VP Asia Activity Report for the year 2009

Election of Professor Prof. Xia-Ting Feng as the President of ISRM for the tenure 2011-2015 has been the noticeable and perceptible news among the ISRM Asian National Group reports. Election took place during the ISRM International Council held in Hong Kong concurrent with Sinorock 2009 on 19-22 May, 2009. This may be viewed as a sign of the recognition of tremendous Rock Mechanic activities in Asia.

As I have mentioned and forecasted in my earlier report dated Nov. 2008, ISRM membership in Asia is rapidly increasing and it may be due the scope and importance the region is gaining on global stratum. A concise report of activities, by ISRM National Groups in Asia, for the year 2009 is given as below.

1. ACTIVITIES OF ISRM NATIONAL GROUPS IN ASIA

1.1. China

China National Group is represented by the Chinese Society for Rock Mechanics and Engineering (CSRME) and currently has 502 individual members and 13 corporate members.

A brief note of its activities during the specified period is summarized as below:

- Organized and International Workshop for Jin Ping II on the Safety of the Deep Tunnels at the Jinping II Hydropower Station, China. March 31-April 2, 2009. From all over China and Hong Kong region 240 delegates have attended the conference, including the fields of rock engineering, rock mechanics, earthquake prediction, railway engineering and hydropower.

- The ISRM-Sponsored International Symposium on Rock Mechanics was successfully held on 19-22 May 2009 at The University of Hong Kong, China. The aims of the SINOROCK symposia are: a) to follow the rock engineering design process through the sequence of rock characterization, modelling, and then design; and b) to provide a forum for rock mechanics researchers and engineers from the East and the West to exchange views. More than 250 participants from all over the world attended the symposium.

• Prof. J. A. Hudson, Dr. John P Harrison Dr. Tony Meyers and Prof. Resat Ulusay gave lectures in Beijing, Nanjing, Wuhan and Hong Kong four cities. The lecture was based on the content of the two books by Professors John A. Hudson and John P. Harrison which have recently been translated into Chinese (“Engineering Rock Mechanics 1: An Introduction to the Principles” and “Engineering Rock Mechanics 2: Illustrative Worked Examples.

• China National Group has been successful to organize Third International Conference on "New Development in Rock Organized Mechanics and Engineering & Sanya forum for the plan of city and city construction” on May 24-26, 2009, at Sanya, China, with 7 keynote speeches and was attended by more than 50 participants from all over the world.

• ISRM NG-China celebrate its 30th Anniversary on August 2009, where in Prof. John Hudson gave a speech to congratulate the NG China.

• The 7th International Symposium on Rock burst and Seismicity in Mines was conducted on 21-23 August 2009, Dalian, China. The symposium provides every four years a framework for scientists, engineers and other professionals to report and discuss the most recent results of research studies and applications in mine seismicity. This forum explores the advances and current status of numerical rock modeling, rock mechanics and microseismic technology and their use in the industry. It also searches for new potential solutions to the understanding and monitoring of the dynamic rock mass response to mining. There are more than 300 participants from all over the world attended this conference.

• CSRME hosted the 7th Session of Annual Meeting of Chinese Association of Science and Technology (CAST), on Sep 8-10, 2009, in Chongqin, China

• 12th ACUUS Conference (ACUUS2009), was organized on November 18-19 2009, Shenzhen, China. Using the Underground of Cities: for a Harmonious and Sustainable Urban Environment

• **Preparations for ISRM2011:** The 4th ISRM2011 organizing committee meeting was held on May 16, 2009 in Hong Kong.

• The ISRM2011 website were set up: www.isrm2011.com

• Organized an Anniversary Conference for Wenchuan Earthquake on Rock Mechanics (April 25-29, 2009)

• Active in organizing the 12th ISRM Congress in Beijing in 2011.

1.2. India

India National Group is represented by more than 366 individual members and has been very active in organizing various activities. A brief glance of its activities during the reporting period is summarized below:

• Organized a Seminar on tunneling techniques for construction of underground structures for army, 7-8 May 2009, Udhampur (Jammu & Kashmir), India

• Organized (2) two workshops of Two Days each on “Rock Mechanics and tunneling Techniques” in two extreme eastern and northern provinces of India along with Technical tours.

• Organizing ISRM International symposium 2010 and 6th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium (ARMS 2010) in October, 2010. First bulletin is being circulated. A separate website for the event with domain name as www.arms2010.org will be operating soon.

