

Messages from Founder President of SEAGS, ISSMGE President, SEAGS Presidents, AGSSEA Chairmen & Friends

Message from Dr. Za-Chieh Moh Founder President of SEAGS: 50th Anniversary of the SEAGS



Half a century ago, the Southeast Asian Society of Soil Engineering was born in Bangkok, Thailand after a successful regional conference held there. It was the first international/regional activity in the field of geotechnical engineering held in Bangkok under the support of the Asian Institute of Technology (then the SEATO Graduate School of Engineering). Due to the enthusiasms shown at the conference, a protem committee was formed to establish a regional society in Southeast Asia for the purposes of providing a platform for academics and practicing engineers interested in the field of geotechnical engineering on a regional basis. The Committee included Professor Chin Fung Kee of Malaysia, Dr. Tan Seng Beng of Singapore, Professor Sean Mackey of Hong Kong, Professor Chai Muktabhand, and Dr. Sirilak C. of Thailand and myself.

In the past 50 years, countries in the Southeast Asian region have been under rapid development. Contributions made by geotechnical engineers cannot be over-emphasized. With the help of SEAGS, many member countries in the SEAGS have now established their own independent geotechnical societies. However, cooperation among these societies remain strong and effective. An Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia has been organized in 2007.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of SEAGS, I wish to take the opportunity to express my personal appreciations and admiration to those who have contributed to the success of the Society, including advisors Prof. T.W. Lambe, Prof. Victor F.B. de Mello, Prof. Ralph B. Peck, past presidents and officers of the Society and in particular, the long time Hon. Secretary-General and untiring Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam.



Message from Prof. Roger Frank: President ISSMGE



Message from Roger Frank for the SEAGS 50th Anniversary Event AIT, Bangkok, 14-15 September 2017

It is a real pleasure for me to write this message at the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the South-East Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS). 50 years already... It might not look as a long period of time, but as far as geotechnical engineering is concerned, we know the tremendous progress achieved during that period. And it is obvious for me that the SEAGS played a very important role in this progress. This is due to the expertise and talent of numerous colleagues in the region, often facing difficult ground conditions. They also wished, of course, to participate in the economic development of the region, which has been in several aspects a model for the whole planet.

Dr. Za Chieh Moh founded the SEAGS in 1967, fulfilling a need for the geotechnical engineers to get organised in the region. It is remarkable to note, in particular, that this proved to be an efficient incubator for the creation of a number of ISSMGE Member Societies in the region, the Hong Kong, the Malaysian, the Indonesian, the Singapore, the Chinese Taipei, the Thailand & the Vietnam Geotechnical Societies. Dr. Za Chieh Moh also founded the Association of Geotechnical Societies in South-East Asia (AGSSEA) which includes these 7 Members Societies. The very tight collaboration between the SEAGS and the AGSSEA is a model example of regional co-operation. There are several strong activities performed in common, such as the large sub-regional conferences and the publication of the SEAGS-AGSSEA Journal. This Journal has published over the years many captivating issues and articles of international standing. I am happy to note that all the papers published from 1970 to 2013 are

available free of charge, thus contributing efficiently to the open access policy of the ISSMGE. As far as membership is concerned, my understanding is that the SEAGS also irrigated outside the South-East region, and is still acting in this manner. This is another proof of the key role it plays in the international collaboration.

I visited for the first time the region in 1972. It was the ‘voyage de promotion’ (‘diploma year trip’) of my school of engineering. My first professional trip was in 1983 invited by Professors Balasubramaniam and Bergado to participate in the well-organized series of Conferences by AIT. I returned in the region many times, in most of the countries, always with great happiness and joy.

My deepest thanks go to the organisers of this event, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the SEAGS, for giving me another occasion to meet my many colleagues and friends in the region. It will be a true pleasure for me. I wish the best success for this event. I have no doubt about it!

This event will be followed immediately after by the most promising 19th ICSMGE in Seoul. I am looking forward very much to attending it and to meeting you also there! We also have to note that the next Asian Regional Conference will be held in Taiwan, confirming the high level of expertise in the South-East Asia region. The ISSMGE is proud to have such members!

Roger Frank
ISSMGE President (2013-2017)





Random Photos and Memories on SEAGS: From Bala:



1980



1990



2006



2008

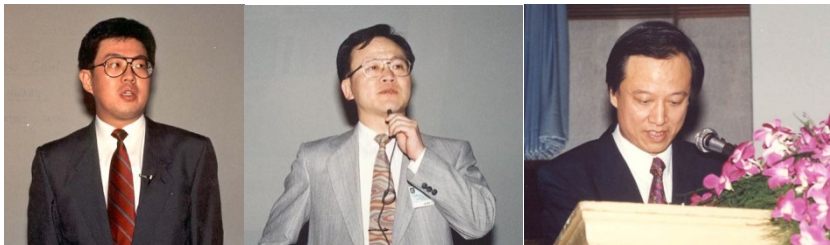


2010

I was involved with SEAGS since 1973 and lately with AGSSEA: Here are some photos that seem interesting; obviously there are plenty of others: Only spent a morning Assembling these: Apologies for Omissions

This fits in very well with the Messages from Prof. Pedro Pinto & Dr. Ooi Teik Aun and Many others

