

FedIGS

FEDERATION OF INTERNATIONAL
GEO-ENGINEERING SOCIETIES



A report by

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WHAT IS FedIGS?

FedIGS is an umbrella organization linking international professional societies in the field of “Geo-Engineering” and serving to facilitate cooperation among them

The current members are

ISSMGE	International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering
ISRM	International Society for Rock Mechanics
IAEG	International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment
IGS	International Geosynthetics Society

Members retain their complete autonomy and there are no dues.

WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF FedIGS?

The goals of FedIGS are:

1. Facilitate cooperation within the geo-engineering profession
2. Coordinate activities in areas of overlapping interest
3. Raise the public awareness and the profile of the geo-engineering profession
4. To remain a lightly structured, inexpensive, and unobtrusive organization

HISTORY OF FedIGS

The evolution of FedIGS can be summarized in the following two figures. In a first phase (1936 to 2000), ISSMGE, ISRM, IAEG, and then IGS were formed. There was a consistent desire to collaborate, several discussions took place but no formal structure was established and each attempt to get organized faded. In a second phase (2000-2009) there was a recognition that a formal structure was essential and FedIGS bylaws were proposed. The councils of the three founding societies (ISSME, ISRM, and IAEG) approved the FedIGS bylaws. In 2010, FedIGS saw a significant restructuring with a simplified vision for the organization described in Figure 3.

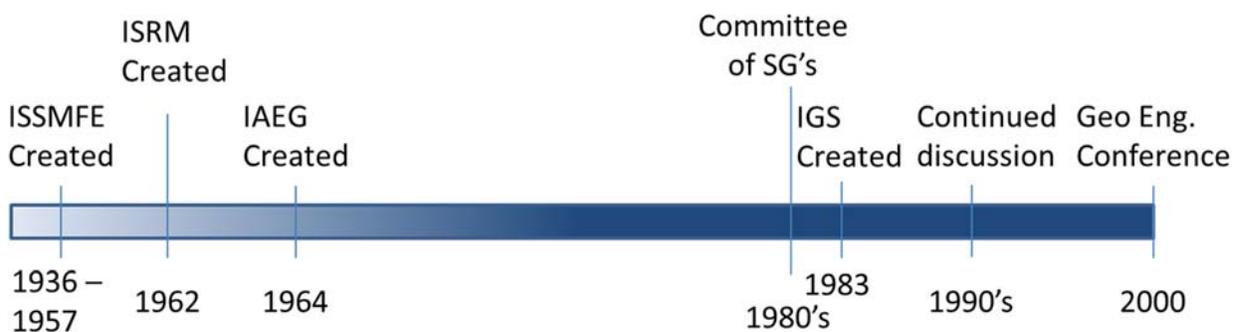


Fig. 1 – First phase – 1936 – 2000.

