

# ISSMGE Bulletin

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International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

[www.issmge.org](http://www.issmge.org)

## A Message from the Board Member

By Professor Osamu Kusakabe

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ISSMGE is a large international learned society which has a membership of 80 member societies with over 18,000 individual members as of March 2009. The Board as policy making and administrative body is primary responsible for communicating closely with officers of these member societies on the issues that the Council decides, as well as with chairpersons of Technical Committee on technical activities.

The present Board strongly believes that we are also responsible for improving the communication with over 18,000 individual members. To improve the communication with the individual members and to promote the communication among the individual members is of essence for future of ISSMGE, not only information and knowledge dissemination for the benefit to the individual members, but also bridging the gap between academicians and practitioners, and

integrating senior and young generations in geotechnical community, which would create new areas of science and technology.

Soon after establishing the present Board at Osaka Conference in September 2005, President Pedro Pinto called a preliminary Board meeting and proposed the establishment of Task Force on Communications with possible lunch of ISSMGE Bulletin as the upgrade version of Newsletter. I was appointed for the task of lunching and editing/publishing ISSMGE Bulletin. My former student, Dr. Pongsakorn Punrattanasin, has provided me indispensable support for the task.

After discussions at the two subsequent Board meetings, we started the quarterly publication of ISSMGE Bulletin since March, 2006 with the format you see in this issue. Typical issue includes the message from one of the Board members, view of young generation, reminiscence by senior generation, case history reported by practitioners, TC activity, activity of member society, news and event diary. The Bulletin also provides a page for corporate members. All the previous issue can be accessed and obtained from the front page of ISSMGE website ([www.issmge.org](http://www.issmge.org)). The Board continues our effort to improve the communication by reinforcing editorial capacity of Bulletin and possible updating ISSMGE website.

In order to reinforce the editorial capacity of Bulletin, the Board has tried to establish the network of young geotechnical engineers in representative geographical areas: Africa, Asian, Australasia, Europe and America.

### EDITORIAL BOARD

Pedro Sêco e Pinto

Osamu Kusakabe

Neil Taylor

William Van Impe

John Carter

Pongsakorn Punrattanasin

In his letter inviting young members dated March 6, 2009, President Pinto wrote "It is very important the universality of the knowledge and the need for a permanent renewing. ISSMGE wants to play an important role helping the geotechnical community to explore the best ways for research, design, construction and assessment of geotechnical structures safety, in order to reach the expectations and targets of our Society during the third Millennium. It is important to communicate, to share experiences, to compare methodologies and to monitor the results. The benefits of an open dialogue between the academicians, the researchers, the practitioners, contractors and owners are huge. Through our ISSMGE Bulletin we have the responsibility to interact with the Member Societies and also with the individual members. The time demands all arise as we are now on the brink of a new era for ISSMGE. Over the past years a number of developments have taken place and we need to mould the ISSMGE activities for this momentum to capitalize on the potential benefits. In a geotechnical world that every day transforms and advances we face new challenges, the role of ISSMGE is to explore new ways and to be a continuous source of inspiration for today and tomorrow.

## A Message from the Board Member (continued)

By Professor Osamu Kusakabe

I am confident that ISSMGE Bulletin will contribute for a synergy between academicians and practitioners and will implement co-operation between scientific and technological actors. Joining our efforts we will reach our goals and targets and contribute for the success of ISSMGE Bulletin and certainly for the unity and strength of ISSMGE. I strongly believe that your role in your Region to serve as a contact person for collecting the contributions and your interaction with the Regional Vice President is of crucial importance for the success of ISSMGE Bulletin. I hope to receive a positive response for your nominations for a period of 4 years.”

The followings are members of the regional correspondents headed by Dr. Pongsakorn Punrattanasin. Please contact with your regional correspondent if you would like to contribute or to suggest for further improvement of the Bulletin.



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## Activity of Member

### The Geo-Institute of ASCE, the US national member society of the ISSMGE

In 1936, the same year as the (First) International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering was held at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, the American Society of Civil Engineers established the Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division. Thus both the ISSMGE and the Geo-Institute, the successor group of that original ASCE Division, are exactly the same age, and both organizations have always been closely associated. The Geo-Institute is the ISSMGE Member Society for the USA, and with nearly 3000 US members of the ISSMGE, it is the largest member society and its dues contribute significantly to the annual budget of the ISSMGE.

Three presidents of the ISSMGE have been from the USA: Karl Terzaghi (1936-1957), Arthur Casagrande (1961-1965), and Ralph Peck (1969-1973). We have sponsored two international conferences, Cambridge of course in 1936 and San Francisco in 1985, and the US has provided numerous keynote lectures, technical presentations, and chairs of plenary and discussion sessions at all international and many regional ISSMGE conferences. Throughout the years, our members have served as chairs and key members of several ISSMGE committees and task groups, and we have had four Vice Presidents for North America, W.J. Turnbull (1965-69), G. F. Sowers (1977-1981), J.K. Mitchell (1989-1994), and R. D. Woods (2001-05), all of whom served with distinction on the Board of the society.

