.

All episodes of Season 1 will be released together once it is completed. Updates regarding the release schedule will be provided.

IAEG President Delivers Keynote Address at Sweden's National Rock Mechanics Day 2026

The International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) is pleased to announce the participation of its President as the invited international guest speaker at the National Rock Mechanics Day – Bergmekanikdagen 2026, organized by the Swedish Association for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering, held on 3 March 2026 in Stockholm, Sweden.

Bergmekanikdagen forms part of a distinguished two-day professional event accompanied by a technical exhibition and annually attracts approximately 800 participants from the fields of rock mechanics, rock engineering, mining and underground construction. The event maintains a longstanding tradition of opening with a keynote address by a distinguished international speaker and the invitation extended to the President of IAEG reflects the continued recognition of the Association's leading role in advancing engineering geology worldwide.

The keynote lecture delivered was entitled:

"Linking Rock Mass Characterization to Ground Behaviour in Civil and Mining Engineering Practice."

In addition, on the preceding day, the President delivered a half-day seminar at the KTH Royal Institute of Technology, titled:

"Advancements in Tunnelling: The Role of Engineering Geology in Rock Engineering Design and Construction over the Last 30 Years."

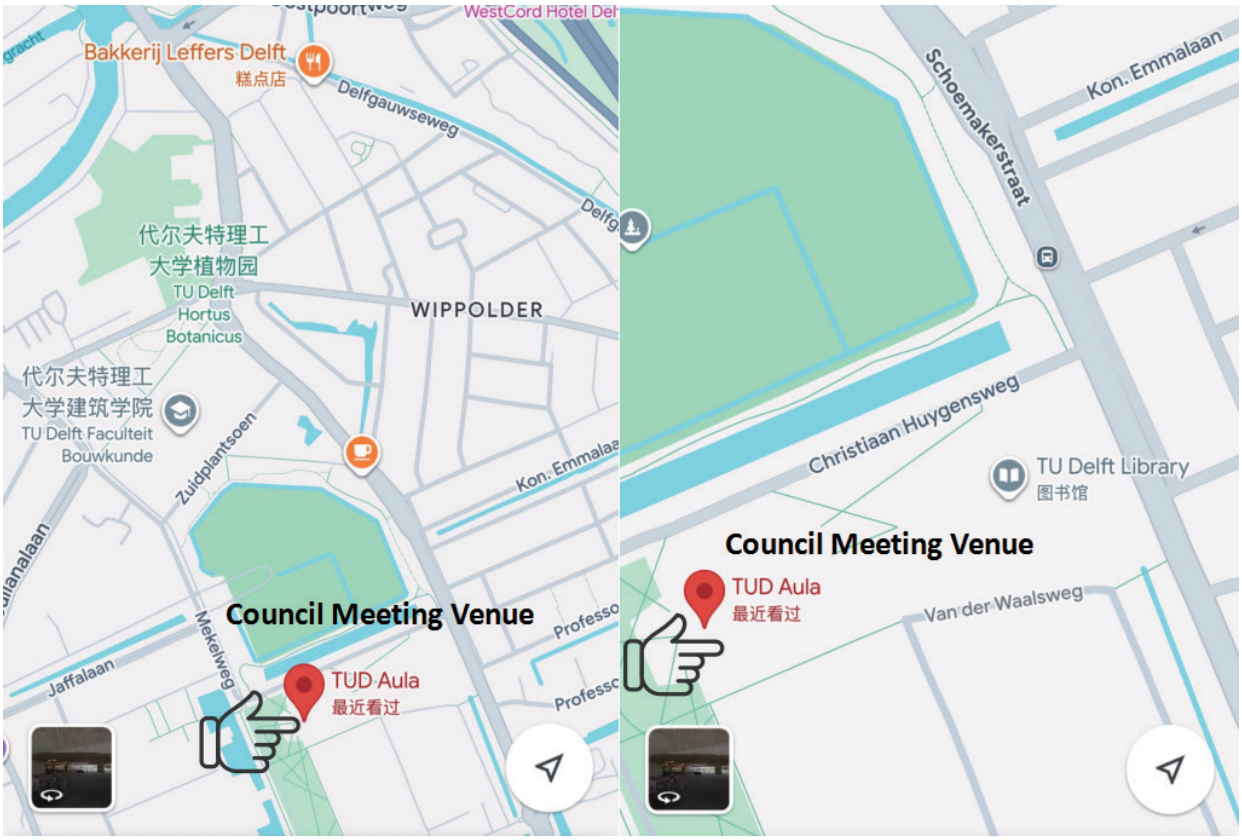
These contributions highlighted the essential role of engineering geology in contemporary rock engineering design, tunnelling and mining practice, while also emphasizing the significant progress achieved over the past three decades in the integration of geological knowledge with engineering solutions.

The IAEG extends its sincere appreciation to Patrik Vidstrand, Catrin Edelbeo, Robert Swindell and Eva Friedman for their warm hospitality and excellent organization and expresses its gratitude to the Swedish Association for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering for the invitation and for fostering such an important international forum for scientific and professional exchange.

This engagement further strengthens the collaboration between the engineering geology and rock engineering communities and reaffirms IAEG's commitment to promoting excellence, knowledge exchange and international cooperation in the geosciences and engineering disciplines.

2. ANNOUNCEMENT OF DATES AND VENUE OF 2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND COUNCIL MEETINGS

The 2026 Executive Committee meeting is going to take place on October 30th, 2026 and Council meeting on November 1st, 2026 in Delft, Netherlands during the XV IAEG World Congress. The venue of the two meetings is located in the Delft University of Technology. IAEG Council members who are planning to attend the meetings may visit the official conference web page https://www.iaeg2026.org for registration and hotel reservation in advance.



Venue of 2026 IAEG Council Meeting:
TU Delft Aula, Mekelweg 5, 2628 CC Delft, Auditorium
Location Map:
https://maps.app.goo.gl/oDCQ7CFKJBkFrKbU7?g_st=com.google.maps.preview.copy

3.
2026 EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

On March 11th, 2026 the IAEG Extraordinary Council Meeting was successfully held online via the Zoom platform, totally 63 members attended the online meeting. The President Vassilis Marinos chaired the meeting. The main task of the meeting is approving the proposed revised items of IAEG Bylaws and Statutes. The first initial of the legal review of IAEG Bylaws and Statutes was organized in April, 2024 and presented to the Council in 2024 at the Council meeting in Dubrovnik by the working group of Bylaws and Statutes revision. Final updates recommended by lawyers was presented to the Council in September, 2025 and a final draft was circulated to the Council for review in October, 2025. At the extraordinary Council Meeting, the Council has officially approved all the proposed changes on IAEG Bylaws and Statutes.

The President announced that the FedIGS has decided to hold the FedIGS Mega Conference in 2030, a task group of IAEG is coordinating this process. A proposal was put forward to shift the date of IAEG 2030 Congress to 2031, to avoid the conflict with FedIGS 2030 Mega Conference. The Council approved the proposal of changing the date of IAEG XIV World Congress to 2031.

Representatives from the organizing committee of 2026 XV IAEG World Congress Dominique Ngan-Tillard reported to the Council on the recent organizing progress of the Congress, 683 submissions from 80 NGs/RGs received by 3 Nov, 2026 and 9 themes are good covered by 300 papers and 380 abstracts.

The President has delivered an over review report on IAEG's forthcoming actions in 2026 including membership recruitment with new platform on website, Professional Standards for a wide range of applications in engineering geology, Technical Committee evaluation, YEG and WEG promotions, summer school, upcoming conferences, collections of nominations of IAEG awards and election of the IAEG Officers for term 2027-2030.

4.
CALL FOR IAEG OFFICERS OF 2027-2030

IAEG is proud to announce the call for nominations for officers of IAEG Executive Committee for 2027-2030, including the President, Secretary General, Treasurer and Vice Presidents for geographic regions. Should you have any inquiries or require assistance regarding the nomination process, please feel free to contact IAEG Secretariat via iaegsg@163.com.

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

President:	**Vassilis Marinos**
Past President:	Rafig Azzam
Secretary General:	Wu Faquan
Treasurer:	Jean-Alain Fleurisson
Vice Presidents:	
Africa:	Moshood Niyi Tijani
Asia:	Ranjan Kumar Dahal Shengwen Qi
Australasia:	Anthony Bowden
Europe:	Janusz Wasowski Helen Reeves
North America:	Julien Cohen-Waeber
Latin America:	Francisco Nogueira de Jorge
YEG	Stratis Karantanellis

Professor Faquan Wu
IAEG Secretary General
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Zhejiang Province, 312000, China
Tel/Fax: +86-575-88346551
Mobile: +86-13910509506
Email: iaegsg@163.com

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS OF IAEG EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR TERM 2027-2030

All National/Regional Groups and members of the Executive Committee and the Council,

This is a call for nominations for officers of IAEG Executive Committee for term 2027-2030 including president, secretary general, treasurer and vice presidents for geographic regions.

Please send the following materials to the Secretary General before **July 15th, 2026:**

a) a formal recommendation letter signed by the recommender;
b) a CV of the candidate;
c) a statement of the candidate for his/her plan of performance.
d) a brief, up to 5 minutes, video presenting your candidacy.

For more detailed information, please refer to the IAEG Bylaws, Part A 4.0, and the description of the posts in the ToR (Terms of Reference) document, available on the IAEG website on 1 April 2026.

Kind regards,

V. Marinos

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu

Faquan Wu
Secretary General

5.
CALL FOR 2026 IAEG AWARDS

Call for 2026 IAEG Awards

IAEG is proud to announce the call for nominations for 2026 awards. We invite you to nominate distinguished members for the following prestigious honors:

- Hans Cloos Medal
- Marcel Arnould Medal
- Richard Wolters Prize
- Paul Marinos Distinguished Lecture Tour
- Honorary Membership
- Science and Technology Awards
- International Research Program of IAEG (IRP-IAEG)

These awards are established to recognize and celebrate the exceptional contributions and dedication of our members to the field of engineering geology and the Association. Detailed information regarding the specific criteria, required documents, and deadlines for each award can be found in the following posters. We strongly encourage all National and Regional Groups to review these guidelines carefully and submit their nomination prior to the specified deadlines. Should you have any inquiries or require assistance regarding the nomination process, please feel free to contact IAEG Secretariat via iaegsg@163.com . We look forward to receiving your nominations and celebrating the outstanding achievements of our community.

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

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF IAEG HANS CLOOS MEDAL 2026

All National/Regional Groups, the members of Executive Committee and the Council,

This is to call for the nominations of Hans Cloos Medal for 2026. This medal, awarded biannually, is the senior award presented by IAEG, given to an engineering geologist of outstanding merit in commemoration of the "founder of geomechanics". The recipient should therefore be a person of international repute who has made a major contribution to engineering geology.

Candidate should be member of IAEG. Nomination will normally be made by a National/Regional Group but members of the Executive Committee and Council may also propose individuals. **The Nomination should be sent to the Secretary General before May 31st, 2026** including the following documents:

a) a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.
b) a list of publications, identifying the three most important papers.
c) a statement of support for the nominee which should not be longer than two A4 pages.

The winner, selected by Executive Committee, will be announced at proper time in 2026.

For more information, please refer to Bylaws Part E. Awards and Prizes.

Best regards,

V. Marinos

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu

Faquan Wu
Secretary General

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

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF IAEG MARCEL ARNOULD MEDAL 2026

All National/Regional Groups, the members of Executive Committee and the Council,

This is to call for the nominations of Marcel Arnould Medal for 2026. This Medal is named after one of the founders of IAEG, the former President and Honorary President, Marcel Arnould, and awarded to an IAEG member who has made a significant contribution to the engineering geology profession in their region and given outstanding service to the Association.

The candidate should be member of IAEG. Nominations will normally be made by National/Regional Group but members of the Executive Committee and Council may also propose individuals.

The Nomination for the candidate should be sent to the Secretary General before May 31st, 2026, 2026 including the following documents:

a) a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.
b) a statement of support for the nominee which demonstrates the candidate's service to the IAEG and to the engineering geological profession in his/her region and/or given outstanding service to the Association. The statement should not be longer than two pages A4 paper.

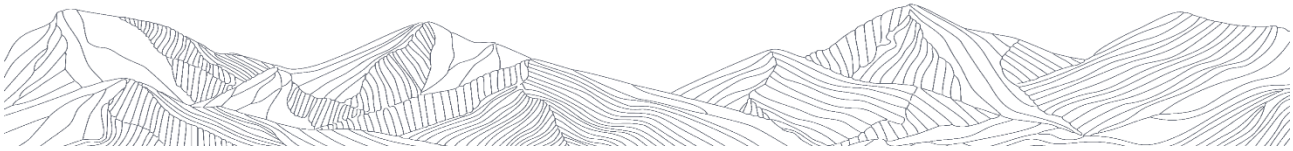
The winner, selected by Executive Committee, will be announced after July 1st, 2026.

For more information, please refer to Bylaws Part E. Awards and Prizes.

Best regards,

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu
Secretary General



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF IAEG RICHARD WOLTERS PRIZE 2026

All National/Regional Groups, the members of Executive Committee and the Council,

This is to call for the nominations of Richard Wolters Prize. This prize is awarded biannually to commemorate the life and work of Dr. Richard Wolters for his significant achievements in the advancement of engineering geology and the development of IAEG. **The candidates should be members of IAEG and less than 35 years of age on January 1st 2026.**

The Nominations for the candidates should be sent to the Secretary General before July 1st, 2026, 2026 including the following documents:

a) a copy of the nominee's curriculum vitae.
b) a list of publications, identifying the three most important papers.
c) a statement of support for the nominee which should not be longer than two A4 pages including confirmation that the candidate will attend the contesting for the prize.

The competition for selecting the winner will be organized by the Jury Committee, and the date of the candidates' presentations will be announced at a later date. The presentations will be held during the XV IAEG World Congress in Delft. The winner is expected to give a short version of his/her work in a plenary session in the XV World Congress of IAEG.

For more information, please refer to Bylaws Part E. Awards and Prizes and the attached RWP procedure.

Best regards,

V. Marinos

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu

Faquan Wu
Secretary General

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/c6yd7ytfmjwfvxf634alt/3.2Richard-Wolters-Prize-2026-Procedure.pdf?rlkey=zesuemdqb2ikpel4npbov3cpn&st=8895wv5k&dl=0 for the procedure of Richard Wolters Prize.

