

## CONFERENCE NEWS

### IS-Seoul 2011; Fifth International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials

This conference took place from September 1st to 3rd, 2011, in Seoul, Korea under the auspices of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) TC 101 and the Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS). This conference focused mainly on the recent advances in laboratory testing technology, applications of advanced laboratory as well as testing to field problems, and values of technical developments in practice. This conference attracted 182 paper submissions (including 17 papers published in a special edition of the *Soils and Foundations* journal) and almost 320 participants from 31 countries.

Among many oral presentations, participants were able to enjoy eminent invited lectures as listed below;

The 1st Bishop lecture, sponsored by ISSMGE TC101:

Prof. Fumio Tatsuoka on *Laboratory stress-strain tests for developments in geotechnical engineering research and practice*,

Symposium Keynote Lectures:

Prof. Federica Cotecchia on *Investigating the influence of microstructure, loading history and fissuring on the clay response*,

Prof. Antonia Viana da Fonseca on *the Interpretation of conventional and non-conventional laboratory tests for challenging geotechnical problems*,

Prof. Kenneth H. Stokoe II on *Field evaluation of the effects of stress state, strain amplitude and pore pressure generation on shear moduli of geotechnical and MSW materials*,

Prof. Satoru Shibuya on *Case study on rainfall-induced behavior of unsaturated soils in natural slopes and reinforced-earth walls*,

Prof. Malcolm Bolton on *Using centrifuge models to define deformation mechanisms and generate design methods*, and

Prof. Richard Finno on *Identification of constitutive parameter with field performance data*.

Out of many submitted papers, 17 papers were selected and published in *Soils and Foundations* Journal (Vol. 51, No. 4, 2011). The main themes of the symposium were as:

1. Experimental investigations from very small strains to beyond failure
2. Behavior, characterization, and modeling of various geomaterials
3. Practical prediction and interpretation of ground response: Field observations and case histories

The symposium started at the early morning of the 1st day of September, with an initiative and passionate opening ceremony. Prof. Hong-Taek Kim (Symposium chairman) and Prof. Yeon-Soo Jang (President of KGS) gave a warm welcoming speech as they greeted over 300 participants. Prof. Hervé Di Benedetto (ISSMGE TC101 Chair; France) and Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov (ISSMGE Vice president for Asia; Kazakhstan) delivered congratulatory addresses on behalf of all members of the ISSMGE.

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Opening ceremony. Welcome address by Prof. Hong-Taek Kim (Symposium Chairman).



Gift presentation. Prof. Y.S Jang (President of KGS) and Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov (ISSMGE VP Asia).



Group photograph (after the opening ceremony).

During the intensive three day schedule, 7 invited lectures (including the 1st Bishop lecture sponsored by ISSMGE), 14 technical sessions, and 2 poster sessions were held to provide 167 presentations (97 in oral and 70 posters) to share academic knowledge and discover future opportunities on geotechnical engineering aspects. Each participant actively participated in their presentations, question and answer sessions, and discussions.

## CONFERENCE NEWS (Continued)

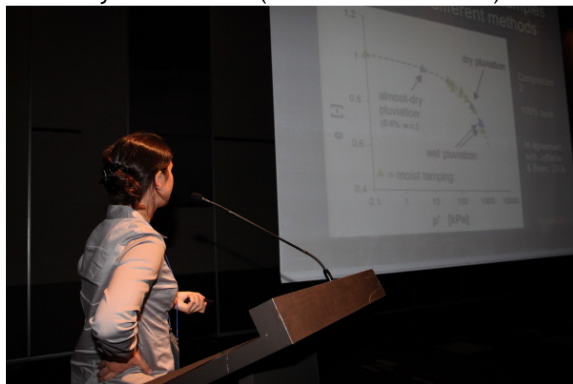
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Keynote lecture (Prof. K. H. Stokoe II).



Audiences.



Parallel session.



Poster session.

Among others, the 1st Bishop lecture provided by Prof. Fumio Tatsuoka (Tokyo University of Science, Japan) was the climax of this symposium. The Bishop lecture was presented with the sponsorship of the ISSMGE TC101 to honor the contributions and achievements of Professor Alan W. Bishop in the field of geotechnical engineering. Professor F. Tatsuoka presented significant roles of laboratory stress-strain tests of geomaterials for academic developments in geotechnical engineering research. More than 250 audiences attended this precious and honorable moment.



Appreciation plaque for the 1st Bishop lecture.



The 1st Bishop lecturer, Prof. F. Tatsuoka.



## CONFERENCE NEWS (Continued)

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One of the biggest satisfactions of this symposium was active and lively discussions among the participants. All sessions and even coffee breaks provided interesting and passionate forum for discussions. Moreover, valuable official dinners were held to share and promote international friendship between scholars from other countries. Special Korean culture shows (e.g. *Samulnori* and Korean fan dance) were performed to add amusements and to deepen understandings on Korean culture.



Welcome reception on September 1st, 2011.



Culture show: Korean percussion, *Samulnori*.



Main Banquet on September 2nd, 2011.



Culture show: With the Korean fan dance team.

After the fruitful three-day symposium, a closing ceremony was held to close the symposium. Prof. Dong-Soo Kim who was the general-secretary of IS-Seoul 2011 summarized the statistics of the symposium and appreciated participation and collaboration of all members. The next international symposium venue was announced to be hold in Buenos Aires, Argentina in 2015 (IS-Argentina 2015). For details, presentation files of invited lectures and symposium photos are opened to the public on the symposium website ([www.isseoul2011.org](http://www.isseoul2011.org)).

Finally, we want to appreciate all symposium participants, members of: the Local Organizing Committee (LOC); ISSMGE TC101; and International Advisory Board, for their contributions and collaborations in order to make the IS-Seoul 2011 a success. Moreover, we return thanks to our major sponsors: National Research Foundation of Korea, The Korean Federation of Science and Technology Societies, Seoul Tourism Organization, and 16 Korean engineering and construction companies for their financial supports.