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KGS-KGS Joint Geotechnical Seminar in Kazakhstan

As described in the Memorandum of Understanding between the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society (KGS) and the Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS), a joint KGS-KGS geotechnical seminar was held on 21-22 July, 2010 in Astana (Kazakhstan) to commemorate the Year of Korea in Kazakhstan (2010) and Year of Kazakhstan in Korea (2011). These events had received official endorsement from the Presidents of Republic Kazakhstan and Korea, Mr. Nursultan A. Nazarbayev and Mr. Myung-Bak Lee.

The international seminar was held in the Conference Hall of the main Campus of the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University (Astana, Kazakhstan). The theme of the First KGS-KGS joint geotechnical seminar was “Geotechnical Infrastructure of Megacities and New Capitals” (the remit of ISSMGE’s Technical Committee 305). Three sessions were organized by the Kazakhstan and Korean Geotechnical Societies, and they were involved by TC305 as well as the Asian Regional Technical Committees ATC19 - Geotechnical Engineering for Heritage Monuments and Sites, ATC10 - Geo-Informatics and Zoning for Hazard Mapping, and ATC3 - Geotechnology for Natural Hazards. In all, about 50 papers were presented and published in English in the Proceedings, which were produced on CD as well. The event was attended by about 100 participants, including delegations from South Korea (20 participants), Kazakhstan (about 60 participants), Russia (about 20 participants), France, and Turkey. The international seminar started with an opening address by the Rector of the Eurasian National University, Prof. Abdraim B. Zh. who stressed the importance of the planned events in 2010 and 2011 for both South Korea and Kazakhstan (Photo №1). The President of the Korean Geotechnical Society, Prof. Kim Hong Taek delivered a welcome message to the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society on behalf of his society, and also congratulated Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov on being appointed Vice President of ISSMGE for Asia.

Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov gave an outline of the current situation of ISSMGE (as discussed at the ISSMGE Board Meeting in Moscow, June, 2010) and also reported the improvement in Asian membership and the reactivation of Asian technical committees (Photo №2).

The technical program for the day consisted of 5 keynote lectures, 3 special lectures, and 6 special reports. Among them, The keynote lectures were: Keynote lecture 1 by Prof. Y.S. Jang (Korea) - “A Case History of Curtain Grouting for Water Cut off around Vertical Shafts”; Keynote lecture 2 by Prof. E.C. Shin (Korea) - “Frost Penetration Depth of Paved Road: Field Monitoring Data in Korea”; Keynote lecture 3 by Prof. V.A. Homyakov (Kazakhstan) - “Influence of Dynamic Loading to the Strength Properties of Clay Soils”; Keynote lecture 4 by Prof. A.Zh. Zhussupbekov (Kazakhstan) - “Zoning of Territory of Astana for Optimization Length of Piles”; and Keynote lecture 5 by Prof. V.L. Korotkov (Kazakhstan) - “Theoretical Determination of Critical Value of Stress Intensity Factor related to the Fracture Mechanics of Underground Construction”.

Furthermore, the special lectures were: Special Lecture 1 by Senior Researcher Ph.D. C.Y. Choi (Korea) - “Reduction of Shear Strength of Weathered Granite Soils with Cyclic Freeze - Thaw”; Special Lecture 2 by Senior Researcher Ph.D. H.K. Kim (Korea) - “Establishment of Integrated Safety Management Network System for Geotechnical Structures”; and Special Lecture 3 by Senior Researcher Ph.D. M.H. Cho (Korea) - “Determination of Volumetric Moisture Contents of Asphalt Concrete Pavements in Korea with CS616 Sensor Calibration Equation”.

The special reports were also given as what follows. Special Report 1 by Ph.D. Student J.K. Kang (Korea) - “Analysis of Geotechnical Properties by Database System within Incheon Port Area”; Special Report 2 by Senior Researcher, Ph.D. R.E. Lukpanov (Kazakhstan) - “Research of Interaction between Displacement Pile and Soil Basement”; Special Report 3 by Senior Researcher, Ph.D. Y. Ashkey (Kazakhstan) - “The Applications of Dynamic and Static Piling Tests of Kazakhstan”; Special Report 4 by Prof. M.K. Kuderin (Kazakhstan) - “Soil Profile Model Based on Geoinformatic Database of Pavlodar city (North Kazakhstan)”; Special Report 5 by Prof. M. Shintemirov (Kazakhstan) - “A Spatial Method of the Stability Analysis of Rock Coasts”; and Special Report 6 by Ph.D. Student T. Muzdybayeva - “Geosynthetics in the Roads”.

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At the closing ceremony, the Secretary General of the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society, Dr Zhunisov, on behalf of the Organizing Committee, was pleased to present Prof. Kim Hong Taek and Prof. Lee Eun Soo with their “chapans”, the Kazakhstan national costume (Photo № 3)



Photo №1.

(from left to right: Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov, Eurasian National Univ., Astana, Kazakhstan, ISSMGE VP for Asia, and President of Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society; Prof. Abdraiym Zh. Bakytzhan, Rector of the L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University; Prof. Hong Taek Kim, Hongik Univ., South Korea, and President of the Korean Geotechnical Society)



Photo №2.

Technical session during the seminar



Photo №3.

(from left to right: Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov, Prof. E.S. Lee, Hanyang Univ.; Prof. Hong Taek Kim



Photo №4.

The Organizing and Scientific Committee of the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society - Korean Geotechnical Society Joint Geotechnical Seminar

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A cultural show and farewell dinner were held in the evening. In addition, colorful social programs and technical tours were organized for the delegates in both Astana and Almaty. The technical tour to Astana took place on the 22nd July, and participants were able to visit the Bayterek Tower, the Khan Shatyr Entertainment Palace and the Peace Palace (the last two designed by the British architects Foster and Partners) as well as a piling construction site. On the 23rd July, the Korean delegation flew to Almaty and visited the Medeo Dam, which had been built to protect Almaty from mud and debris flows, the construction site at Chimbulak of the Asian Games, and subway construction sites in Almaty.

Feedback from the participants was very positive, and the symposium was considered to be one of the most successful international geotechnical events ever hosted in Kazakhstan. The 2nd KGS-KGS seminar will be held in Seoul, South Korea, in 2011 - the Year of Kazakhstan in Korea.