

BY-LAW No. 7

Rocha Medal

(approved by the Council in New Delhi, India on 23 September 2024)

1. NATURE OF THE AWARD

- (a) A bronze medal and a cash prize may be awarded annually by the Society in memory of Professor Manuel Rocha, the second President and organiser of the first International Congress of the ISRM.
- (b) The medal is the work of a Portuguese artist. It shall have the recipient's name, and the conferment date engraved on the side.
- (c) The cash prize shall be an amount proposed by the Board and approved by the Council.
- (d) The Organizing Committee for the ISRM meeting at which the award is to take place shall invite the prize winner to attend the meeting as a guest and shall pay for his/her accommodation, cost of travel and registration fee.
- (e) In addition to the Rocha Medal award to the winning submission, one or two runner-up certificates (Proxime Accessit certificates) may also be awarded.

2. ELIGIBILITY

- (a) The award shall be for an outstanding doctoral thesis in rock mechanics or rock engineering.
- (b) To be considered for an award the candidate must be a member of the ISRM and the official doctorate degree certificate must have been obtained in the two calendar years preceding the year of the selection of the award. This is: for the Rocha Medal 20xx, the selection takes place in the year 20xx-1, and the official doctorate degree certificate must have been obtained in the years 20xx-3 or 20xx-2.

3. NOMINATION

- (a) The Secretary-General is to provide each National Group with a solicitation including information contained in this By-law, for distribution to all members and universities in that country. This is to be sent by the end of January of the year preceding the selection of the award (year 20xx-2) and repeated before the end of September of the same year. The same information is to be sent to each corresponding member.
- (b) Nomination shall be by the nominee, or by the nominee's National Group, or by some other person or organization acquainted with the nominee's work.
- (c) Nominations shall be addressed to the Secretary General and shall contain, in digital format:

- a one page curriculum vitae, which is to include the name, nationality, place and date of birth of the nominee, together with position held, postal address, telephone number and electronic mail address;
 - a written confirmation by the candidate's National Group that he/she is a member of the ISRM;
 - a thesis summary in paper and digital formats, written in English, with between 5,000 and 10,000 words, detailed enough to convey the full impact of the thesis and accompanied by selected tables and figures, with headings and captions also presented in English;
 - a copy of the complete thesis and the name of the supervisor(s) if not indicated in the thesis;
 - a copy of the official doctorate degree certificate with English translation;
 - a letter of copyright release, allowing the ISRM to copy the thesis for purposes of review and selection only;
 - an undertaking by the nominee to submit an article describing the work, for publication in the ISRM News Journal, to be submitted at least one month before the Award Ceremony.
- (d) Submissions should be sent electronically, to be received by the Secretary General by 31 December of the year preceding the year of the selection of the award (year 20xx-2). The ISRM shall not be liable for any loss or damage. The Secretary General shall send a confirmation to all candidates that their nomination has been received and that the documents are complete.
- (e) It is essential that all the submission requirements are strictly followed. Any submission not following the requirements will not be accepted.
- (f) By 31 January of the year of the selection of the award (year 20xx-1) the Secretary General shall inform the members of the Rocha Award Committee of the received nominations and make the nomination documents described in paragraph 3(c) available for download by the Award Committee on the ISRM website.
- (g) All theses will remain in the possession of the ISRM.

4. SELECTION PROCEDURE

- (a) The choice of the prize-winning thesis shall be the responsibility of the Rocha Award Committee, appointed by the President, chaired by the President, and including the Vice-Presidents and any others co-opted to assist in the review process.
- (b) The President may ask the Rocha Award Committee to perform a preliminary screening should he/she deem it necessary.
- (c) The Award Committee shall meet annually, normally at the time and venue of the ISRM Board meeting, to select the nominee who will be awarded the prize at the first following ISRM International Symposium or Congress.
- (d) The members of the Award Committee shall bring to the meeting ratings for all the theses according to the criteria listed in 4 (f).
- (e) The Award Committee may consider the award of one or two Proxime Assessit certificates.
- (f) The following criteria and weightings apply in the selection by the Rocha Award Committee:
- I. **Problem statement – Issue that needs solving and why (10%):** Why does this problem need to be solved? How would a solution help in rock mechanics and/or rock engineering?
 - II. **Appreciation of State of the Art (10%):** Quality of literature review and bibliography, awareness of pertinent previous research, ability to convey concisely the state of the art, insight, etc.
 - III. **Theoretical and/or practical advancements (35%):** Description and explanation of the way in which the thesis advances the state of the art.

- IV. **Verification of proposed solution (35%):** Description and explanation of how the results have been checked via laboratory and/or field experiments, or other means.
- V. **Quality of Presentation (10%):** Format, use of headings, style, clarity, clarity of introduction and conclusions, etc.

- (g) The Rocha Medal winner and the nominees awarded with a Proxime Accessit certificate shall be notified by the ISRM President. The Rocha Medal winner shall be invited by the Organizing Committee to receive the medal in person. The remaining candidates are to be thanked by the Secretary-General.

5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No person shall participate in the selection procedure who is related to or has a professional or academic connection with one of the candidates.

6. CONFIDENTIALITY

- (a) The identity of the candidates except the Rocha Medal winner and the nominees awarded with a Proxime Accessit certificate (if any), and of the advisers co-opted by the Rocha Award Committee to assist in the selection process shall remain confidential.
- (b) The identity of the prize-winners and title of the theses should be published on the ISRM website following the Board Meeting within one week of the decision.

7. CONFERRING OF THE AWARD

- (a) The Rocha Medal shall be conferred by the ISRM President at the annual ISRM Congress or International Symposium.
- (b) The Organizing Committee shall incorporate in the plenary sessions a presentation by the Rocha Medal recipient on the topic of the award-winning thesis.