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF PAUL MARINOS DISTINGUISHED WORLD TOUR LECTURE FOR 2026

All National/Regional Groups, members of Executive Committee and the Council,

The 2026 Paul Marinos Distinguished World Tour Lecture of IAEG is officially launched.

The Paul Marinos Distinguished World Tour Lecture is a newly established award by the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) to commemorate the contributions in the field of Engineering Geology of the Past President and Honorary President of the Association the late Professor Paul Marinos.

The notification is calling for nominations of Paul Marinos distinguished world tour lecture for 2026. This lectureship provides the opportunity for an Engineering Geologist of outstanding merit who, through research or practice, has contributed to the advancement of Engineering Geology and Environment, to present a series of lectures about Engineering Geology and Environmental Geology in a two-year period to a diverse audience of professionals, academics and students around the world.

Candidates should be members of IAEG. Nomination will normally be made by a National/Regional Group but members of the Executive Committee and Council may also propose individuals. Nominees must not be currently serving on IAEG Executive Committee. The nominee should meet the characteristics listed below:

(1) Member of IAEG.

(2) A person of international repute who has made a major contribution to Engineering Geology in his/her written papers or to the development of Engineering Geology.

(3) An expert in Engineering Geology and Environment with various consultancy activities regarding important construction works which addressed very challenging engineering geology problems.

(4) Expected to represent the International Association of Engineering Geology and Environment as an effective ambassador for the profession and scientific society.

(5) An experienced and articulate public speaker who is comfortable speaking to different audiences in English in person.

(6) Willing to volunteer personal time to instruct and share knowledge with other IAEG members.

(7) Willing to travel to all regions of IAEG (Europe, Asia, Australasia, Africa, North and South America) and give at least 2-3 lectures in each region in two-year period. A number of 4-5 lectures per region, though, would be ideal, based on the financial and time possibilities.

The Nomination should be sent to the Secretary General before May 31st, 2026.

For more information please refer to Administrative Measures for Paul Marinos Distinguished World Tour Lecture of IAEG.

Best regards,

V.Marinos

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu

Faquan Wu
Secretary General

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/e8f4z6zaz5956mz1kqd7a/2026-Administrative-Measures-for-Paul-Marinos-Distinguished-World-Tour-Lecture.pdf?rlkey=bq5y4y27anjalgrxe6nlx4z9g&st=f5p1e9kf&dl=0 for the administrative measures for Paul Marinos Distinguished World Tour Lecture.

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF IAEG HONORARY MEMBERSHIP 2026

All National/Regional Groups, the members of Executive Committee and the Council,

This is to call for nominations of Honorary Membership for 2026.

According to statement in the Bylaws, Honorary membership is proposed by the Executive Committee on grounds of exceptional services to the Association. Approval by the Council is needed by a two-third majority vote. Propositions refer to members with no current activities within the Executive Committee of the Association. Propositions should be given by a well documented report from one of the National/Regional Groups or one of the members of the Executive Committee.

Honorary members are listed separately in the directory of the Association and are not required to pay membership fees.

Please send the following materials to the Secretary General before March 31st, 2026:

a) a recommendation letter introducing the candidate by one of the National/Regional Groups or one of the members of the Executive Committee;
b) a CV of the candidate.

The result, selected by Executive Committee, will be announced after the 2026 Council Meeting.

Best regards,

V. Marinos

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu

Faquan Wu
Secretary General

Professor Faquan Wu
IAEG Secretary General
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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS OF THE SECOND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AWARDS OF IAEG (2026)

All National and Regional Groups, the members of Executive Committee and the Council,

The Second Science and Technology Awards of IAEG (STA-IAEG) will be awarded at the occasion of 15th IAEG World Congress on October 30th - November 6th, 2026 in Delft, Netherlands.

Aiming at promotion of the development of the engineering geology discipline, the STA-IAEG, awarded biannually, includes two separate prizes: **the Academic Achievement Award (AAA) and the Technology Progress Award (TPA)**. The AAA is awarding outstanding new developments in understanding and the TPA is awarding innovative new methods, new technologies, new processes, new software, new materials or new equipment in the field of engineering geology and the environment.

Candidates must be member of IAEG. Nomination will normally be made by the chairperson of the relevant IAEG Commission or IAEG National/Regional Group.

The application form should be sent to the Secretary General before July 1st, 2026. The winner(s), selected by the selection committee, will be announced before September 1st, 2026.

For more information please refer to Ordinance of Science and Technology Awards of IAEG.

Best regards,

V. Marinos

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu

Faquan Wu
Secretary General

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/t79iqkeyyg3ec2d871tsz/5.2President-s-Address-on-2nd-IAEG-STA.pdf?rlkey=5l1d9xr1lk3i8fdnq491n4pyq&st=qebj6nju&dl=0 for President's address on the 2nd IAEG-STA.

CALL FOR IRP: The 4TH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM OF IAEG (IRP-IAEG)

The International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) is pleased to announce the call for applications for the 4th International Research Program (IRP-IAEG). This program is designed to foster international collaboration and advance research and practice in Engineering Geology and the Environment.

Typically, no more than five projects are active simultaneously, with a maximum duration of four years per project.

Each IRP project is recommended and supported by the relevant IAEG Commissions. The principal applicant must be a member of both IAEG and the corresponding Commission.

The theme of the 4th IRP is Engineering Geology and Sustainable Development. Completed application forms should be submitted to the Secretary General by August 1, 2026. Project selection and the awarding ceremony will take place during the 15th IAEG World Congress, to be held in Delft, Netherlands, from October 30 to November 6, 2026.

For further details, please refer to the attached documents, including the Administrative Measures for the International Research Program of IAEG, the President's Address on IAEG-IRP, and the application form.

Should you have any questions regarding the application process, please do not hesitate to contact IAEG Secretariat via iaegsg@163.com.

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/ph7qjkctuvbm1f9c62khd/AEvDOTeQqSCCRnx3O1tQ2_A?rlkey=z4evdrhem055lifbpi15xa68y&st=7fe4ydqd&dl=0 for the president's address, administrative measures and application form.

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

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CALL FOR APPLICATIONS OF THE FOURTH INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH PROGRAM OF IAEG

All members and Commissions,

The 4th International Research Program of IAEG (IRP-IAEG) is officially launched.

The IRP program is an international cooperative research program aimed at promotion in research and practice of Engineering Geology and the Environment. Generally, no more than 5 projects will be active over the same period. The maximum duration of each research project is 4 years.

The IRP projects is recommended and supported by the corresponding IAEG Commissions. The chief applicant must be the member of IAEG and corresponding Commission.

The theme of the 4th IPR is Engineering Geology and Sustainable Development. Application form should be sent to the Secretary General **before August 1st, 2026**. And the selection activity and awarding ceremony will be held during the 15th IAEG World Congress on October 30th - November 6th, 2026 in Delft, Netherlands.

For more information, please refer to Administrative Measures for International Research Program of IAEG.

Best regards,

V. Marinos

Vassilis P. Marinos
President of the IAEG

Faquan Wu

Faquan Wu
Secretary General

6.
REPORT OF VICE PRESIDENT

Activities Report from VP for Asia

1. Major International Engagements

- **Visit to Namibia in September, 2025**

Participation in the 4th African Regional Conference of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), held in Namibia in September 2025, constituted a significant component of the Vice President's international engagement during the reporting period. The conference brought together leading experts, researchers, practitioners, and policymakers from across Africa and other regions, providing a valuable platform for scientific exchange and institutional collaboration.

During the conference, a technical paper was presented focusing on geohazards in the Himalayan region, with particular emphasis on landslide processes, risk assessment, and the challenges associated with infrastructure development in complex mountainous terrain. The presentation facilitated meaningful discussions and enabled the sharing of Nepal's experiences in managing geohazards, contributing to a broader understanding of comparable challenges in different geological and climatic settings.

In addition to the technical sessions, active participation was made in the IAEG Executive Committee and Council Meetings, where key strategic issues were discussed, including the future direction of the Association, strengthening regional cooperation, enhancing capacity building for young professionals, and expanding the global reach and impact of IAEG activities. These meetings provided an important opportunity to represent the interests and perspectives of the Asia region while contributing to global decision-making processes.

Furthermore, participation in the technical field visits offered practical insights into engineering geology applications in arid and semi-arid environments, including mining geology, geotechnical practices, and environmental management approaches in Namibia. These field-based observations enabled comparative learning between African and Himalayan contexts, enriching professional understanding and informing future research and collaboration.

Overall, the participation significantly contributed to strengthening international networks, promoting knowledge exchange, and enhancing the visibility of engineering geology practices and research from the Himalayan region within the global IAEG community.

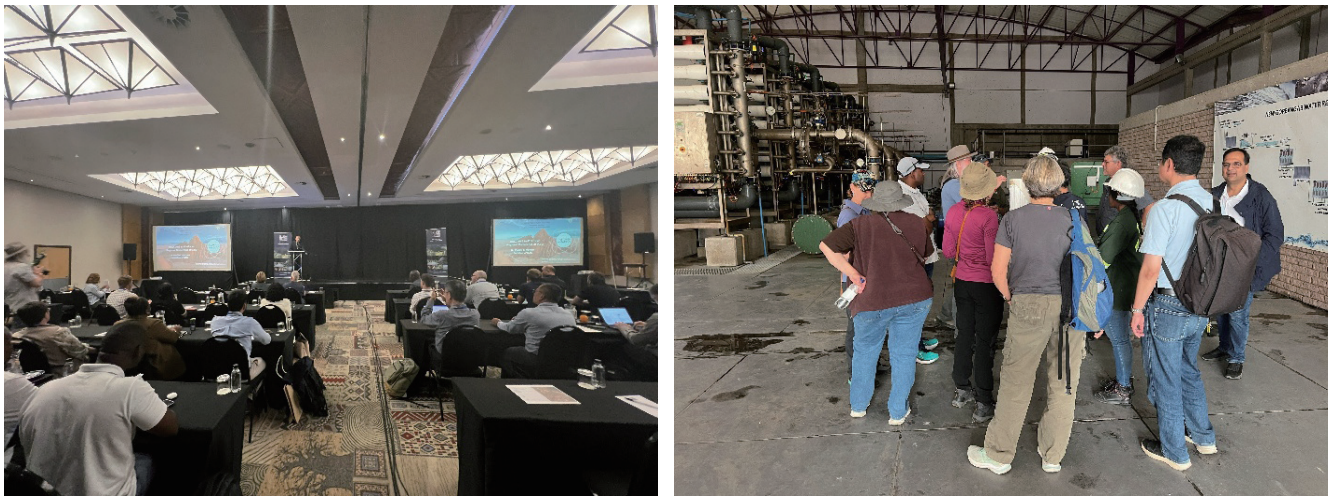


Figure 1: Participation in the 4th African Regional IAEG Conference at Namibia and field visit

• Delivers A Keynote Lecture at EGCON 2025

Dr. Ranjan Kumar Dahal delivered a keynote lecture at EGCON 2025 in New Delhi, India, on the theme of engineering geology and geohazards in the Himalayan region, with emphasis on landslide processes, slope instability, infrastructure vulnerability, and the growing influence of climate-sensitive factors on mountain environments. The presentation highlighted Nepal's practical and research-based experience in addressing geohazard challenges in fragile terrain, and underscored the importance of integrating engineering geology into infrastructure planning, hazard assessment, and sustainable development strategies.

The keynote provided an important platform to share regional knowledge and professional experience with a broad international audience of researchers, engineers, planners, and policymakers. It also facilitated constructive discussion on common geotechnical and environmental challenges faced across South Asia and other mountainous regions, thereby contributing to stronger academic and professional exchange. Through this engagement, the event helped reinforce regional collaboration, expand institutional linkages, and promote sustainable engineering practices that are responsive to geological risk, environmental sensitivity, and long-term resilience.

Figure 2: Participation at EGCON 2025, New Delhi

2. Technical Commission Coordination

A Technical Commissions coordination meeting was convened on 19 January 2026 under the framework of the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) to enhance the effectiveness, productivity, and strategic alignment of IAEG Technical Commissions. The meeting brought together Commission Chairs, Secretaries, TOC members, and representatives of the IAEG leadership to review ongoing activities, assess progress, and define clear expectations for the 2024–2026 term, particularly in the lead-up to the IAEG World Congress 2026 in Delft.

The discussion emphasized the need to move beyond routine reporting toward the delivery of tangible, high-quality outputs that directly benefit IAEG members and the broader engineering geology community. In this context, commissions were encouraged to develop structured work plans with clearly defined deliverables, including technical guidelines, state-of-the-art reports, peer-reviewed scientific publications, workshops, and training modules. Particular importance was placed on ensuring that these outputs are internationally relevant, widely accessible, and aligned with emerging global challenges such as climate change, geohazard risk, and sustainable infrastructure development.

The meeting also highlighted the importance of strengthening inter-commission collaboration, promoting the involvement of young professionals, and enhancing partnerships with related international organizations and national groups. Furthermore, the 2026 World Congress was identified as a key milestone for evaluating commission performance, with continuation of commissions linked to the quality, impact, and visibility of their outputs.

Overall, the coordination meeting established a clear strategic direction focused on outcome-oriented activities, increased international impact, and stronger engagement of the global engineering geology community.

3. ARC-15 and Regional Activities

Support to ARC-15 has been actively advanced as a strategic priority to strengthen the role of the Asian region within IAEG and to ensure the successful organization of a high-quality international event. Efforts have been directed toward enhancing international participation by engaging national groups, technical commissions, and partner organizations, thereby encouraging broader global representation and interdisciplinary exchange. Particular attention has been given to facilitating participation from both developed and developing countries, ensuring inclusivity and diversity in technical contributions.

A key focus has been the promotion and active involvement of Young Engineering Geologists (YEG), recognizing their critical role in the future of the profession. Initiatives have included encouraging YEG participation in technical sessions, workshops, and networking activities, as well as integrating youth-focused programs into the conference structure to support capacity building, mentorship, and knowledge transfer.

In parallel, emphasis has been placed on enhancing the scientific quality and relevance of ARC-15 through the development of sound technical sessions, keynote contributions, and thematic areas aligned with emerging challenges such as climate change, geohazards, and sustainable infrastructure. Collaborative efforts with Technical Commissions and international experts have been encouraged to ensure high-quality outputs, including potential special issues, guidelines, and joint research initiatives.

Figure 3. ARC 15 Inauguration program.

