

10th Congress of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment – Engineering geology for tomorrow's cities

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On behalf of the UK branch of IAEG, the Geological Society of London, the Engineering Group of the Geological Society, and the Congress Organising Committee, it is with great pleasure that we welcome you to the City of Nottingham and the 10th Congress of the IAEG.

The theme of the Congress 'Engineering Geology for Tomorrow's Cities' emphasises that engineering geology is a subject that is central to the future development of society. Without engineering geology, and allied disciplines, the cities of the future and the infrastructure to support them will not be built in a cost-effective, safe and environmentally sustainable way. However, whilst engineering geology is looking towards the future, we need to ensure there is a future for engineering geology. The first Hans Cloos Lecture by the late Sir John Knill, at the 9th IAEG Congress in Durban, raised the need to identify the core values of engineering geology. One of the central aims of this Congress is to take this debate forward so that the critical importance of engineering geology to the development of a modern society is recognised.



Putting together an international congress of this importance is a massive undertaking and involves support and input from a wide range of individuals and organisations. I cannot name them all but I would like to record my particular gratitude to a number of specific people and groups:

- Professor Mike Rosenbaum for first proposing that the Congress be held in the UK and setting up the original organisation
- The Geological Society of London and, in particular, the Conference Office, for both financially underwriting the Congress and undertaking the organisation of the event here at Nottingham
- Dr Niek Rengers and the IAEG Executive Committee for supporting the work on the Congress
- Professor Martin Culshaw, Dr Helen Reeves, Tim Spink and Dr Ian Jefferson for the magnificent job they have done on the scientific programme, the on-line paper submission and review system, the DVD of the proceedings and the poster sessions. A special vote of thanks must go to Tim Spink for also setting up and maintaining the Congress web site.
- Dr Graham Garrard for his financial management of the event.
- Dr Andrew Pitchford for undertaking the arduous duties associated with being Secretary to the main organising committee
- Dr Mike DeFreitas, Dr Laurance Donnelly and David Giles for organising the fieldwork programme
- Helen Edmonds, Eva Batzalexi, Richard Nicholson and Rodney Chartres for taking responsibility for the combination of publicity, sponsorship and the social programme
- Derek Smith and the British Geotechnical Association for their continual support of the event.

These, and many other individuals, have given freely of their time and in many instances we owe a great deal of thanks to their employers who have given them the freedom to undertake various tasks in support of the Congress. This is a measure of the importance of this Congress in the view of UK engineering geologists and the companies who employ them.

Finally I would like to thank you, the delegates, for coming to Nottingham to support the Congress. I have no doubts that you will find this an exhilarating experience; you will make many new contacts, as well as enjoying the company of old friends. I trust you will make use of this time together and take the opportunity to set the agenda for the future of engineering geology.