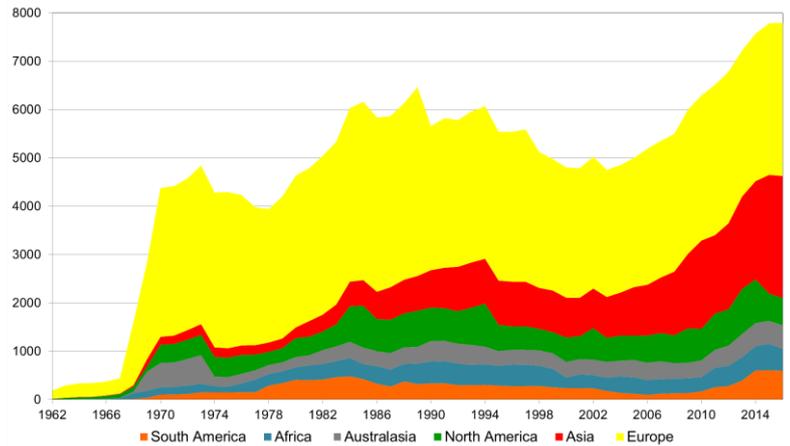


News Release

Ürgüp, 28 August 2016

The International Society for Rock Mechanics held its 2016 Council meeting in Ürgüp, Turkey, on 28 August, in conjunction with the EUROCK 2016, organised by the Turkish ISRM National Group. 49 out of the 60 National Groups were either present or represented. The Council was also attended by Past President Prof. Shunsuke Sakurai, Chairmen of several ISRM Commissions and a representative of the IAEG.



Membership of the ISRM

The ISRM has 7,796 individual members and 150 corporate members, from 60 National Groups. Iceland and Malaysia joined the Society since the last meeting. 41% of the members come from Europe and 32% from Asia, which has been the fastest growing region in the recent years.



Board meeting on 27 August in Ürgüp: ltr: Stuard Read (VP Australasia), Norikazu Shimizu (VP at Large), Seokwon Jeon (VP Asia), Charlie Li (VP Europe), William Joughin (VP Africa), Eda Quadros (President), Luís Lamas (Secretary General), Sofia Meess (Executive Secretary), Sérgio Fontoura, (VP South America) and Petr Konicek (VP at Large).

Activity report of the ISRM Board

The President Dr Eda Quadros, the Vice Presidents and the Secretary General presented the activities of the Society since the last meeting in Montreal, Canada, May 2015. Dr Eda Quadros mentioned that this was the first year of the new Board, but that relevant results had already been achieved. Among other issues, the Board members informed that the membership of the Society continued to grow; three Committees were appointed, the Technical Oversight Committee chaired by Prof. Doug Stead, the Young Members Committee chaired by Prof. Sérgio Fontoura and the Education Fund Committee chaired by Prof. He Manchao; the Commission on Testing Methods produced four ISRM Suggested Methods; five online lectures were given and are available

on the website; the Education Fund Committee and the National Groups of China and Nepal organized a field trip to Nepal at the end of 2015, after the big earthquake, with the purpose of investigating the geological disaster and the damage to the cultural sites; several ISRM Specialized Conferences and two Regional Symposia took place; the 2015 News Journal was published; the quarterly newsletters were issued; the website and the digital library were constantly updated.

The ISRM Board held a full day meeting in Zagreb, Croatia, in March 2016, and participated in a Workshop hosted by the Croatian Geotechnical Society. The Board met again in Ürgüp, on 27 August.





Rocha Medal 2017: winners were announced

The Rocha Award Committee selected the winner of the Rocha Medal 2017, Bryan Tatone (Canada), with the thesis “Investigating the evolution of rock discontinuity asperity degradation and void space morphology under direct shear” (Univ. Toronto) and two runners-up: Robert Bewick (Canada) with the thesis “Shear Rupture of Massive Brittle Rock under Constant Normal Stress and Stiffness Boundary Conditions” (Univ. Toronto) and Gabriel Walton (Canada) with the thesis “Improving continuum models for excavations in rock masses under high stress through an enhanced understanding of post-yield dilatancy” (Queen’s Univ.). The award will be given during the 2017 ISRM International Symposium in South Africa. The Council approved a proposal from the Board to increase the amount of the cash prize from 1,000 to 2,000 Euros.

ISRM sponsored conferences were presented at the Council

The number of ISRM sponsored conferences has been rising. The following conferences to be held in the next year were presented by their organisers: the 2nd International Specialized Conference on Soft Rocks”, Cartagena, Colombia; ARMS 9, Bali, Indonesia; the “VII Brazilian Rock Mechanics Symposium”, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; “Recent Advances in Rock Engineering”, Bangalore, India; EUROCK 2017, Ostrava, Czech Republic; the 1st African Regional Rock Mechanics Symposium, Cape Town, South Africa; GEOPROC 2017, Paris, France; and the 4th ISRM Young Scholars Symposium, Jeju, Korea.

The 2018 ISRM International Symposium will take place in Singapore

The two candidates were the 10th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium ARMS 10, in Singapore, and the European Rock Mechanics Symposium EUROCK 2018, in Saint Petersburg, Russia. After excellent presentations of the two conferences, the Council decided, by secret ballot, that the venue of the 2018 ISRM International Symposium will be Singapore.

Activities of the ISRM Technical Commissions

Several of the 17 ISRM Commissions met on 28 October. The Technical Oversight Committee, which coordinates the work of the Commissions, presented a report on the activities of the Commissions during the past year, with an assessment of the work they develop and recommendations for the future, namely concerning communication and relevance of the Commission products.

FedIGS - Federation of the International Geo-engineering Societies

The Secretary General reported on the FedIGS Board meetings held in July 2015 and April 2016, joining the IAEG, the IGS, the ISRM and the ISSMGE. He presented the Board proposal to revise the FedIGS Cooperation Agreement, which reflects the simplified working practice and administrative operation that has developed since FedIGS was created. The Council approved this revision.

The ISRM Digital Library

The ISRM Digital Library hosted by OnePetro.org, continues to be updated with papers from more ISRM sponsored conferences. It has now 42 conferences, with over 60,000 pages. Members can download 100 papers per year at no cost.

Communication

The ISRM website (www.isrm.net) continues to be the main source of information about the Society and most benefits are offered to the members in a password protected members’ area.



The ISRM LinkedIn page helps disseminate ISRM news to a broad audience of Rock Mechanics professionals.



Look for @IntSocRockMec. Add us to your Twitter feed and don't miss any news.

The digital newsletter is sent to all ISRM members and subscribers every 3 months. It includes news about the society and other news of interest to rock mechanics. Contributions are welcome.

The News Journal was upgraded and has a new graphic design. The latest issue contains the annual review of the Society’s activity, the Müller and Rocha Lectures 2015 and other items of interest. It was posted on the website where it can be read online or it can be downloaded.