4. Visit to Japan for ARC-16 Support Activities

Overall, these coordinated efforts aim to position ARC-15 as a flagship regional event that not only strengthens scientific collaboration and professional networking, but also contributes meaningfully to the advancement of engineering geology in Asia and beyond.

Two official visits were conducted to Japan during the reporting period, from 13–19 December 2025 and 06–09 March 2026, with the primary objective of promoting IAEG activities in Japan and advancing preparations for the upcoming Asian Regional Conference (ARC-16), scheduled to be held in Osaka in 2027.

During these visits, a series of high-level meetings and technical discussions were held in Tokyo with the leadership of the Japan Society of Engineering Geology, including its President and members of the executive committee (JAEG ExCom). The discussions focused on strengthening collaboration between IAEG and JSEG, enhancing Japan's engagement in IAEG Technical Commissions, and promoting broader participation of Japanese professionals and young engineering geologists in regional and global activities.

Particular emphasis was placed on the planning and organization of ARC-

Figure 4. Discussion with JSEG Excom in December 2025.

16, including its scientific framework, organizational structure, international participation, and coordination mechanisms. Follow-up discussions were also held during the March 2026 visit, including a dedicated meeting with the President of Japan Society of Engineering Geology, to review progress and further refine the roadmap for the conference. Key aspects such as thematic focus areas, collaboration with Technical Commissions, and strategies to ensure high-quality scientific contributions were discussed in detail.

The commitment and proactive efforts of JSEG in preparing for ARC-16 were clearly evident. The organizing team is working with strong dedication to ensure that the conference meets high international standards and serves as a significant platform for knowledge exchange, professional networking, and advancement of engineering geology in Asia and beyond.

5. Collaboration and Networking

Expanded collaboration with international professional societies has been a key focus during the reporting period, aimed at strengthening the global integration of engineering geology and enhancing the impact of IAEG activities. Active efforts have been made to engage with leading international organizations such as ISSMGE, FedIGS and ASCE, creating opportunities for joint initiatives, knowledge exchange, and coordinated scientific activities.

These collaborations have facilitated dialogue on shared challenges, including geohazards, infrastructure resilience, and sustainable development, while also promoting harmonization of methodologies, standards, and best practices across disciplines.

In parallel, significant progress has been made in strengthening cross-regional engagement between Asia and other regions, particularly Africa and Europe. Participation in international conferences, regional meetings, and institutional platforms has enabled the exchange of technical knowledge and professional experience across diverse geological and environmental contexts. These interactions have not only enhanced mutual learning, but also supported the development of collaborative research, joint publications, and capacity-building initiatives involving multiple regions.

Furthermore, efforts have been directed toward enhancing the visibility and contribution of Asian national groups within the global IAEG framework, encouraging more active participation in Technical Commissions and international events. Visit to JSEG and ARC-15 organizing committee at Tokyo was wonderful and beneficial. This cross-regional engagement has contributed to building a more cohesive and interconnected global engineering geology community, capable of addressing complex, transboundary challenges through collaborative and interdisciplinary approaches.

6. Key Achievements

- **Representation in Major International Conferences**

Active representation of IAEG and the Asia region was ensured through participation in key international conferences and high-level professional events, including regional and global platforms. These engagements provided opportunities to present research findings, deliver keynote lectures, and contribute to technical discussions on engineering geology, geohazards, and sustainable infrastructure.

Such representation not only enhanced the visibility of the Asia region, particularly Nepal's contributions, but also reinforced IAEG's presence in global scientific and professional communities.

- **Strengthened Global Collaboration**

Significant progress was made in enhancing collaboration with international organizations, national groups, and academic institutions across multiple regions. Through active engagement with entities such as ISSMGE, FedIGS and ASCE efforts were directed toward promoting joint initiatives, collaborative research, and shared technical activities. These interactions have contributed to building stronger professional networks and enhancing cross-disciplinary cooperation at the global scale.

- **Improved Technical Commission Coordination**

The coordination and effectiveness of IAEG Technical Commissions were significantly enhanced through structured engagement under the Technical Oversight Committee. Regular communication, strategic guidance, and dedicated coordination meetings helped align commission activities with IAEG's broader objectives. Emphasis was placed on transitioning from activity-based reporting to outcome-oriented performance, encouraging commissions to produce tangible deliverables such as guidelines, publications, workshops, and training programs with clear international relevance and member benefit.

- **Promotion of Sustainable Engineering Geology**

The reporting period placed strong and consistent emphasis on advancing the principles of sustainable engineering geology, recognizing its critical role in addressing contemporary global challenges, particularly climate change, disaster risk reduction, and the development of resilient infrastructure systems. In this context, engineering geology was promoted not merely as a supporting discipline, but as a fundamental component in ensuring that infrastructure planning and development are aligned with environmental constraints, geological realities, and long-term sustainability goals.

Through active participation in international conferences, delivery of keynote lectures, and engagement in technical and policy-oriented discussions, sustained efforts were made to highlight the importance of incorporating geological knowledge into all stages of project development, including site investigation, design, construction, and maintenance. Particular attention was given to issues such as landslide risk management, slope stability, sediment dynamics, and the increasing influence of climate variability on geohazard frequency and intensity, especially in vulnerable regions such as the Himalaya.

These engagements also emphasized the need for interdisciplinary collaboration, bringing together geologists, engineers, planners, and policymakers to develop integrated, risk-informed solutions. The importance of translating scientific knowledge into practical guidelines, standards, and policy frameworks was consistently underscored, ensuring that engineering decisions are grounded in sound geological understanding.

Overall, these efforts have contributed to promoting a more holistic and forward-looking approach to engineering practice, one that prioritizes environmental responsibility, resilience to natural hazards, and sustainability over the long term. By reinforcing the value of engineering geology in both technical and policy domains, the reporting period has supported the broader objective of building safer, more adaptive, and sustainable infrastructure systems across regions.

The reporting period placed strong emphasis on advancing the principles of sustainable engineering geology, particularly in the context of climate change, disaster risk reduction, and resilient infrastructure development. Through conference presentations, keynote lectures, and collaborative discussions, the importance of integrating

geological considerations into planning, design, and policy frameworks was consistently highlighted. These efforts have contributed to promoting environmentally responsible, risk-informed, and sustainability-oriented engineering practices across regions.

7. Future Directions

- **Ensure delivery of commission outputs**

A key priority for the upcoming period is to ensure that all Technical Commissions translate their ongoing activities into concrete, high-quality outputs within the 2024–2026 cycle. This includes the timely preparation of technical guidelines, state-of-the-art reports, peer-reviewed publications, workshops, and training modules that provide clear value to IAEG members and the wider professional community. Greater emphasis will be placed on establishing structured work plans, monitoring progress, and supporting commissions in overcoming challenges related to coordination, resources, and dissemination. The IAEG World Congress 2026 in Delft will serve as a critical milestone for evaluating these outputs, with a focus on their scientific quality, practical relevance, and international impact.

- **Enhance youth engagement**

Strengthening the involvement of Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) will be a central focus to ensure the long-term sustainability and dynamism of the Association. Efforts will be directed toward creating more inclusive platforms for youth participation in Technical Commissions, conferences, workshops, and leadership roles. Initiatives such as mentorship programs, capacity-building workshops, and dedicated YEG sessions will be encouraged to facilitate knowledge transfer between senior experts and emerging professionals. Promoting youth engagement will not only address current gaps in participation but also contribute to building a strong and active next generation of engineering geologists.

- **Strengthen regional visibility:**

Enhancing the visibility and impact of IAEG activities within the Asia region will remain a strategic objective. This includes promoting active participation of national groups in international events, increasing representation in Technical Commissions, and showcasing regional expertise and case studies in global platforms. Efforts will also focus on improving communication, dissemination of achievements, and outreach to academic, professional, and governmental stakeholders. Strengthened regional visibility will help position Asia as a key contributor to global engineering geology discourse, particularly in areas related to geohazards, climate change, and infrastructure development.

- **Promote interdisciplinary collaboration:**

Addressing complex geoscience and engineering challenges requires strong interdisciplinary approaches. Future efforts will focus on strengthen collaboration between engineering geologists and professionals from related fields such as geotechnical engineering, environmental science, disaster risk management, and urban planning. This interdisciplinary engagement will enhance the relevance, innovation, and impact of engineering geology in addressing global challenges.

8. Conclusion

The reporting period reflects substantial progress in both international engagement and strategic coordination, demonstrating a clear commitment to strengthening the global role of engineering geology within the framework of IAEG. Active participation in major international conferences, high-level meetings, and collaborative platforms has enhanced the visibility of the Association and reinforced the contribution of the Asia region to global scientific and professional discourse. Preparatory meeting of ARC-16 of IAEG with JSEG was fruitful. At the same time, structured efforts to improve coordination among Technical Commissions, promote outcome-oriented activities, and align initiatives with IAEG's strategic priorities have contributed to a more focused and effective organizational approach.

Looking ahead, the IAEG World Congress 2026 in Delft will serve as a major milestone for the Association. It will not only provide a global platform for presenting scientific advancements and technical achievements, but also act as a key evaluation point for the performance, productivity, and international impact of Technical Commissions. The Congress is expected to consolidate ongoing efforts, showcase tangible outputs such as guidelines, publications, and training initiatives, and further strengthen international collaboration and knowledge exchange. As such, it represents a defining moment to assess progress, reinforce strategic direction, and shape the future trajectory of IAEG activities at both regional and global levels.

7.
2026 IAEG WORLD CONGRESS

The XV IAEG World Congress will be held in Delft, the Netherlands from October 30 to November 6, 2026.

The congress, titled *Engineering Geology in a Rapidly Changing World*, is resonating with the challenges and opportunities currently faced by the profession.

A team of co-chairs and reviewers is now actively assessing papers and abstracts. Please browse the 2nd IAEG 2026 Newsletter to discover statistics on submissions and review progress.

Practical information for participants is also available in this newsletter, including registration fees and details of the solidarity fund.

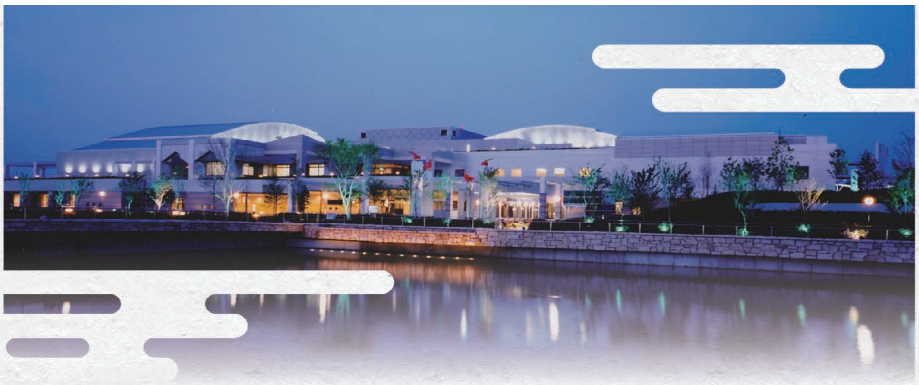
In addition to the IAEG executive and board meetings, the pre-congress will feature a series of ten one-day technical workshops. Early registration is strongly recommended, as places are limited.

Another exciting feature is the introduce the EnGeOlympics, the 1st IAEG Games for Future Makers. Its three contests, Logo, Site Investigation, and Dike Building, are presented in this newsletter. The calls for entry to the online logo and site investigation contests have just opened. Sponsorship opportunities are also available to help reward the winners and support this initiative.

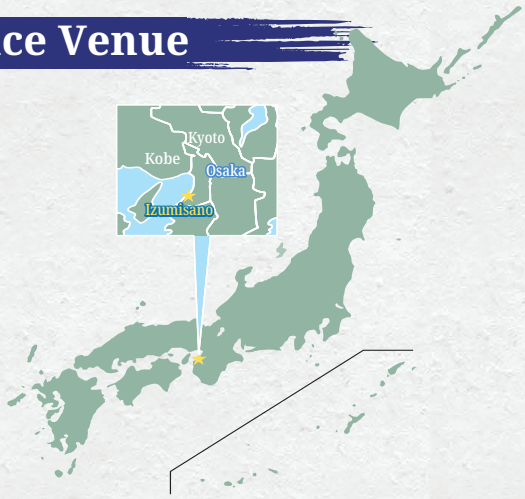
The organizing committee looks forward to welcoming attendees to this exciting event.

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/7k0wy99p10q410p0pd1vd/IAEG-2026-Newsletter-2-March-2026-email.pdf?rlkey=aizbz5esuxei5nzlyavn06d8p&st=rj6hhqsf&dl=0 for the 2nd circular of IAEG 2026 XV World Congress.

8.
16TH IAEG ASIAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE



Conference Venue



Ebuno Izumi no Mori Hall
Izumisano City, Osaka, Japan
https://www.cf-izumisano.or.jp/izuminomori/ (Available in Japanese only)
https://mice.osaka-info.jp/en/venue_search/izumisano-cultural-hall/index.php

Organization

Japan Society of Engineering Geology
Japan National Group of IAEG

Secretariat Office

Email: arc16.secretariat@jseg.or.jp

Bridging Through Engineering Geology for Co-Creation – Realizing a Safer Society in Harmony with Nature

16th Asian Regional Conference of International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment

ARC16 大阪

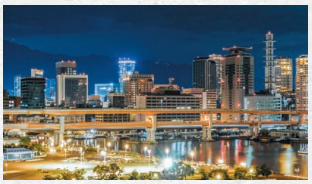
Japan Society of Engineering Geology

November 25-27 2027 Izumisano City, Osaka, Japan

Cooperate with IZUMISANO MICE

https://ec-convention.com/arc16





Aim of Conference

Engineering Geology in Japan began with resource exploration and has long played a vital role in supporting the development of social infrastructure, including railways, roads, tunnels, dams, and power plants. Through investigations and research on frequently occurring earthquakes, heavy rainfall, and sediment-related disasters, it has also made significant contributions to elucidating the geological environment of the Japanese Archipelago, a complex and active tectonic belt.

