

ISRM Newsletter No 60 – December 2022**Message from the President**

Dear Colleagues,

A new year is beginning, and it is a great pleasure for me to address a few words of appreciations to Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering Society. First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks for the strong involvement of the ISRM Vice Presidents and ISRM Secretary-General, the ISRM Commissions and the three ISRM Committees, ISRM Past Presidents and ISRM Fellows, our Secretariat, the Webmaster and the Co-editor of the ISRM News Journal, and the contributions given by our National Groups and our individual and corporate members for the success of ISRM, as well as the National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC) in Lisbon for providing the ISRM Secretariat facilities since its foundation. Thank you for your support and dedication toward ISRM.

Although 2020 and 2021 were marked by Covid19 lockdowns, travel restrictions and we had to comply with the new living circumstances and adjust ISRM activities to the new situation, 2022 was a chance to restart the normalization of the ISRM activities as we did before 2020 and to continue our performance and to enhance ISRM services and to grow. 2022 was a positive year for the ISRM, a year where we achieved several goals proposed for the current Board's tenure and all ISRM activities in 2022 were held as scheduled. It is a great happiness that this year all ISRM conferences, workshops, Board and Council meetings were successfully organized as face-to-face events and we had opportunity again to see each other in these events after two years. In 2022, ISRM also continued to pay attention to the use of web-based tools, such as video conferences, webinars, and online conferences.

The Society has been steadily growing. Last year the total number of individual members was 8629, while it became 8900 in 2022. Sri Lanka also joined ISRM in 2022 as the most recently established ISRM National Group. We also expect to receive an application from Bangladesh. I am glad to emphasize that based on the assessments by the ISRM Technical Oversight Committee, the ISRM Commissions were also active in 2022 as usual and their works constitute a major contribution to the rock mechanics and rock engineering community and ten Suggested Methods are in development. The ISRM Digital Library at OnePetro is constantly being enlarged with papers from new conferences. The results from the recent "2022 ISRM Survey" of members have been analysed and dissected and many of the results were very useful for guiding the direction for the Society.

As a good communication with members is one of our priorities, in 2022 we continued to introduce a more dynamic webpage. Our members can keep up with the Society's latest news on the website, whether by consulting news, the annual issue of the ISRM News Journal or the quarterly issues of the ISRM Newsletters. An innovation in communication was the setting of an ISRM LinkedIn page and of a Twitter account a few years ago.

*Prof. Dr Reşat Ulusay
President*

In 2022, four ISRM Online Lectures were delivered. Education has been a main concern of the current Board and in 2022 two new ISRM video courses were added in the list of ISRM courses. In addition, the most recent ISRM initiative, "ISRM Young Members Seminar Series", that was developed by the ISRM Young Members Committee, started in January 2022. It is a series of virtual monthly seminars, with a goal of providing a global platform for ISRM young members to share knowledge, experiences and ideas. These monthly seminars were regularly and successfully organized throughout 2022. This year the Early Carrier Forum was successfully held in LARMS2022 in Asuncion, Paraguay, and 9 young speakers selected from 8 member countries in Latin America performed presentations. In addition, in AusRock2022, another Early Carrier Forum was also organized by its Organizing Committee. We congratulate all young speakers in these forums and thank the organizers of both events and the ISRM Education Fund Committee.

The number of ISRM sponsored conferences increases, mainly in the category of ISRM Specialized Conferences. The ISRM is now involved in a considerably larger number of events than in the past. In 2022, the ISRM sponsored nine conferences and five of them were specialized conferences. The Board has already approved the sponsorship of 7 conferences between 2023 and 2025 and three of them are specialized conferences.

Finally, the success of any society depends on the contribution and involvement of its members. We always need your contribution and involvement in our ISRM activities and we would very much appreciate your time and effort in this regard.

I wish all of you a Happy New Year 2023 with good health, prosperity, success, joy and peace and we are looking forward to meeting you in the 15th ISRM Congress that will be held in Salzburg, Austria, in October 2023.



Reşat Ulusay