

## THE ISSMGE FROM 1936 TO 2011 (continued)

### 9TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN TOKYO, JAPAN IN 1977

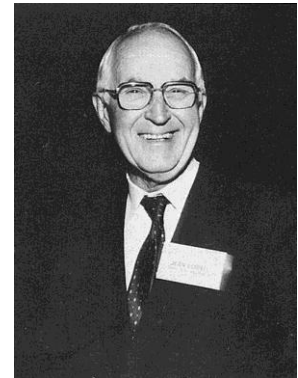


Cherry hall in the Imperial Hotel, Tokyo city center, was the venue of the 9th ICSMFE which was held on July 11-15 in 1977. President J. Kerisel addressed a message at the Opening Session followed by the four Special Lectures which were enthralling and memorable. Dr. M. Fujii mentioned the enormous efforts in the overall design for construction of the Shinkansen (High-speed railways) between Tokyo and Osaka.

Developments in understanding the behaviour of cohesionless soils were overviewed by Professor T. Mogami mainly focusing on the efforts the Japanese researchers had been making since the 1964 Niigata Earthquake. Of particular interest was the lecture by A.W. Skempton who

introduced several examples of delayed failure in cut slopes in London marine clay and attributed it to the time length required to attain equilibrium of pore water pressure along potential slip plane. The endearing lecture by R.B. Peck was entitled "Vignettes of four Past Presidents" in which personal profiles as well as technical achievements of four great predecessors, K. Terzaghi, A. Casagrande, A.W. Skempton and L. Bjerrum, were vividly described. These four lectures will remain in our memory as masterpieces.

In the Council Meeting proceeding the Conference week, the rule for deciding the President was changed from the nomination by incumbent and past presidents to the election by secret voting by the representatives of all national member societies. In the first-time attempt for implementing this new scheme, there were six candidates on the list at the beginning. In each round of balloting, a candidate with the fewest number of ballots was successively deleted until a single majority was obtained. After reading out names loudly by the Secretary, Professor Victor de Mello and Professor Masami Fukuoka had secured the tie ballot 22 to 22 in the last round of counting. It was truly a thrilling moment when the Secretary announced slowly but loudly "Fukuoka" in the last reading. Dr. K. Nash was requested to continue his service as Secretary General.



J. Kerisel

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There were three burgeoning subject areas newly spotlighted in this conference. One of them was the environmental controls including stability of tailings deposit dams, landfills for wastes and protection of contaminated underground water. The second new subject was the foundation of off-shore platforms associated with their increasing water depth of installation from several meters in 1947 to 300m off Louisiana, U.S.A. in 1977. Dr. McClelland made a presentation on the current state of development on this subject. Still another growing area was the soil dynamics related with machine foundations and earthquakes. There had been an increasing interest particularly for liquefaction after the 1964 Niigata earthquake in Japan. Professors H. Seed and Y. Yoshimi made a great contribution in bringing the Session to fulfillment. It is worthy of notice that these three subject areas have grown up later on to become main streams of the themes in the present day of the ICSMGE.

The year of 1977 corresponds to the time of transition from the slide rule to the use of the electrical computer. There was also a Specialty Session dealing with the computer analysis in the Soil Mechanics: Present and Future.

### Editorial 9

After Tokyo had been designated to be the venue of the forthcoming 9th ICSMFE, an issue of entry from South America and Rhodesia was raised at the time of the mid-term Executive Committee Meeting (Council Meeting) held in 1975 in Istanbul. After heated debate, it was agreed that Tokyo Conference had to be cancelled. However, President J. Kerisel made a watershed decision afterwards to revive the initial decision. We owe greatly to his leadership in case of such a critical plight.

It was by President J. Kerisel that the rule of page allocation to each member society, for the papers to be included in the Proceedings of the Conference, was defined. This rule, with some minor amendments made in 2009 is still being used to maintain good quality of the papers.



Photo 7. Opening Session of Tokyo Conference