

News

International Seminar on Eurocode 7 and Geotechnical Aspects of Eurocode 8 in Struga, Republic of Macedonia

In the period October 29th to November 01st 2008, supported by the ISSMGE, Macedonian Association for Geotechnics has organized an International seminar on Eurocode 7 and Geotechnical Aspects of Eurocode 8, in Struga, Republic of Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), where lecturers were: Prof. Pedro Simao Sêco e Pinto, Prof. Roger Frank, Dr. Bernd Schuppener, Dr. Trevor Orr, Dr. Brian Simpson and Prof. Vlatko Šešov.



About 160 participants have attended the seminar, which came mostly from the countries in the region as Serbia, Albania, Montenegro, Croatia and Bosnia and Herzegovina, but also even from Spain. The majority of the participants were from Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) and many of them were young engineers. Several famous companies, established in the world of geotechnics, presented their activities and products at exhibition stands. This way the seminar will contribute to faster acceptance of Eurocodes in this region and also to involvement of Republic of Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) in the European Union.

Beside the lectures, the participants had opportunity to see the cultural and historical monuments of the ancient city of Ohrid and enjoy in the landscapes of Republic of Macedonia (The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia). The seminar ended with dinner organized as National evening, which sociability put a particular impress. The intercourse continued next day during the post-seminar tour to monastery and archeological/geotechnical site. All these caused that both lecturers and participants have evaluated the seminar as very successful. We hope that soon we will host them again.

Reported by Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto, the President of ISSMGE

News

ISSMGE INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR IN ACCRA-GHANA

The Ghana Geotechnical Society (GGS) under the patronage of the ISSMGE organized a well-attended international seminar from 2nd-4th February 2009 at the Engineers Centre in Accra. The seminar was attended by 66 participants including three participants from Nigeria. The participants were drawn from private consulting firms, public infrastructure companies, academia and construction firms. Locally, the seminar was under the patronage of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the Ghana Institution of Engineers and the Ministry of Transportation of Ghana. The theme was “*Ground Improvement for Accelerated Development*” reflecting Ghana’s recent move towards rapid infrastructure development as a strategy for poverty reduction and economic development.



The seminar sought to expose Ghanaian engineers to new trends in ground improvement technologies, to provide opportunity for Consultants, Contractors and developers who have applied new technologies in ground improvement to share their experience and finally to help promote professional geotechnical engineering practice in Ghana.

The resource persons were supplied by both ISSMGE and GGS. ISSMGE provided four resource persons consisting of the President, Prof Pêdro Seco e Pinto of the University of Coimbra in Portugal, the Vice President for Africa, Prof. Mounir Bouassida of the National Engineering School of Tunis and two members of TC17: Prof George Heerten of Germany and Mr. Serge Varaksin, Deputy General Manager of Menard Group, France and Chairman of T.C. 17. These

were complemented by three Ghanaian speakers made up of Prof S. I. K. Ampadu of the Civil Engineering Department of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology and President of GGS, Dr M. D. Gidigasua a renowned expert on lateritic soils and Togbui Kporoku III a Director of Conterra Ltd, a private Geotechnical Consulting firm.

The seminar consisted of two days of lectures and one day for a field trip. The lectures covered soil improvement techniques with and without additives, the improvement of soft soils, the principles and use of geosynthetics for soil improvement and the characteristics and improvement of lateritic soils. The third and final day of the seminar was devoted to a field visit to the Keta Sea Defence Project at a fishing town some 150 km east of Accra. During the field trip, Togbui Kporoku III took the participants through the history and content of the project which he said consisted primarily of the building of sea defense structures to stabilize the shores of the fishing town.



Among the three seminar participants from Nigeria was Dr. Samuel Ejezie who is the nominee for the next Vice President for Africa. The programme included a general assembly of GGS during which the ISSMGE President encouraged the Ghana Society to improve upon its membership and programmes and assured the society of the support of ISSMGE. The seminar was particularly significant in that it was the first high profile programme for the Ghana Geotechnical society in recent times and it also clearly showed the potential for the Ghana Society to grow.

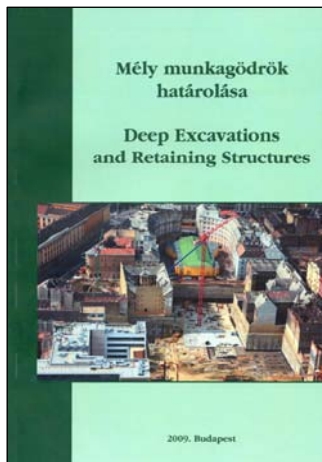
Reported by Dr. S.I.K. Ampadu (President), and S.K. AHAMADI (Secretary), Ghana Geotechnical Society.

News

ISSMGE International Seminar on Deep Excavations and Retaining Structures

The ISSMGE International Seminar on Deep Excavations and Retaining Structures organised by the Hungarian National Committee of ISSMGE was held at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics in Budapest from 4 to 5 February 2009. The Seminar attracted more than 120 participants from 8 countries.

Invited lecturers presented eleven 40-50-minute lectures. Of these, seven were given by foreign experts: Prof. Roger Frank, the European vice-president of ISSMGE (ENPC, France), Prof. Richard P. Ray (University of South Carolina, USA), Prof. Helmut F. Schweiger (Graz University of Technology, Austria), Dr. Lidija Zdravkovic and Prof. David M. Potts (Imperial College London, UK).



Four lectures were given by Hungarian professionals: Dr. Róbert Szepesházi (Széchenyi István University), Prof. József Farkas and Zoltán Czap (Budapest University of Technology and Economics), Tamás Kaltenbacher (HBM Kft.), and Csaba Pető (UVATERV ZRt.). Apart from the lectures, the participants and the lecturers had the chance to exchange their views on issues and problems related to the topics at several discussion sessions.

Subject matters of the lectures included the requirements of EUROCODE 7 as well as the relevant parts of design possibilities, the design practices and design possibilities of retaining structures and the experiences and the role of monitoring in construction of deep excavations. The possibilities of finite element modelling and possible solutions to issues arising with regard to calculations were dealt with in detail.

Based on the questionnaires submitted following the event, the participants were of the view that the event was of very high professional quality.

A 200-page proceedings entitled "Deep Excavations and Retaining Structures" has been edited by Dr. A. Mahler and Dr. L. Nagy on the lectures given at the seminar.

Reported by Dr. András Mahler, Secretary of ISSMGE Hungarian National Committee