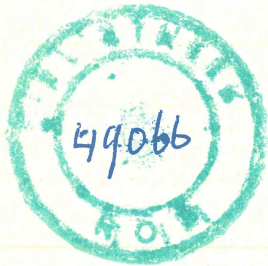


PROCEEDINGS OF THE SYMPOSIUM ON ENGINEERING-GEOLOGICAL ASPECTS OF DELTAIC AREAS (RENESE, 1979)¹



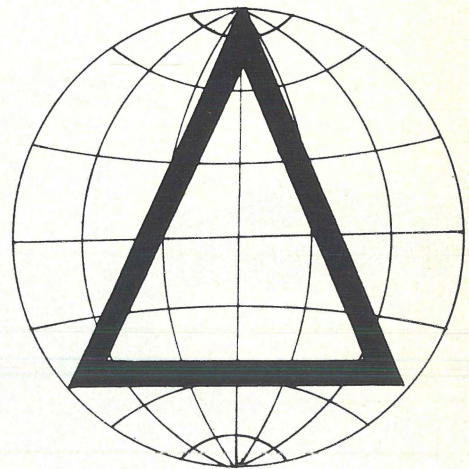
PREFACE

J. D. NIEUWENHUIS²

In April 1974 an international symposium 'North Sea and Surroundings' was held in the I.T.C. building in Enschede (The Netherlands). The symposium was sponsored by the International Association for Engineering Geology (IAEG). It was organised by a small committee without any official status, but with their own enthusiasm for the promotion of engineering geology in The Netherlands. The symposium reflected the aim of its organisers to show foreign delegates- by lectures- what engineering geology in The Netherlands was considered to be and to allow them to conclude whether The Netherlands had something to contribute to the profession of engineering geology.

The meeting in Enschede turned out to be successful in many ways. During the symposium a national section of engineering geology was founded in the presence of the secretary of the IAEG, the president of the Royal Geological and Mining Society of The Netherlands (K.N.G.M.G.) and the chairman of the Section of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (S.S.M.F.E.) of the Royal Institution of Engineers in The Netherlands.

Mr. Hageman of the Geological Survey of The Netherlands (R.G.D.) became the section's first chairman. The section was to be a daughter of the K.N.G.M.G. and retained



Symposium

Ingenieurs-Geologische Kring

26-28 SEPTEMBER '79

RENESE

¹ Symposium held on the occasion of the first lustrum of The Netherlands' 'Section of Engineering Geology'.

² Chairman of The Netherlands' Section of Engineering Geology, Soil Mechanics Laboratory, DELFT, The Netherlands.

a close affiliation to the S.S.M.F.E. (I apologize for all abbreviations).

In the next five years the section grew from some 80 members to 130, 60 of which are members of the I.A.E.G. as well. Membership of the section is open to both geologists and engineers and remarkably enough their numbers have remained approximately equal in the period of existence of the section. The number of engineering geologists by training is very limited since instruction at a university level in engineering geology in this country did not start until three years ago.

The section's initial activities comprised evening lectures and excursions, but since evening lectures did not seem to attract attendants in appreciable numbers, these lectures were abandoned and replaced by full days devoted to a single topic. The success of this type of activity limited the evening lectures to the few occasions when lecturers were attractive for more than one section. The activities in a normal year consist of two days devoted to a single topic, one evening lecture and one excursion. The topics ranged from waste disposal to the foundation of storm-surge barriers. In 1980 the themes will most likely be engineering-geological mapping in The Netherlands and rock mechanics in Dutch engineering practice. In 1977 Mr. Hageman was succeeded as chairman by the author and since 1978 the section compiles a Newsletter two or three times a year.

Here in Renesse (Province of Zeeland) we celebrate our first lustrum with a symposium 'Engineering-geological aspects of deltaic areas'. Since much of the interest of Dutch engineering geologists is devoted to this type of areas -where many of our members frequently find their work both at home and abroad- the selected topic was expected to attract a fair number of attendants to Zeeland. Moreover, the excursion to the spectacular works in the Eastern Scheldt was felt to be of interest to the attendants. We are grateful that a number of foreign experts accepted the invitation to lecture on specific topics related to deltaic areas here in Renesse.

I express my sincere thanks to the Organising Committee of this symposium, chaired by Dr. Oele, for the splendid work they performed and for the opportunity they offered to the attendants to meet each other here in the pleasant coastal surroundings of Renesse.

The presentations are collected in this issue of 'Geologie en Mijnbouw'. Although they were aimed at the field of interest of especially engineering geologists, it is hoped that all readers of 'Geologie en Mijnbouw' will find relevant information in the collected papers.

The Netherlands' Section of Engineering Geology looks back on a successful and stimulating symposium and we express our thanks to the Board of Editors of 'Geologie en Mijnbouw' for their willingness to issue the presented information in this fine printed form.



Plate I
Pumping station Khandak el Gharbi in the delta of the Nile. This pumping station is one of the 64 pumping stations in the delta for removal of drainage water. Drainage is applied not for removal of excess water from rainfall, which is practically nil, but for salinity control. Through a subsurface drainage system consisting of tile drains the groundwater table is maintained at some 1.5 m below the surface and at the same time leaching of the soil with irrigation water is applied.