From its rather modest beginnings representing a minor subspecialty within civil engineering, the Soil Mechanics and Foundations Division developed into one of the largest and most active technical divisions within ASCE. By the early 1990s, the geotechnical profession in the US had its own subspecialties (e.g., geosynthetics, geoenvironmental, geophysical exploration) and its members were engaged in a broad range of interdisciplinary activities (e.g., groundwater hydrology, earthquake engineering, specialty foundations, soil improvement, etc.), so in 1996 the ASCE established the Geo-Institute as a semi-autonomous technical association. The G-I now has nearly 11 000 individual and 48 organizational members, its own Board of Governors, by-laws, professional staff, and an annual budget approaching US\$1.4 million. The G-I provides professional development and technology transfer activities through 19 technical committees (see [www.geoinstitute.org/committees](http://www.geoinstitute.org/committees)), one or two annual technical conferences and exhibitions, short courses and other educational programs, two technical journals, other research and practice-oriented special publications, and *Geo-Strata*, a bi-monthly magazine of G-I news, technical articles, and news of members. The G-I has several important awards and lectures in honor of Karl Terzaghi, Ralph B. Peck, Harry Schnabel, and Wallace Hayward Baker.

The Geo-Institute's annual technical conferences are important events for the entire geo-industry. This year, the big event was the 2009 International Foundation Congress and Equipment Expo in Orlando, Florida, just held in March and co-sponsored with the ADSC (International Foundation Drilling Association) and the Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA). More than 2000 engineers, constructors, students, and equipment suppliers attended. Next year, the G-I will hold its annual geo-congress in West Palm Beach, Florida (GeoFlorida 2010) on February 20-24, 2010, and a specialty conference Earth Retention 2010, August 1- 4, 2010 in Bellevue, Washington, near Seattle. Also being planned for November of 2010 is the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Scour and Erosion to be held in San Francisco. This specialty conference will be hosted by ISSMGE TC 33 on Geotechnics of Soil Erosion, and its chair is Prof. J.-L. Braud who is also current president of the G-I. TC33 is one of two ISSMGE technical committees that the US sponsors. The other is TC16 on Ground Property Characterization from In-Situ Tests, and its chair is Prof. Paul Mayne. In recent years these two technical committees have been among the most active of the ISSMGE TCs, and they have organized a number of international symposia and conferences on their respective subjects. The USNS also has members serving on almost all of the other ISSMGE technical committees, including a number of core members and one secretary.

Finally, the International Activities Council (IAC) is one of the most important committees of the G-I. Previous IAC committee chairs were Profs. Tuncer Edil and Richard Woods, and for a transition year, the committee was co-chaired by Profs. Woods and Jorge Zornberg. Zornberg recently assumed the chairmanship of the IAC. The IAC keeps the Board of Governors informed and advises them on major international geotechnical activities and issues, solicits and reviews papers for ISSMGE conferences, and oversees joint international workshops and events. Through the IAC, the G-I now has bilateral cooperative agreements with the national geotechnical societies of Japan, Canada, India, and China. Others under consideration include Brazil, Mexico, S. Korea, and Taiwan. Examples of the value of these bilateral agreements are the several US-Japan specialty workshops on constitutive modeling, geoenvironmental engineering, and soil improvement that have been held in the US and Japan since 2003.

Reported by Prof. R. D. Holtz, PhD, PE, D.GE, International Secretary of the Geo-Institute and a member of the ISSMGE Board

## Activity of Member

### Brazilian Geotechnical Society



Between 20th and 23rd of November of 2008 one of the most beautiful area of the Brazilian State of Santa Catarina, with more than 1 million inhabitants, was devastated by a heavy rain, which occurred after almost three months of continuum precipitation, and induced not only a great flood but also caused more the 4000 slope failures. With 135 fatal victims and more than 78000 unsheltered people the disaster induced a great mobilization of the geotechnical community headed by the Brazilian Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ABMS). It was organized a voluntary force formed by twenty ABMS members to help the Emergency Response Team during the emergency period.

The main cause of the slope failures were a combination of long term low intensity rain followed by a heavy rain. The soil thickness in the region is of more than 6 meters in many slopes, having potentially a great volume of soil to fail. The slope failures occurred not only in urban areas but also in rural areas destroying most of the infrastructure and affecting a great number of houses in the rural and urban area. Some of the failures involved tens of thousands of tons of soil in failures that in most cases were transformed in debris flows.



Differently of other regions of Brazil the local governments were not prepared for this kind of disaster which created a great mobilization of the society helping in many ways. The role of the geotechnical engineers together with other specialists was, immediately after the events, to evaluate potential risk of new failures. These evaluations allowed the return of some that still had their houses standing or determine the removal of others from their homes due to continuing risk of failure. Another important and dramatic duty of the geotechnical engineers was to help to evaluate the risk of the rescue personnel involved in rescuing buried bodies from the debris.

With many areas under critical conditions, more rain can cause more failures with some people still under risk. ABMS is working with its members in order to suggest measures to minimize the risk for the population and also to suggest long term measures such as to install monitoring system to anticipate potential problems. Another important measure that has been suggested by ABMS is to take educational actions to teach the population the phenomena involved in this kind of event and in this way minimize inadequate naive anthropic action.

The work performed by the Brazilian geotechnical community in this event, has been a humanitarian action that gave those who had the opportunity to participate a significant benefit, well beyond the technical efficiency.



Reported by Fernando Marinho, Andreia Dyminsky, Edgar Odebrecht and Luiz Bressani.

## News

## In Memoriam

## The Past President- Prof. Victor F.B. de Mello

The geotechnical community received with great sadness the notice that Prof. Victor de Mello has passed away.

