

**2012 ANNUAL REPORT OF IAEG COMMISSION
IAEG C 21 - ENGINEERING GEOLOGY FOR DEVELOPMENT IN PERMAFROST REGIONS**

1) Chair persons

Chairman : Name : Dr Kaare Flaate Company : IPA Address 1 : Bernhard Herresv 6, 0376 OSLO, Norway Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : +47 22491087 Fax : Mail : kflaate@online.no Web :	Secretary : Name : Dmitry Sergeev Company : IEG RAS Address 1 : Ulansky, 13, build.2, p.o.b. 145, Moscow, 101000, Russia Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : +7 495 6249622 Fax : +7 495 6231886 Mail : sergueevdo@mail.ru Web : http://www.geoenv.ru/index-eng.html
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For contact details of other persons from the Commission, please fill the end of the report

2) Aims and key objectives of the Commission

Aim of this IAEG Commission:

To develop new methodologies for risk assessment and geohazard evaluation in permafrost regions.

Key objectives of the Commission :

- 1. Review and collect examples of risk assessment and geohazard evaluation in permafrost regions.*
- 2. Develop new methodologies for risk assessment and geohazard evaluation in relation with permafrost change.*
- 3. Document new methodologies and guidelines for permafrost mapping related to engineering geology goals.*
- 4. Network with practitioners and academics with an interest in permafrost problems world-wide.*
- 5. Develop and maintain a dedicated area within the IAEG web site.*

3) Most recent meeting of the Commission

In 2012 the Commission held the Tenth International Conference on Permafrost that took place in Sal-ekhard, Russia.

Over 500 participants from more than 25 countries attended the meeting in the Yamal-Nenets region, shared their knowledge about recent outcomes in permafrost research and engineering, discussed future collaborations and projects, and experienced the extraordinary hospitality of the local people.

With 15 scientific sessions and poster sessions with over 100 posters, the conference contributions comprised a large

field of permafrost research and reflected the recent importance and interest in polar issues. The permanent media attendance underlined this interest of the public and made the conference to an important event to raise the awareness of permafrost related issues for the broader audience.

A very diverse cultural program gave the conference participants a good impression about the culture and tradition of the regions and helped fostering the exchange of traditional knowledge and recent research activities (see photo: 'catch the first fish celebration'). Furthermore it afforded the opportunity to network, to meet old friends and to make new ones.

During the conference, two IPA council meetings (see photo; first Council Meeting) took place where the new Executive Committee was elected and the location for the ICOP 2016 has been voted. The new IPA President is Antoni Lewkowicz from the University of Ottawa, the two Vice-Presidents are Hanne Christiansen (Norway) and Vladimir Romanovsky (USA). Additional Executive members are Hugues Lantuit (Germany), Lothar Schrott (Austria), Dima Sergeev (Russia) and Ma Wei (China). The new Executive Director is Inga May (Germany).

The vote for the next ICOP venue won Germany, Potsdam.

In general the feedback from the conference participants was very positive and the conference can be seen as a great success (<http://ipa.arcticportal.org/news/56-ipa-news/639-the-ticop-2012-is-over.html>).

4) On going research

- 1. Compare the international experience and basics of geocryological and engineering geological guidelines as the part of the public regulation in construction projects.*
 - 2. Compare the international experience and basics of geocryological and engineering-geocryological mapping for the scientific and applied purposes.*
 - 3. Development of geological hazards list for cold regions (permanent and seasonally frozen ground) to unify the risk evaluation procedure for different types of anthropogenic disturbances of the environment. This list can be used in planning the surveying works and preparing the construction and monitoring recommendation.*
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7) Contact details of other members of the IAEG Commission

<p>Name : Dr. Baolin Wang Company : Geological Survey of Canada Address 1 : 601 Booth Street, Ottawa, Ontario Canada, K1A 0E8 Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : 1-613-992-8323 Fax : 1-613-992-0190 Mail : bwang@NRCan.gc.ca Web :</p>	<p>Name : Professor Kare Senneset Company : IPA Address 1 : Hogskoleringen 7a,7491 Trondheim Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : 47 73 59 46 02 Fax : Mail : Kaare.senneset@ntnu.no Web :</p>
<p>Name : Dr. Anastasia Tseeva Company : Yakut Design & Research Institute for Construction, Ministry for Construction of Sakha Republic RF Address 1 : Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : 7-4112-452125 Fax : Mail : antseeva@yapniis.ysn.ru Web :</p>	<p>Name : Dr. Jan Otto Larsen Company : IPA Address 1 : PO Box 156 N-9171 Longyearbyen Norway Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : 47 79 02 33 44 Fax : Mail : Jan.otto.larsen@unis.no Web :</p>
<p>Name : Dr. Jerry Brown Company : Former President International Perma- frost Association Address 1 : P.O. Box 7 Woods Hole MA 02543, USA Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : Fax : Mail : jerrybrown@igc.org Web :</p>	<p>Name : Gisle Håland Company : StatoilHydro ASA Address 1 : NO-4035 Stavanger, Forusbeen 50, Forus Address 2 : Address 3 : Tel : 47 481 47 518 Fax : Mail : gish@statoilhydro.com Web :</p>
<p>Name: Jared D Abraham Company: USGS Address 1 : Denver Federal Center Ms 964 Denver CO 80225-0046 Address 2: Address 3: Tel : 303-236-1318 Fax : Mail : jdabraha@usgs.gov Web :</p>	<p>Name: Marta Chiarle Company: CNR IRPI Turin Address 1 : Address 2: Address 3: Tel : Fax : Mail : marta.chiarle@irpi.cnr.it Web :</p>
<p>Name: Felix M Rivkin Company: OJSC "Fundamentproject" Address 1 : 1, Volokolaskoe route, Moscow, Russia Address 2: Address 3: Tel : +7 499 1952333 Fax :+7 499 1952333 Mail : f-rivkin@narod.ru Web :</p>	