

REPORT ON THE



13th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ROCK MECHANICS Montréal, Canada 2015



The 13th International Society of Rock Mechanics Congress (ISRM Congress 2015) was held in the Congress and Exhibition Centre (Palais des Congrès) in Montréal, Québec, Canada, from May 10th to 14th, 2015. Over 630 delegates from 42 countries participated in this prestigious congress, held for the 2nd time in Montréal. The ISRM congress 2015 was organized jointly by CARMA and the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM) with the support of ARMA and McGill, Queens' and Toronto Universities – each partner having contributed immensely to the successful delivery of this memorable Congress.

The Congress general Chair was Professor Ferri Hassani with the Congress being co-chaired by professors James Archibald and John Hadjigeorgiou. It was proudly sponsored by CIM as well as the Rock Engineering and the Underground Mining societies of CIM.

Pre Congress Functions

- **ISRM Board of Director meeting and dinner** - The ISRM board meeting took place on Saturday May 9 at the Palais des Congrès and was followed by a group dinner at L'Auberge Saint-Gabriel, an exquisite French restaurant at the Old Port of Montréal.
- **Council meeting** - The council meeting took place on Sunday, May 10, from 13:00 to 18:30.
- **Commission meetings** - A total of 19 commission meetings took place on Sunday.
- **Workshops** – Five workshops were given to over 140 delegates on Sunday.



Opening Ceremony / Ice Breaker

This event started with a number of artists and performers entertaining the delegates while they enjoyed their refreshments, finger foods and cocktails. The general chairman Ferri Hassani welcomed the delegates and the networking allowed participants to renew old friendships and begin new ones.



Opening Ceremony and Plenary



The Congress opened at 8:30 on Monday May 10th in a large room with a décor featuring an impressive stage backdrop a rock wall. To symbolize Canadian tradition, a Huron Tribe performed an aboriginal dance and blessed the Congress. Their grace touched everyone. This was followed by the opening address and welcome words of Professor Ferri Hassani, Congress Chairman, who further introduced the Québec Mine Minister, Mr. Luc Blanchette. The Minister welcomed the delegates and emphasized the important role of Rock Mechanics in the safety of mining, civil and petroleum industries.

Congress Chairman Ferri Hassani introduced Prof. Xia-Ting Feng, President of ISRM, who also extended a warm welcome to the delegates. His address was followed by that of the ISRM Secretary General, Dr. Luis Lamas, who gave brief overview of the status of ISRM affairs.

Prof. Xia-Ting Feng proceeded to introduce one of the highlights of the Congress which was the ISRM Müller Award winner. The audience assisted to the conferring of the medal, certificate and the presentation of an Inuit work of art to Professor John Hudson who delivered an excellent and distinguished 7th Müller Lecture of the ISRM.



To wrap up the first half of the plenary, the Rocha Medal winner, Dr. Andrea Lisjak Bradley, was invited on stage to receive his medal and certificate and to make give his 2015 Rocha Lecture.



Technical sessions

The technical program consisted of 7 keynotes, 8 technical parallel streams, a total of 350 oral presentations in 60 sessions, 100 posters and the much acclaimed Shale Symposium, under the chairmanship of Professor Herbert Einstein. Each of the 7 keynotes whose presentations were divided into 3 mornings, were introduced by co-chairs, Professors Archibald and Hadjigeorgiou.

Keynote speakers who honored us with their knowledge

- ✓ **Professor Erik Eberhardt**; *Transitioning from Open Pit to Underground Mass Mining: Meeting the Rock Engineering Challenges of Going Deeper.*
- ✓ **Professor Yossef H. Hatzor**; *Discontinuous Deformation Analysis in Rock Mechanics Practice.*
- ✓ **Professor Jean Sulem**; Multiphysics couplings and stability of fault zones' and the topic is in the area of 'Constitutive modelling and deformation processes of rocks.
- ✓ **Dr. Chris Massey**; The performance of rock slopes during the 2010/11 Canterbury (New Zealand) earthquake sequence, and beyond?
- ✓ **Dr. Francois Malan**; Hard rock tabular excavations: Historic solutions and future challenges.
- ✓ **Professor Alejo Oscar Sfriso**; Selecting material parameters for advanced constitutive modeling.
- ✓ **Professor Chungsik Yoo**; Use of Geosynthetics in Underground Works – Fundamentals.

RockBowl 2015

The Student competition from different national groups organized by the Brazilian Rock Mechanics Committee under the guidance of Professor Sérgio Fontoura, President of the Brazilian Rock Mechanics Institute and his Steering Committee. This event took place successfully on Tuesday, May 11 and saw six teams competing for the title. The Brazilian student team took the win and great fun was had by all.



ISRM Banquet



Chairman Hassani and Dr. Jim Hazzard opened the banquet with a warm welcome to the 320 guests gathered for an evening of recognition, entertainment and a sumptuous meal. The evening was spectacular! There was not a dull moment with a variety of quality of local entertainment including as Jazz band, mime comedy, an unparalleled card trick magician and a traditional ensemble of Québec folk and tap dancers.

During the banquet, ISRM President Professor Xia-Ting Feng, and the Secretary

General of ISRM, Dr. Luis Lamas, performed the ISRM Fellow Induction Ceremony and certificates of recognition and medals were presented to each new ISRM Fellow. The ISRM Organizing Committee presented them each with a gift.

