



International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

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MESSAGE FROM TC 102

Ground Property Characterization by In-Situ Tests

Prof. Paul Mayne, Chairman of TC102

Preface: ISSMGE Technical Committee TC 102 (formerly TC 16) involves the areas of geotechnical and geophysical exploration. Site characterization is a first fundamental step towards the proper design, construction, and long term performance of all types of geotechnical projects, ranging from foundations, excavations, earth dams, embankments, seismic hazards, environmental issues, tunnels, and near to offshore structures. As such, the TC 102 committee is active in the dissemination of technical documents, papers, and international & national standards on various in-situ tests including SPT, CPT, CPTu, DMT, PMT, VST, CHT, DHT, and other methods. The committee has helped organize and plan a series of international conferences on the topic of site characterization (ISC) that have been held in Atlanta (ISC-1, 1998), Porto (ISC-2, 2004), Taipei (ISC-3, 2008), and most recently Brazil (ISC-4, September 2012). The TC 102 committee has also participated in conferences held by other technical committees including TC 101 series on Deformational Characteristics of Geomaterials, ICSMGE, ASCE GeoCongresses, ECSMGE, and the Baltic Sea Conferences. Details on the recently held ISC-4 (2012) are given below and additional information about our technical activities are posted at our website: www.webforum.com/tc16



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Photo: Core Committee meeting of TC 102 held in Singapore (2006)

MESSAGE FROM TC 102 (continued)

Prof. Paul Mayne, Chairman of TC102



Photo: An open meeting of TC 102 on In-Situ Testing held during ISC-3 in Taipei (2008)

ISC'4 - The Fourth International Conference on Site Characterization
September 17-21, 2012
Porto de Galinhas, Pernambuco - Brazil



EPILOGUE: ISC'4 (2012 Brazil): The Fourth International Conference on Site Characterization (ISC'4) was held near the beautiful coastal town of Porto de Galinhas, Pernambuco - Brazil, from September 17-21, 2012, under the responsibility of ISSMGE TC-102/TC-16 on In-Situ Testing, the Brazilian Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ABMS), and the Federal University of Pernambuco, Brazil (UFPE). The Host and Chairman of the ISC'4 Organizing Committee was Roberto Quental Coutinho, professor of the Federal University of Pernambuco, who was assisted by the TC 102 chair Paul W. Mayne (Georgia Institute of Technology) and vice-chair António Viana da Fonseca (Univ. of Porto).

The ISC'4 was held directly following the XVI Brazilian Congress of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering - Cobramseg 2012 which is the most traditional and important event of geotechnical engineering in Brazil (15 to 18 September 2012). On the last day of the Brazilian event was a joint session with ISC'4.

The conference venue was the Hotel Summerville, the first five star hotel and spa located in Porto de Galinhas, approximately 65 km (40 miles) south of Recife - State of the Pernambuco, undeniably one of the top seaside destinations in Brazil. The resort integrates perfectly with the Atlantic coastline, nestled among coconut trees and mangroves, surrounded by lush vegetation, and blessed with vast natural pools formed by coral reefs.

The ISC'4 had the participation of 540 registered participants from 36 different nationalities, and more than 60 companions. More than 213 exhibitors were distributed in 43 technical stands during the event. The ISC'4 congregated geotechnical researchers, professional engineers, academicians and practitioners involved with the conference general themes, namely practical application of novel and innovative technologies in geotechnical and geophysical engineering, along with their interpretation and utilization for the purposes of site characterization. The conference proceedings (two complete volumes - CRC Press, Taylor & Francis Group - Balkema Book: 1872 pages) contains 8 Keynote Lectures prepared by experts in the themes, including the **5th James K. Mitchell Lecture** presented by Dr. Peter K. Robertson; 4 Workshop Lectures, and 216 technical papers from 40 different countries. Emeritus Prof. Jim Mitchell orchestrated the last workshop on Thursday afternoon. Papers were refereed in the reviews to obtain a high quality publication and technical standards.

MESSAGE FROM TC 102 (continued)

Prof. Paul Mayne, Chairman of TC102

Accordingly, the papers are sorted into 11 general themes and 15 technical sessions for presentation, including: 1. Direct-push and borehole-type in-situ test; 2. Development of new equipment and methods; 3. New approaches for interpreting data; 4. Applications to shallow and deep foundations; 5. Special uses of in-situ tests; 6. Site investigation for infrastructure projects; 7. geophysics, 8. Seismic ground hazards; 9. Investigations in very soft soils; 10. Non-textbook-type geomaterials; 11. Environmental geotechnics. A listing of all papers in the proceedings entitled *Geotechnical & Geophysical Site Characterization 4* may be found at: <http://www.usucger.org/books.html>

During ISC'4, several cultural activities were provided to the attendees, including Pernambuco Arts and Crafts exhibition - SEBRAE/PE, Pernambuco Culinary Workshop in the Quebra-Mar Restaurant, ISC'4 Cocktail Welcoming at the Aquatic Park of the Hotel Summerville, Conference Banquet, Guided Tour of Vila de Porto de Galinhas for companions, and Guided Tour of Vila de Porto de Galinhas for companions.

Photographs taken during the conference are shown in what follows.



Opening Ceremony



2012 JK Mitchell Lecture



Victor de Mello Lecture



Summerville Resort Welcome Reception

MESSAGE FROM TC 102 (continued)**Prof. Paul Mayne, Chairman of TC102****Cultural Activity****Technical sessions**

In addition to the technical, social, and local activities, ISC-4 events included four Short Courses: Foundation on analysis using in-situ and geophysical tests - Paul Mayne; Geophysical methods for geotechnical site characterization - Sebastiano Foti, Denis Hiltunen and Cesare Comina; Cone penetration testing in geotechnical practice - T. Lunne, P.K. Robertson and J.J.M. Powell; and Dilatometer / Pressuremeter testing and applications - Silvano Marchetti and Roger Frank. Also, a formal meeting of the TC 102 was held with some 44 participants in attendance. Of special note, the initial planning of ISC'5 for Australia has begun.

