

## News



After many years of neglect in Poland in the area of broadly defined maritime policy, with a great deal of hope we are noticing the first signs of revival in the maritime construction field, and in the geotechnical engineering in particular. It coincides with the enlargement of the Department of Geotechnics under the expanded name of the Department of Geotechnics, Geology and Maritime Engineering (GGME) in the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering of the Gdansk University of Technology.

At the request of the Board of Directors of the Polish Geotechnics Committee (PKG) and thanks to the special efforts of its President, Prof. Zbigniew Młynarek, and of its Honorary President, Prof. Eugeniusz Dembicki, decision to grant the organization of the 11th Baltic Sea Geotechnical Conference was made by the Presidents of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), its President Prof. Pedro Seco e Pinto and the vice President for Europe Prof. Roger Frank. This prestigious choice of GGME as the organizer of the conference, under the leadership of Prof. Zbigniew Sikora, its chair, was justified not only from a formal point of view, but also from historical considerations, because the first Conference of Soil Mechanics and Foundations of the Baltic Countries was organized in Gdańsk in 1975 from the inspiration of Prof. E. Dembicki, chairman of the Geotechnical Department at that time.

The 11th Baltic Sea Geotechnical Conference on the topic „Geotechnics in Maritime Engineering” was held on the 15-18 of September 2008 in Gdansk under the auspices of ISSMGE, PKG and the Gdansk University of Technology.



Photo. 1. The Southern Courtyard of the Gdansk Technical University with the conference participants, see also [www.11bc.pg.gda.pl](http://www.11bc.pg.gda.pl). Photo Dr. R. Ossowski

The proceedings were held at the university in the historical Aula lecture hall and the adjacent modern teaching rooms together with the Southern Courtyard (see photo 1), and the New Auditorium lecture hall (photo 3).

Almost 280 participants from 30 countries participated in the conference, including from Poland (138), Germany (33), Estonia (13), the Netherlands (10). There were participants from the USA, Japan, Brazil, and many other countries, not only from the Baltic countries. This worldwide interest was dictated mainly by the aptly selected subject matter for the conference. The lead theme of the proceedings was applying geotechnical solutions in the maritime construction. World-class experts in the fields of geotechnical and maritime building engineering, representing both the theoretical, as well as the practical fields, were present at the conference. There were scientists dealing with geotechnical problems of ports, offshore and onshore structures, young scientists - doctoral students, as well as practising engineers, dealing with the design and the execution of objects of the maritime infrastructure.

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Phot. 2. The opening speeches of the Conference on the Southern Courtyard of the Gdansk University of Technology, see also [www.11bc.pg.gda.pl](http://www.11bc.pg.gda.pl). Photo Dr. R. Ossowski

The ceremonial opening of the conference was attended by officials of the Tricity agglomeration - President of Gdansk - P. Adamowicz and President of Sopot - J. Karnowski and a large number of invited representatives of the Marshal's Office, the Province Office, and directors of many leading firms from throughout Poland.

The organizing committee consisted of a team of the academic faculty from GGME together with the former and present presidents of PKG, i.e.

- Zbigniew Sikora, the chairperson and the current chair of GGME,
- Zbigniew Mlynarek, the vice chairperson and the immediate past President of PKG,
- Zbigniew Lechowicz, current President of PKG,
- Kazimierz Gwizdala, PKG secretary,
- Bohdan Zadroga, professor at the Gdansk University of Technology and the immediate past chair of GGME

and scientific secretaries:

- Lech Balachowski,
- Tadeusz Brzozowski,
- Marcin Cudny,
- Andrzej Danilewicz,
- Angelika Duszynska,
- Grzegorz Horodecki,
- Adam Krasinski,
- Arkadiusz Kryczallo,
- Krzysztof Malesinski,
- Rafal Ossowski,
- Mariusz Wyrosiak.

Interest in the subject matter of the conference surpassed expectations of the organizers. Altogether 124 papers were submitted, which after 2 peer-reviews were published in bound form in printed conference materials, and in the electronic form enclosed on compact disk of the Proceedings (see: [www.11bc.pg.gda.pl](http://www.11bc.pg.gda.pl)). Reviews were done by members of the International Scientific Committee and selected experts from Poland.