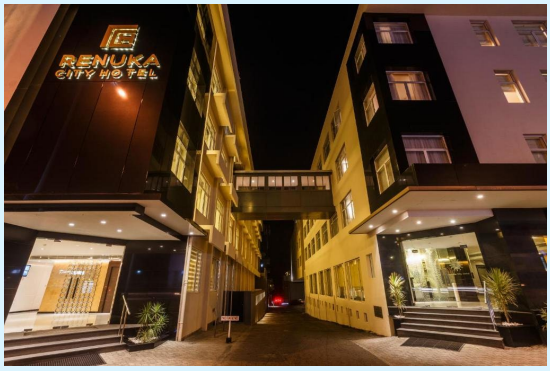
Call for Abstracts, Exhibitors, and Sponsors for

The Second ISRM Commission Conference on Estimation of Rock Mass Strength and Deformability

Colombo, Sri Lanka, July 10, 2026



Conference Venue – Renuka City Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka

The Sri Lankan Rock Mechanics and Engineering Society (SLRMES) invites you to participate in the Second ISRM Commission Conference on Estimation of Rock Mass Strength and Deformability to be held in Colombo, Sri Lanka on July 10, 2026.

The presence of complicated fracture networks, the inherent statistical nature of their geometrical parameters, and the variabilities and uncertainties involved in the estimation of their geometrical and geo-mechanical properties, in-situ stress, etc. make accurate estimation of rock mass strength and deformability a difficult, and challenging task. On the contrary, understanding the mechanical behaviour of rock masses is crucial in designing safe, economical, and robust engineering structures in or on rock masses.

The strength and deformability of rock masses demonstrate a very significant scale effect and anisotropic behaviour at the three-dimensional (3-D) level mostly due to pre-existing discontinuity system properties. It has been a great challenge for the rock mechanics and rock engineering profession to predict rock mass strength and deformability in 3-D which incorporates the effect of important fracture geometry, relevant intact rock and fracture mechanical properties, and intermediate principal stress and to capture the scale effects and anisotropic properties of jointed rock masses. Various procedures that belong to the following three groups have been suggested in the literature to estimate rock mass strength and deformability: (a) Based on empirical

methods that use one or several rock mass classification systems; (b) Based on numerical modelling, and (c) Based on back-calculation methods using field monitored data of rock engineering structures. The main goals of this conference are to provide a critical review of the said available methods, and then to provide guidelines for rock mechanics teaching, to suggest future research to improve the available techniques in predicting rock mass strength and deformability properties, and to recommend the best techniques to apply in rock engineering practice to improve the prediction of rock mass mechanical behaviour in field problems associated with mining, civil geotechnical, geological, and petroleum engineering.

The conference will cover advances in all the aforementioned areas of rock mechanics and rock engineering encompassing the fields of mining, civil, geological and petroleum engineering, and geophysics focusing on the theme "Estimation of Rock Mass Strength and Deformability including the Associated Components and Applications". Each session is expected to start with a Session Lead Lecture given by an expert on the session topic and end the session with a critical discussion.

Probable participants are invited to submit 1-2-page Abstracts (for regular lectures) or 4-page abstracts (for state-of-the-art-lectures) on any topic listed under "Topics Covered in the Conference" on the conference website (https://www.slrmes.org). Please use the **ABSTRACT TEMPLATE** given on the website to prepare the abstract. The abstract submission deadline is **March 10th, 2026.**

Potential **exhibitors** and **sponsors** are encouraged to drop an **e-mail** to the Conference Chair, Prof. Kulatilake at kulatila@arizona.edu, or use the conference website to communicate the expression of interest. The trade Exhibition, Technical Sessions, and Technical Tours will provide unmatched exposure and networking opportunities for the participants from universities, industry, and government sectors.

Sri Lanka has been crowned the most beautiful island in the world, taking the top spot on the list of "The 50 Best Islands in the World" compiled by global travel site Big 7 Travel. According to Big 7 Travel, Sri Lanka was chosen for the top spot for its rich blend of cultural heritage, diverse landscapes, and pristine beaches. The list also praised the island nation for its unique wildlife, ancient temples, lush tea plantations, and vibrant local experiences. If you are interested of sightseeing in Sri Lanka please send an e-mail to the conference Executive Manager (*sujeewa_nishanthi@yahoo.com*) indicating your interest.

The deadline to register for the conference is May 10, 2026, and the registration fees are as follows:
Non-ISRM delegate: US$ 225
ISRM delegate: US$ 180
Student delegate: US$ 90
Accompanying person: US$ 60

The conference venue is close to a beach with magnificent views. Many hotels and economical accommodations are available within a 2 km radius of the conference venue in the range of US$ 30-US$ 125 per night. Please visit https://www.slrmes.org to obtain Information on the conference venue, accommodation, visa, and travel to Sri Lanka. If you require an invitation letter to attend the conference, please send an e-mail to Prof. Kulatilake at kulatila@arizona.edu.

We look forward to seeing you in breathtaking Sri Lanka in July 2026.

Prof. Pinnaduwa H.S.W. Kulatilake (kulatila@arizona.edu)
Conference Chair
Chair, ISRM Commission on Estimation of Rock Mass Strength and Deformability
President, Sri Lankan Rock Mechanics and Engineering Society (SLRMES)