1. SEAGS President & Secretary Generals





Tiny Bit of AIT Presidents & First Vice President & Provost&



With Laboratory & Field Experts at AIT

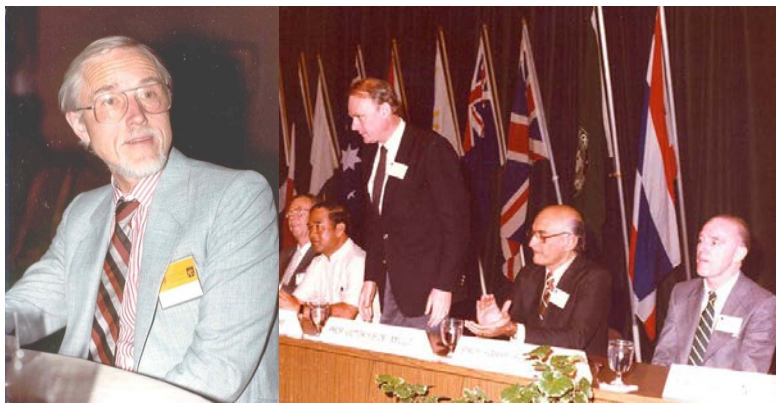


AGSSEA Photos





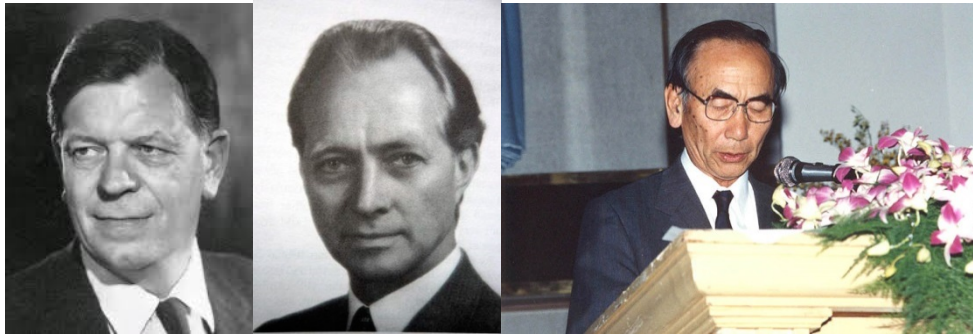
ICSMGE : SOME CHAIRMEN



1981

1985-1989-1997

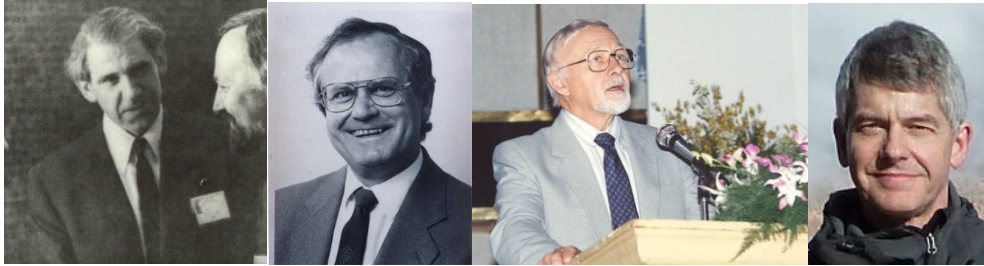
2. ISSMGE Presidents, VPs and Board Members



Bengt Broms Symposium in Singapore



ISSMGE Secretary Generals



ISSMGE VP's for Asia



Mori-Zeitlen & Dr. Moh



With Ishihara in Bangalore ARC in 1975



Message from Dr. John D. Nelson
Former Executive Secretary of the Southeast Asia Society of
Soil Engineering



On this 50th Anniversary of the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS), I wish to extend my heartiest greetings and well wishes to the SEAGS. I arrived at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in July, 1968. In 1967 and prior to my arrival, Dr. Za-Chieh Moh had organized a very successful Southeast Asian Conference on Soil Engineering which heralded the beginning of the Southeast Asian Society of Soil Engineering (SEASSE), later to be renamed the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society. The SEASSE had been recognized as a member of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMFE). It enjoyed the same status as a national society, and represented Geotechnical Engineers in the Southeast Asian region from countries that did not have their own national society representation in the ISSMFE. Dr. Robert Mackey had just left AIT prior to my arrival, and Dr. Moh appointed me as the Executive Secretary of the SEASSE. Those were exciting times and between that time and when I left AIT in 1973 we accomplished many things. Notably the Journal of the Southeast Asian Society was formed with Dr. Edward W. Brand as the editor. The SEASSE gained international recognition, and brought attention to the many geotechnical engineering accomplishments in the region. In 1970 the Second SEASSE conference was held in Singapore. Prof. Ralph Peck was the distinguished speaker at the conference. In 1971, we hosted the Asian Regional Conference in Bangkok. Prof. Kevin Nash, the Executive Secretary of the ISSMFE, was a distinguished guest of the conference. The conference venue was the Dusit Thani hotel, which at that time, was the tallest building in Bangkok. It no longer enjoys that status. Immediately after that, I represented the SEASSE at the official meeting of the ISSMFE Executive Committee, which was held in conjunction with the Australasian regional conference in Australia. Prof. Peck was the President of the ISSMFE and presided over that meeting. In 1972, the Third SEASSE conference was held in Hong Kong. Distinguished speakers were Prof. Victor de Mello and Prof. T. William Lambe. During the conference, we experienced a typhoon and an earthquake. That remains the most unique entertainment that I have seen at a conference. Then in 1973, Prof. Chin Fung Kee and I represented the SEASSE at the ISSMFE Executive Committee meeting in Moscow. That was an experience in itself.