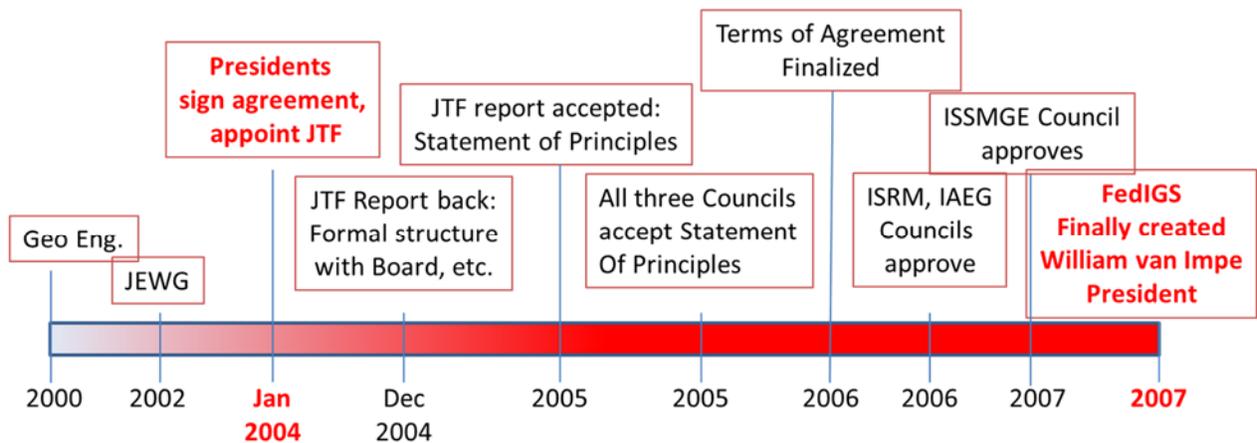


Fig. 2 – Second phase – 2000 - 2009.

1. No dues paid by member societies
2. FedIGS is unfunded; each member society pays its own way and so does the president
3. One meeting per year attended by presidents, past presidents and secretaries general
4. Limited number of joint technical committees in areas of clear overarching needs
5. No corporate associate members from industry
6. No FedIGS conferences; instead emphasize cooperation between member conferences
7. Emphasis on learning from each other and sharing successes and difficulties
8. Increase in size (IGS joins in 2014)
9. Simple web site currently sponsored by IGS

Fig. 3 – FedIGS since 2010.

PRESIDENTS OF FedIGS

The presidents of FedIGS have been:

William Van Impe (Belgium)	2007-2010
Neilen van der Merwe (South Africa)	2010-2013
Jean-Louis Briaud (USA)	2014-2017

MY VISION AS PRESIDENT

My vision as president is summarized in the Figure below

Underlying Principles

1. I will preserve the freedom of each member society
2. I will foster cooperation
3. I wish to listen to your ideas and wishes
4. I have some ideas of my own
5. I believe in action after discussion

Some ideas

1. Bring in more members
2. Review JTCs. Are JTF more appropriate or just different?
3. Active cooperation (e.g.: Eng. Geol. Short course at ISSMGE conf.)
4. Keeping informed of each others activities
5. Web site?
6. Practitioner-professor partnership

Fig. 4 – My vision.

FedIGS BOARD MEMBERS

The current FedIGS board members are presented in the figure below

ISSMGE

1. **President: Roger Frank**
2. **Past President: Jean-Louis Briaud**
3. **Secretary General: Neil Taylor**

ISRM

1. **President: Eda Quadros**
2. **Past President: Xia Ting Feng**
3. **Secretary General: Luis Lamas**

IAEG

1. **President: Scott Burns**
2. **Past President: Carlos Delgado**
3. **Secretary General: Faquan Wu**

IGS

1. **President: Russell Jones**
2. **Past President: Jorge Zornberg**
3. **Secretary General: Elizabeth Peggs**

Fig. 5 – FedIGS Board Members in 2015

SUMMARY OF TORINO MEETING – 2014

The FedIGS Board met in Torino where it was hosted by IAEG at the occasion of the 2014 IAEG International Conference. Figure 6 is a summary of the items discussed at the meeting.

- Reports from IAEG, ISSMGE, ISRM, IGS**
- Web Site – yes but simple and linking to individual societies**
- New Members – ICOLD?**
- Cooperation items – shared sessions, short courses**
- Joint Technical Committees -**
 - 1. Landslides – (Luciano Picarelli, Italy)
 - 2. Data – (David Toll, UK)
 - 3. Education – (to be determined)
- Professor-Practitioner partnership**
 - 1. Web site with research needs
 - 2. Case history papers
- Copyright agreement**
- ISSMGE Foundation**
- Bylaws need to be adjusted**
- Next meeting**
 - 1. 2015 - ISRM China – 4-7July2015
 - 2. 2016 – IGS – Miami, USA – 15April2016
 - 3. 2017 – ISSMGE? – Seoul - 2017

Fig. 6 – Summary of Torino 2014 FedIGS meeting