

NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE



NGM 2012 in Copenhagen, Denmark

The 16th Nordic Geotechnical Meeting (NGM), organized by the Danish Geotechnical Society (DGF), took place successfully from May 9th to 12th, 2012, with the participation of 255 delegates. The aim of the conference was to strengthen relationships between practicing engineers, researchers and scientists in the Nordic region.

For the first time this year, English was chosen as the official language in this series of conference. All information, Bulletins 1-3 and the conference website were prepared in English and speakers were requested to present in English. Most of the articles were written in English as well, although Swedish, Norwegian and Danish were also accepted.

It has always been the tradition to ask each Nordic country to provide one keynote speaker. However, this time, two keynote speakers were invited from outside the Nordic region, namely the US and the UK. The idea was to add relevant international input.

To put the NGM into its context, the European vice-president of ISSMGE, Prof. I. Vaniček, was invited to talk about the society's current activities.

Keynote speakers

On Thursday morning, Professor Paul W. Mayne of the Georgia Institute of Technology, US, gave an enthusiastic and interesting presentation on "Site investigation in the year 2012". Members of the audience are now familiar with the difference between a lab rat, a field mouse and a fruit bat, and they were also enlightened about the connection between a geotechnical conehead and the 20-year-old film 'Coneheads'.

On Friday morning, Dr. Brian Simpson, director of Ove Arup & Partners Ltd and honorary professor at the University of Nottingham, UK, delivered a thorough keynote presentation on "Eurocode 7- Fundamental Issues and Some implications for users" with a typical British sense of humour.

Reception at the Copenhagen City Hall, Wednesday evening

The reception took place at 6 pm at Copenhagen's City Hall. Chairman of the Danish Geotechnical Society, Anders T. S. Andersen, welcomed participants from the mayor's podium before a Danish buffet was served with the city hall's famous "Rådhuspandekager" (City Hall Pancakes). Afterwards, delegates had the opportunity to enjoy the nearby amusement park, Tivoli Gardens, on a sunny spring evening.



Professor Paul W. Mayne during his keynote presentation: "Site investigation in the year 2012".



Dr. Brian Simpson delivering his keynote presentation: "Eurocode 7 - Fundamental Issues and Some implications for users".

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Some pictures from the opening event of NGM 2012



Geotechnical networking at the City Hall and up in the air at the Tivoli Gardens.

Sessions during Thursday and Friday

After the review process, 95 papers and two keynote papers were accepted and presented during the proceedings. They were also provided on a USB key, which was included in the conference bag. The presentations by Paul W. Mayne, Brian Simpson, Ivan Vaniček and 49 others are now available as pdf files at www.ngm2012.dk.

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A total of 53 presentations were scheduled in two separate auditoriums. Each presenter was allocated 20 minutes and each session consisted of to 5 presentations. A hard copy of the detailed Technical programme was included in the conference bag. The programme will be available at www.ngm2012.dk throughout 2012. The general level of the presentations was high and the quality excellent and very professional. Sessions and chairmen on Thursday and Friday are summarized in the following table. Those chairmen together with Tivoli Congress Centre's technicians are deeply appreciated for their efforts to run sessions on time. Further appreciate is extended to Ms. Melena Schjøth from DIS Congress Service A/S, www.discongress.com. She provided the NGM 2012 with extremely professional assistance and has been involved in all the meetings over the last 3 years. Finally, the ISSMGE's European vice-president, Prof. Ivan Vaniček, informed the delegates about "ISSMGE activities and news".

Session	Session
Design parameters and modeling Ole Hededal	Environmental geotechnics Kirsten Luke
Design parameters and modeling Undita Kellezi	Sensitive clay Jørgen S. Steenfelt
Infrastructure projects Thomas C. Larsen	Ground improvement Stefan Larsson
Site investigations and laboratory testing Per Beck Laursen	Shallow and deep foundations Karl Henrik Mokkelbost
Site investigations and laboratory testing Jens Jørgensen	Deep excavations and retaining structures Niels Mortensen
Tunneling and underground structures Morten S. Rasmussen	Slope stability and landslides Anders Hust Augustesen



Morten Anker Jørgensen (to the left) introduces Prof. Ivan Vaniček



NGM in review



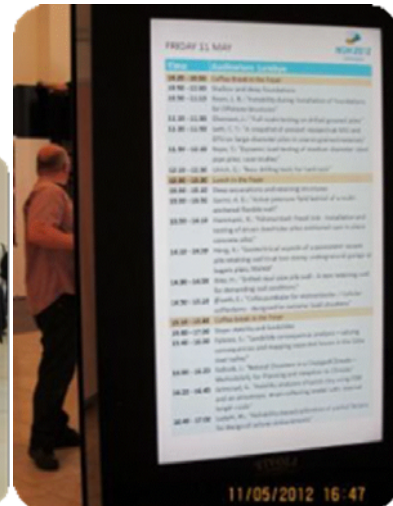
Henrik Møller, Sweden.