Through my involvement in the many activities of SEASSE, I met many of the top geotechnical engineers in the world. I will always remember the good times that Dr. Moh, Dr. Brand, and I

had in our activities in the SEASSE. As Dr. Moh has noted, the geotechnical community in Southeast Asia has matured, and many national societies have been “spun off” of the SEASSE. This shows the important role that it has played over the past 50 years and is a tribute to the foresight shown by Dr. Moh in causing it to be formed. I am very honored and proud to have been a part of the SEASSE/SEAGS in its formation. I wish the Society all the best for the future.

Message from Prof. Pedro Seco E Pinto ISSMGE Past President



1. The Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS) was founded in 1967 by Dr. Za Chieh Moh as a regional society to integrate Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Taiwan and has played a major role for the development of soil mechanics and foundation engineering, engineering geology, rock mechanics, geoenvironmental engineering and geosynthetic engineering.

I would like to stress the vision of Dr. Za Chen Moh and to remember that this world was built by people who felt some discontent with the way things were and knew they could be better. Greatness always arrives for those who are never satisfied even it looks nice. SEAGS during these 50 years was served by 15 Presidents and 5 Secretaries General that behaved as a guru that following Sanskrit is one who dispels the darkness and brings more understanding and light.

2. The Journal Geotechnical Engineering was created in 1970, with 4 issues per year, records now in 2017, 47 Volumes prepared by 5 Editors in Chief. The Editors with a permanent and continuous effort have played an important role in this geotechnical world that always change and progress, opening new challenges as the scientific truth is not definitely achieved.
3. The first Conference organized by SEAGS in 1967 took place in Bangkok and the 19th Conference held in Malaysia in 2016. These Conferences gave the opportunity and time to think, plan and reflect and with incremental steps the goal was achieved. I believe that there is but one failure in life and that is the failure to try and is important to consider what fun is life without a hint of mystery? What joy is life without a little adventure?
4. The Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia (AGSSEA) was created at the 16th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference (16SEAGC) held in Kuala Lumpur in 2007. Currently, it has eight national member societies, namely the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS), Vietnam Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (VSSMGE), Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES), Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS), Thai Geotechnical Society (TGS), Chinese Taipei Geotechnical

Society (CTGS), Indonesian Geotechnical Society (HATTI) and Malaysian Geotechnical Society (MGS).

The objectives of the Association are the promotion of co-operation among geotechnical societies in SE Asia; and the assistance to member societies who have limited number of members. AGSSEA has explored new ways, supporting the Core values and Models for excellence and being a continuous source of inspiration for today and tomorrow.

The current Chairman Prof. San Shyan Lin, from Taiwan, and the Past Chairmen for their culture of great exigency and austerity deserve our praise and gratitude.

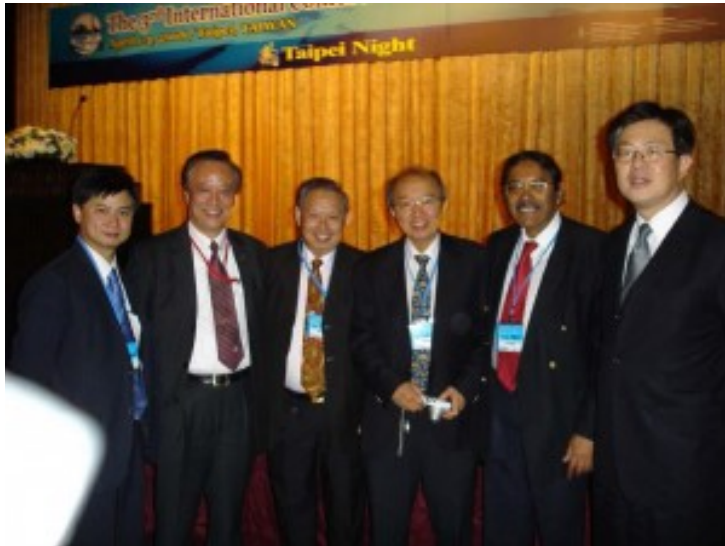
5. I had the opportunity during my presidentialship to attend 16th Conference in Kuala Lumpur (2007) organized by Dr. Ooi Teik Aun (Chairman) and Yee Yew Weng (Secretary). In my interaction with the people I have listened twice as I have spoken, as I strongly believe that listening intently to someone is one of the best ways I know of to honor that person and forge a deep human connection. As you live your days, so you craft your life. Everybody brought from Kuala Lumpur lovely souvenirs due to the superb work of Dr. Ooi Teik Aun and Yee Yew Weng.
6. Later in 2009, in 2011 and again in 2012 I had the opportunity to participate in several ISSMGE International Seminars that took place in Malaysia, Philippines, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar. The challenges topics for these countries related natural hazards (earthquakes, landslides), ground improvement, tunneling and foundations were covered.

In a world that moves in the direction of the global village it is very important the universality of the knowledge and the need for a permanent renewing. It is important to communicate, to share experiences, to compare methodologies and to monitor the results. The benefits of an open dialogue between academicians, researchers, practitioners, contractors and owners are huge.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Invited Lecturers Dr. Ooi, Prof. Madhira Madhav, Prof. Dennes Bergado, Prof. Charles Ng, Dr. Lim Soktay and many others for their devotion and cooperation. They help me to remove the blocks I count on them in so very many ways. They support my work to advance my Mission to serve ISSMGE, to live this highest goals.

