For the third Online Lecture the ISRM President invited Prof. Pierre Duffaut, and the title of his lecture will be “Rock Mechanics Lessons from Dams”. It will have two main parts. 1 – Rock mechanics problems on some major French Dams, before and after 1959; 2 – Malpasset Arch Dam: history, 1959 foundation failure, research, lessons, traps, H&O factors.

The lecture will be broadcast on 13 September, at 10 a.m. GMT, and it will remain online so that those unable to attend at this time will be able to do it later. In order to know what is the correspondence between GMT and your local time, just look for GMT in your Internet search engine.

As usual, the attendees will be able to ask questions to the lecturer by e-mail, on the topic of the lecture, during the subsequent 48 hours.

Pierre Duffaut is a retired geological engineer. Graduated from Saint Étienne School of Mines, France, in 1948, he served EDF, the French Authority for Electricity, first as geological engineer and later as civil engineering expert. He spent some years as Head of the Geotechnical Department at the French Geological Survey; then Head of Civil Engineering at the Continuing Education of École des Ponts et Chaussées. From 1983 he worked worldwide as a free lance consultant. From the Malpasset dam failure he has followed the growth of civil Rock Mechanics, as a founder member in 1967 and later Chairman of the French Committees on Rock Mechanics. He performed research mainly on Concrete, Rock Mechanics, and Underground City Planning, being active in Dams, Tunneling, and all Geotechnical Societies, through conferences, working groups, papers, and lectures. Among his latest work was the coordination of a Manual of Rock Mechanics, in 4 volumes from 2000 to 2013. He is a founding member of ISRM Commission on Underground Nuclear Power Plants.

The first and the second ISRM Online Lectures were given in February by Prof. Wulf Schubert and in May by Prof. John Hudson, respectively. All the ISRM Online Lectures will remain available on the ISRM website: www.isrm.net