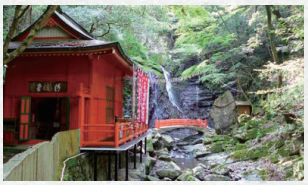
Meanwhile, in Asia—where rapid economic growth continues—disaster risks have been intensifying and becoming more complex due to climate change, alongside the expansion of social assets. As observed during the 2024 Noto Peninsula Earthquake, there is an increasing number of cases in which communities face new disasters during the recovery process. These challenges highlight the growing need to further advance research in Engineering Geology and disaster risk reduction, as well as to strengthen international collaboration.
Ensuring the safety of social infrastructure requires an accurate understanding of the geological environment and the appropriate integration of geological knowledge into civil engineering practice. However, there has been historical reflection on the insufficient collaboration between geology and civil engineering. In addition, the aging of infrastructure constructed during periods of rapid economic growth has become an urgent issue. To build a safe and secure society for the future, it is essential to understand natural processes on geological time scales and to promote cross-disciplinary cooperation.

Against this backdrop, this Asian Regional Conference is held under the theme “Bridging Through Engineering Geology for Co-Creation – Realizing a Safer Society in Harmony with Nature” The conference aims to provide a platform for researchers and engineers from across Asia to share the latest knowledge and deepen international dialogue and collaboration on key issues such as natural hazards, resources and energy, the environment, and subsurface development.

Furthermore, as generational change among engineers progresses, the conference seeks to promote the transfer of expertise by providing opportunities for interaction and mutual learning between young professionals and senior experts. Through these efforts, the conference also aspires to contribute to the advancement of Engineering Geology that will support the future of Asia. We sincerely look forward to your participation.

Prof. Masahiko OSADA, Chair of the ARC16 Organizing Commitee





Topics

1. Engineering Geology in Active Tectonic Regions
2. Geohazards: Toward Mitigation of Cascading Complex Geodisasters
3. Urban Engineering Geology and Civil Infrastructure
4. Geoinformatics
5. Hydrogeology and Groundwater Systems
6. Anthropogenic Impacts and Geo-environmental Recovery Processes
7. Sustainability of Humanosphere and Utilization of Surface and Subsurface Geospace
8. Role of Engineering Geology for Developing Renewable Energy Resources
9. Education, Outreach, and Capacity Building with Diversity
10. Geoethics and Social Responsibility
11. Others(General Contributions)

Program Outline (tentative)

Tue Nov. 23 2027	Wed Nov. 24 2027	Thu Nov. 25 2027	Fri Nov. 26 2027	Sat Nov. 27 2027	Sun Nov. 28 2027	Mon Nov. 29 2027
	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration		
IAEG Executive Committee Meeting (to be decided)	IAEG Council Meeting (to be decided)	Opening Ceremony Presidential Lecture Keynote Lecture Oral Sessions Poster Session YEG/WEG workshop	Keynote Lecture Oral Sessions Poster Session YEG/WEG workshop	Keynote Lecture Oral Sessions Poster Session Closing Ceremony	Field Excursion (1day)	Field Excursion (2days)
		Exhibition	Exhibition	Exhibition		
			Banquet			

Important Dates

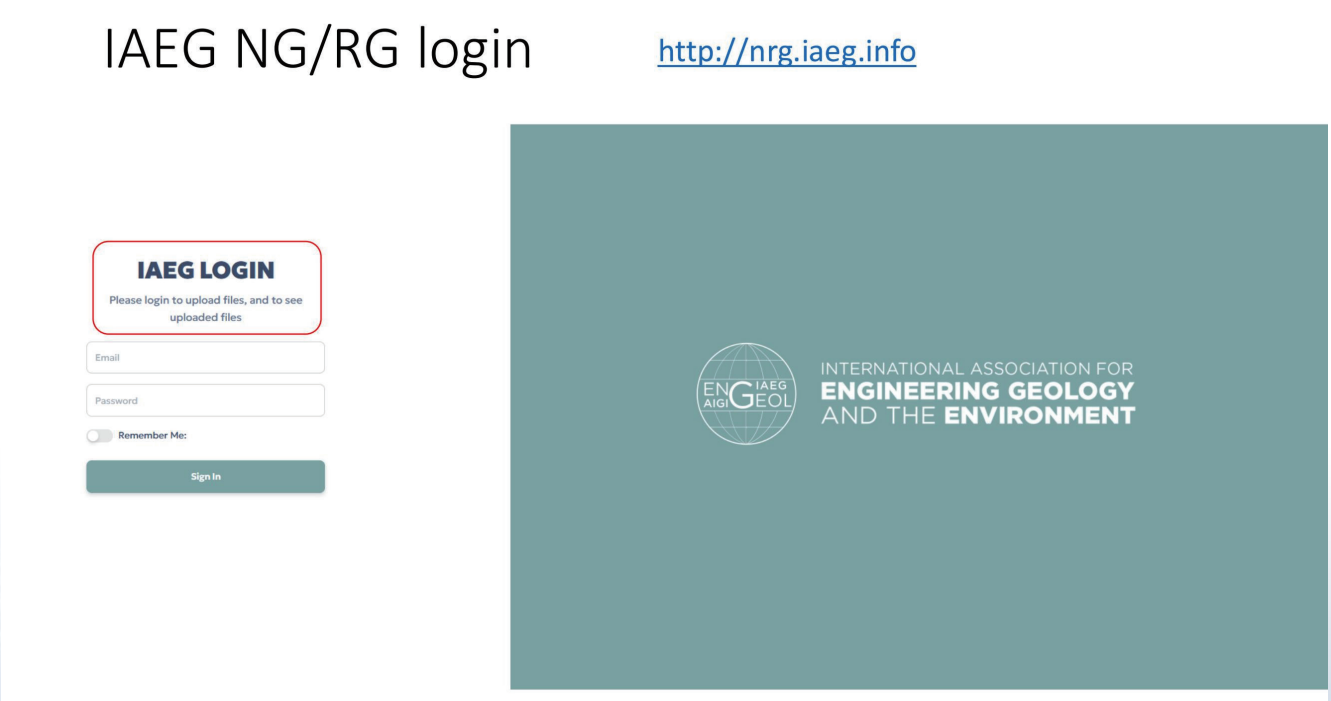
Call for Abstracts	1 November 2026
Abstract Submission Deadline	31 March 2027
Notification of Abstract Acceptance	30 April 2027
Extended Abstract Submission Deadline	30 June 2027
Notification of Extended Abstract Acceptance	31 August 2027

9.
IAEG NEW MEMBERSHIP PLATFORM

We are pleased to announce that the IAEG has officially launched a secure and new digital platform for member management. The platform is now accessible at: https://nrg.iaeg.info/auth/login

This new system is designed to streamline the submission process for NG/RG representatives, allowing them to efficiently upload their member lists, annual reports, and other relevant group information.

NG/RG representatives will receive their login credentials via email. To assist with this transition, please follow the step-by-step guidelines below to complete your submission, or download the PDF version at https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/5inz4q68aavqoy845empb/NG_RG-instructions.pdf?rlkey=aqsf60vb9zywmfl8svfcw476b&st=r7nhqop6&dl=0



10.
ADVANCED ACHIEVEMENT ON 2ND IRP-IAEG

From The Approved Project

Understanding Multi-scale Mechanical Behaviors of Lunar Soil Based on Chang'e-5 Lunar Samples

First Applicant: Yifei Cui
First Employer: Tsinghua University, China
Executive Period: January 01, 2024 to December 31, 2027
Referee Commission: IAEG C29 Structure and Behavior of Soil and Rock Mass

Saturation of Space Weathering in Shaping Lunar Regolith Particle Morphology

The lunar mare regolith preserves tripartite records of volcanism, impacting, and space weathering. However, previous studies based on limited soil particle numbers were hindered by issues of sample representativeness. Here we conduct micro-CT scans of bulk soil samples from Chang'e-5 (nearside) and Chang'e-6 (farside), and develop machine learning-based image segmentation and classification methods to identify a vast number of basalt, agglutinate, breccia, and monomineralic particles. The Chang'e-5 basalt exhibits higher plagioclase content than Chang'e-6, while agglutinates from Chang'e-6 have lower void ratios, respectively indicating different lava origins and more intense micrometeorite bombardment for farside Chang'e-6. Despite their contrasting volcanic and impacting histories, the soil particles for these youngest nearside/farside samples exhibit similar morphometric distributions, suggesting that space weathering reached saturation in shaping surficial soil particle morphology in ~2.2 million years or less. These findings may extend to other mare regions and help establish space weathering models for other airless bodies.

1. Introduction

In December 2020, Chang'e-5 landed in the northern Oceanus Procellarum on the lunar nearside and returned 1,731 g of lunar soil (Figure 1a). In June 2024, Chang'e-6 successfully returned 1,935 g of lunar soil from the South Pole-Aitken Basin on the lunar farside (Figure 1b). According to standard classifications, lunar regolith particles can be grouped into polymineralic particles (e.g., basalt, breccia, and agglutinate) and monomineralic particles (e.g., single minerals of varying density and glass beads) (Li et al., 2024). These particles act as "time capsules": their abundance, external morphology, and internal vesicle structures encode key lunar surface processes, including magmatic activity, impact history, and space weathering. Systematic characterization of regolith particle properties thus enables efficient decoding of lunar surface processes and underpins future lunar exploration and resource utilization.

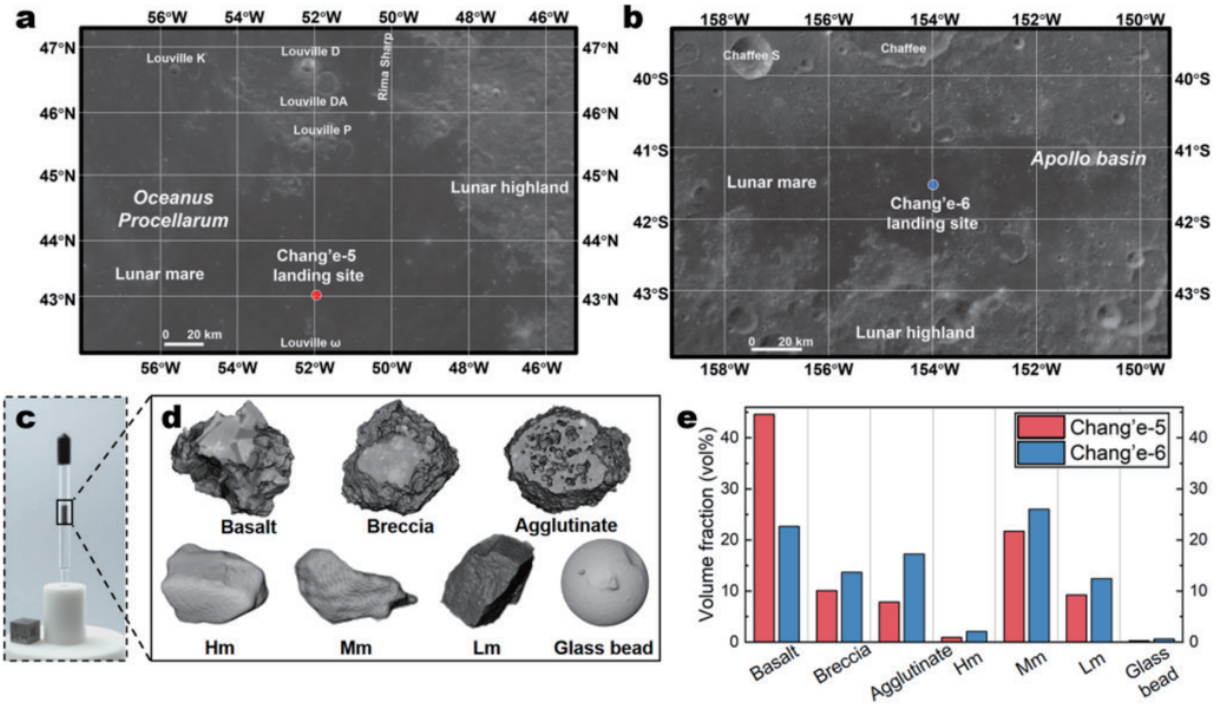


Figure 1 (a – b) Landing sites of the Chang' e–5 and Chang' e–6 lunar exploration missions. (c) X–ray micro–CT system used for scanning lunar samples. (d) Seven major classes of lunar regolith particles identified from CT data, including basalt, breccia, agglutinate, and high–, medium–, and low–density monomineralic particles as well as glass beads (note: some amorphous glass fragments may be classified as medium– or low–density monomineralic particles due to their density characteristics). (e) Volume fractions of different particle types in the Chang' e–5 and Chang' e–6 lunar regolith samples.

2. Method

The team employed high-resolution micron-scale X-ray micro-computed tomography, combined with machine-learning-based image segmentation and classification (Fig. 2), to conduct three-dimensional quantitative analyses of lunar samples from Chang'e-5 and Chang'e-6. Morphological and vesicle-structure data were obtained for tens of thousands of individual particles.

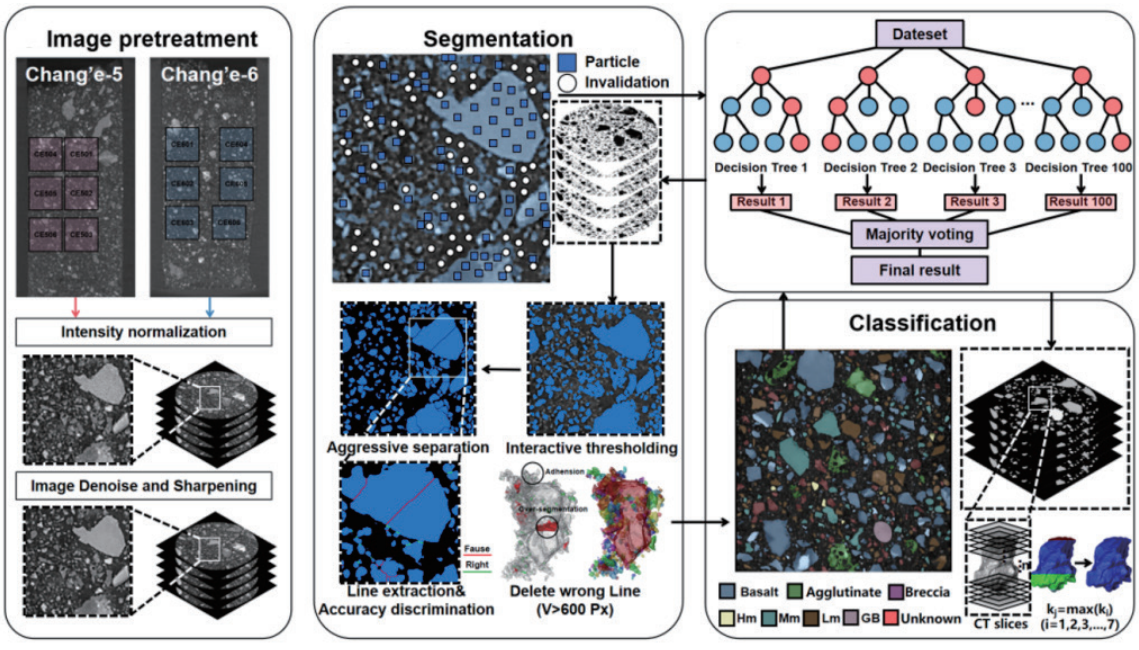


Figure 2 Machine–learning–based intelligent segmentation and classification workflow for lunar regolith particles using high–resolution micron–scale X–ray micro–CT data.