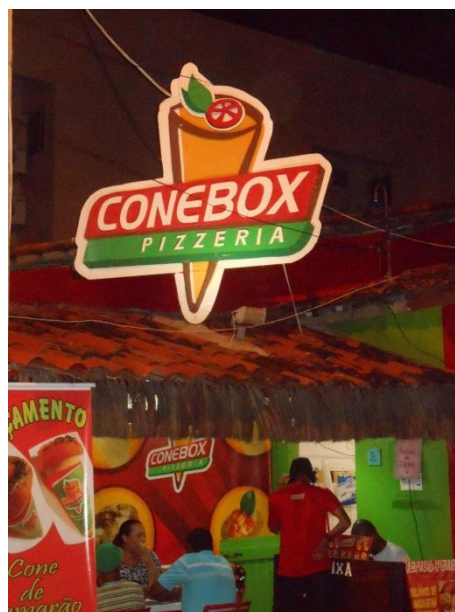


The ISC-4 Technical Tour visited some of the construction projects of SUAPE in Pernambuco which include some 15 different large facilities, primarily related to shipping of minerals, ores, oil, and gas, and related refineries, storage, and handling operations. Above, the construction of the new port involved the driving of precast concrete pilings to form the wharf.

MESSAGE FROM TC 102 (continued)
Prof. Paul Mayne, Chairman of TC102

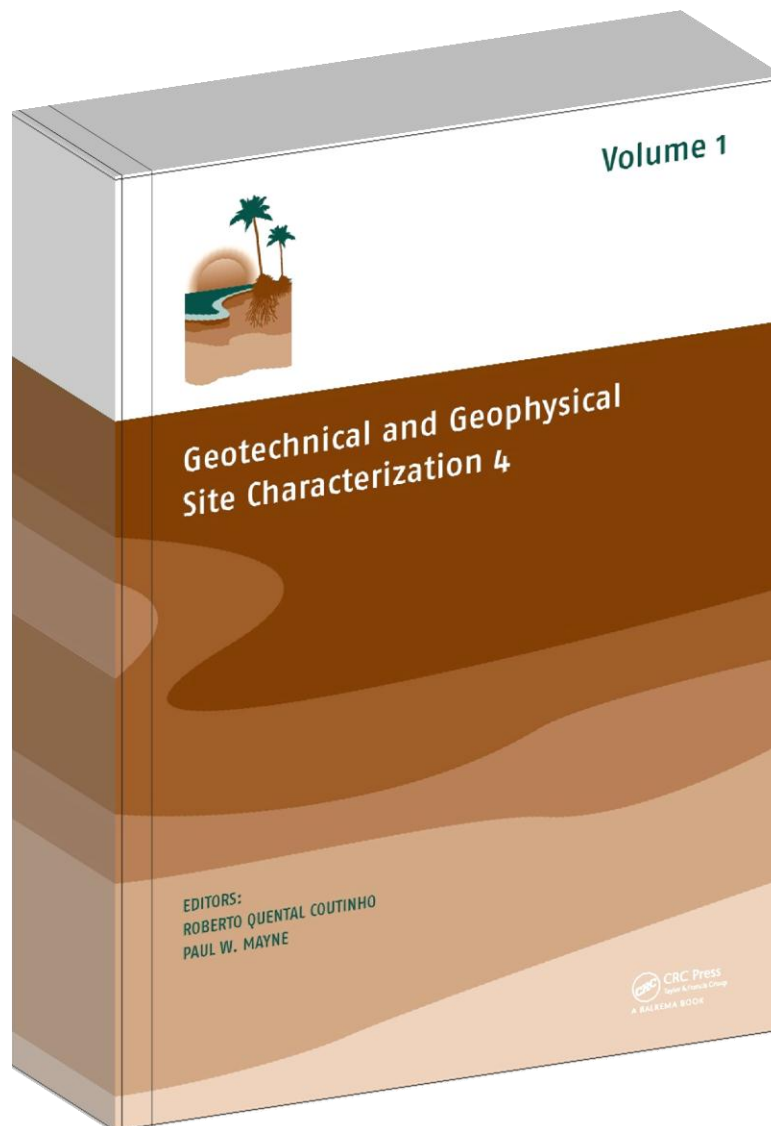


ISC-4 participants (left to right): Roberto Coutinho, James K. Mitchell, Peter K. Robertson, Mike Jamiolkowski, Paul W. Mayne, and Antônio Viana da Fonseca.



What an appropriate name for a restaurant in the little town of Porto de Galinhas nearby the ISC-4.

MESSAGE FROM TC 102 (continued)
Prof. Paul Mayne, Chairman of TC102



The ISC-4 two-volume proceedings include 1872 pages hard copy plus a CD disk and are available for purchase from CRC Press:

<http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9780415621366>

The keynote and technical papers from the prior ISC events may be found at the links below:

ISC-1 Proceedings (Atlanta 1998): <http://www.cpt10.com/cpt10pdfpapers.html>

ISC-2 Proceedings (Porto 2004) :

<http://www.iospress.nl/book/geotechnical-and-geophysical-site-characterization/>

ISC-3 Proceedings (Taipei 2008): <http://www.crcpress.com/product/isbn/9780415469364>