Editorial

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The *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering* journal is pleased to start with the present issue publication of the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) Suggested Methods (SMs) for testing or measuring properties of rocks and rock masses both in the laboratory and in situ, as well as for monitoring the performance of rock engineering structures.

With the need, recognized by the ISRM, to develop a common terminology for rock properties and the tests by which they are measured, a Commission on Standardization of Laboratory and Field Tests (at present, Commission on Testing Methods) was established at the time of the first ISRM Congress, held in Lisbon, Portugal, in 1966 (ISRM 1981).

Since 1974, the Commission, that has historically been appointed by each new ISRM President, generated a succession of SMs covering a wide range of subjects. One SM was published in Springer-Verlag's *Rock Mechanics* (at present, *Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering*) in 1977, while the remaining ones have been published in Pergamon Press' *International Journal of Rock Mechanics and Mining Sciences* since 1978.

The first collection of the SMs was edited by Professor Ted Brown and published by Pergamon Press in 1981 (ISRM 1981). With this book becoming out of print, a new collection with the complete set of SMs from 1974 to 2006 inclusive, edited by Professor Resat Ulusay and Professor John A Hudson, was published by the ISRM Turkish National Group in 2007 (ISRM 2007).

The purpose of the ISRM SMs is to offer guidance for rock characterization procedures, and laboratory and field

testing and monitoring in rock engineering. These methods provide a definitive procedure for the identification, measurement, and evaluation of one or more qualities, characteristics, or properties of rocks or systems that produces a test result.

If someone has not been involved with a particular subject before and it is described by an SM, they will find the guidance to be most helpful. The SMs can be used as standards on a particular project if required, but they are intended more as guidance.

It is noted that the ISRM SMs, produced by the ISRM Commission on Testing Methods, are developed and established within the consensus principles of the ISRM and approved according to the ISRM procedures and regulations.

When a proposal for a method is accepted by the Commission, a draft document is written by a Working Group and sent to at least three experts for review. Following revision, and further comments by the Commission members, the final document is approved as an SM and submitted to the journal for publication without further review.

References

- International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) (1981) Rock characterization, testing and monitoring. In: Brown ET (ed) ISRM suggested methods, International Society for Rock Mechanics. Pergamon Press, Oxford
- International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) (2007) The complete ISRM suggested methods for rock characterization, testing and monitoring: 1974–2006. In: Ulusay R, Hudson JA (eds) Suggested methods prepared by the commission on testing methods, International Society for Rock Mechanics. Ankara, Turkey (Compilation Arranged by the ISRM Turkish National Group)

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