

## TC Activity

### TC6 Committee on Unsaturated Soils

#### Recent past and future activities

The TC6 committee promotes cooperation and exchange of knowledge in the area of mechanics of unsaturated soils, including, as examples, expansive, collapsible, residual, and arid soils, and its relevance to the solution of engineering problems. Continuing from a rich history, the TC6 Committee on Unsaturated Soils has been busy the past two years and looks forward to exciting upcoming events. Some noteworthy recent events include the 4<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific Conference on Unsaturated Soils held in beautiful Newcastle, Australia in November, 2009 and most recently TC6 hosted a workshop at the 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in Alexandria during September, 2009. The 3-hour long workshop on *Applications of Unsaturated Soil Mechanics in Geotechnical Engineering* included a prestigious slate of eight speakers from various countries including: Eduardo Alonso (Spain), Farimah Masrouri (France), Yu Jun Cui (France), Antonio Gens (Spain), Abdalla Harraz (Egypt), Tony Zhan (China), David Toll (UK), and Del Fredlund (Canada). Topics ranged from unsaturated soil behavior in freezing environments to desert conditions and applications ranging from high speed rail to landfills. By all accounts the workshop was well attended and informative.



Organisers and Contributors at the E-UNSAT 2008 Opening Ceremony (Durham, UK, June 2008)

(From left: Dr Domenico Gallipoli, Prof. Simon Wheeler, Prof. Neil Taylor (*Secretary General of ISSMGE*), Prof. Eduardo Alonso (*Chair of TC6*), Prof. Christopher Higgins (*Vice-Chancellor of Durham University*), Dr Charles Augarde and Dr David Toll)

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#### Recent past and future activities (continued)

Still riding high from the successful UNSAT 2006 conference in Carefree, Arizona, TC6 is looking forward with great anticipation to UNSAT 2010 (5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Unsaturated Soils) in Barcelona, Spain this September. The international UNSAT conference, which started in Paris in 1995, has become a 4-year recurring event and represents the crown jewel of TC6 conferences. Paper submissions and attendance have grown significantly since its inception, with about 250 papers being submitted for the UNSAT 2010 conference. For more information and to register for this exciting conference in Barcelona, refer to the web site (<http://congress.cimne.com/unsat2010>) - be sure to take advantage of the early bird registration by April 30. At the well attended 1<sup>st</sup> European Conference on Unsaturated Soils in Durham, UK, in June of 2008, the TC6 committee met and after extensive deliberations selected Brisbane, Australia for the UNSAT 2014 venue. Other significant upcoming events include the 5<sup>th</sup> Asian-Pacific Conference on Unsaturated Soils, which will be held in Pattaya, Thailand in 2011 and the 2<sup>nd</sup> European Conference on Unsaturated Soils with possible venues in Germany or Italy in 2012.

In addition to conference and workshop activities, the TC6 web site continues to be maintained and well-utilized. The Unsaturated Soils web site can be accessed at <http://www.dur.ac.uk/geo-engineering/unsaturated/tc6/tc6.html>. The web site includes information on upcoming events, publications, and communications of interest to those in the field of unsaturated soil mechanics.



Delegates at the E-UNSAT 2008 conference