

Evgenii Mikhailovich SERGEEV (23.03.2014-23.03.1997) was a Professor, Doctor of Science in Geology, full member of the USSR (after the year 1991 – Russian) Academy of Sciences. He was an outstanding Soviet and Russian scientist in engineering geology, soil and rock engineering, environment protection. Prof. E.M. Sergeev was born in Moscow, and graduated from the Moscow topographical college in 1932. He started his professional carrier as a topographer in the Far East of Russia, where he worked for 3 years. In 1935, he entered the Moscow State University (MSU), the Geological and Soil Science Faculty. Since then, his entire life was closely connected with geological science. In 1940, Evgenii Sergeev graduated with honor from the Moscow State University, and took the position of the assistant professor at the department of soil and rock engineering of MSU. The Second World War interrupted his scientific research. In 1941, from the very first days of Nazi invasion to the USSR, he joined the Soviet army as a volunteer; and fought at the War front lines until 1943. E.M. Sergeev was badly wounded in the Stalingrad battle: he lost his leg. After the hospital, he returned to the Moscow State University in the autumn 1943. In 1944, E.M.Sergeev defended his Ph.D. thesis entitled "The moistening heat of soils", and in 1954 he presented and defended his Doctoral thesis on the topic "Genesis and Composition of Soils and Rocks as the Basis for Their Classification and Properties Study". Since 1954 for nearly 35 years Professor Sergeev headed the Department of Soil and Rock Engineering and Engineering Geology at the Geological Faculty of Moscow State University. In the years of his guidance, this department became an undisputable leading center of engineering geology in the entire USSR. E.M. Sergeev was the dean of Geological Faculty of MSU in 1954-1957 and in 1963-1964; and he held the position of Vice Rector of Moscow State University in 1964-1978. In his last years (1989-1997) academician Sergeev was a MSU rector councilor. The main fields of his professional interests included the soil and rock engineering, regional engineering geology, the environment protection, theory and methodology of engineering geology. He benefited considerably to the development of genetic principles of soil and rock engineering, genetic classification of soils and rocks, to the study of physico-chemical, and physico-mechanical properties of fine soils (sand, loess, clay) as multi-component systems, etc. Within regional engineering geological studies, he organized and led large-scale field investigations in various regions of the Soviet Union, including the Far East, the Eastern and Western Siberia, the Central Asia, and the European non-chernozemic part of Russia. The results of these works were generalized in an 8-volume fundamental monograph "Engineering Geology of the USSR", which was awarded with the State Prize in 1982.

Evgenii M.Sergeev was elected to the USSR Academy of Sciences in 1966 as a Corresponding Member, and in 1979 as a Full Member. He made strong efforts to promoting engineering geology and the environment protection as a new field of natural science within the USSR Academy of Sciences. He was an organizer and the chairperson of the Scientific Council on engineering geology and soil and rock engineering at the USSR Academy of Sciences (1966-1990); he was an organizer and editor-in-chief of the Russian academic journal "Engineering Geology" (1978-1990). On his initiative, Institute of Environmental Geoscience was arranged within the Russian Academy of Sciences (1996).

Apart from profound research, administrative, and organizational activities, Evgenii Mikhailovich Sergeev was a distinguished teacher of students. At the Moscow State University, he delivered lectures in soil and rock engineering for many years; he published above 500 scientific papers including fundamental monographs and textbooks. Under his guidance, more than 75 researchers prepared and defended their PhD dissertations, and 12 scientists defended their Doctoral dissertations.

Prof. Sergeev made a great input to the strengthening and broadening of international scientific relations. He was an Honorable Doctor of Bratislava (1972) and Warsaw (1974) universities, a foreign corresponding member of the Belgian Royal Geological Society (1974), and a council member of the International Association of Universities (1965-1975). Prof. Sergeev was truly one of the organizers and active leaders of IAEG, having occupied the position of a Vice-President for the Eastern Europe (1972-1978) and President IAEG (1978-1982).

Prof. Sergeev was awarded with many governmental prizes and medals, including civil and military awards. He was the laureate of the highest award of IAEG – the Hans Cloos medal.

In 2006, the name of academician Evgenii Mikhailovich Sergeev was awarded to the Institute of Environmental Geoscience RAS.

