

# Thai Geotechnical Society

Soil mechanics was introduced to Thailand by Professor Chai Muktabhant in 1950s, then it was spread gradually throughout the country. Some notable research on soft soil engineering started at the local universities and institutes in the early period, which marked in the beginning of soil engineering. In 1997, a geotechnical engineering group was formed as a sub-committee of the Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT). Under the leadership of Dr. Surachat Sambhandharaksa as the first chairman of the sub-committee, the importance of this discipline had been recognised through education and research. The chairmanship was then passed on to Mr. Somchai Kokkamhang, Dr. Noppadol Phienwej, Dr. Warakorn Mai-Riang, Dr. Watcharin Gasaluck and Dr. Pisit Kuntiwattanakul. At present, Dr. Suttisak Soralump is the Chariman of this sub-committee.

In 2001, the group had promoted its recognition to the international societies by organising a series of international conferences, such as the 17<sup>th</sup> SEAGE Conference in 2004, the APUNSAT Conference in 2011, and the WTC2012 of the International Tunnel Association (ITA) in 2012 etc. The success of these activities had drawn vast attention from both local and international engineers, leading to a drastic increase in the membership. To cope with the demands from the members in terms of greater participations and activities, a new entity was inevitable, resulting in the establishment of Thai Geotechnical Society (TGS), which will represent Thailand on the international stage.

The primary mission of the newly established Thai Geotechnical Society (TGS) is to promote geotechnical engineering in Thailand under the supports from the Engineering Institute of Thailand (EIT). The objectives of the society are:

1. To be recognised as the country reference on geotechnical engineering knowledge for the government or non-government sectors, the engineering communities, associated key stakeholders and general public.
2. To organise technical and non-technical activities for professional development and career advancement among the members
3. To promote the university students on geotechnical engineering education, practice and research
4. To develop collaborations with other regional and International societies in advancing the standing, prestige and value of the professions.

At present, TGS has over 200 members with 30 committee members, and TGS is the Nation Member of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and the Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia (AGSSEA). To honour late Professor Chai Muktabhant, the Chai Muktabhant award was established to be given annually to any civil engineer in Thailand who makes significant contribution to soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering. As for professional activities, TGS will organise annual national geotechnical engineering conferences along with regular technical seminars in sharing technical experiences and cutting-edge technologies to the engineers.