7. This Symposium on 14-15 September 2017 at the Asian Institute of Technology Campus in Bangkok celebrating the 50th Anniversary of SEAGS is jointly organized by the Thai Geotechnical Society (TGS) and Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS). Dr. Suttisak Soralump is the current President of TGS and Dr. Noppadol Phienwej is the current President of SEAGS. The Symposium programme integrates 39 prestigious Invited Lecturers. Last but not least I would like to address to the Organizing Committee and to the Lecturers a word of praise and gratitude for their contributions and a message of hope that this Symposium will allow us to develop a feeling of universal responsibility and to create the ambition to serve better our Society Following the memorable words of Anatole France:

“To accomplish great things we must not only act,
But also dream, not only plan, but also believe,
And the belief in a thing makes it happen”.



Message from Prof. Jean Louis Briaud Past - President ISSMGE

Dear Colleagues and Friends,





SEAGS was new to me when I got involved in ISSMGE many years ago. I started to better understand what SEAGS was and how it operated as I learned more about ISSMGE as a young professor at Texas A&M University. I became Chair of the ISSMGE Technical Committee on Soil Erosion when President Ishihara asked me to take the lead of this new committee and then in 2009 I became President of ISSMGE thanks in part to SEAGS support. As President it became clear to me that SEAGS was playing a critical role in Asia and that many people had contributed to its success. I am referring to the original leadership of Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, a giant in our field, followed by many others including Dr. Bala Balasubramaniam, the ultimate communicator; Dr. Dennes Bergado the long time Secretary General; Prof. Seng Lip Lee & Prof. KY Yong from Singapore; Drs Ting Wen Hui & Ooi Teik Aun from Malaysia; Dr.

Surachat Sambhandaraksa and now Dr. Noppadol Phienwej from Thailand, Prof. Charles Ng from Hong Kong and many others.

SEAGS has been a wonderful incubator for new societies to join ISSMGE. SEAGS is the Asian University of ISSMGE Societies who get to graduate and become full size members of ISSMGE. The surprising fact is that the ultimate success of SEAGS will be its extinction when all Asian societies have become members of ISSMGE. I am delighted to see such support for a great event which marks a significant milestone in the life of SEAGS. I applaud the work done by the leaders of SEAGS; your success is demonstrated by the very important role that SEAGS plays in ISSMGE and I wish you a magnificent celebration crowned by this star filled symposium.

Be well and be safe.

Jean-Louis Briaud
Distinguished professor, Texas A & M University
President of ISSMGE 2009-2013

11 February 2017

Message from Prof. Ikuo Towhata

CELEBRATION UPON 50th YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF SEAGS



Ikuo Towhata
Asian VP of ISSMGE

Dear SEAGS colleagues,

Hearing that SEAGS celebrates its 50-year anniversary, it is my great pleasure to send this message in order to appreciate and congratulate the effort and enthusiasm of the member people, both in the past and at present.

Everybody knows that the greatest contribution and achievement of SEAGS is its function as an incubator. Many good member societies were born from SEAGS in the past and other countries in South East Asia are also now proud of the high level of societal activities. To this marvelous achievement, the International Society owes profoundly.

At this opportunity, I would like to call upon your attention to the Philippines which is certainly a part of the Southeast Asia. Although this country is an active country with very good engineers as I experienced in the past, Philippine Geotechnical Society is not yet born. I made

efforts in the past to promote a society in this country, results were not very good. However, there are ambitious young generation nowadays who are doing efforts to achieve this long-term goal. I am very happy to assist their efforts but would like SEAGS to play major roles as well. If SEAGS can send good lecturers and other supports to attract people's more concern to international societal activities, SEAGS will be more renowned.

Another issue is the future possibility of geotechnical engineering in Southeast Asia. Our profession is one of the engineerings that are most affected by nature. Because nature changes from place to place, different regions have different approaches to achieve goals. In Southeast Asia, the problem of "thick" soft soil is significantly more difficult than that in Europe or New England where the conventional framework of soil mechanics was built. Under more severe natural conditions in Southeast Asia, there should be more advanced version of expertise. Similar points can be made also of the problem of heavy rain, flood control, volcanic slopes, earthquakes and very quick development of mega cities. I am really concerned with the growth of big cities in the entire Asia. Many governments are now very hard to develop necessary infrastructures in order to keep up with the population growth. What may be missing is the preparedness for deterioration of built structures that would occur within a few decades as, for example, USA experienced in 1970's. Tunnel is a typical example of a vulnerable structure.

I would state that you, the SEAGS colleagues, are in the front line of future construction technology and business. You are very fortunate to be able to work on the new-generation issues. I wish you not to miss this opportunity and make substantial contributions to the welfare and happiness of the community of the entire world. I do not limit my remark to Southeast Asia.

Yours sincerely

Ikuro Towhata
SEAGS member since 1980s



Message from Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov

**Immediate Past Vice-President of ISSMGE for Asia
President of the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society
Chair of TC305 (ISSMGE) «Geotechnical Infrastructure for Megacities and New Capitals»**

**SEAGS 50th Anniversary Celebration at AIT, Bangkok, Thailand
14-15 September 2017**



Let me bring your attention that the Southeastern Asian Geotechnical Society has conducted the great organizational work in helping the establishments of the Asian Geotechnical Societies for ISSMGE. It is a remarkable work done by Dr. Moh (CTGS) and Prof. Bala Balasubramaniam (SEAGS).

I was fortunate to participate in several SEAGS conferences, which showed a high level of organization and holding of such events in ISSMGE. Particularly surprised a large number of participants in conferences and exhibitions, the presence of sponsors who provide financial supports to the SEAGS conference.

