



Editorial

On the occasion of silver jubilee of ISRMTT last year, Prof. Bhawani Singh, Chairman, Editorial Board of JRMTT had highlighted the importance of rock mass classification approach in successful completion of mega civil engineering projects especially in Himalayan region which is seismo-tectonically active. He has mentioned in his Editorial (Vol.23, No.2, JRMTT) that complex rock mass may be rated approximately by just one number which predicts nearly all the properties of rock mass. He further wrote that the 40 years of research work on RMR, Q, GSI and J_f has highlighted the vast utility of the simple classification approach which is proving to be the basic research now a days.

During the last four decades of extensive research on rock mass classification, it has been seen that the classification approach provides an effective communication among the site engineers, engineering geologists, designers and contractors. An engineer's observation, intuition, experience and judgment are correlated and consolidated more effectively by a quantitative classification system. Generally the engineers prefer numbers in place of descriptions. Hence, a quantitative classification system has considerable application in an overall assessment of the rock quality. As a matter of fact, rock mass characterization and subsequently the knowledge of its engineering behavior to the imposed and induced loads form the basis of success for planning, design and construction of water resources development projects, which are very important for the socio-economic development of any nation. The non-linear behavior of rock mass due to weathering, presence of discontinuities / shear zones, recurring seismic activities, ground water etc. with a variation in rock materials in a tectonically active environment as in Himalayan formation, call for not only exhaustive analytical approach, but also well simulated field and laboratory testing and evaluation. To achieve this objective, proper knowledge of testing, monitoring of interpretation of instrumentation data etc. are very essential for engineers involved in dealing with such problems, may it be in planning, investigation, design, construction, research etc.

It is with this prime objective in view that ISRMTT through its publication of Journal and conducting conferences, seminar and workshops has been contributing in developmental activities for over last two and half decades. We hope to get continued support from rock mechanics fraternity for the growth of the Journal.

- Subhash Mitra & R. K. Goel
Editors, JRMTT