
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Site investigation

I realise that to stress the need for thorough site investigation, in your Journal, is preaching to the converted. However, I believe the following quotations on this subject from the essays of an eminent national leader, Chairman Mao Tse-tung, will be of interest to your readers.

“You can’t solve a problem? Well, get down and investigate the present facts and its past history! When you have investigated the problem thoroughly, you will know how to solve it. Conclusions invariably come after investigation, and not before. Only a block-head cudgels his brains on his own, or together with a group, to “find a solution” or “evolve an idea” without making any investigation. It must be stressed that this cannot possibly lead to any effective solution or any good idea.”

“Oppose Book Worship”
(May 1930), 1st pocket ed., p. 2.

“A fact-finding meeting need not be large, from three to five or seven or eight people are enough. Ample time must be allowed and an outline for the investigation must be prepared; furthermore, one must personally ask questions, take notes and have discussions with those at the meeting. Therefore one certainly cannot make an investigation, or do it well, without zeal, a determination to direct one’s eyes downward and a thirst for knowledge, and without shedding the ugly mantle of pretentiousness and becoming a willing pupil.”

“Preface and Postscript to Rural Surveys”
(March and April 1941), Selected Works, Vol. III, p. 12.

“A commander’s correct dispositions stem from his correct decisions, his correct decisions stem from his correct judgements, and his correct judgements stem from a thorough and necessary reconnaissance and from pondering on and piecing together the data of various kinds gathered through reconnaissance. He applies all possible and necessary methods of reconnaissance, and ponders on the information gathered about the enemy’s situation, discarding the dross and selecting the essential, eliminating the false and retaining the true, proceeding from the one to the other and from the outside to the inside; then, he takes the conditions on his own side into account, and makes a study of both sides and their interrelations, thereby forming his judgements, making up his mind and working out his plans. Such is the complete process of knowing a situation which a military man goes through before he formulates a strategic plan, a campaign plan or a battle plan.”

“Problems of Strategy in China’s Revolutionary War”
(December 1936), Selected Works, Vol. I, p. 188.

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NEWS ITEM

The International Association of Engineering Geology

The International Association of Engineering Geology was established in 1964 at the International Geological Congress held in New Delhi. The Association played an important part in the International

Geological Congress held in Prague in 1968, and in Montreal in 1972, co-operating in the technical programmes for engineering geology.

Thus from its inception the I.A.E.G. was firmly based as an international forum for all those specialists working in the field of geological sciences applied to civil engineering. The year 1970, a turning point in the affairs of the Association, was marked by the issue of the first number of the *Bulletin* coinciding with the First International Congress of Engineering Geology in Paris. Of the 2000 participants some 30 had come from the United Kingdom. A second international congress was held in 1974 in Sao Paulo, Brazil. A pattern of international meetings every two years is thus firmly established. In intervening years a meeting on a single theme in engineering geology is usually arranged, sponsored by the National Committee for Engineering Geology in the host country.

From the beginning of the effective life of the Executive Committee of the I.A.E.G. in 1970, Mr. R. Glossop followed by myself (as former Chairman and Chairman of the Engineering Group of the Geological Society respectively) were regarded as members of the Executive Committee. Such representation was, of course, completely without any formal recognition in this country, as members represented the interests of a National Group or a National Committee for Engineering Geology.

This difficulty has now been resolved. Approval has been given by the British National Committee for Geology for the setting up of a Subcommittee for Engineering Geology to:

- (a) correspond to the I.A.E.G;
- (b) nominate U.K. representatives to I.A.E.G. plenary meetings;
- (c) report to the National Committee for Geology.

The proposed composition of this Royal Society Subcommittee is:

Professor W. R. Dearman	(Chairman)
Dr. A. B. Hawkins	(Treasurer) (Engineering Group)
Mr. D. Eastaff	(Engineering Group)
Dr. P. G. Fookes	(Institution of Mining & Metallurgy)
Professor J. L. Knill	(Association for Promoting the Institution of Professional Geologists)
Dr. J. Mather	(Hydrogeological Group)
Professor J. L. K. Nash	(International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering)
Dr. A. Penman	(British Geotechnical Society)
Mr. D. G. Price	(Association of Engineering Geologists, London Section)

Membership of the subcommittee is on a personal basis, but in parentheses are the institutions which members could represent.

It is now proposed to canvass for group members of the I.A.E.G. in the United Kingdom. Group membership is favoured by the Association as it simplifies transmission of membership fees and distribution of the *Bulletin*. The present subscription for group membership is 2\$ U.S. without the *Bulletin*, and 6\$ U.S. with the *Bulletin*. Two numbers of the *Bulletin* are issued each year, containing original papers, news of the I.A.E.G. and international conferences, book reviews, reports of I.A.E.G. Working Parties (Commissions). Members also receive a periodic newsletter.

The setting up of what will be regarded as a 'National Group for Engineering Geology' in the United Kingdom is an important step in international co-operation in engineering geology. Those who are interested in this venture are now invited to notify, and to send their first annual subscription of £2.75 to:

Dr. A. B. Hawkins
Winifred Cottage,
Oxleaze Lane,
Dundry,
Bristol.

Present individual members of I.A.E.G. may wish to convert to Group Membership with attendant saving on subscription. Would they also indicate their intention, and send the appropriate fee to Dr. Hawkins.

The first joint venture between the I.A.E.G. and the British National Group will be a joint meeting with the French National Committee for Engineering Geology devoted to 'Engineering Geological Problems of the Chalk.' This will be held in April 1976 as a field-based meeting: two days in the region of Rouen, two days in the south-east of England.

W. R. Dearman,