As the Vice-President for Asia ISSMGE (2010-2013), I was able to assist at the opening of Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society (Taiwan, China) and the Malaysian Geotechnical Society. These societies have also been actively involved in SEAGS before entering into ISSMGE and now are continuing to be active geotechnical societies in the Asian region.

In 2010 and 2016 Taipei (Taiwan) and Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia) respectively held the 17th and 19th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conferences, in which I also participated with President of ISSMGE Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud (2010). Also particularly noteworthy the high activity of graduate Students, who conducted an accurate and organized registration, technical support of plenary and breakout sessions, technical exhibitions and technical tours.

Very good cooperation happened between CTGS and KGS because of close collaboration of the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University (Astana, Kazakhstan) and Tamkang University (Taipei, Taiwan). In Taipei and Astana was held Kazakh-Taiwanese Geotechnical Seminar, which showed a high level of geotechnical qualification of scientists from Taiwan.

On 15ARC which was held in November 2015 in Fukuoka (Japan) by secret ballot Taipei has been chosen to host the next 16ARC in 2019. This choice is explained by the fact that Asian Geotechnical Societies recognized the high level of Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society and their geotechnical achievements. I am sure that 16ARC in Taiwan will bring together scientists, not only in the Asian region, but also in other regions of the world (Europe, America, Australia, Africa). Of course, the success will be supported strongly by SEAGS and the allies of other Asian societies.

I wish SEAGS continues its active work in ISSMGE and hopefully in the near future, ISSMGE will welcome the new geotechnical societies such as Philippines, Cambodia, Burma from the Southeast-Asian regions.

I congratulate with the 50th Years golden celebration of SEAGS and wish her members to further continuous achievements, new discoveries, brilliant victories and healthy life.

Sincerely yours,

Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov
Life member of the SEAGS

Message from Prof. Charles Ng



Imagine what would have happened to the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS) over the last 50 years without its outstanding, visionary and devoted leaders! Where would it be without the contributions from prominent figures including Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, Professor Chin Fung Kee, Dr. Tan Swan Beng, Professors Arumugam Balasubramaniam and Yong Kwet Yew and Dr. Ooi Teik Aun? To me, the answer is obvious. As a relatively new life member of the SEAGS, I feel I owe a lot to these great and dedicated leaders.

The establishment of the SEAGS in 1967 provided a geotechnical breeding ground or incubator for five small geotechnical communities located in Malaysia, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand to grow, develop and exchange ideas. Moreover, the SEAGS has provided a platform for engineers and academics in these five communities to engage with each other and to reach our big global geotechnical family organisation – the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Society (ISSMGE). Coincidentally, maybe, the five Foreign Ministers of Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand – established the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) on 8th August 1967 in Bangkok. The aims of the Association are to promote, among others, collaborations and economic growth and development between the countries of Southeast Asia. The synergy between the ideologies of the SEAGS and ASEAN undoubtedly aligned technical and economic prospects.

Inspired and strongly supported by Professor F. Tatsuoka (former VP for Asia between 2001 and 2005) during our exchanges on different occasions, I and six other Hong Kong engineers officially established the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES) in 2003. This HKGES is essentially a “foreign” office of the Geotechnical Division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers to connect their members to the ISSMGE. Through the excellent breeding and “nutrients” provided by the SEAGS, Malaysia, Singapore, Taiwan and Thailand are now all individual member societies of the ISSMGE. However, we are still strongly linked via the establishment of the Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia (AGSSEA) in

2007. The creation of AGSSEA was led by Drs. Moh and Ooi and others in Kuala Lumpur, with Hong Kong being one of the three founding members. Currently, the Association has eight member societies including the Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society, the Geotechnical Society of Singapore, HKGES, the Indonesian Geotechnical Society, the Malaysian Geotechnical Society, SEAGS, the Thai Geotechnical Society and the Vietnam Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The vision of the AGSSEA ensures continuing cooperation among the eight geotechnical societies which contribute to the development and growth of geotechnical engineering in the region.

I was appointed as a board member of the ISSMGE by Professor Jean-Louis Briaud, who was the ISSMGE President from 2009 to 2013. Since my appointment, I have been fortunate enough to contribute to the ISSMGE International Seminars delivered in the Far East led by Professor Pedro Seco Pinto (the president of ISSMGE between 2005 and 2009), Dr. Ooi Teik Aun (former president of SEAGS from 2010 to 2016) and Professor Dennes Bergado (former long-serving secretary of SEAGS). The goal of these Seminars has been to promote both geotechnical engineering and friendship, as well as facilitate the exchange of ideas amongst countries in Far East Asian countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore and Vietnam (see Plates 1 and 2).



Plate 1: Five lecturers and participants in the Phnom Penh (from left: Prof. Pinto, Dr. Ooi, Prof. Ng, Dr. Vuthy and Prof. Bergdo)



Plate 2: Opening ceremony of the seminar in Yangon (Prof. Ng (3rd from the left), Dr. Ooi (6th from the left), Prof. Pinto (8th from the left) and Ir Z.Z. Aye (9th from the left)).

It is clear that the SEAGS has contributed significantly in the Far East in terms of education, training and research over the last 50 years. However, key questions must be asked: what will be its future mission and role? I am sure that SEAGS should and will continue to nurture and support young geotechnical communities in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and the Philippines etc., under the guidance of veterans and peer members such as Dr. Moh, Professors Yong and Balasubramaniam. Naturally, current excellent core leaders in the region, including Professors Noppadol Phienwej, Suttisak Soralump, San Shysan Lin, and Dr. Teik Aun Ooi, will continue to play vital and leading roles. Together with SEAGS, the AGSSEA will go from strength to strength. Moreover, the SEAGS will continue to contribute the economic growth and development in this ASEAN in various capacities (see Fig. 1). I believe the Far East will become a focal point for economic growth and development of the world in future.

