

## **PREFACE**

Sometime back in 1995 or so, two ideas came to my mind. One is Geotech Year 2000 and the other is an International Symposium on Soft Clays. The reason behind these thoughts was, we have witnessed a tremendous amount of developments in Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Often, we trace history to talk about Atterberg in 1911 and the index tests, Terzaghi in 1924 and the Effective Stress principle and consolidation, Proctor in 1936 on compaction. Then, we refer to the First International Conference held in Harvard in 1936 under the able organization of Casagrande. Then, history says, World War 2 and a gap till late 1940's was witnessed. Much of the understanding on soil behaviour with regard to strength and deformation in sedimentary soils without structure and time efforts started with developments in Critical State Soil Mechanics. The late 40s and the fifties also saw the development of triaxial apparatus and other testing equipment! Conferences were held on slope, stability, earth pressure, settlements, shear strength, etc. In parallel, developments in numerical analysis and expansion into engineering geology and rock mechanics also took place. The mid-70s and subsequent years saw developments in in-situ tests and the invention of pressure meter and other field tests. Large scale field tests and instrumentation also began to be intensive during the sixties.

My original idea on GEOTECH 2000, was to have a sort of historical development traced out as viewed by Academics, researchers and practitioners, who are in their mid-50s or older as of 1995. The initial response from authors to contribute was satisfactory, even though it did not cover the whole spectrum of players and institutions who have contributed to the growth of our discipline. However, as time went only 50 percent or so of the initial enthusiastic supporters completed their articles in one form or another. On the whole, it is a worthwhile and interesting volume. The economic situation and the mode of my survival have dragged on this activity till November of this year on the compulsory deadline that I have to retire at AIT in June 30, 2001. A factor of safety of six months before June, 2001 was considered to be satisfactory in trying to complete this commitment by November 2000.

On the parallel symposium on soft clays, I found that the interest was rather slim in spite of my great and perfect idea to make a Volume complementary to the one edited by Brand and Brenner as an outcome of the invited contributions in our 1977 International Symposium on Soft Clays held just before the magnificent Tokyo International Conference. The 1977 Symposium was a great event and the book of Brand and Brenner with the crimson color cover is rather legendary on "Soft Clays".

Since this is a major activity that comes just before my formal retirement at AIT as per "Age" approaching 60, I need your permission to express a few personal words. I began to have an interest in Soil Mechanics in 1962, since then I have virtually used and exploited all who came close to me for my onward journey and continued survival in this interesting discipline which expanded into Engineering Geology, Rock Mechanics, Environment, etc. The latest I have to bear with is Information Technology. It is therefore an impossible task for me to attempt to quote a few names and thank them, as I know, I will offend a much large number of my dear friends whose names, my memory have left down to quote in this rather hasty attempt to write a preface. However, just a few, A. Thuraiajah who taught Soil Mechanics in 1962 and who introduced me to the late Kenneth Harry Roscoe. Dr. R.G. James for his kindness in having me as a Doctoral Student. The late Prof. Kenneth Harry Roscoe, for his unbounded energy in reading all my writings word by word and to have in a form he felt comfortable to pass for a Ph.D. Also, to press the late Dr. Laurits Bjerrum at NGI who accommodated me for a year. Dr. Elmo Dibiagio, another victim of mine, who took me at

NGI under his Instrumentation Group and who showed me what Instrumentation is really all about. Prof. E.O.E. Pereira, who finally broke down his vow (for my third application for a job) and appointed me as an Assistant Lecturer. Finally, Dr. Za-Chieh Moh (in consultation with Dr. Brand) who offered me a job at AIT. This was indeed a great surprise. I trusted the AIT Review and send in an application. No answer for two or more years and suddenly an offer. Dr. Ting Wen Hui, a long-standing friend. Finally, a great apology and a heartfelt thanks to all my staff for their nobleness in working and helping me in an untiring manner of what at times I myself thought is really a torturing atmosphere which tested their patience to the real limit and endurance.

Throughout my stay at AIT, I have received full support and help from my AIT colleagues as well as the successive Presidents, Vice-Presidents, Deans and the Administration. I am also greatly indebted to the Presidents and General Committee of the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society for their trust in me and their continuous support and help. Thanks are also due to the International Societies in Geotechnics, ISSMGE, IAEG and ISRM and their Presidents and Secretary General as well as the National Societies for their broad-minded co-operation and support. In editing this volume and in preparing the conference the following persons are thanked for their untiring works: Miss Chanidaporn Chaimongkol, Miss Boonjira Intaratood, Mr. M.I.M. Wahab, Mr. M. Jeyendran, Miss Chanidaporn Chaimongkol, Miss Yanee Sornkaew, Miss S. Lalani Walawage, Mr. Nguyen Hong Minh, Miss Han Ying and Mr. Pratanporn Boonrit.

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