3. Results and discussion

The results show that Chang'e-5 basalts contain higher plagioclase abundances, indicating distinct crystallization differentiation pathways between the two regions (Fig. 3a). Interestingly, although Chang'e-5 basalts exhibit lower true density, the bulk true density of the Chang'e-5 regolith powder exceeds that of Chang'e-6. This apparent "density inversion" suggests that Chang'e-6 regolith incorporates a larger proportion of exotic low-density materials, in agreement with previous observations reported by Wang et al. (2025). Analyses of agglutinates further reveal that larger agglutinates in the Chang'e-6 samples have lower porosity, and that smaller agglutinates contain fewer regular vesicles, implying exposure to more intense impact processes (Fig. 3b, Zhang et al., 2025).

Crucially, despite substantial differences in geological setting, magmatic origin, regolith maturity, and impact history, particles of the same type from both sites display remarkably similar distributions of key shape descriptors—aspect ratio, sphericity, convexity, and roundness—with mean differences generally below 5% (Fig. 3c). These observations indicate that long-term space weathering-driven gardening and abrasion dominate the evolution of surface regolith, progressively driving particle morphologies toward a stable and saturated range.

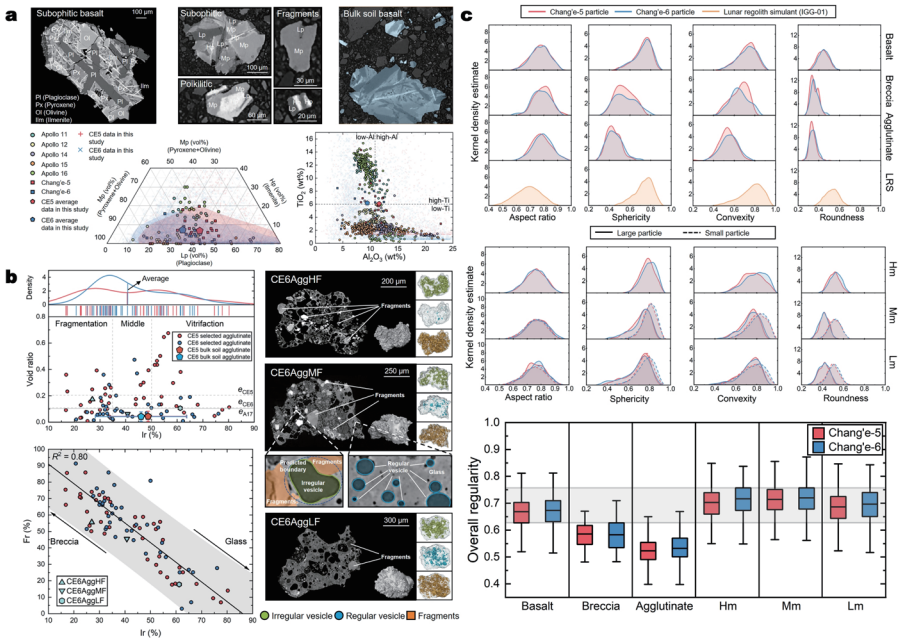


Figure 3 (a) Comparison of basaltic compositions in the Chang'e–5 and Chang'e–6 lunar regolith. (b) Comparison of internal vesicle–structure characteristics of agglutinates from the two sites. (c) Comparison of multiscale morphological parameters of different particle types in the Chang'e–5, Chang'e–6 lunar regolith and lunar regolith simulant (IGG–01).

By synthesizing the effects of diverse magmatic origins, impact events, and space-weathering processes, the study establishes a particle-property-based framework for interpreting lunar surface evolution. This framework elucidates how impact fragmentation, impact-induced melting and agglutination, regolith gardening and abrasion, and solar-wind implantation collectively shape particle morphology and vesicle structure. Among these processes, impact-driven gardening exerts the primary control on surface regolith morphology. Continuous gardening promotes repeated abrasion, progressively counteracting, and ultimately "smoothing out"—the morphological influence of other factors, including internal compositional and structural heterogeneity. As abrasion, fragmentation, and aggregation reach a dynamic balance, particle morphologies converge toward a stable interval, marking a saturation state

of morphological evolution. Coupled with exposure-age modeling, the results suggest that lunar regolith particle morphology may approach stability within ~2.2 million years after formation, offering a new morphological paradigm for reconstructing long-term lunar regolith evolution (Zhang et al., 2025).

4. Implication

This work provides the first systematic elucidation of how space weathering modifies regolith particles and vesicle structures on both the lunar nearside and farside, and establishes a theoretical basis for future studies of *in-situ* regolith mechanical properties, lunar surface construction, and digital-twin modeling.

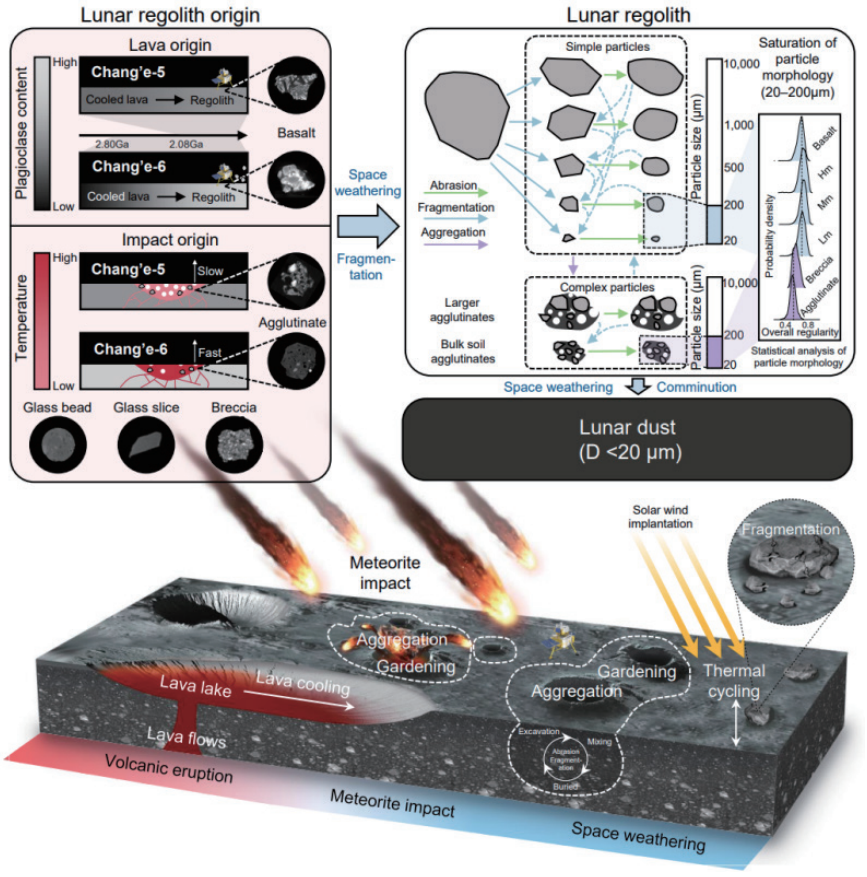


Figure 4 Schematic framework linking major lunar surface processes to the morphological evo–lution of lunar regolith particles.

The above paper is published in Nature Communications (https://doi.org/10.1038/s41467-026-68824-3), the research is supported by International Research Program of IAEG "Understanding multi-scale mechanical behaviors of lunar soil based on Chang'e-5 lunar samples".

5. References

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11. YEG ACTIVITIES

IAEG Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) Publish Visionary Paper in BOEG

The International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) is proud to announce the publication of a significant new paper by our Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) committee in the *Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment* (BOEG).

The article, titled **"Addressing current and future challenges in the engineering geology community – A young engineering geologist's perspective,"** was published on February 27, 2026.

Authored by a diverse international team led by **Efstratios Karantanellis**, alongside **Tümay Kadakci Koca, Anika Braun, Elisa Mammoliti, Lauren Foote, Julia Loffler, Om Prasad Dhakal, Adebayo Olaniyi Afolabi, and Andrey Kazeev**, this work represents a collaborative global effort.

Key Highlights:

- **A Fresh Perspective:** The paper explores the evolving landscape of engineering geology through the lens of the next generation of practitioners.
- **Addressing Challenges:** It identifies critical hurdles currently facing the community and proposes strategies for future resilience and growth.
- **Global Collaboration:** The authorship reflects the inclusive and international spirit of the YEG network.

This publication is a "must-read" for members at all career stages, offering insights that bridge the gap between established practices and emerging trends. We congratulate the YEG team on this achievement and their contribution to the scientific literature.

Read the full paper here: *Bulletin of Engineering Geology and the Environment* Volume 85, Article number 170 (2026) [https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10064-026-04847-w]

Welcoming New YEG Members

The recent call for new YEG members has now been successfully finalized. This year's response was exceptionally strong, with more than 70 applications submitted by early-career engineering geologists from a wide range of countries, institutions, and professional backgrounds. This diversity is particularly encouraging, as it aligns with YEG's core objective of building a truly inclusive and globally representative network. The high level of interest reflects not only the growing engagement within the community but also the increasing recognition of YEG as a platform for collaboration, knowledge exchange, and professional development across geographical and disciplinary boundaries.

The selection process was highly competitive, as candidates demonstrated strong academic achievements, professional experience, and clear motivation to contribute to YEG activities. Beyond excellence, particular attention was given to ensuring balanced representation and inclusivity, aiming to broaden participation

from underrepresented regions and sectors. YEG is delighted to welcome a new cohort of motivated and talented members who will actively support ongoing initiatives, bring fresh perspectives, and help expand YEG's reach and impact worldwide.

Summer School Travel Grant Under Evaluation

In parallel, the travel grant for the upcoming summer school is currently under evaluation. Due to the significant interest, applications are being carefully reviewed to ensure a fair, transparent, and merit-based selection process. This initiative plays an important role in promoting inclusivity by enabling early-career professionals to access high-quality training opportunities despite financial or logistical constraints. By supporting participation in international educational programs, YEG seeks to reduce barriers, enhance capacity building, and foster a more equitable distribution of knowledge and expertise within the engineering geology community. The selected recipient will benefit from valuable learning opportunities and direct engagement with peers and experts in the field.

e-YEG Webinar Series

Looking ahead, YEG is excited to announce the upcoming launch of a new e-YEG webinar series. These online sessions are designed to further support inclusivity and global engagement by providing accessible platforms for knowledge sharing, regardless of location. The webinars will address key topics in engineering geology and related disciplines, encouraging technical discussion, interdisciplinary exchange, and active participation from members across different regions. This initiative is part of YEG's broader effort to expand its digital presence and create continuous learning opportunities for the community.

YEG Article

My Journey as a Woman in Engineering Geology So Far

Awonge Precious Adaeze

Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, Anambra State

1. Breaking Ground in Engineering Geology

As an early-career Engineering Geologist, with only about two years' experience, I have had the privilege of working on different projects and with different professionals across the fields of Engineering Geology and Civil Engineering, which has enabled me to combine my passion for Geology and problem-solving. My journey has been more than just learning about the profession but has been shaped by challenges, opportunities, and a commitment to making an impact in an evolving field.

From the beginning, as some may already know, Engineering Geology wasn't my initial choice, but as I progressed, I became increasingly interested and am now passionate about it, appreciating its critical role in ensuring the safety and sustainability of our built environment. However, I quickly realized that I was part of a minority group in the field.

2. Physical Challenges in the Field and Laboratory

One of my earliest memories during my undergraduate industrial training at the Geotechnical laboratory of a construction company was being the only female in a team of engineers, constantly struggling to find my place among them and to prove myself. On several occasions, I was discouraged from participating in certain laboratory procedures, such as soil compaction and concrete mixes, because it was considered unsuitable for a woman to be involved in these activities; instead, I was encouraged to focus on tests with simpler procedures, including the Atterberg Limits test, particle size distribution, specific gravity, flakiness index, relative density, water absorption, bulk density, and other less physically demanding tests. And there were times I was also discouraged from going to the site for in-situ density testing or involving myself in any site-related work to avoid being overworked. This was good because I still had the opportunity to gain other geotechnical knowledge, and I appreciated it, but I still felt limited since I had not been able to experience some aspects of the work, and I believed that would make me an incomplete Geotechnical laboratory technician. As a result, I always requested inclusion when carrying out the tests and ensured my active participation when permitted to by taking measurements of soil and water samples and even mixing, until my perseverance moved one of my superiors to let me ram one mold during soil compaction testing for a subgrade soil using the BS Ordinary method. I eventually realized that the sample was never meant for actual analysis; it was only a test of my performance due to my persistence! I managed to complete the procedure, but it was tougher than it seemed. Afterward, I had a headache and muscle aches, relieved that it wasn't the BS Heavy method for the base course.

This experience, however, did not deter me. I believed that if I kept trying, I would get better at it, and so I kept clamoring to take part in other procedures like the concrete mix and even in-situ density.

3. Bias, Perseverance, and Professional Growth

On one occasion, I accompanied my boss in search of a Borrow Pit, deep in a forest away from habitation. It was a bit unnerving, and I remember beginning to wish he had taken someone else with him instead. But at the end of the day, I enjoyed it and learned a lot.