• Organized a workshop on “Applications of Rock Mechanics – Tools and Techniques”, on 5-7 November 2009, Nagpur (Maharashtra)


• The Indian National Group of ISRM and the Central Board of Irrigation & Power (CBIP) are jointly hosting the ISRM International
Symposium 2010 and 6th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium during 23-27 October 2010 in New Delhi (India). First bulletin has been circulated. A separate website for the event with domain name as www.arms2010.org has been made operative.

- **BID for 13th Congress of ISRM:**
  ISRM (India) is bidding for hosting the 13 Congress of ISRM in 2015 with theme “Rock Engineering – Present Technology and Future Challenges”. The Congress proposes to cover the available technologies and the future challenges to meet the acute problems in the execution of projects in difficult terrains/geological settings.

- Nomination of Dr. G.S.P. Singh, Lecturer, Department of Mining Engineering, Banaras Hindu University, India, for ISRM Rocha Medal 2010 for his thesis on “Cavability Assessment and Support Load Estimation for Longwall Workings in India.

- Indian National Group of ISRM and the Central Board of Irrigation & Power (CBIP), the Secretariat of Indian National Group of ISRM is revising the Manual on Rock Mechanics, published in 1988, and propose to release the revised manual during the ISRM International Symposium 2010 and 6th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium.

- The Indian National Group of ISRM and the Central Board of Irrigation & Power (CBIP) are jointly bidding for hosting the 13th Congress of International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM). The Congress is proposed to be held in Agra in November 2015. The proposed theme for the Congress is “Rock Engineering – Present Technology and Future Challenges”. If successful, this would be the first Congress in India, that too after 49 years of the first congress of ISRM, which was organized in Lisbon (Portugal) in 1966.

- First bulletin is being circulated. A separate website for the event with domain name as www.arms2010.org will be operating soon.

### 1.3. Iran

Iran National Group represented by the Iranian Society for Rock Mechanics (IRSRM) has currently increased its member strength from 38 to over 100 and has been very active in promoting the concept of Rock Mechanics and its inevitable application in conducting various Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering Projects throughout the year, especially, after the conducting of
International Symposium 5th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium in November, 2008. The summary of its activities is given below:

- IRSRM has published two seasonal newsletters (fall and winter, 2009,) in Persian language covering the following matters: a) Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering Activities in Iran and b) New policy conducting workshops, and short courses towards contributing to the industries requirements.

- As per IRSRM new guidelines fresh membership identity cards have been issued to all IRSRM members throughout the country with necessary directions and links to improve and speed-up the interactions between NG and its members to transmit the latest innovations and changes in the field.

- IRSRM Board New Approval: The office tenure was extended from 2 years to 3 years. In addition to existing membership categories, 'Fellow Members Category' also has been introduced to expand the membership umbrella and to honor the devoted members. Therefore, IRSRM hereafter shall hold a total of 5 following categories: i) Fellow Members, ii) Members, iii) Affiliated Members, iv) Student Members, and v) Corporate Members.

- IRSRM General Assembly was held on 24th June, 2009, where in various important decisions have been made in respect to the IRSRM Manifesto.

- New members elected for the Board of Directors of the 7th Period of Iranian Society for Rock Mechanics (IRSRM) have been approved by Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of Iran on September 13, 2009. Prof. Abbas Majdi was elected as President.

- A new website providing a wide range of information is under construction to facilitate the people to have access to ISRM and IRSRM Programmes, news flashes and other information relating to other fields of Rock Mechanics.

- Programming and planning Scheduling IRSRM 4th. National Conference for May 2010
1.4. Israel

Israel National Group is represented by the Israel Rock Mechanics Association (IRMA). The Group has this furnished its Activity Report as below:

- An international research seminar on "shear physics at the meso scale in landslide and earthquakes mechanics" was conducted in January 21 - 25 in Ein Gedi on the shores of the Dead Sea. 40 invited speakers from Israel and abroad participated. The proceedings of the above seminar have been dully published.

- Two rock mechanics sessions were held during the 2009 annual meeting of the Geological Society of Israel between ‘31st March - 2nd April, 2009’ at Kfar Blum.

- 12 professional presentations on rock mechanics and geological engineering issues were given by IRMA members and were attended by a large number of members of the geological society.

- Conducted a workshop on shear physics at the meso-scale in landslide and earthquake mechanics. http://www.ortra.com/shear/

- The Israel NG held its annual professional meeting during the annual meeting of the Geological Society of Israel (GSI) that took place on March 31 - April 2, 2009.

1.5. Japan

Japanese Committee for Rock Mechanics (JCRM) with its 363 ISRM individual members and 46 corporate members has been very active and has organized various activities during the reporting period. A summary of same is given below:

- Organized 12th Japan Symposium on Rock Mechanics in which 144 papers were presented.