In this moment I convey my condolences and deep sympathy in my personal name and on behalf of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering to Maria and Family.

Prof. Victor de Mello acted as President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundations Engineering during the tenure 1981-1985 and will be remembered for his actions and passion to implement geotechnical activities worldwide.

Professor Victor de Mello was a man of prodigious energy and fine intellect. We are indebted for his outstanding contribution for the advancement of knowledge in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering.

I had the opportunity to meet Prof. Victor de Mello in Mozambique in 1972, when he was acting as Consulting Expert for Massingir dam and I was initiating my first steps in geotechnical engineering. My debt of gratitude for him is so huge and I should like to recall this Master who teach me to think, to investigate, to be in Geotechnique and which friendship is for me a great lesson.

Professor Victor de Mello is often invited to be Keynote Speaker at international conferences of geotechnical engineering and other events and we always listen to his lectures with great interest and pleasure, as they are challenge and open new avenues of research.

I would like to highlight from Prof. Victor de Mello outstanding curriculum: i) his solid scientific background and research contributions for the advancement of knowledge of embankment dams and special foundations; ii) his significant contribution as author/co-author of papers for Journals, widely accepted throughout the world; (iii) his excellent lecturing and teaching ability to communicate, to support and to encourage students; (iv) his skill to establish synergies with Industry. I believe that everybody fully agree with me in classifying his activity with Five Es - Exciting, Elegant, Efficient, Excellent and Extraordinary.

But it is not sufficient to remember the Master, it is important to follow his example, to give continuity with energy and perseverance to his heritage and to spread his message that:

“The important thing in science is not so much to obtain new facts, as to discover new ways of thinking about them”.

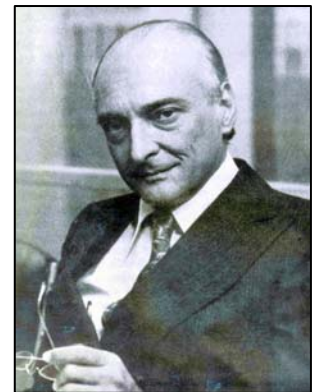
This will be the simple contribution of the current and next generations to honor Victor de Mello memory.

ISSMGE presents to Victor de Mello family our deep sympathy.

With best regards



Pedro Sêco e Pinto  
President



Victor's photo taken in 1977  
for the Rankine Lecture

## News

### In Memoriam

Dr. Victor Milligan

(November 11, 1929 - March 4, 2009)

The international geotechnical engineering community is deeply saddened that Dr. Victor Milligan, P.Eng., FCAE, FRAE, FEIC, passed away suddenly on March 4, 2009 in his 80<sup>th</sup> year, while he and his wife Donna were on vacation in Mopti, Mali, West Africa. Dr. Milligan was a world renowned geotechnical engineer, a key founding member of the international consulting firm Golder Associates, and a past Vice-President for North America of the ISSMGE.

Victor Milligan was born in Belfast, Northern Ireland on November 11, 1929. He graduated from Queen's University, Belfast in 1951 with a B.Sc. in Civil Engineering, and obtained a M.Sc. in Soil Mechanics at Queen's in 1952. He then worked as a research fellow at Purdue University in Indiana, United States, on a King George VI Fellowship.

Dr. Milligan emigrated to Canada in 1956 and worked for Geocon Ltd., where he quickly rose to the position of Chief Engineer. In 1960, in partnership with Dr. Hugh Golder, he formed Golder Associates where he held posts of President and Chairman. Dr. Milligan was the driving force of the firm as it grew from a single office of five employees to 160 offices with over 7,000 employees worldwide. Long before his retirement from the company in 1994, Golder Associates had fully secured a worldwide reputation for excellence in geotechnical engineering - an achievement that Dr. Milligan looked upon with considerable pride. Golder Associates owes an immense debt to Dr. Milligan for instilling values that are the foundation of the company's culture. In his "retirement" in 1994 to individual practice, he continued to act as Senior Consultant to Golder Associates and served on many Technical Review Panels and Consulting Boards for international clients with world class projects.



Dr. Milligan was recognized internationally as an expert in geotechnical engineering, especially in the fields of dams, embankments and soft ground tunnels. He worked on in excess of 150 dam projects throughout the world including one of the highest rockfill dams in Europe. In addition, he worked on 15 major tunneling projects in North America, South America, Australia and Singapore. He published over 50 technical papers, many of which were invited, keynote and award winning lectures.

Dr. Milligan received numerous awards, honours and accolades in recognition of his many significant accomplishments and contributions to engineering. He received two Honourary Doctorates - from Queen's University in Belfast and Waterloo University in Canada. He was also recognized by many learned societies achieving Fellow status in the Canadian Academy of Engineering; the Engineering Institute of Canada; the Royal Academy of Engineering in the U.K., where only 70 such persons are allowed from overseas; and, Honourary Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers - the only person from Canada to be so recognized.

Dr. Milligan was one of the founders and the initial Editor of the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, President of the Consulting Engineers of Ontario and Vice-President for North America of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineers. He was the recipient of several prestigious medals and awards, including the Thirty-Eighth Karl Terzaghi Lecturer in 2002; the Sir John Kennedy Medal, the Julian Smith Medal and the K.Y. Lo Medal - all top awards of the Engineering Institute of Canada; the R.F. Legget Award from the Canadian Geotechnical Society - its highest award; and, the Beaubien Award from the Consulting Engineers of Canada.

