

The official languages of the IAEG and its Bulletin are English and French. However, since English was the obligatory language at the 25th IGC the papers appearing herein are in English only. As usual we have tried to have the individual papers preceded also by a French abstract. Please, pardon those few instances where this was impossible; the authors did not submit a summary. The IAEG wanted, by all means, to "expeditiously disseminate new findings" to all those interested in the problems of Engineering Geology, as is laid down in our statutes. We avail ourselves of this opportunity to repeat our thanks to the Conveners of Section 13 and Symposium 113 for their cooperative assistance.

The Editor

Les langues officielles de l'A.I.G.I. et de son Bulletin sont l'anglais et le français. Mais, comme l'anglais était obligatoire à la 25^e session du Congrès Géologique International, les communications présentées ici sont toutes en anglais. Comme d'habitude, nous nous sommes efforcés d'avoir aussi un résumé français en tête de chaque communication. Excusez-moi pour les quelques cas où cela ne fut pas possible: les auteurs ne nous avaient pas fourni de résumé. Cependant l'A.I.G.I. souhaiterait diffuser, par tous les moyens et le plus vite possible, les nouvelles connaissances à tous ceux qui s'intéressent aux problèmes de la Géologie de l'Ingénieur, comme le prévoient ses statuts. Nous profitons de cette occasion pour renouveler nos remerciements aux Conveners de la section 13 et du symposium 113 pour leur aimable coopération.

Le Rédacteur en Chef

Section 13

Engineering Geology

The contribution of Geology towards management of the environment

Foreword

This special issue of the Bulletin of the International Association of Engineering Geology contains 25 papers of Section 13 (Engineering Geology) of the 25th International Geological Congress, held at Sydney from 16 to 25 August 1976. The Congress was jointly sponsored by the Australian Academy of Science, the Geological Society of Australia, and the International Union of Geological Sciences.

The papers presented in Section 13 covered a wide range of topics within the general theme of "The contribution of geology towards management of the environment."* The worldwide population explosion is increasing the pressures for urban development and the exploitation of resources, and there is a growing awareness of the threat to the environment. This symposium has demonstrated the increasing concern of geologists, and their involvement in the varied problems of environmental management. Case studies presented dealt with problems of slope stability affecting forestry, engineering construction and urban development; soil stability and subsidence hazards; geological legislation and land-use planning; the stability of structures in the dynamic coastal zone; the environmental impact of large-scale construction projects; urban geology; and the controversial international problem of the disposal of radioactive wastes.

There is general acceptance of the importance of the geological factors in environmental management. A growing demand for environmentally orientated geological studies can be expected, and will require the application of many different branches of geology, including such specialities as sedimentology and geochemistry. In complex environmental management studies, the geologist is generally part of an interdisciplinary study team, and special qualities of communication are required to make the geological information available to colleagues, planners, decision-makers, and the general public. The papers presented here on the philosophy and methodology of engineering-geological mapping are important in this regard.

The symposium represents the "coming of age" of environmental geology, being probably the first truly international symposium in this field, with contributions from twelve countries. Regrettably there were few contributions from the developing countries of the "Third World", despite their enormous environmental problems.

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* This theme was suggested in 1973 by the Secretary General of the IAEG (Dr. R. Wolters) in correspondence with the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the IGC.