After several experiences, I now understand why I was discouraged, not necessarily out of bias, but because it was quite a strenuous activity for a woman. Still, this wouldn't stop me. I rather handled my determination with this understanding and decided that I would find what works for me so that I could nevertheless provide a strong contribution. After some time, I learned how to balance my responsibilities while continuing to acquire new knowledge. First, I recognized the contributions of my male colleagues and engaged them in the field and laboratory, which was crucial to help me overcome some of the more physical challenges while still gaining knowledge and insight. I also learned and practiced more laboratory tests, which are vital to the profession, and became familiar with data entry, analysis, interpretation, and reporting. Although I adopted these methods for my own benefit, it did not change the way I was sometimes treated based on a lingering bias, especially when I encountered people who still doubt women's place in Engineering Geology. So far, I have dealt with it by proving their words and actions wrong through polite smiles, intelligent conversation, and active work.

4. Peer Support and Professional Inspiration

And finally, I have to admit that achieving this would not have been possible without the support and motivation from professionals before me. One of the people who inspired me and several other young ladies and me at the Nigerian Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (NAEGE) Conference 2024 is Prof. Salome Waziri, the president of the Women in NAEGE. She said, "Believe you can thrive here, even though you're a woman. Learn, improve your skills, and you'll succeed." I have kept her words with me and often repeat them to myself whenever I feel down. I'm also grateful for the opportunity to work with a kind boss during my undergraduate training,

Figure 1 Author on–site for a pile load test with male colleagues

Engr. Emeka Eze, who always gave me the chance to prove myself despite opposition, and to Engr. Babadiya Ebenezer of Mapref Gotechnical, for constantly fostering a level playing ground regardless of gender.

5. Empowering Others and Hopes for the Future

As a woman in Engineering Geology, I've experienced my share of challenges that come with being in a male-dominated field, ones I believe many women can relate to. And I know there's more to face, as I'm only just beginning. Yet, my journey so far has taught me that with clarity of purpose, determination, resilience, persistence, and

collective support, there is a promising future for women in Engineering Geology.

I believe that achieving balance as women in Engineering Geology comes from acknowledging the input of male colleagues, sharpening our skills, establishing strong networks, and, most importantly, never losing faith in ourselves because with these, success is inevitable. The future of Engineering Geology is brighter when every voice and talent, irrespective of gender, is given the chance to thrive.

Figure 2 Author on–site with female colleagues

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.

Arzu Arslan Kelam

Why engineering geological characterization of rock masses is vital for hazard assessment? - A rock slide case in Mudurnu, Türkiye

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1. Introduction

Mudurnu is a county of Bolu Province located in northwestern Türkiye. It has been on major trade routes (i.e., the Silk Road and the Crimean Road) and has served as a trading town and a military base in the Byzantine, Seljuk, and Ottoman periods. Given its long history, there are historically valuable structures in Mudurnu, including traditional houses/mansions, mosques, a Turkish bath from the Ottoman period, and a wooden clock tower (Figure 1). Because of the value of such historical structures and the respectful lifestyle of people living within the region, Mudurnu is a candidate for the UNESCO World Heritage List. However, this historical settlement area suffers from regional rock slope instabilities along the valley where it is located. Assessment of these instabilities is necessary because of the potential consequences for the elements at risk, such as human life, houses, buildings, industrial facilities, and historically important structures (Figure 2). This article presents a stability assessment case for rock slopes in Mudurnu, which can guide future hazard assessment studies in the area, emphasizing the vitality of engineering geological characterization.

Figure 1 a) Wooden Clock Tower, b) Turkish Bath, c) Traditional Mudurnu House

Figure 2 Images of the Rock Slope and the Houses under Threat

2. Methodology

This study focused on the western slope of Mudurnu valley where the rock mass is discontinuous Pelagic Limestone. Characterization of discontinuity properties is important, since they have a major influence on the geomechanical behavior of the rock mass (Palmstrom 2001). Moreover, spatial characterization of the rock is necessary because of its non-homogeneous, anisotropic, and discontinuous nature. However, in Mudurnu, field survey alone was not sufficient for collecting field data since access was limited due to the steep slopes, and the rather high elevation of the valley. Therefore, the engineering geological characteristics of the study area were evaluated using an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), along with the conventional scan-line survey method. The data gathered from the point cloud were first checked with the scan-line survey measurements, where available, before using it for the entire valley. The discontinuity characteristics gathered by the scan-line survey were classified following the methods suggested by ISRM (2007). The 3D point cloud generated from the UAV images was employed to obtain the orientation, spacing, and trace length of discontinuity sets by utilizing the Discontinuity Set Extractor (DSE) method (Riquelme et al. 2014).

Given the geomechanical characteristics of the rock mass and the slope orientation, the types of failure change throughout the slope, and the associated risk changes along the valley. Engineering geological characterization was key to defining the variation of the rock mass properties. Detailed engineering geological evaluation resulted in the identification of 11 sectors that possessed similar geomechanical properties (Arslan Kelam 2022) (Figure 3).

Figure 3 Defined Geomechanical Sectors

For the stability assessment, a two-step process has been followed. 1) a kinematic analysis to identify possible modes of failure, 2) a limit equilibrium analysis considering the back-calculated shear strength parameters. The kinematic analyses revealed the possible failure modes (i.e., planar, wedge, toppling, complex failures) at different sectors. To determine the mobilized shear strength parameters at the time of failure, back analysis was performed on failed blocks. Then, limit equilibrium analyses were employed to calculate the Factor of Safety and Probability of Failure at sectors for the possible failure modes. The stability analysis revealed that the rock slopes are more susceptible to planar failures than wedge failures. Sector 8 is the most critical sector for complex failure due to the combination of planar and wedge failures (See Figures 2b and 2c for close-up views of Sectors 6 and 8, respectively). In addition to static analyses, considering the proximity of Mudurnu County to the North Anatolian Fault Zone, dynamic analyses were performed using the Newmark sliding block method based on the Mw 7.2 Düzce earthquake records. Two strong ground motion station records were used: one from the station in Mudurnu, and the other in Düzce, which was closer to the earthquake epicenter. The permanent displacements along the sliding plane are given in Table 1. These analyses revealed that rock slopes where planar failure is possible are prone to large displacements triggered by large earthquakes (Arslan Kelam et al. 2025).

Table 1 Critical accelerations, and sliding block movements calculated based on Newmark rigid block analysis considering the November 12, 1999 Düzce earthquake (Mw=7.2) records from two different strong ground motion stations.

Sector	Critical Acceleration	Displacement based on earthquake recorded in Mudurnu (cm)	Displacement based on earthquake recorded in Düzce (cm)
2	0.169	0.0	2.2
4	0.081	0.1	9.0
5	0.022	5.0	52.3
6	0.018	7.1	59.8
8	0.020	6.0	55.9

3. Conclusion

The results showed the significance of the assessment of rock slope instabilities in the Mudurnu. The detailed engineering geological characterization of the rock mass and identification of the complex rock slope failures will form the basis for future hazard and risk assessment studies.

Acknowledgments

I thank IAEG-YEG for their interest and the opportunity they provided. The work presented is a part of my Ph.D. Dissertation supported by the Scientific Research Projects Coordination Unit of METU (Grant No: BAP-03-09-2017-005), and by the scholarship program of the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye (TÜBİTAK) entitled 'International Research Fellowship Program for Ph.D. Students'. I am thankful to Prof. Haluk Akgün, Prof. Antoni Bobet, and Assoc. Prof. Mustafa Kerem Koçkar for their invaluable mentoring.

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12.
5th IAEG SUMMER SCHOOL

FIFTH SUMMER SCHOOL OF THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Aosta (Italy) June 29 - July 7, 2026

The school is dedicated to **PhD students** in Earth Sciences and Engineering Geology

NO REGISTRATION FEE IS REQUIRED

The number of participants is limited

Application deadline: April 1, 2026

Contact: sciaeg@irpi.cnr.it

MORE INFORMATION

SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION

ORGANIZED AND SUPPORTED BY

UNDER THE PATRONAGE OF

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/qvc07qimsey5h0wdmouex/IAEG-summer-school-2026-program.pdf?rlkey=sxvmq85unf0lllygpgd4wmnzs&st=yqjh8rac&dl=0 for the full program.

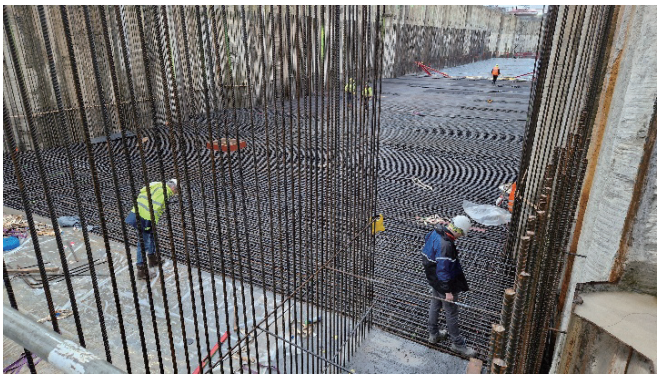
13.
NEWS OF NATIONAL / REGIONAL GROUPS

BELGUIM

Upgrading the Obourg Lock: A Key Step for Inland Waterway Transport in Europe

As part of the ongoing development of inland waterway transport in Belgium and Europe, the Obourg lock—along with other locks in the region—requires upgrading to meet new draft requirements. The project involves the construction of a new lock that complies with the CEMT Va draft standard, accommodating vessels of up to 2,000 tons. The new lock will measure 149 meters in length.

In this context, the public service of the Walloon Region granted the RockEnGeo. be consortium access to the construction site during the works. This allowed the consortium to present the full scope of the project within a broader European framework.



NEPAL-NSEG

ARC-15 Conference 2025

The 15th Asian Regional Conference (ARC-15) of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment was successfully held in Kathmandu, Nepal, from 27–29 November 2025 under the theme “Geological Engineering for Societal and Sustainable Development.”

The conference was jointly organized by NSEG and the IAEG Bangladesh National Group (IBNG), marking a significant milestone in regional collaboration.

The conference hosted 360 participants from over 20 countries, representing academia, industry, government, and research institutions. A total of 217 scientific presentations (190 oral and 27 posters) were delivered, along with keynote and invited lectures from internationally recognized experts addressing key challenges such as landslides, tunneling, climate change, and geohazards.

Figure 1 MSc and PhD Awardees in ARC–15 of IAEG

The program included 22 parallel technical sessions, pre-conference workshops, training programs, and extensive field excursions in Nepal and Bangladesh, providing participants with valuable practical exposure.

Dedicated activities for Women in Engineering Geology (WEG) and Young Engineering Geologists (YEG) further enhanced inclusivity, professional development, and international networking.

ARC-15 was highly successful in fostering knowledge exchange, strengthening global collaboration, and showcasing Nepal's growing leadership in engineering geology and geohazard research.

Figure 2 Inaugural session of ARC–15 of IAEG

Figure 3 Participants in ARC–15

Proposed Himalayan Field School Initiative

NSEG is currently planning to establish the IAEG Himalayan Field School in Nepal as a flagship field-based training program, proposed to be conducted annually from 2027 to 2037. The initiative is being developed in collaboration with international partners including the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment Austrian National Group and BOKU University, with extended collaboration and support being asked from Adian regional groups such as the Japanese Society of Engineering Geology, Indian Society of Engineering Geology, Chinese National Group of IAEG, IAEG Regional Group Taipei, IAEG National Group of Malaysia, and Korean Society of Engineering Geology.

The program aims to provide hands-on training for MSc and PhD students as well as young professionals through intensive fieldwork in the Himalayan region, focusing on geological mapping, landslide and hazard assessment, geo-hydrological processes, and the integration of remote sensing and GIS techniques. Field activities are planned in key locations such as Pokhara, Lete, and Muktinath, covering diverse geological settings and geohazard conditions.

This initiative is expected to strengthen international collaboration among IAEG National and Regional Groups, enhance capacity building for young engineering geologists, and increase the global visibility of NSEG and IAEG through a long-term, field-based training platform.

PERU

IAEG Peru National Group announces the 2nd Peruvian Biennial in Geotechnics (September, 2026)

The IAEG Peru National Group has announced the 2nd Peruvian Biennial in Geotechnics, to be held from 2–5 September 2026 in Lima, Peru, as a continuation of its first edition held in 2024.

The Biennial is conceived as a national and regional forum to advance knowledge and collaboration in engineering geology and geotechnics, bringing together professionals, academics, researchers, and

students from Peru and abroad. The event aims to foster dialogue on key challenges related to geotechnical practice, infrastructure development, and geohazards in Latin America.

Located in a region characterised by complex geological conditions and significant exposure to natural hazards, Peru provides an important setting for discussions on slope stability, risk management, mining geotechnics, and resilient infrastructure. The Biennial also positions the country as a natural laboratory for engineering geology in Andean and tropical environments

The event will be hosted at the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos (FIGMMG) and is planned as a hybrid format (in-person and virtual, to be confirmed). The programme will include pre-Biennial specialised courses (2 September), followed by the main technical sessions (3–4 September), featuring plenary lectures, invited keynote speakers, technical sessions, and high-level panels. Activities will also include dedicated spaces for young professionals (YEG) and women in engineering geology (WEG), as well as networking events.

The Biennial will conclude on 5 September with technical field trips to representative geotechnical sites in the Lima area, providing participants with applied insights into local geological and engineering conditions.

The event is organised by IAEG Peru under the coordination of Eng. Sandra Melisa Ramírez, President of the Engineering Geology Chapter of the Colegio de Ingenieros del Perú (CIP Lima), with the support of a multidisciplinary organising team.