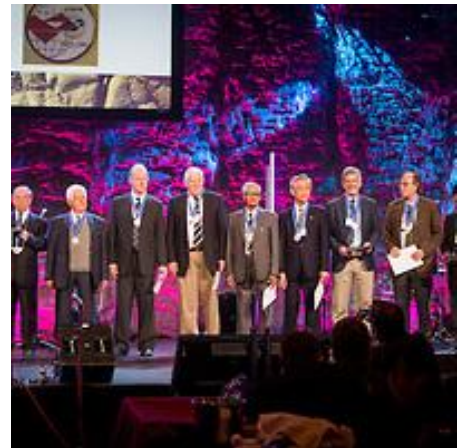
ISRM President, Professor Xia-Ting Feng presented a certificate of recognition to all outgoing ISRM Board Members and Vice-Presidents. President-elect, Dr Eda Freitas de Quadros proudly presented a certificate of achievement to the outgoing President, Professor Feng.

General Chairman, Professor Ferri Hassani, on behalf of the organizing committee and CARMA, took a moment to acknowledge and recognize the tremendous contribution to of Professors Herbert Einstein and Ted Brown and of Dr Luis Lamas who have all made their marks on the field of rock mechanics and the ISRM organization as a whole. Special gifts were presented to them by Professor Feng.

Professor Ferri Hassani also thanked the sponsors of the ISRM Congress 2015 and thanked the Events staff of CIM, Lise Bujold, Director and her team members: Chantal Murphy, Janet Sandor, Janice Burke and Carol Lee - for their hard work and dedication.

While it was a challenge for the technical committee to select among 500 papers, 10 papers were recognized and their primary authors each received a Best Paper Award for ISRM 2015. They also received a symbolic gift.

Three Presentations of forthcoming ISRM Regional Symposiums were made during the evening:



- Dr. Wulf Schubert presented Eurock 2015 in Salzburg, Austria, in October 2015
- Dr. Alejo Sfriso presented the VIII South American Congress on Rock Mechanics, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, in November 2015.
- Dr. Suseno Kramadibrata presented the 9th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium, ARMS9, in Bali, Indonesia, in October 2016.



As is the tradition during the ISRM banquet, the Chairman of the next edition of the ISRM congress and his team had to sing a song in the language of the present ISRM congress host-country. To make it more challenging, a native song was chosen and the live band accompanied Professor Sérgio Fontoura and the other members of the Brazil ISRM 2019 Congress.



ISRM President Prof. Feng and CIM Executive Director, Mr. Jean Vavrek recognized the Leadership and contributions of General Chairman, Ferri Hassani and Co-Chairs James Archibald and John Hadjigeorgiou by awarding them with personal gifts and certificates of

recognition.

Closing ceremony

Professor Ferri Hassani, Chairman of the ISRM 2015 Congress extended sincere thanks to all delegates, volunteers, session chairs for their presence and commitment & contribution to the ISRM 2015 Congress.

The ISRM president, Professor Xia-Ting Feng, presented two new awards:

1. ISRM outstanding commission award
2. ISRM best performing National Group award

The outgoing ISRM President, Professor Xia-Ting Feng, gave an overview of his four-year term as ISRM President, from 2011 to 2015.

Presidential handover ceremony

The Handover ceremony between ISRM Presidents, outgoing (Professor Xia-Ting Feng) and incoming (Dr Eda Freitas de Quadros) was performed before those in attendance.



Inauguration speech by the new ISRM President

The newly introduced ISRM President, Dr. Eda Freitas de Quadros, gave a speech and thanked everyone for the honour provided to her. She expressed her commitment and ambition to promote the agenda of the ISRM over the next 4 years.

Presentation of ISRM 2019 Congress & ISRM Eurock2016

Professor Sérgio Fontoura, President of the Brazilian Committee of Rock Mechanics, made his presentation of the 14th Congress of the ISRM, to take place in Brazil in 2019.

Professor Resat Ulusay, Chairman of the Organizing Committee, informed the audience of the ISRM Eurock 2016 scheduled to take place in Cappadocia, Turkey.

The ISRM 2015 Congress was declared closed by a warm farewell from Congress Chairs, Professors Ferri Hassani, James Archibald and John Hadjigeorgiou.



ISRM 2015 MARKETING AND BRAND

THE 13TH INTERNATIONAL

ISRM CONGRESS 2015

IN CONJUNCTION WITH CIM CONVENTION

MAY 10-13, 2015 | PALAIS DES CONGRÈS | MONTRÉAL, QUÉBEC, CANADA



PLAN TO ATTEND

The 13th International
Congress of ISRM:
Innovations in Applied
and Theoretical
Rock Mechanics

www.ISRM2015.com

This prestigious Rock Mechanics Congress, which takes place every 4 years, will bring together over **1,000 high profile international researchers, engineers and practitioners** to present the latest accomplishments, innovations and potential future directions in rock mechanics and their applications in civil and mining industries around the world.

8 reasons why you should attend:

- 1,000+ Rock Mechanics Experts from around the world
- Over 50 participating countries
- 8 technical parallel streams of peer-reviewed papers/presentations
- 700 approved abstracts
- 400 papers received to date
- Exhaustive poster programme
- Daily keynote presentations by industry experts and thought leaders
- In Conjunction with the Annual Convention of the Canadian Institute of Mining, Metallurgy and Petroleum (CIM)