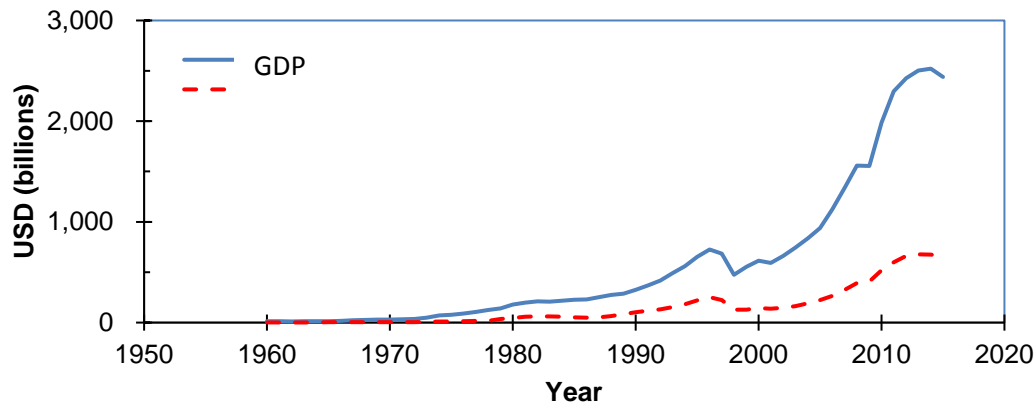


Fig. 1. Economic growth in the ASEAN countries over the last 50 years (data source: <http://databank.worldbank.org/data/home.aspx>)

Charles W.W. Ng

Life member of the SEAGS and the President of the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society

Message from Dr. Ooi Teik Aun

Past President of SEAGS and Past Chairman of AGSSEA

**SEAGS 50th Anniversary Celebration at AIT, Bangkok
14-15 September 2017**



It is indeed a great pleasure for me to write this message on the occasion of the SEAGS 50th Anniversary Celebration. Having been involved with SEAGS since 1972 when I first attended the SEASEC in Hong Kong. Malaysia won the bid to hold the 4th Southeast Asian Society of Soil Engineering (SEASSE) conference in Kuala Lumpur in April 1975 and the late Professor Chin Fung Kee was the Organizing Chairman with the support of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM). I was lucky to be chosen by Prof. Chin as the Organizing Secretary. The SEASSE later changed its name to be known as Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS). We have been very fortunate to have Dr. Za-Chieh Moh as Founder President of the Society in 1967 with the secretariat supported by AIT since its inception and with the dedication of numerous Presidents and Secretaries, the SEAGS made tremendous contributions to the advancement and practice of Geotechnical Engineering in Southeast Asia in particular and globally in general. The pioneering works of Dr. Moh, Prof. Chin, Prof. Peter Lumb, Prof. Lee Seng Lip, Dr. T. W. Brand, Prof. Dr. A. Balasubramaniam, Dr. W. H. Ting, Dr. Tan Swan Beng and many others are important parts of the history of SEAGS. The excellent and long services of Prof. Bala and Prof. Bergado as Secretary General of SEAGS are very important and gratefully acknowledged.

As the individual nation member society of SEAGS became strong and desired to play greater role in ISSMGE as direct member, it was time to look at the continued cooperation and support amongst the members who have left SEAGS. SEAGS has played the role as incubator to nurture many ISSMGE members from the Southeast Asian region, the region of growth ever since the SEAGS was formed in 1967. In 2007, at the 16th SEAGC held in Kuala Lumpur, a Protem committee was formed to promote the formation of the Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia (AGSSEA) and by December 2007 AGSSEA was formed with three founder members namely, SEAGS, Vietnamese Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (VSSMGE) and Hong Kong Geotechnical Engineering Society (HKGES). Dr. Moh played key role in the formation of the AGSSEA and is the Honorary Founder Chairman of AGSSEA. Today members of the AGSSEA consists of SEAGS, VSSMGE, HKGES, Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS), Thai Geotechnical Society (TGS), Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society (CTGS), Indonesian Society for Geotechnical Engineering (HATTI) and the Malaysian Geotechnical Society (MGS). The current Chairman of AGSSEA is Prof. San-Shyan Lin from the National Taiwan Ocean University. The immediate Past Chairman is Prof. Yong Kwet Yew from the National University of Singapore (NUS). Kenny Yee has been and is the current Secretary General of AGSSEA.

The 17th SEAGC held in Taipei in 2010 was the last of the series of SEAGC and the first Joint Conference 18SEAGC-1AGSSEAC was held in Singapore in 2013. The 19th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference and 2nd AGSSEA Conference (SEAGC2016) was held on 31st May – 3rd June 2016 in Kuala Lumpur. It was a very successful conference and well attended by more than 580 participants from more than 25 countries. The 20th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference and 3rd AGSSEA Conference will be held in 2018-19 in Indonesia. I am indeed proud to be actively involved in SEAGS and AGSSEA as well as in the Tunnelling and Underground Space Development Technical Division of IEM (IEM TUSTD) which has recently submitted a bid to host the WTC2020 in Kuala Lumpur. The joint publication of SEAGS-AGSSEA Journals and Newsletters started in 2011 under the able leadership of Editor-in-Chief Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam. The joint journal has been actively supported by Guest Editors and contributors with fourteen papers for the March 2017 and eighteen papers for the June 2017 issues respectively. The current President of SEAGS cum Secretary General is Dr. Noppadol Phienwej and AIT continued to be the Secretariat for SEAGS.