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Coffee and lunch breaks at the exhibition.



Ole Møller is given extra lessons by Brian Simpson. Info stand at the Tivoli Congress Center.



The two technicians at TCC



Niels Foged in good company

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Thursday evening's get-together

After a full day of sessions, two buses took people to Frilandsmuseet (The Open Air Museum) just north of Copenhagen. Here, ten small contests had been arranged and groups of delegates competed enthusiastically against each other. Afterwards, an authentic, old-fashioned dinner was served in an extremely sparingly lit barn. Although the rain stopped during the bus ride, several of the delegates had to dry their shoes due to the wet grass. We apologize for that and any inconvenience and hope that it did not spoil the experience. Many thanks to Marianne Bondo Hoff, Susanne Granhøj, Agnethe Mai Mikkelsen and Helle Trankjær for arranging this fun event.



Everything under control at Frilandsmuseet (The Open Air Museum)



Moving quickly but carefully!



The winning team no. 5.

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Friday evening's banquet

The banquet on Friday evening began with a tour of the harbours of Copenhagen. During our boat trip, we heard stories of the buildings we passed and anecdotes from Copenhagen's history, although some of the delegates found the construction sites more interesting. The tour boats took us to Arne Jacobsen's Langelinie Pavilion where the banquet was held. During dinner, Vivienne McKee entertained us with stories of the behaviour and (bad) manners of the Danes. After dinner, Ricardo's Jazzband played and some took the opportunity to try out the dance floor. Many thanks to Flemming Sejer Eriksen, Jane Lysebjerg Friis, Martin Møller, Lone Krogh and Pia Hald Sørensen for arranging the banquet.



Leaving for the banquet in Copenhagen's canal boats



Sailing past the Opera House.



Walking past the Little Mermaid near Langelinie Pavilion.



Jørgen Steenfelt as toastmaster and Vivienne McKee saying hello to Paul W. Mayne

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Technical visit on Saturday

To complete the NGM 2012, there was a visit to the Metro City Circle (MCC or, in Danish, Cityringen) early Saturday morning. The MCC is a new metro line with 17 underground stations in Copenhagen. The 15 km underground railway will link downtown Copenhagen, the “bridge quarters” and Frederiksberg and is expected to open in 2019. Thank you to John Frederiksen, Charlotte Lønborg and Carsten Bonde for arranging the technical visit.



Technical visit at the Metro City Circle Line (Cityringen)



Haraldur and Andres Jonsson leaving the TCC to prepare the next NGM.

Looking back over the NGM's past and forward to the next NGM in Iceland

The Nordic Geotechnical Meeting was held for the 16th time this spring. The first NGM was held in 1950 in Stockholm and the list below shows all of the meetings to date.



Haraldur S. extends an invitation to the next NGM in Iceland.

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During the banquet on Friday evening, Haraldur Sigursteinsson invited us to the next NGM in Reykjavik, Iceland. The dates will be announced later this year.

<i>NGM Number</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Country</i>	<i>Venue</i>	<i>No. of papers</i>
1	1950	Sweden	Stockholm	-
2	1954	Norway	Oslo	-
3	1958	Denmark	Copenhagen	-
4	1962	Finland	Helsinki	-
5	1966	Sweden	Göteborg	-
6	1970	Norway	Trondheim	-
7	1975	Denmark	Copenhagen	52
8	1979	Finland	Helsinki	70
9	1984	Sweden	Linköping	120
10	1988	Norway	Oslo	84
11	1992	Denmark	Aalborg	82
12	1996	Iceland	Reykjavik	90
13	2000	Finland	Helsinki	72
14	2004	Sweden	Ystad	95
15	2008	Norway	Sandefjord	70
16	2012	Denmark	Copenhagen	95

Organizing committee members

Morten Anker Jørgensen, Chairman

Helle Trankjær

Pia Hald Sørensen

Caspar Thrane Leth

Carsten Bonde