

Presidential Address of Sh. A. K. Singh, President ISEG, 2020-21



Prof. K.S.Rao, President ISEG 2018-19, Vice Presidents, present and past council members, august gathering present in the AGM and dear members, a very good evening to you all at NHPC Office Complex, Faridabad.

At the outset, I express my sincere gratitude for providing me the opportunity to serve the prestigious Indian Society of Engineering Geology (ISEG) - the Indian Counterpart of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG) as the 28th President of the Society for the term 2020-21. It is indeed a great pleasure and honour for me to join the league of eminent Engineering Geologists and Civil Engineers who have volunteered their relentless selfless services to establish the society in last 54 years since its inception in October, 1965. I feel delighted to see the benign presence of some of the doyens who have stewarded the society like Dr. Gopal Dhawan, Sh. R. N. Misra and Sh. Y. Deva in the august gathering. Sir, my heartfelt gratitude to you for gracing the event. I solicit your advice and guidance in the future endeavours of the society.

Friends, if we look at the status of hydropower and infrastructure development projects in the country, we see that presently we are left out with only the difficult projects having lot of geological complexities thereby demanding application of latest state of the art geotechnical investigation techniques, meticulous planning and site-specific contract provisions. To mitigate these challenges, practicing geoscientists/engineers need to join hands with researchers/academicians to develop feasible and realistic geotechnical solutions so that cost and time overrun attributed to adverse geological conditions can be minimized. I sincerely feel that, the highly technical and professional societies like ISEG can play a major role in mitigating the complexities by providing a platform wherein the academicians and the practicing technocrats can discuss, deliberate and come out with out of the box solutions for complex geological problems.

With my experience of working in Hydropower sector since last three and a half decade, I sincerely feel that there is an urgent requirement to improve upon the present system of geological/geotechnical investigation techniques by introducing latest technical advancements which have already been imbibed by other sectors like medical, oil and gas, mining etc. Non-intrusive geophysical techniques like resistivity imaging, seismic tomography, AMT survey, air borne electromagnetic survey, advance probing techniques like TSP, well logging along with modern deep drilling technique have come up as respites to combat complex geotechnical challenges especially for underground structures which are undoubtedly the most challenging riddle for the geologists and engineers. The Societies like ISEG need to promote and propagate applicability of these

techniques so that they can be used more and more in the Industry in coming years. In this line, today I have requested Sh. S. L. Kapil, CGM & HoD of Geotech Group, NHPC and Secretary, ISEG, 2020-21 to deliver a presentation on “**Application of Advanced technologies for optimization of geotechnical investigation in Hydro/Infra Projects**” wherein the latest investigation techniques shall be highlighted through some interesting case studies.

Since its inception, the society has grown from strength to strength and has effectively served as a formidable bridge between the geologists and engineers as well as between practicing professionals and academicians. The society has projected the Nation’s achievements in the field of Geotechnics before the world through regular symposia/ workshops/ conferences/ seminars as well as through its journals and newsletters. It gives us an immense pleasure to see that presently the society has a strong human resource base comprising of more than 1500 life members. I sincerely thank our past Presidents, Secretaries and other office bearers and members for their relentless, voluntarily efforts due to which ISEG has not merely survived but also evolved as a knowledge centre. The Society has carved a niche for itself and over the years its members have distinguished themselves both nationally and internationally.

A lot of laurels have been achieved by the past council under the stewardship of Prof. K.S.Rao including successful organization of the conference EGCON-2018, streamlining of financial conditions of the society etc. As, I am taking the baton from Prof. K.S.Rao, I assure you that the present council shall continue the initiatives conceived by our preceding councils and shall also try to add more feathers in the crown of this prestigious society in the coming two years. Some of the proposed future roadmaps of the society are;

- Initiate recognized certification courses on relevant subjects.
- To start interdisciplinary training programme for Geologists and Engineers for better appreciation and understanding of each other’s work.
- Transform existing ISEG Journal as an indexed and internationally acclaimed journal.
- A permanent office space for ISEG in Delhi-NCR.
- To increase membership base of ISEG and IAEG by bridging the gaps between academics and industry for better outcome and more penetration at National and International platforms.
- To enhance financial health of the society through industrial tie ups.
- To organize at least one International and one National Conference during the tenure.
- To advocate more and more use of advance investigation techniques to eradicate geological issues in civil engineering projects.

I sincerely seek cooperation from all the members to transform all the above proposals into reality. Let us dedicate ourselves in Nation Building through our beloved society.

Thanks and regards,

A.K.Singh

President, ISEG and CMD, NHPC Limited