

Introduction

The five-volume book “Comprehensive Rock Engineering” (Editor-in-Chief, Professor John A. Hudson) which was published in 1993 had an important influence on the development of rock mechanics and rock engineering. Indeed the significant and extensive achievements in rock mechanics and engineering during the last 20 years now justify a second compilation. Thus, we are happy to publish ‘ROCK MECHANICS AND ENGINEERING’, a highly prestigious, multi-volume work, with the editorial advice of Professor John A. Hudson. This new compilation offers an extremely wide-ranging and comprehensive overview of the state-of-the-art in rock mechanics and rock engineering. Intended for an audience of geological, civil, mining and structural engineers, it is composed of reviewed, dedicated contributions by key authors worldwide. The aim has been to make this a leading publication in the field, one which will deserve a place in the library of every engineer involved with rock mechanics and engineering.

We have sought the best contributions from experts in the field to make these five volumes a success, and I really appreciate their hard work and contributions to this project. Also I am extremely grateful to staff at CRC Press / Balkema, Taylor and Francis Group, in particular Mr. Alistair Bright, for his excellent work and kind help. I would like to thank Prof. John A. Hudson for his great help in initiating this publication. I would also thank Dr. Yan Guo for her tireless work on this project.

Editor

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