EM Sergeev was involved with the IAEG since its conception in the 1960s. He played an active role in the development of the Association together with his colleague and friend Marcel Arnould. As Arnould recollected, *"Professor EM Sergeev, being at that time Vice-Rector of Moscow State University in charge of international relations, seized the first opportunity (a visit to UNESCO in Paris) to get in touch with the IAEG, an association founded during the New Delhi International Geological Congress in December 1964. From then on, he was a firm supporter of the Association, endeavouring repeatedly to organise scientific meetings and numerous exchanges."*

In 1972, at the 25th International Geological Congress in Montreal (Canada), M Arnould was elected as the president of the IAEG, R Wolters as the secretary general, M Langer as treasurer, and EM Sergeev as vice president for Eastern Europe for 1972- 1978. This executive committee operated very successfully and creatively, in a friendly and cooperative atmosphere, and that time marked a period of active development for the IAEG. As vice president for Eastern Europe, EM Sergeev, with all his usual enthusiasm and energy, tried to widen contacts with the countries of Eastern Europe and to involve scientists from East Europe in the work of the Association. Within the framework of IAEG activities he organised several international symposia in the USSR, including: "Engineering geological properties of clays and processes in them" (1971); "Genetic principles of engineering geological study of soils and rocks" (1974); and "Engineering geological problems in hydrotechnical construction" (1979). As the IAEG vice president, he played an active role in the preparation and hosting of the 2nd and 3rd IAEG congresses in São Paulo (Brazil) in 1974 and in Madrid (Spain) in 1978.

At the latter congress in 1978, EM Sergeev assumed the office of IAEG president for a period of four years. According to the statutes he also represented Eastern Europe as a vice president. EM Sergeev personally felt a deep responsibility for the future of the entire international community of engineering geologists; he went to great efforts to increase the number of IAEG national groups, to widen communications between the national groups, and to involve less-developed countries in Africa, South America and South East Asia in the activities of the IAEG. For example, in 1979 alone three new

national groups (Iceland, Mexico, and Sudan) and one regional group (the South-East Asian Society of Soil Engineering (SEASSE)) were affiliated to the IAEG. As the IAEG president, EM Sergeev was in charge of organising many important events, including: the IAEG congress in New Delhi (India) in 1982; the engineering geological session within the International Geological Congress in Paris (France) in 1980; the international engineering geological symposium in Istanbul (Turkey) in 1981; the symposium on "Engineering geological mapping for planning, design and construction in civil engineering", Newcastle upon Tyne (UK) in 1979; and the symposium on "Changes of the geological environment under the influence of man's activity: engineering geological estimate and prognosis", Warsaw (Poland) in 1979.

EM Sergeev and R Wolters formed a very friendly and highly productive team within the IAEG executive committee despite the former political and military disputes between their countries and both being severely wounded in World War II. They exchanged mutual visits and conducted all the work for the Association in a spirit of cooperation.

The early, unexpected death of R Wolters in 1981 (at the age of only 59 years) was a severe shock for the IAEG's executives and personally to EM Sergeev. In accordance with the president's nomination, in 1982, R Wolters was posthumously awarded the Hans Cloos Medal, the supreme award of the IAEG. In 1984, at the council meeting held in Moscow, following an initiative suggested by EM Sergeev to commemorate R Wolters, the Association established a new IAEG award, the Richard Wolters Prize, to be presented to young professionals in engineering geology for their outstanding scientific achievements.

In 1980, at the International Geological Congress in Paris (France), EM Sergeev, for the first time at an international event, expressed the importance of extending the field of study of engineering geology to include environmental problems. With a long term concern for engineering geology and its future, he was convinced that the rational use and protection of the natural environment should be one of the most important targets of engineering geological investigations. It was only many years later, in June 1997, at the IAEG council meeting in Athens, that the Association adopted the decision to rename the IAEG as the "International Association for Engineering geology and the Environment", retaining the same acronym IAEG. A decisive point that influenced the voting results at the council meeting was a reminder that the appeal to the geoscientific community to pay attention to environmental protection was first announced by EM Sergeev.

EM Sergeev took the initiative to write an international monograph on "Engineering geology of the earth", which was announced at the IAEG council meeting in Paris (France) in 1980. The work was completed in 1989, due to the united efforts of many engineering geologists worldwide, under the direction of WR Dearman, EM Sergeev and VS Shibakova as the editors, and was a great achievement of the IAEG.

