

## President's Address

Dear Colleagues and Members of IAEG,

I trust that you all are enjoying good health despite the pandemic. The world-wide pandemic has changed our life. Due to travel restrictions we could not attend the conferences or organize physical meetings for the Executive and Council Members. We were relying on online meetings for discussions. Our Secretary General has organized a Zoom meeting for the Executive this year and we could discuss some important issues. The Executive Members communicated also by e-mails and we were able to sort out some problems. The secretary General Faquan Wu and his team performed in excellent way during the pandemic and deserve our thanks.

The first Regional Conference in Latin America was held successfully in September. I would like to thank the organizer for their efforts and excellent work. Also, I would like to thank the vice president Jorge Bejerman for his engagement in getting 5 new National Groups established in Latin America.

Also, the Euroengeo 2020, The Third European Regional Conference of IAEG, was postponed to October 2021 due to pandemic. The Greek National Group has organized this Conference as a hybrid conference, so that all colleagues who cannot attend physically can login and attend the conference online. They agreed to organize the Executive and Council meetings as well. I would like to thank the Greek National Group for their huge efforts and work to organize this conference. Also, the vice president for Europe Vassilis Marinos has spared no work to make the conference successful. Thank you so much for your engagement.

Further activities of IAEG are the creation of new awards on STA and IRP and granting deserved honors to members who served IAEG for many years. Paul Marinos as honorary president, Victor Ostipov and Kiril Angenov as honorary members.

In 2020 Bulletin has celebrated 50<sup>th</sup> birthday, with the high impact factor of 4.298. Great thanks to the devotions by our Editors-in-chiefs Resat Ulusay and Louis WONG. Resat Ulusay has retired last year and Arindam Basu was appointed as new Co-Editor in-chief.

Giorgio and his team has tried all the efforts to enrich the contents in website. They are devoting to create network platform in order to manage the membership data. Paolo Allasia

was appointed as the Data Controller to take care of the GDPR data management. Many thanks for both colleagues for their excellent work.

The young Engineering Geologists have been also active in organizing themselves and triggering a series of webinars for the young members thanks to the efforts of Stratis Karantanellis.

One of the important matters that needed to be addressed is the evaluation of our Technical Commissions. Mark Eggers has taken care of this work and he already submitted the report to the Executive. Special thank goes to Mark for his ongoing engagement to improve the services of IAEG.

An important service of IAEG is the Connector keeping our members informed. To prepare this information letter a tremendous amount of work is needed. Thanks to the efforts of Scott Burnes former president the Connector was sent to the members continuously.

In spite of the world-wide pandemic, IAEG remains able to act thanks to the engagement of the Executive Members and the National Groups. We still have many issues to discuss and take decisions, for example, collaboration with Geosciences and the accession to the Deep Time Digital Earth (DDE) , IUGS. This is an ongoing and dynamic process. I would like to thank all members involved in the work of IAEG as we can only succeed if we are united in our efforts to enhance the services of our Association.

I wish all good health and all the best.

Rafiq Azzam  
IAEG President