

Independent International Panel of Experts on Dam Safety Biographies



Prof. Dr Kaare Höeg, is Professor Emeritus at the University of Oslo, Department of Geosciences (Norway); technical expert at Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI). Dr. Höeg was President of International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) between 1997 and 2000. He has been expert consultant for many dam engineering projects in Norway and around the world, and he is currently member of several international Dam Design and Dam Safety Review Panels. Since 2000, Dr. Höeg is Honorary President and member of ICOLD on Seismic Aspects of Dam Design (since 2000). He received several international honors and awards.

His research and university teaching focused on Geotechnical Engineering; Dam Engineering; Natural hazards (landslides, quick clay, earthquake); Offshore Structures; Risk Assessment and Management. He has authored 155 scientific publications in highly ranked Journals and authored two books: Rockfill Dams Design and Construction (1992); and Asphaltic Concrete Cores for Embankment Dams (1993).

Dr. Höeg received a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), USA (1962) and his Doctorate of Science in Civil Engineering (1965) from the same University. He was professor at Stanford University from 1968 to 1974 before becoming Managing Director of NGI, a position he held until 1991.



Prof. Dr. Mustafa Erdik, is Emeritus Professor of Earthquake Engineering at Bogazici University, Kandilli Observatory and Earthquake Research Institute (Istanbul, Turkey). He has worked around the world on earthquake engineering problems. Prof. M. Erdik is member of International Commission on Large Dams (ICOLD) Committee since 2013. Prof. Erdik received several awards. He was laureate of United Nation's Sasakawa Award for Disaster Prevention in 1999, he has received the NATO Science for Peace – Summit Prize in 2004, and in 2013, he was awarded the Bruce Bolt Medal by the Consortium of Strong Motion Observations Systems (COSMOS), Earthquake Engineering Research Institute (EERI).

His research interest focused on strong ground motion characterization earthquake hazard and risk assessment. He serves on the Editorial boards of several international journals on earthquake engineering. He serves in the executive board of professional societies on earthquake related subjects and is a member of the International Strong Motion Arrays Committee, Commission on Strong Motion Seismology, the Working Commission W73 on Natural Disaster Reduction, NSF, amongst others. He has authored and co-authored about 300 scientific publications in highly ranked Journals or major conference proceedings including 5 books.

Dr. Erdik received a Bachelor of Science degree (1970) from Middle East Technical University, Turkey, and the degrees of Master of Sciences (1972), and Doctorate of Science (1975) from Rice University in Houston, Texas.



Prof. Dr Paul (Pavlos) Marinos; is Professor Emeritus of engineering geology at the National Technical University of Athens (Greece) and Past President of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment. He has worked around the world on Engineering Geology and Geotechnics. Dr. Marinos is member of panel of experts for important engineering structures and infrastructure works (i.e. tunnels, dams design and construction, landslide-rock slide cases and water resources projects). Dr Paul Marinos has received several awards and knighted in the order of “Palme Académiques” from the French Republic in 2014.

Dr. Marinos research interest on a variety of applications of geology to engineering, mainly soil and rock mass characterization, weak rock properties and behavior, with special emphasis to engineering design and construction. Dr Marinos has authored or co-authored over 320 papers in highly ranked journals or major conference proceedings. Dr Marinos is Co-Editor in Chief of the journal “Geotechnical and Geological Engineering” and a member of the Editorial Board of many prominent journals as “Engineering Geology”, “Bulletin of the International Association of Engineering Geology”, “Environmental Earth Sciences”, “Rock Mechanics” and “Environmental and Engineering Geosciences”.

Dr Marinos received a Mining Engineering degree from the School of Mines of the National Technical University of Athens, Greece (1966), a postgraduate degree in Applied Geology from the University of Grenoble, France, and his Doctorate in Engineering Geology from the same University (1969).



Prof. Dr. Wajdi Najem has been Dean at Ecole Supérieure d'Ingénieurs de Beyrouth at the University Saint Joseph (USJ). He is professor of hydraulics and water resources since 1976; Chairman of the Master Program in water resources since 1996 and Director of “Centre Régional de l’Eau et de l’Environnement (CREEN)”, since 1996 at the same university.

Prof Najem is National representative for the “International Association for Hydrological Sciences IAHS”, member of many Scientific Committees for International Meetings in Water Resources and had received several international honours and awards such as Silver medal of the Lebanese Ministry of Education (1979); the Golden medal of the Lebanese Ministry of Education (1985), and the Officier des palmes académiques françaises (2004).

His research and university teaching focused on Hydraulics and Water Resources since 1976. He has authored many scientific publications and directed many research programs in water resources in Lebanon.

Prof Najem received a Master’s in applied mathematics from the Université Claude Bernard, Lyon-France, his doctorate diploma in Hydrology from Université Montpellier 2, France (1976) with very honorable grade. He was visiting Professor in Hydrology, through the Fulbright Program, to Purdue University in 1987.