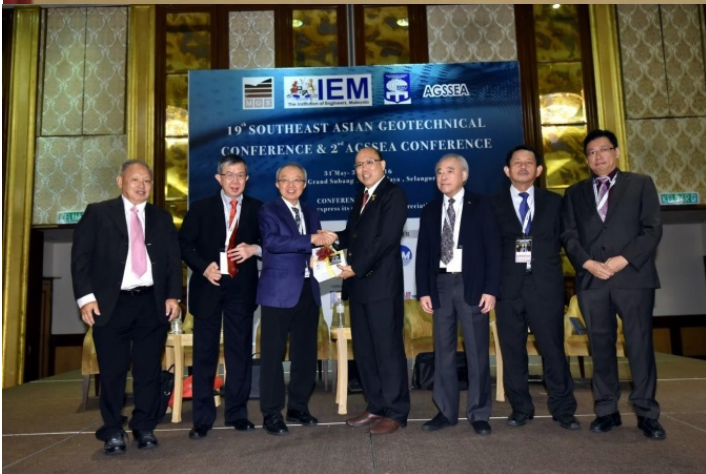
During the period of the history of SEAGS (1967 – 2017) the SEA region has been transformed from the under-developed world to that of an advanced developing status with modern infrastructure comparable to many advanced nations. Each conference of SEAGC and the joint conferences of SEAGS and AGSSEA is a home coming and meeting of friends and reunion of members in the region and abroad. The SEAGS 50th Anniversary Celebration is organized by SEAGS in conjunction with TGS and is expected to be well attended with the strong support of members of SEAGS, AGSSEA and the Alumni of AIT. I am looking forward to a very successful gathering in AIT Bangkok.

With Best Wishes

Dr. OOI, Teik Aun



**Past President of SEAGS (1993-1996, 2010-2013, 2013-2016) and
Past Chairman of AGSSEA (2007-2010)
8th February 2017**



Message from Dr. John C. Li , Past-President SEAGS



2017/2/16

As a long-time associate with SEAGS and a past-President, it is a genuine pleasure to congratulate all those who are associated with SEAGS over the last 50 years. We now have four living Presidents in Chinese Taipei, compared to one in Thailand, two in Malaysia and two in Singapore. Chinese Taipei is a very strong supporter of SEAGS with other GC members as well. SEAGS is unique in uniting geotechnical professionals across borders to become a very active and coherent group under ISSMGE.

I always believe that the underlining lesson to respect the mother nature is the real source of intrinsic humbleness of our profession, that has made us acknowledge we are limited and willing to work with others.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the colleagues at SEAGS for their long-term support, especially the frequent guidance from Dr. Za-chieh Moh and the endless endeavour of Dr. Balasubramaniam, that are essential to make SEAGS sustainable.

After so many years of successful operation, SEAGS has now blended very nicely with AGSSEA. We look forward to see this new ensemble carry on the glorious heritage of SEAGS and keep us united.

Happy Birthday SEAGS!

Message from Prof. San Shyan Lin

Chairman

Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia



On behalf of the Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia (AGSSEA), we would like to express our heartiest congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS).

Since the inception of AGSSEA in 2007, AGSSEA and SEAGS have been working closely on organizing conferences, short courses, seminars, public lectures and touring lectures given by renowned speakers. In addition, the “Geotechnical Engineering” journal is also jointly published by AGSSEA and SEAGS. I believe our commitment to the societies in Southeast Asia has been of immense value. It’s a great pleasure to extend congratulations for past accomplishment of SEAGS and best wishes for continued success of cooperation between SEAGS and AGSSEA.

San-Shyan Lin

Chairman

Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia



Message: Kim:AIT ALUMNUS: ALWAYS HELPING SEAGS-AGSSEA-AIT

Dr. Seung-Ryull Kim the founding president and CEO of ESCO



*I am pleased indeed to congratulate the 50th anniversary symposium of the SEAGS.
Hope the symposium will have an unprecedented success.
AIT is wonderful soils producing so many plants and fruits of reminiscence of mine*

SR Kim

Dr. Kim, the founding president and CEO of ESCO since 1996, is a senior member of the National Academy of Engineering of Korea (NAEK) and was also the past president of Korean Tunnelling and Underground Space Association (KTA). With more than thirty eight years of engineering experience up to year of 2016. Dr. Kim's main expertise includes underground space development (subways, tunnels, caverns etc.) and soft ground improvement. His outstanding performance was recognized by the Korean Government with "Industrial Service Medal" and "Silver Tower" the Order of Industrial Service Merit.





Message from Prof. Chang-Yu Ou

President of the Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society



On behalf of Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society, I extend our heartiest congratulations to the 50th anniversary symposium of the SEAGS. The society has always been on the top of the list for serving the members with your unselfish services. Wish the symposium successful and the SEAGS all the success for many more years to come.

Chang-Yu Ou

President of the Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society



Message from Dr. Phung Duc Long

President of the Vietnamese Society for Soil Mechanics & Foundation Engineering (VSSMGE)



On behalf of the Vietnamese Society for Soil Mechanics & Foundation Engineering (VSSMGE), I would like to send our warmest congratulations to the 50th anniversary symposium of the SEAGS. For the last 50 years, the SEAGS have made wonderful contributions to the development and practice of geotechnical engineering in Southeast Asia and globally. SEAGS and AGSSEA is nowadays a real family to geotechnical societies in the region.

