



News Release

Lisbon, 8 July 2007

The International Society for Rock Mechanics held its Council meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, in conjunction with its 11th Congress "The Second Half Century of Rock Mechanics", organised by the Portuguese Geotechnical Society. In the Council meeting 34 of the 48 National Groups were represented. The Council was also attended by 6 Past Presidents of the ISRM.

Membership of the ISRM

The ISRM has now 5380 individual members and 135 corporate members, belonging to 48 National Groups. This represents an increase of 13% in the number of individual members during the past 4 years, and the highest number of National Groups ever in the ISRM. The President welcomed Indonesia, which was recently admitted to the ISRM and was for the first time represented in the Council meeting.

Amendments to the ISRM Statutes and By-laws

The Council approved the major revision to the ISRM Statutes and By-laws proposed by the Board, which brings them in line with current practice. Major changes have to do with the election of the President and selection of the Congress, and with publication of the News Journal, which has now one annual issue in hard copy and will be complemented by a Newsletter distributed electronically.

ISRM Website

The website has become the main source of information about the Society and most benefits are offered to the members in a password protected members' area. The website receives each month over 140,000 hits and 12,000 visits from 90 countries. The Secretary General reported that the ISRM slide collection, which was donated by the Past President Prof. John Franklin, is now available on-line for free download to ISRM members.

ISRM sponsored meetings

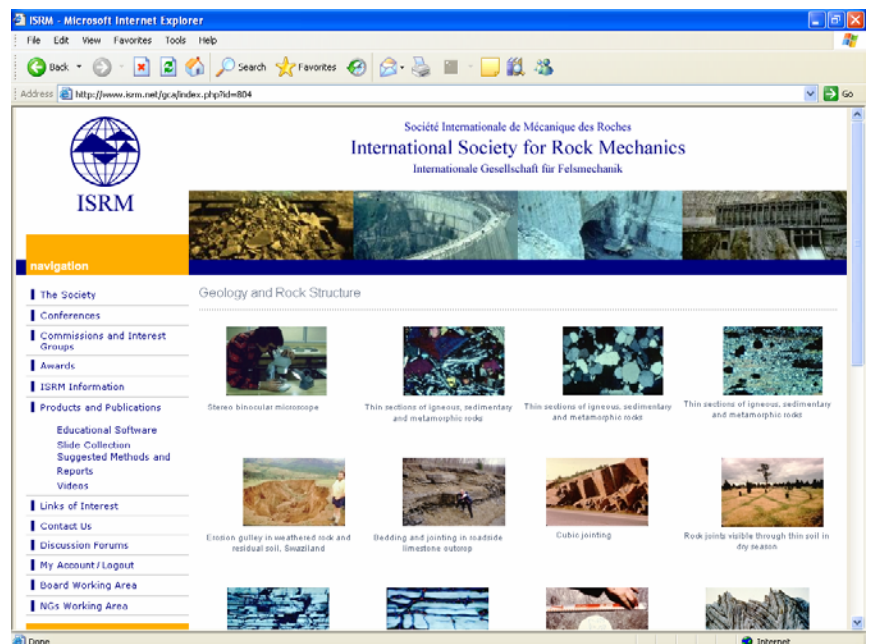
The following list of conferences sponsored by the ISRM was presented:

- 2007 July 9 - 13, Lisbon, Portugal – *The Second Half Century of Rock Mechanics: the 11th ISRM International Congress*.
- 2008 March 31 - April 3, Cape Town, South Africa – *6th International Symposium on Ground Support in Mining & Civil Engineering Construction: an ISRM Regional Symposium*.
- 2008 June 28 - July 2, San Francisco, California, USA, – *U.S. Rock Mechanics Symposium – San Francisco 2008: an ISRM Regional Symposium*.
- 2008 November 24 - 26, Teheran, Iran – *5th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium (ARMS 5): approved by the Council, in Lisbon, as the 2008 ISRM International Symposium*.
- 2009 May 19 - 22, Hong Kong, China – *SINOROCK 2009: approved by the Council, in Lisbon, as the 2009 ISRM International Symposium*.
- 2011 October 16 - 21, Beijing, China, – *Harmonizing Rock Mechanics and the Environment: the 12th ISRM International Congress*.

Information on the 11th Congress of the ISRM, now starting in Lisbon, was presented by the chairman of the Organising Committee Prof. Ribeiro e Sousa. He informed, in particular, that there are over 550 registered delegates and that the Congress is expected to be a great technical success.

Rocha Medal 2008

The Council was informed of the Board decision to award the Rocha Medal 2008 to Dr Liang Zhengzhao, for his Doctoral thesis entitled "Three Dimensional Numerical Modelling of Rock Failure Process", obtained at the North-western University, in China. He will receive the award at the 2008 ISRM International Symposium in Teheran.



The 2008 ISRM International Symposium organisers



Société Internationale de Mécanique des Roches
International Society for Rock Mechanics
Internationale Gesellschaft für Felsmechanik

Commissions

Reports were presented on the activities of the following Commissions, Interest Groups and Joint Technical Committees:

- Application of Geophysics to Rock Engineering
- Case Histories
- Education
- Maintenance and Repair of Underground Struct. in Rock Masses
- Mine Closure
- Testing Methods
- Interest Group on Underground Waste Disposal
- JTC2, Representation of Geo-Engng Data in Electronic Form
- JTC7, Soft Rocks and Indurated Soils



Cooperation with other Societies

The President reported on the initiatives that took place during last year regarding the creation of the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies – FIGS, joining the IAEG, the ISRM and the ISSMGE. He informed Council that the FIGS President will be elected next January and that the Board approved the following process for the selection of a Nominee from the ISRM: 1 – A call for nominations will be distributed to all National Groups by 31 July; 2 – Nominations shall reach the Secretariat by 31 October; 3 – From the nominations received, the Board will select one candidate.

The President informed Council that a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between ISRM and ITA, having in mind the future cooperation between the two organizations, namely the participation in each other's conferences and working groups.



Election of Vice Presidents

Following the election, in 2005, of Prof. John Hudson as President of the Board of the ISRM for the term 2007-2011, the Council elected the following regional Vice Presidents:

- for Africa: Francois Malan (South Africa)
- for Asia: Abdolhadi Ghazvinian (Iran)
- for Australasia: Anthony Meyers (Australia)
- for Europe: Nuno Grossmann (Portugal)
- for North America: Derek Martin (Canada)
- for South America: Alvaro Gonzalez (Colombia).



Maria de Lurdes retires from the ISRM

Mrs Maria de Lurdes Eusébio, Executive Secretary of the ISRM, requested to leave her post after serving the Society for 40 years and will be replaced next October. Maria de Lurdes has attended all 41 Council meetings since 1967 and worked with all Presidents of the ISRM with the exception of the first one. The President thanked her for her efficiency and friendliness, and the Council approved by acclamation a vote of appreciation for her dedication to the Society.



Other Issues

The President of the ISRM thanked the members of the Board for their contribution to ISRM and wished the newly elected Board great success in their work. The 1st Vice President, Dr Claus Erichsen, thanked Professor Nielen van der Merwe for his excellent coordination work as President of the ISRM during the past 4 years.