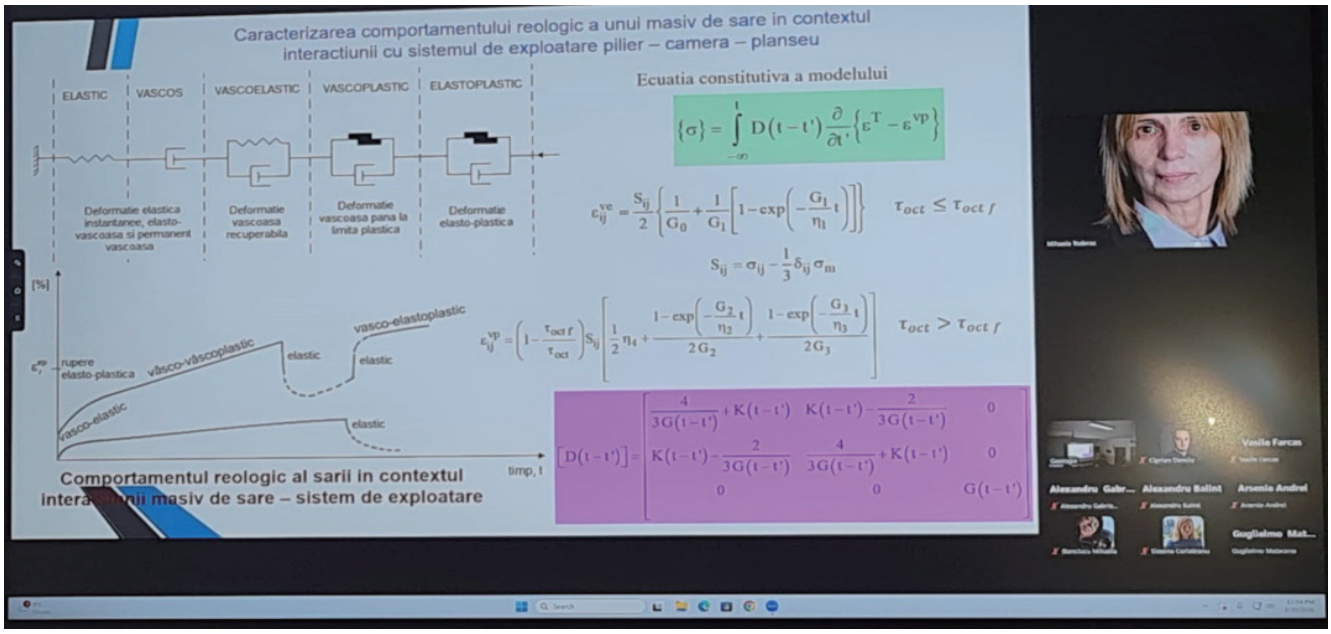
Through this initiative, IAEG Peru seeks to strengthen the role of engineering geology and geotechnics in addressing societal challenges, promoting risk reduction, and supporting sustainable infrastructure development in Peru and across Latin America.

For more information, please visit: https://iaegperu.wixsite.com/bienalperugeotecnia/2bpg

ROMANIA

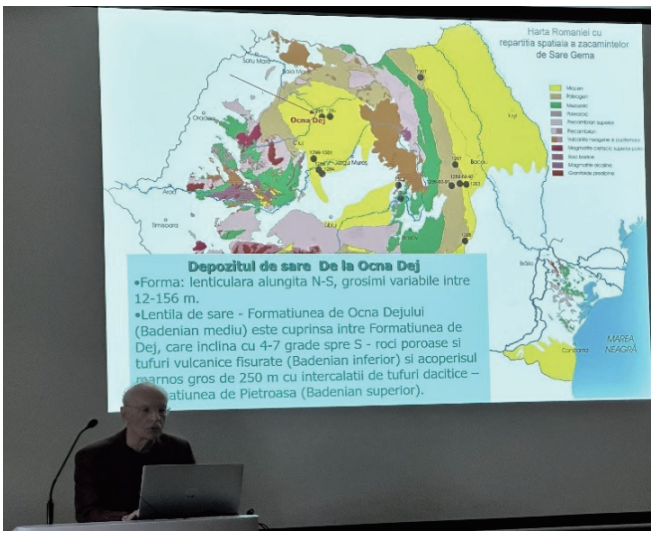
Contribution to IAEG newsletter on behalf of Romanian Group of IAEG

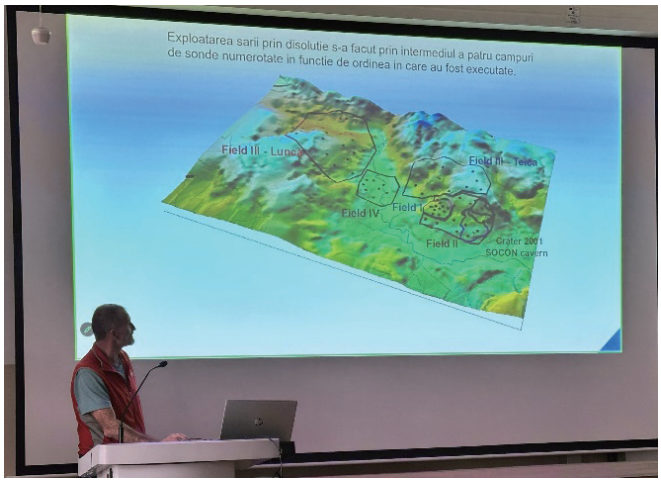
The Workshop “Salt formations - peculiarities of the Geomechanical Behavior” was successfully held at the University of Bucharest, Faculty of Geology and Geophysics, Department of Engineering Geology and Geophysics on 20th of March 2026. The scientific manifestation brought together more than 50 members of engineering geology community (more than 10 on line), most of them affiliated to Romanian Group of IAEG, but also non-members from The National Salt Society, National Regulatory Authority for Mining, Oil and Geological Storage of Carbon Dioxide, Technical University of Bucharest and Cluj, young researchers, master and doctoral students.

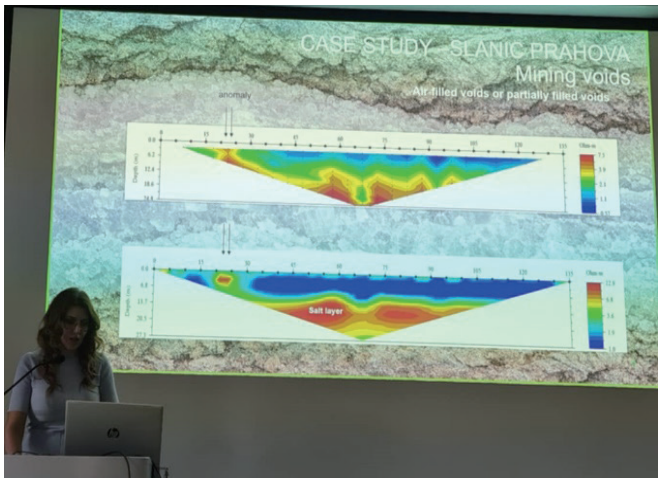


The event featured eight keynote presentations in the plenary session (distributed also on line from 9 AM to 5PM) had been focusing on issues related to:

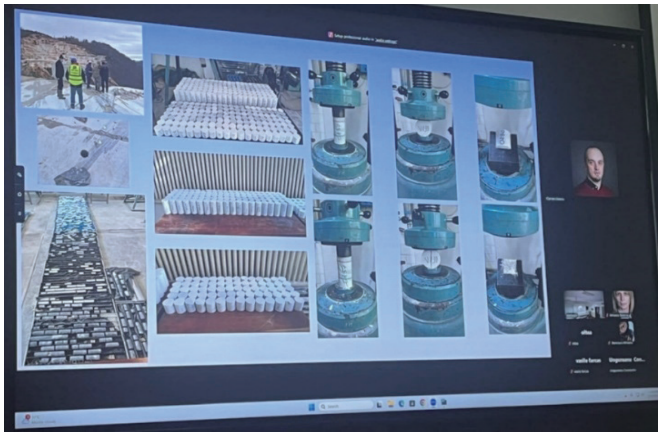
- geological and hydrogeological characterization (Ph. D. Adrian Iurkiewicz),
- geomechanical and rheological behaviour of salt formations in Romania (Habilitate Prof. Ph.D. Mihaela Toderaş and Associate Prof. Ciprian Danci from Mine University of Petroşani),
- geological and geophysical sustainable management and further development of subsidence affected areas of salt underground exploitations, Salt Mines Prahova, Praid and Ocnele Mari, on behalf of University of Bucharest (Past President of Romanian IAEG Group, Prof. Pd.D. Cristian Mărunţeanu, Lecturer Ph. D. Florina Tuluca, and Marius Mocuţa),
- peculiarities of in situ geotechnical investigations and salt failure directly filmed on CCTV (Assistant Mihaela Roca);
- and further hypothetical storage of carbon dioxide and hydrogen in salt formations – worldwide state of practice (Lecturer Ph. D. Iulian Popa).







The interest of the subject and the strong impression left by presentations, was provided by the extended discussions and the exchange of information and contacts during breaks and at the end of the event.



14.
NEWS OF COMMISSIONS

COMMISSION 4

The International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) is pleased to announce the **reactivation of Technical Committee C4 on Education and Training**, one of the most strategically important committees for the future of our profession.

As President of IAEG, I have personally undertaken the responsibility of **chairing this critical committee**, reflecting my strong conviction that **education, training, and professional development are foundational pillars for the future of Engineering Geology worldwide**.

I am particularly pleased and deeply grateful that the committee has already brought together **35 members from across the world**, representing a truly international network of educators, researchers, practitioners, and young professionals. This strong global participation highlights the importance of this initiative and the collective commitment of our community to shaping the next generation of Engineering Geologists.

At a time when Engineering Geology and Geological Engineering education are undergoing significant transformation internationally, the reactivated **TC C4** will address evolving academic structures, new professional demands from industry, rapid digitalization, sustainability challenges, geohazards, infrastructure resilience, and the integration of emerging technologies.

Strategic Tasks and Work Programme of TC C4

The committee's work programme has been structured through the following tasks:

Academic Programs, Competencies, and Curriculum Development

- Survey global academic programs and develop a database of universities and departments offering Engineering Geology.
- Define and list the core competencies required for modern Engineering Geologists in accordance with emerging industry needs.
- Reshape education for the Engineering Geologists of the future through support and proposals for MSc syllabi worldwide.
- Integrate digital and emerging technologies, including Artificial Intelligence, GIS, and remote sensing, into Engineering Geology education.
- Explore the development of an international certification framework for Engineering Geologists as a benchmark aligned with industry expectations.

International Collaboration and Outreach

- Establish an international network of educators.
- Establish a liaison group for collaboration with international organizations such as UNESCO and the European Union and other, to strengthen and promote Engineering Geology education.
- Establish a task force to promote Engineering Geology as a field of study among high school

students, supporting student recruitment and visibility of the profession.

- Strengthen academia–industry collaboration.
- Organize dedicated education sessions at IAEG conferences and congresses.
- Support mentoring initiatives for young professionals.

Educational Resources and Knowledge Development

- Organize focused webinars on key topics.
- Review IAEG training courses, including the currently proposed "C4 Soil and Rock Logging Training Framework."
- Develop internationally recognized case studies that demonstrate the importance and practice of Engineering Geology, together with short educational presentations to be hosted in the IAEG database.
- Develop international guidelines and a formal position paper.
- Create a shared global educational resource repository.

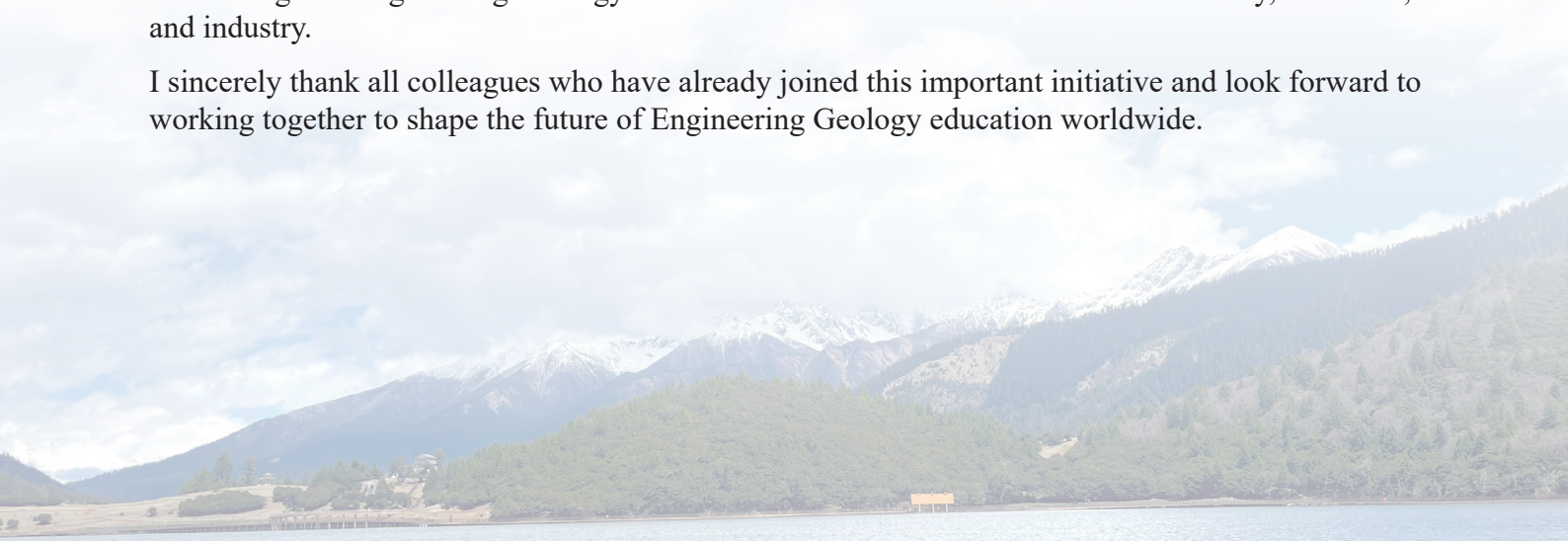
Operational Structure

To ensure effective implementation, the committee's activities will be supported through dedicated contribution areas, including:

- survey support and data analysis of academic programs;
- education and curriculum development;
- research, content, and knowledge resources;
- industry and external relations;
- community outreach and events;
- strategy and program coordination;
- technical and scientific document review.

The reactivation of **TC C4** represents a major strategic step for IAEG and reinforces our commitment to ensuring that Engineering Geology education evolves in line with the needs of society, academia, and industry.

I sincerely thank all colleagues who have already joined this important initiative and look forward to working together to shape the future of Engineering Geology education worldwide.



COMMISSION 38

Activities

The Commission is finalising the State-of-the-art paper on the geological factors, failure and trigger mechanisms of Rock slope hazards, demonstrating their importance through selected case studies. The paper will be published in the Bulletin of IAEG. The paper aims to give guidance to the Engineering Geology community, young Academics, research students and practitioners from industry on the study of rock slope hazards. The contents include:

- Types and scales of landslide processes in rocks
- Controlling factors
- Failure and movement mechanisms
- Trigger- and factors of slope failure and movement
- Implications for rock slope hazards – examples from case studies

Workshop in XV IAEG Congress in Delft in 2026

In the occasion of the XV IAEG Congress in Delft, a pre-Congress workshop will be organized by C38. The theme of the workshop is Rock Slope Hazards and rock mass characterization. The topics which will be explored during the workshop are the following: a) Rock mass behaviour and rock slope stability: types of rock masses and how their characteristics can define the type of rock instabilities. b) Geological aspects of rock masses in relation to instabilities (weathering, anisotropy, alteration, permeability, etc.), c) Rock discontinuity characterisation for rock slopes. d) Identifying triggers in geological models, likelihood of triggering mechanisms. Data needed for evaluating triggers. e) Rock slope design and construction; a practical approach.