Dr. Milligan was a gifted middle-distance runner when he was younger. He first gained acclaim as the first schoolboy from Northern Ireland to win the British Public Schools Mile championship. While injury prevented him from competing in the 1952 Helsinki Olympics, he captained the Northern Ireland team at the 1954 British Empire Games in Vancouver. There he finished fourth in the fabled "Miracle Mile" just yards behind Sir Roger Bannister of England and John Landy of Australia.

The introduction of Dr. Milligan at the 2002 Karl Terzaghi Lecture provides good insight to his character. The introduction included the following citation:

"Victor was also the driving force behind the company's ownership model. He wanted to build a superior company, and to do this he firmly believed that if the employees were owners, this would be reflected in their attitude towards their clients and product quality... Victor Milligan has only one standard. Whatever he does, it must be the best".

Dr. Milligan will be greatly missed by his wife Donna, his sons Jeffrey and Michael, daughter-in-law Bobbi, grandson Alexander, great-niece Karen, his family in Northern Ireland, and by his many friends and colleagues in Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, Greece, Singapore, Australia, and elsewhere. That his circle of friends and family is so extensive and devoted is a testament to his integrity, loyalty, sense of humour and sharp wit, passion, and extraordinary zest for life.

## News



17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics  
and Geotechnical Engineering  
Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt  
5-9 October 2009

AHLAN WA SAHLAN (*Welcome to Egypt*)

The International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the Egyptian Geotechnical Society, the Government of Egypt, and the city of Alexandria cordially invite you to attend the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE) from 5 to 9 October 2009. This quadrennial event, which ranks among the premier events in the field of geotechnical and ground engineering worldwide, is being held at the spectacular, international award-winning Bibliotheca Alexandrina on the coast of the deep blue Mediterranean Sea. A technical exhibition, a major component of the event, will be held in parallel to the conference (5-8 October) to provide companies in the field of geotechnical and ground engineering an opportunity to present their products and services and build business relationships with conference attendees.

The geotechnical challenges the world faces are becoming increasingly more complex and interrelated. Geotechnical engineers have had to expand their thinking and develop new technologies to better integrate socio-economic and environmental issues into engineering solutions at the surface and below ground in our cities and towns, coastal areas and sea beds, and in a global context for the health of the earth. To prepare for the more challenging changes to come, closer collaboration among those who study, research, and practice geotechnical engineering is requisite. Thus, *The Academia and Practice of Geotechnical Engineering* has been chosen as the main theme of the 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE.

The 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE will provide a forum for academics and practitioners in the geotechnical engineering field to explore the future of our profession and what we must do to assure that we meet society's needs and expectations. Interactive discussions, led by preeminent leaders in the field, will address the research required to meet ever changing global issues. We will also explore case studies that we can all learn from, and identify the means and value in strengthening relationships among the engineering and construction communities, as well as the general public.

On conference Days 1 and 2, invited lecturers will address each of the five main conference themes: Material Behavior and Testing; Analysis and Design; Prediction, Monitoring and Evaluation of Performance; Construction Process; and Management, Training and Education. On Days 3 and 4, the 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE offers three Technical Sessions and three Paper Presentation/Poster Discussions that will present a range of views and ideas on each of the five main conference themes. Session presenters will be selected by the Conference Organizing Committee from among the nearly 1,000 papers submitted by interested authors.

We invite all geotechnical academics and practitioners to join us in Alexandria in 2009. Egypt, the place where geotechnical engineering essentially began, is the ideal setting to determine our field's future directions.

We hope that you will join us.

P. Sêco e Pinto  
ISSMGE President

M. Hamza  
Chairman of XVII ICSMGE

For additional information:

17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE Conference Organizing Committee  
17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE Exhibition  
Website

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Email: [exhibiticsmge2009@hamza.org](mailto:exhibiticsmge2009@hamza.org)  
[www.icsmge2009-egypt.org](http://www.icsmge2009-egypt.org)

## News

### International Seminar on Eurocode 7 and Geotechnical Aspects of Eurocode 8 in Struga, Republic of Macedonia

In the period October 29<sup>th</sup> to November 01<sup>st</sup> 2008, supported by the ISSMGE, Macedonian Association for Geotechnics has organized an International seminar on Eurocode 7 and Geotechnical Aspects of Eurocode 8, in Struga, Republic of Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), where lecturers were: Prof. Pedro Simao Sêco e Pinto, Prof. Roger Frank, Dr. Bernd Schuppener, Dr. Trevor Orr, Dr. Brian Simpson and Prof. Vlatko Šešov.



About 160 participants have attended the seminar, which came mostly from the countries in the region as Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also even from Spain. The majority of the participants were from Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and many of them were young engineers. Several famous companies, established in the world of geotechnics, presented their activities and products at exhibition stands. This way the seminar will contribute to faster acceptance of Eurocodes in this region and also to involvement of Republic of Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) in the European Union.

Beside the lectures, the participants had opportunity to see the cultural and historical monuments of the ancient city of Ohrid and enjoy in the landscapes of Republic of Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The seminar ended with dinner organized as National evening, which sociability put a particular impress. The intercourse continued next day during the post-seminar tour to monastery and archeological/geotechnical site. All these caused that both lecturers and participants have evaluated the seminar as very successful. We hope that soon we will host them again.

