

From: Briaud, Jean-Louis [mailto:jbriaud@civil.tamu.edu]

Sent: Sunday, 20 June 2010 5:35 a.m.

To:

Subject: Special message about Professor Chen and consequences

Distinguished Colleagues, Dear Friends,

Professor Zuyu Chen fell while in an airport on 10 May 2010. He sustained an incomplete spinal cord injury and was paralyzed. He was rushed to a hospital where he underwent immediate surgery. Professor Chen is now back in Beijing and has started to regain his motor skills. He sent me an email explaining that it was not possible for him to continue as Vice President for Asia and he decided to resign so that he could concentrate on his rehabilitation. After further checking with the China National Society, I very regretfully accepted his resignation. Indeed he had become a very valuable advisor to me and I will always count him among my friends and as a special advisor to the President.

I talked to Professor Chen on the telephone and asked him to give me his recommendation for a new Vice President for Asia; he recommended Professor Askar Zhussupbekov of Kazakhstan. It made sense to me as Professor Zhussupbekov received the same number of votes in the election for VP Asia a year ago and since he was already an Appointed Member of the Board therefore well connected to all the work we are doing. I checked with Professor Zhussupbekov and he is willing to be VP Asia until 2013.

Then the Appointed Member position held by Professor Zhussupbekov became open. I asked Professor Zuyu Chen to give me his recommendation for this position as well. He suggested Professor Charles Ng of Hong Kong. I liked his suggestion as Professor Ng has been an energetic geotechnical leader with an excellent reputation and a demonstrated commitment to ISSMGE through many important positions. Professor Ng is prepared to take that position. The ISSMGE Board endorsed these recommendations at its meeting in Moscow on 6 June 2010.

The ISSMGE Bylaws indicate that the choice of a replacement for a Board member is the decision of the President; however I requested the opinion of the Asian National Societies and have received an overwhelming vote of support from many of them and no negative comment. Therefore, Professor Zhussupbekov will become VP Asia and Professor Ng will become an appointed member of the ISSMGE Board effective immediately. This means that Professor Ng can no longer be the upcoming chair of the TC on Physical Modeling nor the Vice Chair of the Innovation and Development Board Level Committee. After checking with Professor Christophe Gaudin and Professor Marc Ballouz, Professor Gaudin has agreed to become the incoming chair of the TC on Physical Modeling effective 1 July 2010 and Professor Ballouz has agreed to become Vice Chair of IDC effective immediately.

In the meantime please keep Professor Chen in your thoughts. I am sure that all the members of ISSMGE wish him a prompt recovery.

Best wishes,
Jean-Louis Briaud
President of ISSMGE

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