Prof. Eduardo F.J. de Mulder

IUGS President

Born in 1947 in Amersfoort, the Netherlands, Ed de Mulder passed primary school and secondary school in the same city. He started his Geology studies at the Utrecht State University in 1965, obtained his Master of Science degree in 1971 in General Geology, Stratigraphy, Sedimentology and Micropaleontology, and his PhD in 1975 on the Micropaleontology and Tertiary Stratigraphy of the Ionian Islands (Greece). He married in 1972 with Thecla Rondhuis and has four children.

He joined the Geological Survey of the Netherlands (RGD) in 1975 and started his career in the Survey as Head of the Marine Geology Division. He then moved onshore and became Head of District West, one of the regional branches of the Survey. There he gained substantial experience in regional geological mapping and completed two geological mapsheets (1:50,000). In addition, he wrote a number of scientific publications on regional geology of the western part of the Netherlands.

Since 1975, he became involved in a number of larger projects conducted by the RGD in the field of engineering geology, hydrogeology, environmental geology, urban geology, and mineral resources. As Project Manager, he conducted studies on the geological stability of the storm surge barrier in the Oosterschelde (SW Netherlands), the Environmental Impact Assessment on the reclamation of a new polder, the foundation stability of potential urban expansion sites, the development of geotechnical criteria for a new Dutch governmental subsidizing system for municipalities, etc. Prof. Ed de Mulder has initiated the production of various thematic environmental and engineering geological maps for national, regional (provincial) and local governmental bodies in the Netherlands. In his capacity as Head of the Applied Geology Division of the Survey since 1983 he has initiated co-operation between the leading Dutch institutes in the fields of geohydrology, soil sciences and geotechnics which resulted in joint brochures and joint projects. Under his responsibility the Geological Survey of the Netherlands has conducted most of their major projects in these fields in the period 1980–1995. In 1997 he was appointed Head of the Geo-infrastructure Department in the new Geological Survey, NITG-TNO. In 1998 he was appointed as Professor in Subsurface Management at the Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands. In 1999 Ed de Mulder was appointed Head of the Subsurface Management Programme for fundamental and strategic research for densely populated delta's, Delft Cluster, with a research budget of 10 million Euro.

Prof. Ed de Mulder has been the government's senior advisor on onshore resources and reserves of construction materials and the Dutch representative on this theme in the Working Group on the Environment of DG III of the European Commission. He also has been the government's senior advisor on the assessment of subsurface quality of all Dutch towns and cities with regard to the provision of government subsidies to municipalities, and on geological aspects of safe disposal of nuclear wastes in the Dutch subsurface. Furthermore, he was the government's representative on environment and sustainable development issues in Asia and the Pacific through ESCAP.

As author and co-author, Prof. Ed de Mulder has published some 85 scientific publications on a variety of topics in the Netherlands and abroad including micropaleontology, sedimentology, coastal development, construction materials policy, regional geology, paleogeographical and paleogeohydrological development, engineering geology, urban geology, economic geosciences, land reclamation, geosciences for environmental planning and management, environmental policy, geosciences for sustainable development, geo-indicators for environmental policy, prediction of geological development as a result of future climatic changes, Quaternary geology, Tertiary geology, salinization, waste disposal, storage of nuclear waste in underground facilities, safety analyses, etc.

Prof. Ed de Mulder is member of the Scientific Board of Elsevier's 'Engineering Geology' and of Environmental Geoscience. He was a member of the Scientific Boards and/or Advisory Committees of the LANDPLAN IV International Conference, of the GEOPROSPERATIVE '94 Congress in Paris, and of the 2nd South Asia Geological Congress in Colombo, Sri Lanka. In addition, he has been the editor of the IUGS/COGEOENVIRONMENT's Newsletter, co-editor of a book on Applied Quaternary Research and another book on Urban Geosciences.

Prof. Ed de Mulder has a long international experience and a standing reputation in applied and fundamental geosciences. He has given numerous invited keynote speeches and oral presentations during international conferences, e.g. in Argentina, Japan, Colombia, Canada, UK, Norway, France, Belgium, Greece, Spain, Germany, Australia, USA, Kenya, Sri Lanka, India, Malaysia, Nepal, Thailand, China, etc. As coordinator of an international Training Course on Applied Quaternary Geology and Shallow Exploration Methods he provided such courses in Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Korea and the Philippines on request of the Coordinating Committee for Coastal and Offshore Geoscience Programmes in East and Southeast Asia (CCOP). On behalf of the RGD, he has frequently operated as a senior advisor and consultant for CCOP and UN/ESCAP and has assisted in the development of long and short term programmes for this organization. In June 1997 he gave a training course on Urban Geology on request of ESCAP in Shanghai, China.

In his capacity of Secretary-General and later as Chairman of the IUGS Commission on Geological Sciences for Environmental Planning (COGEOENVIRONMENT), of Treasurer of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Quaternary Research (INQUA), of Vice Chairman of the International Working Group on Urban Geology (IWGUG), of Council Member of the International Association of Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), and of the representative of IUGS in the ICSU Scientific Committee on Problems of the Environment (SCOPE), he gained a broad insight in the potentials of many geological surveys in the world.

Prof. Ed de Mulder speaks four languages fluently (Dutch, English, German and French).