Reported by Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto, the President of ISSMGE



## News

## ISSMGE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN ACCRA-GHANA

The Ghana Geotechnical Society (GGS) under the patronage of the ISSMGE organized a well-attended international seminar from 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> February 2009 at the Engineers Centre in Accra. The seminar was attended by 66 participants including three participants from Nigeria. The participants were drawn from private consulting firms, public infrastructure companies, academia and construction firms. Locally, the seminar was under the patronage of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the Ghana Institution of Engineers and the Ministry of Transportation of Ghana. The theme was “*Ground Improvement for Accelerated Development*” reflecting Ghana’s recent move towards rapid infrastructure development as a strategy for poverty reduction and economic development.



The seminar sought to expose Ghanaian engineers to new trends in ground improvement technologies, to provide opportunity for Consultants, Contractors and developers who have applied new technologies in ground improvement to share their experience and finally to help promote professional geotechnical engineering practice in Ghana.

The resource persons were supplied by both ISSMGE and GGS. ISSMGE provided four resource persons consisting of the President, Prof Pêdro Seco e Pinto of the University of Coimbra in Portugal, the Vice President for Africa, Prof. Mounir Bouassida of the National Engineering School of Tunis and two members of TC17: Prof George Heerten of Germany and Mr. Serge Varaksin, Deputy General Manager of Menard Group, France and Chairman of T.C. 17. These

were complemented by three Ghanaian speakers made up of Prof S. I. K. Ampadu of the Civil Engineering Department of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and President of GGS, Dr M. D. Gidigasua a renowned expert on lateritic soils and Togbui Kporku III a Director of Conterra Ltd, a private Geotechnical Consulting firm.

The seminar consisted of two days of lectures and one day for a field trip. The lectures covered soil improvement techniques with and without additives, the improvement of soft soils, the principles and use of geosynthetics for soil improvement and the characteristics and improvement of lateritic soils. The third and final day of the seminar was devoted to a field visit to the Keta Sea Defence Project at a fishing town some 150 km east of Accra. During the field trip, Togbui Kporku III took the participants through the history and content of the project which he said consisted primarily of the building of sea defense structures to stabilize the shores of the fishing town.



Among the three seminar participants from Nigeria was Dr. Samuel Ejezie who is the nominee for the next Vice President for Africa. The programme included a general assembly of GGS during which the ISSMGE President encouraged the Ghana Society to improve upon its membership and programmes and assured the society of the support of ISSMGE. The seminar was particularly significant in that it was the first high profile programme for the Ghana Geotechnical society in recent times and it also clearly showed the potential for the Ghana Society to grow.

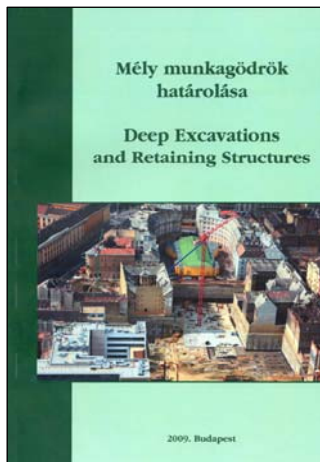
Reported by Dr. S.I.K. Ampadu (President), and S.K. AHAMADI (Secretary), Ghana Geotechnical Society.

## News

### ISSMGE International Seminar on Deep Excavations and Retaining Structures

The ISSMGE International Seminar on Deep Excavations and Retaining Structures organised by the Hungarian National Committee of ISSMGE was held at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics in Budapest from 4 to 5 February 2009. The Seminar attracted more than 120 participants from 8 countries.

Invited lecturers presented eleven 40-50-minute lectures. Of these, seven were given by foreign experts: Prof. Roger Frank, the European vice-president of ISSMGE (ENPC, France), Prof. Richard P. Ray (University of South Carolina, USA), Prof. Helmut F. Schweiger (Graz University of Technology, Austria), Dr. Lidija Zdravkovic and Prof. David M. Potts (Imperial College London, UK).



Four lectures were given by Hungarian professionals: Dr. Róbert Szepesházi (Széchenyi István University), Prof. József Farkas and Zoltán Czap (Budapest University of Technology and Economics), Tamás Kaltenbacher (HBM Kft.), and Csaba Pető (UVATERV ZRt.). Apart from the lectures, the participants and the lecturers had the chance to exchange their views on issues and problems related to the topics at several discussion sessions.

Subject matters of the lectures included the requirements of EUROCODE 7 as well as the relevant parts of design possibilities, the design practices and design possibilities of retaining structures and the experiences and the role of monitoring in construction of deep excavations. The possibilities of finite element modelling and possible solutions to issues arising with regard to calculations were dealt with in detail.

Based on the questionnaires submitted following the event, the participants were of the view that the event was of very high professional quality.

A 200-page proceedings entitled "Deep Excavations and Retaining Structures" has been edited by Dr. A. Mahler and Dr. L. Nagy on the lectures given at the seminar.

Reported by Dr. András Mahler, Secretary of ISSMGE Hungarian National Committee

## News

8<sup>th</sup> Young Geotechnical Professionals Conference Report

After about 17 months in the organizing the 8YGPC was held in the Copthorne Hotel, Oriental Parade, Wellington on the 5<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2008. The organizing committee had high hopes for the conference and it went off with a bang, quite literally, fireworks in Wellington Harbor. Ok they might not have been for us technically, but thanks for Guy Fawkes all the same.

