



International Society for Rock Mechanics

News Release

ISRM Council Meeting

Tehran, 23 November 2008

The International Society for Rock Mechanics held its Council meeting in Tehran, Iran, in conjunction with the 5th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium – AMRS 5 “New Horizons in Rock Mechanics – Developments and Applications”, organised by the Iranian Society for Rock Mechanics. In the Council meeting 37 of the 49 National Groups were either present or represented. The Council was also attended by one Past President, the chairmen of the ISRM Commissions and the President of the ISSMGE.

Membership of the ISRM

The ISRM has now 5498 individual members and 142 corporate members, belonging to 49 National Groups. This represents an increase of 15.5% in the number of individual members during the past 5 years, and the highest number of National Groups ever in the ISRM. The President welcomed Peru, which was recently admitted to the ISRM and was represented in the Council meeting.

Modernisation of the ISRM

The President, Prof. John Hudson, explained the modernisation initiatives that are under way. The following topics were distributed among the Board members, who were asked to bring contributions for the modernisation of the ISRM on the topic assign to them: - Major Technical Issues; - Improving the Benefits to Members; - Lecture Tours and Educational Material; - Website Strategy; - Availability of Literature; - Strategy for Interaction with other Societies; - Prizes and Certificates; - Communication with Members; - Content of ISRM International Symposia and Conferences. Relevant contributions were already received and they are the basis for defining the tasks that the Board is implementing.



ISRM Digital Library

A digital library with the papers and keynote lectures presented to all the 10 ISRM Congresses and 30 ISRM International Symposia is being created. All the papers were scanned and are now available in digital version, and this corresponds to more than 7,500 papers and 45,000 pages. The ISRM intends to make these papers available through an Internet platform, with very preferential conditions for the ISRM members. It is expected that in early 2009 some of the proceedings will already be available for download.



Communication

The website is the main source of information about the Society and most benefits are offered to the members in a password protected members' area. The Secretary General informed that the number of people accessing the website is continuously increasing. It receives each month over 250,000 hits and 12,000 visits from 100 countries. The home page of the website was recently modified, and there is now easier access to the information.



The digital newsletter started being published in March and is sent to all subscribers every 3 months. It includes news about the society and other news related to rock mechanics. The Secretary General informed that it was very positively received by the ISRM members.

Survey on the ISRM

A survey of all ISRM members registered on the website and to all those registered to receive the Newsletter was done electronically in April 2008. The objective was to know who our members are, how they see the ISRM and how they would like it to be in the future. 459 responses were received. The analysis of the results was presented by Dr Tony Meyers, VP for Australasia, and will be available on the website. They are a valuable tool for definition of the strategic goals of the ISRM.



Rocha Medal 2008

The Council was informed that the Board decided to award the Rocha Medal 2009 to Dr Li Gang, for his thesis entitled “Experimental and Numerical Study for Stress Measurements by Jack Fracturing and Estimation of Stress Distribution in Rock Mass”, obtained at the Yamagushi University, Japan. He will receive the award at the 2009 ISRM International Symposium in Hong Kong.



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Commissions

Reports were presented on the activities of the Commissions. The following Commissions are now active:

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| - Application of Geophysics to Rock Engineering | - Preservation of Ancient Sites | - Testing Methods | - Education |
| - Rock Engineering Design Methodology | - Radioactive Waste Disposal | - Rock Dynamics | - Spalling |

ISRM sponsored meetings

The organisers of all the conferences sponsored by the ISRM presented the progress on their organisation.

- 2008 November 24-26, Tehran, Iran - *5th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium (ARMS 5), New Horizons in Rock Mechanics – Developments and Applications: the 2008 ISRM International Symposium.*
- 2009 May 19 - 22, Hong Kong, China - *SINOROCK'2009 – Rock Characterization, Modelling and Engineering Design Methods: the 2009 ISRM International Symposium.*
- 29-31 October 2009, Cavtat (Dubrovnik), Croatia, - *EUROCK'2009 – Rock Engineering in Difficult Ground Conditions - Soft Rocks and Karst: an ISRM Regional Symposium*
- 23-25 June 2010, Lausanne, Switzerland - *EUROCK'2010 – Symposium of Rock Mechanics: an ISRM Regional Symposium*
- 23-27 October, New Delhi, India - *ARMS 6 – International Symposium on Advances in Rock Engineering: approved in the Tehran Council meeting as the 2010 ISRM International Symposium*
- 16-21 October 2011, Beijing, China, - *Harmonizing Rock Mechanics and the Environment: the 12th ISRM International Congress.*

Nominations for ISRM President for 2011-2015

The deadline for submission of applications for President of the ISRM was 18 November. The following nominations we received: Prof. Xia-Ting Feng from China, Dr Phil Dight from Australia, Dr Claus Erichsen from Germany and Dr Francois Heuze from the USA. The election will take place at the Hong Kong Council meeting in May 2009.

Revision of By-law n. 7

The Council approved a revision to the ISRM By-law n. 7, on the Rocha medal, proposed by the Board. All theses will now be screened by the Rocha Award Committee and new ratings were established.



The ISRM Board after a very busy working day

Cooperation with other Societies

The President reported on the initiatives during last year regarding the Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies – FedIGS, joining the IAEG, the ISRM and the ISSMGE. FedIGS formally started in January with the election of the President, Prof. William van Impe. Eight Joint Technical Committees are now operating and a Liaison Committee with the industry is being formed. The ISSMGE President presented a summary of the developments of FedIGS.

The President informed Council that an ITA-ISRM Joint Action Group on "Site Investigation Strategy for Rock Tunnels" was created and will prepare a guidance document, and that 3 ISRM members were appointed for ITA Working Groups.