- Made several important publications on rock mechanics and rock engineering especially, publication of International Journal JCRM Vol. 3 , 4 and 5 with special issue on Geophysics.

- Rock Net mails (Nos. 214-258) have been distributed to Japanese members and other recipients.
• News letters (Nos.88-9) have been published and distributed to the Japanese Members.

• A CD-ROM titled ‘Rock Mechanics 08’ has been composed and distributes to Japanese Members.

• No.1 Special Issue on Collaboration and Engineering Education in Asia have been published in the website http://rocknet-japan.org/journal/Articles.html

• JCRM Awards for 2008 have been conferred to 4 distinguished works in Rock Mechanics & Rock Engineering in Japan.

1.6. Korea

Korea National Group with 1200 members and 100 ISRM members is represented by the Korean Society for Rock Mechanics (KSRM). Korea NG has been very active and organized various activities, as outlined in the attached activity report submitted by the Korea NG. The activities during the reporting period are summarized below:

• Special issue: KSRM opened 3 Korean sessions and 5 English sessions where all presentations, discussion and announcement are done in English. The English sessions were opened first at the previous fall symposium in 2007.

• Organized fall symposium in October, 2008 and special National Congress in January, 2009.

• Organized spring symposium in March, 2008

• Made several important publications on rock mechanics and rock engineering especially, publication of Journal in two languages.

• Supporting and involving the organization of the 12th ISRM Congress.

• Organized the autumn conference in conjunction with the “Korea-Japan Joint Symposium on Rock Engineering,” and a total of 54 papers from Korea and Japan were presented.

• During the year 2009, KSRM published six issues of the Journal of Korean Society for Rock Mechanics, which is also called Tunnels and Underground Space.
• The Korean National Group has also started publishing a bi-monthly “webzine” named 'U-Space,' which is an electronic newsletter distributed via e-mail and which is also available on the KSRM website.

• In addition to technical meetings and publications, a number of mountain climbing and golfing events were hosted by the social clubs within KSRM, which gave excellent networking opportunities for members.

• KSRM will celebrate its thirtieth anniversary in 2011, and the preparation of a white book is underway as a long-term project led by the white book committee.

1.7. Middle East Region

The Middle East Regional Group is represented by the Middle East Society for Rock Mechanics, based in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. This regional group is affiliated to ISRM last year. The activities during the reporting period are not reported by the regional group.

1.8. Indonesia & Nepal

I have not received any report from Indonesian and Nepal National Groups so far.

1.9. Singapore

Singapore National Group represented by the Singapore Society of Rock Mechanics and Engineering Geology (SRMGE). Singapore NG has increased its membership to 65 compared to its 40 last year. As mentioned in their attached report, Singapore NG has been active in organizing various activities; however, a summary of the activities is given below:

• Organized a two day workshop on Norwegian Tunneling Technology and Practice on 17-18 Feb. 2009.

• Organized 4th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 18th March, 2009 in Hotel Intercontinental Singapore and discussed various core issues.

• SRMEG is co-organizer of the 12th ISRM Congress with China NG to be held in Beijing in October, 2011 and has to shoulder many important responsibilities in this respect.
• Singapore National Group has organized an International Conference on Discontinuous Deformation Analysis 2009 (ICADD-09) on 25-27 Nov. 2009. The conference has received a warm response from different countries, especially from China, Japan, Iran and Singapore.

• Established an interest group on Singapore Geology with a goal to setup an Engineering Geological Office for collecting and updating Singapore geology.

• The Singapore National Group also supported the "Geo-Chiangmai' conference organized by CI-Premier of Singapore held on Dec, 2008 in Thailand.

1.10. Southeast Asia

Thailand

Thai National Group represented by Thai Rock Mechanics has been active as outlined in their activity report

• The Second Thailand Symposium on Rock Mechanics (Thai Rock 2009) represents a continuing mission of the Thai leading academic institutions to promote the significance and development of rock mechanics knowledge and profession in Thailand and neighboring countries.

• A one-day short course on 3D Lidar Scanner for Rock Mass Classification preceded the conference was lectured by Prof. John M. Kemeny.

2. OUTLOOK IN ASIA

The trend and attraction of researchers, engineers, and other corporate sectors towards Asian region has offered a good importance to rock mechanic and rock engineering discipline. The upward trend of expansion and progress in the activities of National Groups is obviously perceived as the ongoing/incoming years are witnessing various international events in Asia especially in Iran, China, India, Korea, Japan and Singapore. In addition, there are many national and local conferences and symposiums planned by the National Groups and Commissions. Efforts for establishing ISRM National Groups in other part of Asia, including the Philippines, west and middle Asia is our future strategy.