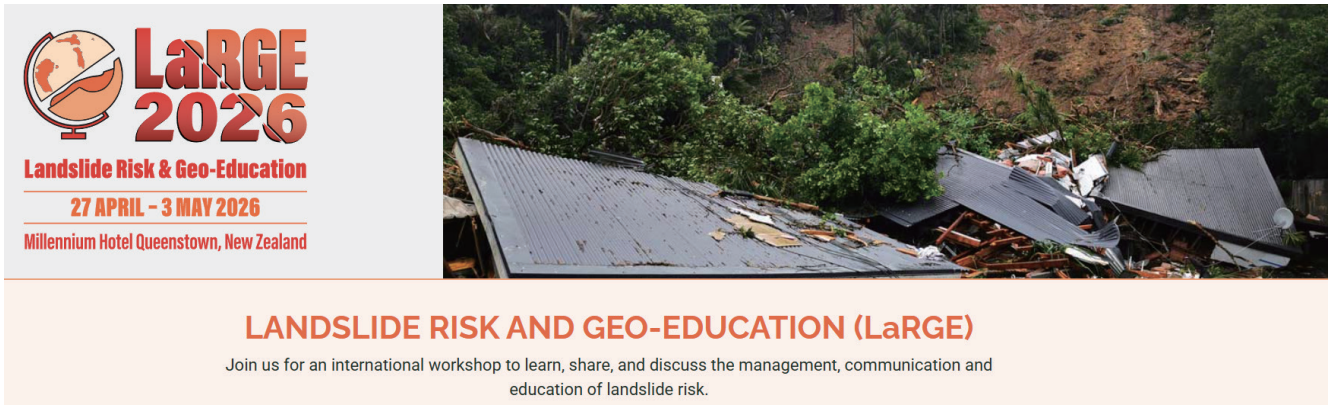
The instructors of the Workshop are as follows:

Instructors	Topic	
Dr. Haris Saroglou (Greece)	Rock mass characterisation for rock slope stability	
Prof. Christian Zangerl (Austria)	Rock discontinuity characterisation for rock slopes	
Prof. Bill Murphy (UK)	Triggering mechanisms of rock slope instabilities	
Alkis Gkouvailas (UK)	From geology to rock slope design and construction; a practical approach	

15. MEETING INFORMATION

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

2026 International Summer School on August 10-25, 2026

Landslides
DOI 10.1007/s10346-025-02642-4

Alexander Strom · Kanatbek Abdrakhmatov

2026 International summer school on rockslides and related phenomena in the Kokomeren River basin (Kyrgyzstan) (ICL Kokomeren summer school) and workshop on natural hazards

The JSC "Hydroproject Institute", Moscow, Russia, and the Institute of Seismology of the National Academy of Sciences of the Kyrgyz Republic, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, are announcing the 2026 field training course "International Summer School on Rockslides and Related Phenomena in the Kokomeren River Basin" (Kokomeren Summer School). The Summer School is supported by the International Consortium on Landslides (ICL), International Program on Landslides (IPL Project C106–2), and the Almaty UNESCO Cluster office. It will be combined with a workshop where participants can present the results of their studies of rock avalanches and other hazardous natural phenomena.

Rockslides and rock avalanches are among the most hazardous natural phenomena in mountainous regions. About 20 such features, ranging in volume from several million to more than 1 billion cubic meters, are concentrated in the Kokomeren River basin (Central Tien Shan) within a limited area of about 100 × 50 km, at a one-day trip distance from Bishkek – the capital city of Kyrgyzstan. Most sites are located near the roads along the Kokomeren River and its tributaries and require several hours of driving from the base camp and 1–8 km of hiking with up to 300–500 m raise to reach them. Such daily field trips require the participants to be physically fit.

The ICL Kokomeren Summer School aims to demonstrate rockslides of various types, most of which have converted into flow-like rock avalanches. Some are characterized by up to 5–6 km long runout; others formed natural dams, either intact or deeply eroded. Various methods of their identification, mapping, and dating, as well as the detailed examination and analysis of the internal structures and grain-size composition of rockslide and rock avalanche deposits will be demonstrated.

Due to the arid climate and sparse vegetation, rockslide morphologies are well preserved and recognizable. Some rockslide deposits up to 400 m thick have been wholly dissected by erosion so that their internal structure can be studied in detail. Several massive landslides in weakly lithified deposits in the neotectonic depressions and evidence of valley inundation caused by rockslide damming and associated outburst floods will also be demonstrated. Besides numerous rockslides and landslides, the study area provides impressive manifestations of the Neotectonics and Quaternary tectonics, such as active faults, one of which was ruptured during the 1992 M7.3 Suusamyr earthquake, and numerous examples of tilted and folded pre-Neogene planation surfaces. One of the training course topics is the paleoseismological interpretation of large rockslides and rock avalanches. The detailed full-color Summer School guidebook can be downloaded from the ICL homepage: www.landslides.org (Publications/Leaflet and Proceedings/Guide-Books/Landslide Field School Guidebook). The Kokomeren River basin is a beautiful area with kind and hospitable people.

The training course will be held from **August 10 to August 25, 2026**. The base camp will be placed in the guesthouse in the Kyzyl-Oi village, where we will stay in rooms for two to five persons. The electricity, running water, hot shower, and Wi-Fi Internet connection will be available. The participation fee is **EURO 900** (or equivalent amount in Kyrgyz soms, US dollars, Russian roubles, or Chinese yuan), which includes all costs at the site: camping, food, local transportation, and a detailed full-color guidebook. The fee should be paid in cash upon the participants' arrival. Please note that some foreign cards do not work in Kyrgyzstan, so bring cash with you. Cash receipt vouchers and certificates confirming attendance at the ICL Kokomeren Summer School course will be provided.

Organizers will provide help obtaining visas if necessary. Please check if you need a visa to come to Kyrgyzstan. The list of countries whose citizens do not need visas to visit Kyrgyzstan is available at http://www.centralasia-travel.com/en/countries/kirgistan/visas. Those who have to apply for a visa should send a copy of their passport to organizers **before May 1, 2026**.

Participants should **arrive in Bishkek on the morning of August 10 or earlier**. They will be picked up at the arrival desk of the Bishkek airport. Bishkek is connected with Moscow, Almaty, Tashkent, Istanbul, Urumchi, Dubai, and Delhi by direct flights. Organizers will arrange accommodation (not exceeding €50 per night) for participants arriving before August 10 or departing after August 25. The cost of the hotel/hostel in Bishkek for one night from August 24 to August 25 (up to €50 per night) booked by organizers is included in the registration fee.

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Published online: 18 October 2025

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/4s642z92o0wcnjpzdfxdw/2026_Summer-School-Announcement.pdf?rlkey=63kviqkpf6xfo9hhbnjqxxc1x&st=dauvly6q&dl=0 for the information.

Abuja, Nigeria, September 13-18, 2026

11th NAEGE Annual International Conference and Exhibition

Westin Chattanooga, Tennessee, September 13-19, 2026

69th Annual Meeting

The AEG 2026 Annual Meeting will be held in Chattanooga, TN, dedicated to moving environmental and engineering geology forward. This event offers a great opportunity to connect with over 400 geologists and engineers, build relationships, and discover new technology. Attendees can visit incredible project sites and geological features while obtaining Professional Development Hours (PDHs) needed for licensure. Participants can also share their expertise through technical presentations or market their companies to potential clients and teaming partners. Additionally, a Virtual Presentation Day is scheduled for September 12, 2026.

Call for Abstracts

AEG is calling for abstracts, the deadline to submit your abstracts is **May 1, 2026**. Please refer to https://www.aegannualmeeting.org/technical-program for the detailed information.

Field Courses

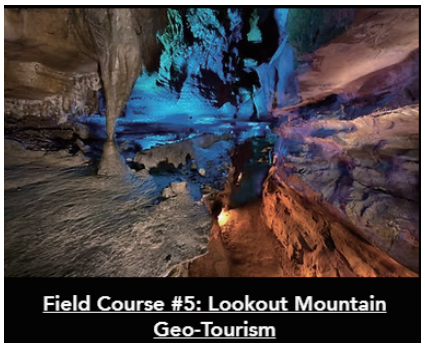
Seven educational field courses are arranged during the meeting, to learn about the area's environmental and engineering geology from a local expert.


Field Course #1: Raccoon Mountain Pumped Storage and Chickamauga Lock


Field Course #2: Tunnels and Trains


Field Course #3: Chattanooga Brownfield Redevelopments

Field Course #4: Zinc Mine Underground Tour


Field Course #5: Lookout Mountain Geo-Tourism


Field Course #6A: Ocoee Gorge & Copper Basin Adventures - Rafting Option

Kathmandu, Nepal, November 19-21, 2026

12th Nepal Geological Congress NGC-XII

The Himalaya represents one of the most dynamic geological regions on Earth, influencing hazards, water resources, climate systems, and sustainable development far beyond national boundaries. As geoscientists, our collective responsibility is to advance scientific understanding while ensuring that geological knowledge informs safer infrastructure, resilient communities, and sustainable resource use.

NGC-XII, 2026 is envisioned as a high-impact international platform that brings together global expertise and Himalayan experience. I warmly invite researchers, professionals, students, and institutions worldwide to join us in Kathmandu and contribute to shaping the future of Himalayan and global geoscience.

Meeting Information

Website: www.ngs.org.np; Cell: +977-9851431322; Email: info@ngs.org.np

Contact: Dr. Ananta Man Singh Pradhan (Tel: +977-9841258698; Email: convenor12ngc@ngs.org.np)

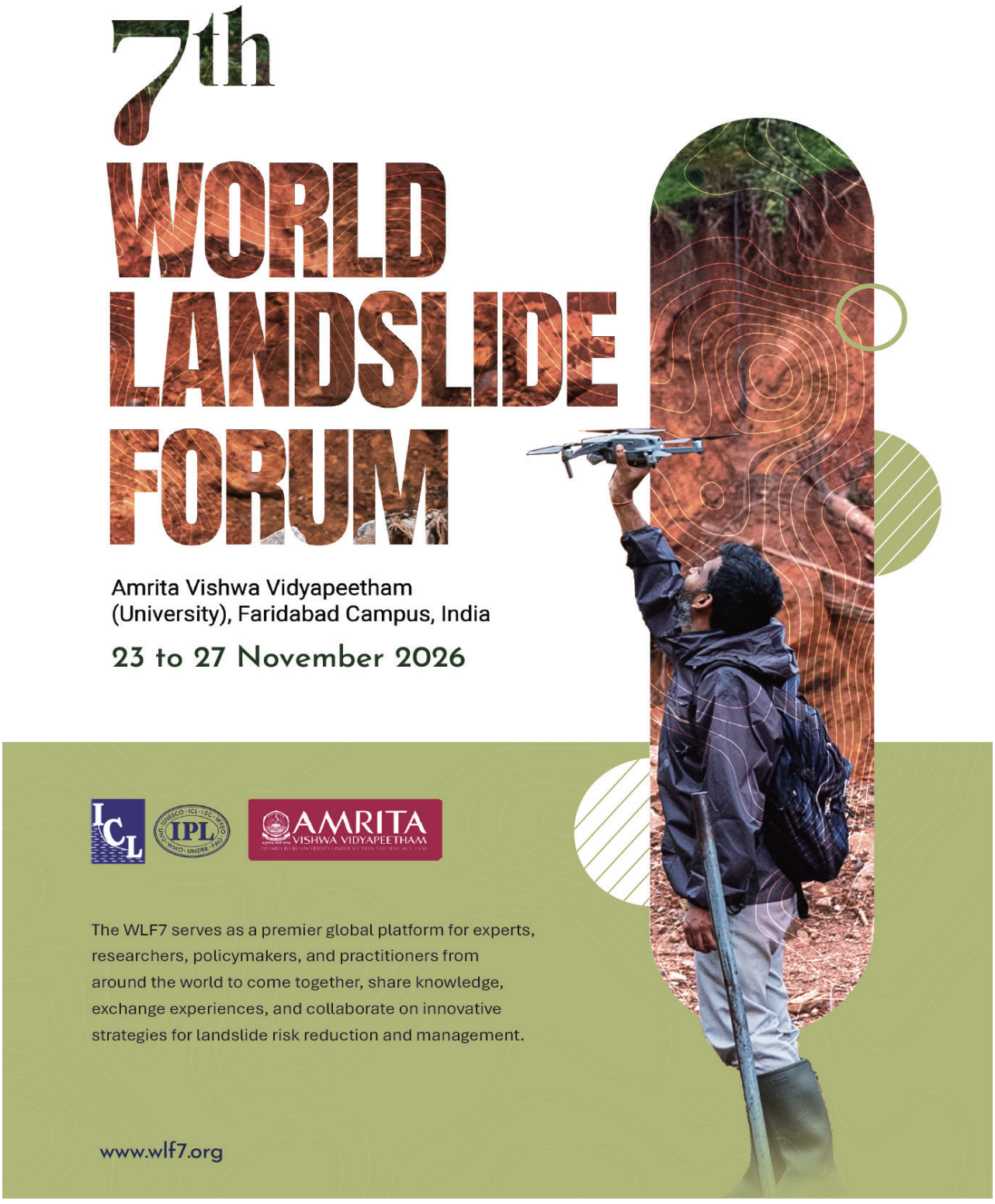
Theme

Advancing Himalayan Geoscience for a Resilient, Sustainable and Resource-Secure World

Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/zsr3mlr5se8n4h83i9xt6/First-Circular-of-12th-Nepal-Geological-Congress-NGC-XII.pdf?rlkey=p9mwn6ja3mvx8o7qa9bv10jde&st=yk8ypwcs&dl=0 for the 1st circular.

Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, India, November 23-27, 2026

7th World Landslide Forum



Please refer to https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/t0vq4ay2sxgs2v27h0l7w/WLF-Brochure-2026.pdf?rlkey=lu4t7pw36z03h7ca3jwlarrjf&st=gu9k9lir&dl=0 for the detailed information.

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