

# **Federation of International Geo-engineering Societies**

## **Guidelines for Joint Technical Committees**

(as approved by the three Sister Societies in Paris FRANCE on 2005 November 11)

### **1. Definition of Joint Technical Committees**

A Joint Technical Committee (JTC) is an officially appointed technical committee consisting of members of the three Sister Societies, i.e. the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) and the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG).

### **2. Aim of JTCs**

The principal aim of JTC is to address issues referred to it by the Presidents of the Sister Societies including solving technical questions, supplying internationally acceptable and applicable guidelines or studying wide-spread problems in the broad field of geo-engineering.

JTCs should aim to be sources of the most current technical information in their fields of expertise.

Initiative by JTCs to arrange conferences or to provide sessions at conferences of any of the Sister Societies are welcomed.

### **3. Apppointment of JTCs**

The three Presidents of the Sister Societies appoint JTCs for a period of four years. The norms for appointment include but are not limited to the following:

- Widespread occurrence of the problem to be solved or studied
- Mutual interest of the Sister Societies
- Contribution of all three Sister Societies
- Likelihood of a successful outcome

The three Presidents of the Sister Societies may agree to extend the term of the JTC for a further four years. The Presidents also have the right to terminate a JTC for lack of progress or if it becomes clear that the goals cannot be achieved for whatever reason.

### **4. Composition of JTCs**

A JTC shall consist of a Core Group consisting of a Chairperson plus up to 3 members of each of the Sister Societies. The Core Group shall be appointed by the three Presidents of the Sister Societies, being selected as persons that can contribute to the successful outcome of the JTC and that are acceptable to all three Presidents.

The Core Group has the right to co-opt members with specialised skills and to appoint sub-committees to study individual aspects of the overall problem and to ensure widespread international representation. National Groups and/or Member Societies of the 3 Societies can propose (non-Core) corresponding members for the JTCs. Such proposals have to be agreed upon by the Core Group. Co-opted members and convenors of sub-committees shall be invited to attend Core Group Meetings as observers, but only the Core Group members appointed by the Presidents of the Sister Societies shall have voting rights at such meetings.

## **5. Authority of JTC Core Group and Chairperson**

The individual Core members do not act as representatives raising the interests of countries, regions or Sister Societies.

The Chairperson of the JTC shall report annually to the three Presidents of the Sister Societies only, who will be responsible for feedback and reporting to the individual Councils and/or Boards of the Sister Societies. The Chairperson of a JTC shall have the autonomy to take and apply decisions by the Core Group without reference on each individual occasion to the three Presidents of the Sister Societies, yet within the constraints of the Statutes or other rules of the individual Sister Societies especially those relating to items of professional conduct and the images of the Sister Societies.

The Presidents of the three Sister Societies shall give guidance and accept or reject progress and final reports submitted by the Chairperson of the JTCs.

## **6. Deliverables.**

The main findings of the JTCs work shall be presented in a format that is appropriate to the nature of the assignment. The emphasis shall be on producing practical documents that can be distributed to and used by members of the Sister Societies. Field tours, visits, etc are encouraged.

## **7. Funding**

No funding for the work of the JTCs shall normally be supplied individually or collectively by the sister Societies. JTCs shall have the right to generate their own funding by arranging symposia or other forms of discussion. In such an event, each of the Sister Societies shall be paid 1.5% of the registration fees of delegates while the JTC and the organising committee shall retain any surplus to be divided as per prior arrangement between them. Conferences and symposia shall be affordably priced for all members of the Sister Societies. Retained funds are only to be used for reimbursement of legitimate costs incurred for the work of the JTC. No members of the JTC or its sub-committees shall be paid for work done for a JTC.

At the termination of a JTC, any accumulated funds shall be distributed equally amongst the Sister Societies, as will any funds generated after the termination of a JTC by for instance book sales or any other source emanating from the work of the JTC.