The conference was attended by 45 delegates, 6 committee members - 2 of whom were multi-tasking as mentors (Lis Bowman of UoC & Ross Kendrick of Maunsell), 2 mentors (Gavin Alexander of Beca & Bruce Symmans of Tonkin & Taylor), and with keynote speaker John Atkinson of Coffeys & City University, London. One third of the delegates came from over the sea in Oz, and 38% of the delegates were females - I wonder, is the field of Geotechnics leading the way in gender equality?

One rule of the conference was that every one of the delegates must present their paper, in 10mins. Some had issues keeping to the time limit, but the water pistol dealt with those overrunning. The general consensus is that we all learnt something from all of the presentations, and the proceedings will be well thumbed.



The conference started with welcome drinks (and those fireworks) on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup>, with a full day of presentations on the 6<sup>th</sup> followed by the conference dinner, which included a trip up the Wellington cable car, a quiz, and a talk by John Atkinson. The 7<sup>th</sup> was a half day of presentations with the afternoon comprising of a gourmet BBQ lunch on the Wellington fault line with a field trip along the fault line. Unfortunately the field trip day was the worst day weatherwise but luckily the worst of it held off till after lunch when we were all safely on the bus. Another fabulous dinner on the evening of the 7<sup>th</sup> after which the committee showed the delegates the best spots along Courtney Place! The final presentations were

held on the morning of the 8<sup>th</sup> with winners of the awards announced after lunch.

Two awards were up for grabs, judged by the mentors; one for the New Zealand delegates (sponsored by the NZGS), the Young Geotechnical Professionals Award (YGP), and one for the Australian delegates (sponsored by the AGS), the Don Douglas Youth Fellowship Award. The winner of the YGP award was Hayden Bowen from Tonkin & Taylor for his paper and presentation on *Pile foundations in liquefiable soil - A case study of a bridge foundation*. The Don Douglas award winner was Joel Gniel from Monash University for his paper and presentation on *Predicted site behavior of geogrid encased stone columns*. The mentors also felt that special mentions for their presentations should go to: Cary Everett, Sian France, Tariq Rahiman, Chris Soutar, Owen Woodland & Carol Yan.



Enough from me, here are some "sound-bites" from the delegates & mentors on the 8YGPC;

- It was a very good to meet other professionals with similar amounts of experience. I liked the informal nature of the conference and enjoyed the field trip, learnt lots.
- A very well organized and informative conference. I had high expectations and it exceeded them.
- Fantastic conference, well organized and set up to ensure delegates felt comfortable meeting and presenting in front of their peers. Great atmosphere, fun people and highly recommended for those that haven't attended a conference before.
- The 8YGPC has been a very rewarding experience for me. The informal nature of the conference encourages dialogue & discussion between the delegates and it provides a relaxed atmosphere in which to present. I will definitely be recommending this to my colleagues. Awesome experience so much learned and gained. Great people and contacts for life.
- The 8YGPC provided an interesting cross-section of activities of professional consulting engineers and research students. A thoroughly enjoyable event with great networking. Great conference where I almost lost my wedding ring!
- Fun filled, great variety in activities and presentations, definitely worth coming to.
- I was very impressed with the wide range of project experience and academic research presented by the delegates at the 8YGPC. The presentations were extremely well delivered, and stimulated thoughtful and insightful debate. I greatly enjoyed the camaraderie and the open sharing of knowledge - Gavin Alexander

On behalf of the 8YGPC committee we would like to thank all the delegates for their papers, presentations & enthusiasm, the mentors for the time & feedback, John Atkinson for his insight, our companies for allowing us the time to organize the conference, and finally to our generous sponsors, Thank You. See you all at the 9YGPC.

Reported by Bev Curley, Opus International Consultants

## News

### Asian Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference 2008 (AYGEC 2008) 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December 2008

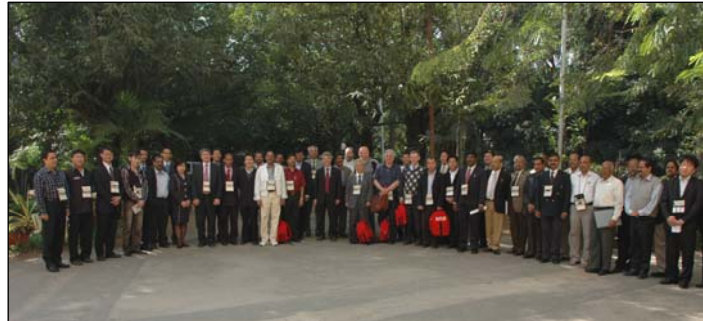


Prof. Robert Holtz, VP, ISSMGE (USA); Prof. Michel Lisyuk, VP, ISSMGE (Russia) and many others.

