

Background

NZGS

The New Zealand Geotechnical Society (NZGS) is the affiliated organisation in New Zealand of the International Societies representing practitioners in soil mechanics, rock mechanics and engineering geology. Full members of the NZGS must be affiliated to at least one of these societies:

- International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM)
- International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)
- International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG)

The NZGS is represented on the committees of these three organisations by an Australasian Vice President, who is normally nominated for a four-year period. We take turns with the Australian Geomechanics Society (AGS) to nominate a suitable candidate to represent the interests of both national groups. When the Australasian Vice President (VP) is based in New Zealand, this individual sits on the NZGS management committee. When the Australasian VP is based in Australia, the NZGS selects a local representative to support the VP and report to the NZGS.

The NZGS is a strong supporter of actions to help develop the skills and experience of our younger members. We run events in New Zealand and jointly with our colleagues in Australia and have a Young Professional Representative on the NZGS management committee. This position, selected from nominations, is focused on activities in New Zealand and Australia.

Young Professionals of the IAEG

The IAEG has a well developed young professionals group led by the Young Engineering Geologist (YEG) Committee. This committee has the objective of ensuring the future of the IAEG through the promotion of the interests of its young members and their increasing involvement in the activities of the Association. The objectives of the YEG Committee are:

- a) To promote the involvement of YEGs in the activities of IAEG by the positive affirmation of their important role in all of the activities of the Association.
- b) To promote the interests and needs of YEGs within the IAEG, by:
 - Organising and facilitating events that foster the networking of people within the YEG group.
 - To facilitate the networking of YEGs with other members of the IAEG.
 - To facilitate the technical development of young professionals and practitioners by the provision of demand driven training and mentoring programmes and work opportunities.
- c) To facilitate the communication and networking of YEGs in all regions through the use of social media, blogging and emailing.
- d) To encourage the participation of YEGs in the wider IAEG, to ensure the involvement and promotion of a younger generation into the Association.

The YEG Management Committee is composed of up to nine people:

- a) **Chair:** Appointed by IAEG President, based on a shortlist of two to three candidates presented to the IAEG Executive Committee by the YEG Committee.
- b) **Regional Representatives:** One per IAEG Vice President Region. Appointed by the respective Vice President.
- c) **Functional roles** (Vice-chair, Secretary, Digital media liaison, etc) may be created by the YEG Management Committee as required. Functional roles are filled by members of the Management Committee, as agreed internally by the Management Committee.

Role summary

As the NZGS-IAEG Young Professionals representative, you will be the focal point for our YGP liaison to the IAEG YEG Committee. The purpose of the role, to be filled by a younger NZGS member (under 40 years old, in accordance with IAEG rules) is:

- To facilitate better linkages between young NZGS members and their international colleagues.
- To promote a wider understanding within the NZGS membership of the role and activities of the IAEG.
- To promote YGP activities and collaboration in the IAEG.
- To develop young NZGS members for future leadership roles in the NZGS and / or the International Societies.
- To support the Australasian Vice President (or the NZGS representative, where the Australasian VP is based in Australia).

The role is intended to sit outside the main NZGS management committee. Because this is a role focused on coordination and collaboration, there will be three reporting lines:

- To the NZGS management committee, through the Australasian Vice President (or NZGS representative, where the Australasian VP is based in Australia).
- To the NZGS management committee, through the NZGS Young Professionals representative.
- To the young professional group within the International Society, where one exists and subject to the agreement of the relevant Society.

Tasks & Expectations

- a) Prepare a short (<1 page) report for each NZGS committee meeting. Committee meetings are held once a quarter. Your report may be combined with the report of the Australasian Vice President or NZ representative for IAEG.
- b) Attend regular (2-3 monthly) meetings with the NZGS YGP representative, and the Young Professional Coordinators for the other two International Societies (ISSMGE & ISRM) to coordinate activities and share ideas.
- c) Provide input to the IAEG reports for the NZ Geomechanics magazine (twice per year).
- d) Attend and participate in monthly online meetings of the YEG committee. These are typically one-hour long and, to accommodate time zones of the various members, may occur early in the morning or late in the evening.
- e) Join and actively communicate through the YEG committee WhatsApp group. Communication through WhatsApp is limited to short, more urgent, messages.
- f) Attend and participate where practical in face-to-face YEG committee meetings. These occur yearly, typically in parallel to IAEG Council meetings, which in turn tend to be held as part of IAEG events (IAEG Congress, IAEG Regional Conferences and International Geological Congress). The NZGS has a budget for reasonable travel expenses (but not time) which is owned by the Australasian Vice President. Pre-approval is required from the Australasian Vice President for any spending from this budget. If there is co-benefit (e.g. conference attendance), some cost sharing may be required.
- g) Coordinate, along with the YEG committee and the local young members group, the organisation of YEG events within the main IAEG events.
- h) Liaise with the Australasian VP to coordinate activities and share ideas.
- i) Represent the needs and interests of the NZGS Young Professional community in the YEG committee and wider IAEG level.
- j) Advocate for and facilitate increased involvement of NZGS in IAEG activities.
- k) Be active in the organisation of the Australia and New Zealand YGP conference held biannually, in close cooperation with the NZGS YGP representative.

- l) Promote the ANZ YGP conference within the YEG Committee to incentivise attendance of young members from other IAEG National Groups.
- m) Bring your own ideas and contribute to shape up the future of the YEG Committee.

Time Commitment

Other than attending the YEG committee meetings, and regular YGP meetings, there is no formal time commitment for this role, however, the more you put in the more you get out. As a guideline, you should expect to dedicate a minimum of 12 to 16 hours per month, plus additional effort in the run up to the conferences.

We ask that you commit to the role for a 2-year term.

For further information about the IAEG please contact Ross Roberts. For information about the NZGS please contact Christoph Kraus. Both can be contacted via ygp@nzgs.org.