

## News

### 6th NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOTECHNICAL AND GEOENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

The 6th National Conference on Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering took place at the city of Volos in Central Greece from Wednesday, September 29 until Friday, October 1, 2010. Taking into account the difficult economic conditions in the country the participation in the conference was very successful: 337-registered delegates and 47 members of the Organizing and Scientific Committees, guests, members of the Executive Committee as well as of the Civil Engineering Committee of the Technical Chamber of Greece. 226 papers were accepted and presented during the conference sessions.



The conference provided the opportunity to scientists working in the field of Geotechnical Engineering, researchers, designers, contractors, and public servants to present their results from research, the methods and technologies used to solve geotechnical problems, the experiences gained from the study, construction and supervision of small and large technical projects in our country over the past five years and generally to exchange views on matters on the general subject of Geotechnical Engineering.

At the Inaugural Meeting of the participants were welcomed by the President of the Regional Department of Magnesia of the Technical Chamber of Greece (TCG) Mr. Socrates Anagnostou, the Vice Rector of the University of Thessaly Professor Michael Zouboulis, the President of the Organizing Committee Dr. Spyros Kavounidis, and the President of the Hellenic Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering Dr. Christos Tsatsanifos, who gave tribute to the deceased prominent geotechnical engineers Aris Stamatopoulos, John Vardoulakis, Stavros Christoulas, George Pavlakis, and to Sergio Scianni, who was killed in the rockfalls accident in Tempi. Finally, Hercules Droulias, member of the Executive Committee of the TCG initiated the Conference

The Opening Session continued with the presentation of the Invited Lecture by Thanos Papayannakis, Professor of the University of Texas USA, on " Pavements: From Theory to Empirical Mode Design", followed by a session on the geotechnical problems of Magnesia Prefecture. Mr. Alexandros Alexandrou, Director of Technical Services of the Prefecture of Magnesia presented the paper on the "Geotechnical Problems of Magnesia", followed by presentations of papers related to other geotechnical problems of Magnesia.

On the afternoon of September 29 and up to the end of the conference works were conducted in parallel sessions in three halls.

Session 1: Behaviour of Geomaterials, Site and Laboratory Investigations. At the beginning of the session Professor Michael Kavvas presented the Special Lecture entitled "How Safe is (or should be) the Geotechnical Works".

Session 2A: Soil Dynamics - Soil structure interaction. At the beginning of the session Professor George Gazetas presented the Special Lecture entitled "Conditions of seismic collapse of foundation-structure systems: analysis and experiment".

Session 2B: Soil Dynamics - Effect of local conditions. At the beginning of the session Prof. Kyriazis Pitilakis presented the Special Lecture entitled "Strong Ground Motion in Real Geomorphological Conditions.

Session 3A: Slopes - Landslides. At the beginning of the session Dr. Spyros Kavounidis presented the Special Lecture "The 3rd dimension in slope stability.

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Photo 1 Emeritus Professor Theodossis Tassios honored by the President of the Hellenic Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering Dr. Christos Tsatsanifos

Session 3B: Slopes - Landslides. At the beginning of the session Professor George Tsiambaos presented the Special Lecture "Tempi Rockfalls: Presentation of the Report of the Technical Chamber of Greece Committee".

Session 4: Rock Mechanics. At the beginning of the session Professor Stavros Bandis presented the Special Lecture entitled "Prediction of mechanical behaviour of rock-mass in practice: Possibilities and Limitations."

Session 5: Cultural Heritage and Geotechnical Engineering. At the beginning of the session Emeritus Professor Th. Tassios presented the Special Lecture "Construction Projects and Clay in Ancient Greece" and then Dr. E. Aloupi presented the Special Lecture entitled "For the clay in ancient times". After his speech, Professor Th. Tassios was honored by the President of the Executive Committee of HSSMGE with the title of Honorary Member for his long and prosper presence in the field of Geotechnical Engineering and its contribution to support the objectives of HSSMGE.

Session 6B: Tunnels. At the beginning of the session Dr. Thalia Travasarou presented the Special Lecture entitled "Conclusions from the investigation of submerged tunnel lifting due to liquefaction of the surrounding soil".

Session 7: Reinforced Embankments. At the beginning of the session Mr. G. Constantinides presented the Special Lecture "Presentation of the guidelines of the EGNATIA ODOS S.A. for the design of reinforced embankment" and then Professor Dimitris Atmatzidis presented the Special Lecture entitled "Using EPS Geofoam in road construction".

Session 8: Goenvironmental Issues. At the beginning of the session Professor Marina Pantazidou presented the Special Lecture "Environmental Geotechnics: Prospects for application in Greece today".

Session 9B: Shallow and Deep Foundations. At the beginning of the session Dr. S. Nicolaou presented the Special Lecture entitled "Review of Foundations of Bridges on the East Coast of the United States: Past and Future".

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Session 10A: Soil Improvements. At the beginning of the session Professor George Bouckovalas presented the Special Lecture entitled "Surface foundation of bridge pier on liquefiable soil with controlled soil improvement".

Session 11: Southeastern Europe - Implementation of Eurocodes / Southeastern Europe - Application of the Eurocodes. At the opening session Emeritus Professor Andreas Anagnostopoulos presented the Special Lecture entitled «Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical Design Eurocode 7 - Geotechnical Design».

Session 12A: Dams - Non-reinforced Embankments. At the beginning of the session Dr. George Dounias presented the Special Lecture entitled "Long-term behaviour of dams".

Session 13: Teaching Geotechnical Engineering: The New Blood. Professor Marina Pantazidou made her introductory speech, followed by roundtable discussion with brief presentations by new faculty members teaching Geotechnical Engineering.

Closing Session: At the beginning of the session two Special Lectures were presented. Dr. Spyros Papaspyrou presented "Experiences from the 60's" and Mr. Elias Sotiropoulos "Geotechnical geotechnical experience and adventures". Then Manolis Vouzaras, Treasurer of the HSSMGE since its inception! in 1966, was honored by the President of the Executive Committee of the HSSMGE with the title of Honorary Member for his long and prosper presence in the field of Geotechnical Engineering and its contribution to support the objectives of HSSMGE.

Finally, Dr. Christos Tsatsanifos presented the Special Lecture on "Research - Design - Supervision Issues", and made the closing of the conference.

Alongside the conference we had a Technical Exhibition from companies with geosynthetic products, field and laboratory instruments, as well as consulting companies.



Photo 2 Entrance to the Conference Centre (buildings of an old brick factory)

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Photo 3 Delegates attending the conference sessions



Photo 4 Conference Secretariats

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Photo 5 Delegates during coffee breaks



Photo 6 Booth of the technical exhibition



Photo 7 Welcome evening reception