AYGEC 2008 conference was held jointly by Department of Civil Engineering, Indian Institute of Science (IISc) and Karnataka Geotechnical Center (KGC), Bangalore Chapter of Indian geotechnical Society (IGS). This event was part of the centenary celebrations of the Indian Institute of Science, which is a premier research Institute in India. Further, AYGEC 2008 was also a part of the celebrations of Diamond Jubilee of the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), affiliated to ISSMGE. IGS was established in 1948. The Inauguration of the conference was done by Professor N. Balakrishnan, Associate Director of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore. Other dignitaries present were Professor Madhav, VP(Asia), ISSMGE; Professor Muzumdar, Chairman of Department of Civil Engineering, Prof. Pinto (President of ISSMGE -from Portugal), Prof. Neil Taylor (Secretary General, ISSMGE from UK), Prof. Roger Frank, VP, ISSMGE (France), Prof. Mounir Boussida, VP, ISSMGE(Tunisia), Prof. Waldemar Hachich, VP, ISSMGE (Brazil), Prof. Osamu Kusakabe, VP, ISSMGE (Japan),

The International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) had been instrumental in the development of geotechnical engineering in almost all parts of the world through the organization of international conferences. Recently, organizing conferences for young geotechnical engineers has become one of the formal events conducted by ISSMGE. ISSMGE board met on 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 2009 in Bangalore, India for the first time. Prior to this conference, Indian Geotechnical Conference 2008 (IGC 2008) was also held during 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> December 2008 at IISc, Bangalore.

AYGEC 2008 brought together young geotechnical engineers (less than 35 years) from 10 countries of Asian Region from universities, academicians, researchers, industries, government organizations and others with interest in Geotechnical Engineering to interact and exchange experiences in Asian context. This is the first time an Asian Young geotechnical conference was held in India and this is the sixth in the series.



The main theme of the conference was "Next generation Geotechnics". Eminent persons delivered keynote lectures on different aspects of the conference themes. 7 keynote speakers presented their work and they are: Prof. Neil Taylor, Prof. Roger Frank, Prof. Mounir Boussida, Prof. Waldemar Hachich, Prof. Osamu Kusakabe, Prof. Michael Lisyuk, and Prof. T.G. Sitharam. The 29 contributions from the delegates (Bangladesh-2 papers, India-8 papers, Japan-2 papers, Korea-3 papers, Kazakhstan-3 papers, Malaysia -1 paper, Pakistan-2 papers, Srilanka-1 paper, Singapore-2, Taiwan - 3 papers, Thailand -2 papers) was received in the following sub themes and were included in the conference proceedings.



1. Geotechnical Testing
2. Foundations
3. Rock mechanics and Tunneling
4. Ground Improvement
5. Seismicity and Mitigation
6. Numerical and Analytical modelling

Delegates from Pakistan and Japan were not able to attend because of Mumbai blast attacks. Among others, 1 delegate from Korea is not here because of health reason. 22 delegates attended the conference and presented their papers.

As part of the technical programme, a technical quiz for the young geotechnical engineers was organized and two awards were presented. The presentations by the delegates were reviewed and two best presentations and 9 certificate of appreciation were awarded to the delegates.

## Event Diary

### ISSMGE SPONSORED EVENTS 2009

III Latin American Conference of Young Geotechnical Engineers  
Date: 30 March - 1 April 2009  
Location: Cordoba, Argentina  
E-mail: 3cligj@efn.uncor.edu

Modern Architecture, Construction and Transport: Situation and Perspectives of Development  
Date: 12 - 13 May 2009  
Location: L.N.Gumilyov Eurasian Nat. Uni, Astana, Kazakhstan  
Contact person: Professor A.Zh. Zhusupbekov  
E-mail: astana-geostroi@mail.ru

ISSMGE TC18 - International Conference on Deep Foundations - CPRF and Energy Piles  
Date: 15 May 2009  
Location: Airport Conference Centre, Frankfurt, Germany  
E-mail: sekretariat@getoetchnik.tuk-darmstadt.de

International Symposium on Prediction and Simulation Methods for Geohazard Mitigation  
Date: 25 - 27 May 2009  
Location: Kyoto Internat. Conference Ctr, Kyoto, Japan  
Contact person: Prof. F. Oka  
E-mail: foka@mbox.kudpc.kyoto-u.ac.jp  
Website: nakisuna2.kuciv.kyoto-u.ac.jp/tc34/is-kyoto/

IS-Tokyo 2009 - International Conference on Performance-Based Design in Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering - from case history to practice  
Date: 15 - 17 June 2009  
Contact person: Dr Y Tsukamoto (ytsoil@rs.noda.tus.ac.jp)  
Website: www.rs.noda.tus.ac.jp/ytsoil/IS2009.htm

The 3rd International Geotechnical Symposium (IGS2009) on Geotechnical Engineering for Disaster Prevention and Reduction (22-25 July)  
Date: 22 - 25 July 2009  
Location: Harbin, China  
Contact person: Professor MC Zhao,  
E-mail: maocai@mail.ru, zhao\_maocai@sohu.com  
Website: igs2009.hit.edu.cn

International Symposium on Geoenvironmental Engineering - IGSE 2009  
Date: 8 - 10 September 2009  
Location: Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China  
Contact person: Prof. Xiaowu TANG  
E-mail: isge2009@zju.edu.cn  
Website: www.ssgeo.zju.edu.cn

4 iYGE'09 - 4th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference  
Date: 2 - 6 October 2009  
Location: El-Mahrousa Hotel, Alexandria, Egypt  
Contact person: Prof. Fatma Baligh (baligh11@hotmail.com)  
E-mail: iygec2009@hamza.org

