Stability of rock slopes in open pit mining and civil engineering situations
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Foreword

Many open pit mines are now being mined at very significant depths, often at depths far greater than was originally planned. Even deeper open pits are also being planned, to depths that would be considered deep by underground standards. The heights of the resulting rock slopes are usually beyond the current experience and knowledge base. The exceptions are, perhaps, some very high and steep natural rock slopes. These natural rock slopes are also assuming greater significance owing to pressures of infrastructure development and consequent exposure of such infrastructure to the hazards of slope failure and landslides. Developments in road and rail infrastructure are also resulting in higher rock cuttings.

Present understanding of the mechanisms of slope behaviour and failure for high slopes, and for slopes subjected to high in situ stress conditions, appears to be lacking. If the mechanisms of slope behaviour are not well understood, the validity of commonly applied methods of analysis of the stability of such slopes may be questionable. The papers in this specialist International Symposium, including papers on mechanisms and monitoring techniques, and case studies will contribute to the understanding of these issues.

The Symposium has attracted good international participation, from both the attendance and authorship points of view. We are very grateful to all presenters and delegates for taking time out of their very busy schedules to come and share their knowledge and we hope that all will benefit from this event.

Thanks are due to the Organising Committee and to the members of our International Advisory Panel for the ideas, the contacts and the badgering, and to the Secretariat of the South African Institute of Mining and Metallurgy for the organisation.

Dick Stacey
Chairman
Organising Committee
Stability of rock slopes in open pit mining and civil engineering situations

Organising Committee

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