I believe that the symposium will be a great success and wish the SEAGS fantastic story will go on.

Dr. Phung Duc Long

President of the Vietnamese Society for Soil Mechanics & Foundation Engineering (VSSMGE)



Message from Dr. Leong Kam Weng (President GeoSS)



Message from GeoSS for the SEAGS 50th Anniversary Event AIT, Bangkok, 14-15 September 2017

On behalf of the Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS), I would like to congratulate the SEAGS on the 50th Anniversary event. This marks an important milestone for SEAGS and the respective ISSMGE member societies in this region. Our sincere and heartfelt gratitude to the founding members and past councils of SEAGS in promoting and advancing geotechnical engineering in this region. SEAGS has helped to nurture and develop several ISSMGE member societies in the region including GeoSS.

Our special thanks to the organizing committee of this event and we look forward to the celebration with SEAGS and other ISSMGE member societies.

Dr. Leong Kam Weng
President, GeoSS 2016/17





The Reminiscence: Prof. Azis and Prof. Ani with New PhD Graduate under our Supervision



Message from Prof. Masyhur Irsyam

President of Indonesian Society for Geotechnical Engineering (HATTI)



On behalf of Indonesian Society for Geotechnical Engineering (HATTI), I would like to send our heartiest congratulations to the 50th anniversary symposium of the SEAGS. I believe that geotechnical societies in South East Asia region are always indebted to SEAGS for the

pioneering to raise geotechnical activities in South East Asia and finally made significant contribution to International Society.

I wish the best success for the symposium and making tight friendship among participants.

Prof. Masyhur Irsyam

President of Indonesian Society for Geotechnical Engineering (HATTI)



Message from Ir. Liew Shaw Shong:

Past Chairman of IEM GETD

Secretary General of Malaysian Geotechnical Society

Member of SEAGS



2017/2/17

It is my honor to express my congratulatory message to South-East Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS) for its forthcoming 50th anniversary celebration. Since I started my professional career in earlier 1990, I have been hearing many inspiring stories about our pioneers in geotechnical engineering and many of those are heavily associated with SEAGS. I was once almost landed on the ground of Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) to further my post-graduate study, but for some reasons, I missed that opportunity to establish my solid understanding in soil/rock mechanics at this shrine of geotechnical engineering. However, through participating technical events and voluntary services in the engineering institution, I had many exposures with SEAGS, particularly the South-East Asia Geotechnical Conferences (SEAGC) in 1996, 1998, 2007, 2010, 2013 and 2016. SEAGS certainly plays vital role in flourishing the regional geotechnical fraternity by uniting the elite engineers in the region with collective efforts and supports from the strongly regional nations. This unprecedented foresight and vision brought forward by the founding president, Dr. Za Chieh Moh, to found this important regional society, gather strength and contribute to the economy growth and technical development in this part of the world. There are also many important figures and persons working hard in contributing sustainable success of SEAGS, in which Prof. Balasubramaniam is one of the unforgettable personality in SEAGS. If not because of the existence of SEAGS, geotechnical engineering would not recognized with significance by the peers from the mainstream civil engineering in the region and also worldwide.

After half a century of glory development by SEAGS, countless elites in geotechnical engineering have been nurtured and become important policy makers for national development, strong academicians with high standard of research interests, practitioners with pragmatic design approaches and constructors with good construction skills.

With the above, I would like to express my gratitude to SEAGS and wish another 50 years of glory history to be made by SEAGS for the future.

Happy Birthday SEAGS!

Yours Sincerely,

Liew Shaw Shong
SEAGS member

Message from Ir. Kenny Yee

Hon. Secretary-General of AGSSEA (2007 – present)



On behalf of the Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia (AGSSEA), it is a great pleasure for me to extend the best wishes to the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS) on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

A Golden Jubilee is always worthwhile to celebrate when the past is as successful as in this case. Since the establishment of SEAGS, it has provided a platform for the promotion of cooperation among engineers, geologists and other scientists in Southeast Asia for the advancement of knowledge in geotechnical engineering. The conferences, symposia and published journals which it has organized over the years are generally considered to be models for effective interchange of scientific information. SEAGS has also worked hard to strengthen its relationship with its own member societies. Many of these member societies have now established their own national societies with direct affiliation to the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). Needless to say, the cooperation and interaction remain cordial, strong and effective.

As geotechnical engineers, we have great challenge in front of us. The detailed nature of our work tasks may vary, but most of the problems we are and will be facing have and will continue to have regional characteristics and for this reason strong regional communities are important. For this and other reasons, AGSSEA has been created in 2007 as a regional grouping of learned societies. SEAGS as one of the founding members of AGSSEA plays a pivotal role in promoting regional initiatives vis-à-vis regional short courses, touring lectures, symposia and joint publications of AGSSEA-SEAGS' Newsletter and "Geotechnical Engineering" journal. AGSSEA currently has eight national member societies including the Vietnam Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (VSSMGE), Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES), Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS), Thai Geotechnical Society (TGS), Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society (CTGS), Indonesian Society for Geotechnical Engineering (HATTI), Malaysian Geotechnical Society (MGS) and SEAGS. It is important that AGSSEA continues to facilitate networking and strengthen collaboration between member societies and I hope the SEAGS' successful past will be an inspiration to meet this challenge.

Last but not least, I wish you a fantastic celebration and a most successful 50th SEAGS Anniversary Symposium in Bangkok.

With Best Wishes,

Ir. Kenny Yee

Hon. Secretary-General of AGSSEA (2007 – present)