XVII International Conference for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering  
Date: 5 - 9 October 2009  
Location: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt  
Website: www.2009icsmge-egypt.org/

International Symposium on Geotechnical Engineering, Ground Improvement, and Geosynthetics for Sustainable Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change including Global Warming  
Date: 3 - 4 December 2009  
Location: AIT, Pathumthani, Thailand  
Contact person: Prof. Dennes T Bergado  
E-mail: bergado@ait.ac.th  
Website: www.set.ait.ac.th/acsig/conference

### 2010

2nd International Symposium on CPT, CPT'10  
Date: 9 - 11 May 2010  
Location: Hyatt Hotel & Resort, California, United States  
Contact person: Dr. Peter Robertson  
E-mail: probertson@greggdrilling.com  
Website: www.cpt10.com

9 International Conference on Geosynthetics  
Date: 23 - 27 May 2010  
Location: Sofitel Jequitimar Hotel, Guarujá, Brazil  
Contact person: Secretaria do Congresso - (ICG - Brazil 2010)  
E-mail: info@9icg-brazil2010.info  
Website: www.9icg-brazil2010.info

NUMGE2010  
Date: 2 - 4 June 2010  
Location: Trondheim, Norway  
Contact person: Mrs. Astrid Bye  
E-mail: numge2010@videre.ntnu.no  
Website: www.ntnu.no/numge2010

7th International Conference on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics ICPMG 2010  
Date: 28 June - 1 July 2010  
Location: ETH Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland  
Contact person: Laios Gabriela  
E-mail: info@icpmg2010.ch  
Website: www.icpmg2010.ch

6th International Congress on Environmental Geotechnics  
Date: 8 - 12 November 2010  
Location: New Delhi, India  
Contact person: Dr. G. V. Ramana  
E-mail: 6icegdelhi@gmail.com  
Website: www.6iceg.org

## Event Diary

## NON-ISSMGE SPONSORED EVENTS

2010

2009

IFCEE 09: ASCE FOUNDATIONS GeoCongress with ADSC & PDCA  
 Date: 15 - 19 March 2009  
 Organizer: Geoinstitute of ASCE  
 Contact person: Paul W. Mayne (paul.mayne@ce.gatech.edu)  
 Website: www.ifcee09.org

Second International Conference on New Developments in Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering  
 Date: 28 - 30 May 2009  
 Location: Nicosia, Northern Cyprus  
 Contact person: Cavit Atalar  
 E-mail: zm2009@neu.edu.tr; catalar@neu.edu.tr  
 Website: http://zm2009.neu.edu.tr

The 2nd International Seminar on Earthworks in Europe  
 Date: 3 - 4 June 2009  
 Location: Royal Geographical Society, London, UK  
 Contact person: Mrs Tracey Radford  
 Email: tracey.radford@atkingglobal.com  
 Website: http://www.geolsoc.org.uk/gsl/groups/specialist/engineering/page4425.html

GeoHunan International Conference: Challenges and Recent Advances in Pavement Technologies and Transportation Geotechnics  
 Date: 3 - 6 August 2009  
 Contact person: Dar Hao Chen, PhD, PE  
 E-mail: dchen@dot.state.tx.us

DFI 34th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations  
 Date: 20 - 23 October 2009  
 Location: The Westin Crown Center , Kansas City, MO, United States  
 Contact person: Theresa Rappaport  
 E-mail: staff@dfi.org  
 Website: www.deepfoundations09.org

International Symposium on Ground Improvement Technologies and Case Histories  
 Date: 9 - 11 December 2009  
 Location: Singapore  
 E-mail: ISGI09@nus.edu.sg  
 Website: www.geoss.sg/ISGI09

Fifth International Conference on Recent Advances in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics  
 Date: 24 - 29 May 2010  
 Location: Marriott Mission Valley , San Diego, California, United States  
 Contact person: Lindsay Bagnall  
 E-mail: geoeqconf2010@mst.edu  
 Website: 5geoeqconf2010.mst.edu

Geotechnical Challenges in Megacities  
 Date: 7 - 10 June 2010  
 Location: Moscow, Russia  
 Contact person: Mikhail Kholmyansky - Secretary General  
 E-mail: info@GeoMos2010.ru  
 Website: www.GeoMos2010.ru/

The 11th Congress of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment. (IAEG2010)  
 date: 5 - 10 September 2010  
 Location: SkyCity Convention Centre , Auckland, New Zealand  
 Contact person: The Conference Company  
 E-mail: iaeg2010@tcc.co.nz  
 Website: www.iaeg2010.com

2nd International Symposium on Frontiers in Offshore Geotechnics (ISFOG)  
 Date: 8 - 10 November 2010  
 Location: Perth, Western Australia, Australia  
 E-mail: ISFOG2010@civil.uwa.edu.au  
 Website: www.cofs.uwa.edu.au/ISFOG2010/

## Editorial Remarks

The editorial board is pleased to send the ISSMGE members ISSMGE Bulletin Vol.3, Issue 1 in March 2009, which includes a message from the board member, regional conference report and activities. Contributions from member society is very much welcome. Any comments to improve the Bulletin are also welcomes. Please contact a member of editorial board or Vice-President for the region, or directly e-mail to Osamu Kusakabe (kusakabe@cv.titech.ac.jp).

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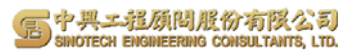
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