

NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE

SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PERFORMANCE-BASED DESIGN IN EARTHQUAKE GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

This conference was held in Taormina, on the 28th, 29th and 30th of May 2012, in a fantastic monastery environment of the San Domenico Hotel in Taormina of Sicily, Italy (Photos 1, 2 and 3). This conference was organized by Prof. Michele Maugeri under the auspices of ISSMGE, TC203 on Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Associated Problems (Prof. Kyriaziz Pitilakis as the chairman), and AGI (Italian Geotechnical Association).

Following the footsteps of the most successful PBD Conference held in Tokyo in 2009 and the 5th International Conference in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering held in Santiago (Chile) in 2010, the Taormina PBD 2012 Conference offered an ideal forum to present and discuss the most recent advances and progresses in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and in particular in the Performance Based Design. The Conference was organized around 5 State-of-the-Art, 21 Keynote Lectures, 4 Invited Lectures given by distinguished international experts and 100 presented papers on different topics over 141 selected ones; 3 Special Sessions were devoted to the mega Tohoku 2011 earthquake in Japan, and the two large devastating earthquakes in New Zealand (2011) and the Abruzzo 2009 earthquake in Italy (totally 14 speakers). Furthermore, one Workshop was organized on RRTT, Round Robin Tunnel Centrifuge Test (totally 6 speakers) and one Symposium in honour of Prof. S. Prakash (totally 5 speakers). Finally, a replication of Rankine Lecture was delivered by Prof. Malcom Bolton (University of Cambridge, UK) on the Performance-Based Design on Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering.

Totally, there were 155 speakers and 365 authors came from 29 countries. As concerns the SOA and the Keynote Lectures, the 26 speakers were: 7 from USA, 6 from Japan, 6 from Italy, 4 from Greece, 1 from Turkey, France and Chile.

The number of participants of the conference was in total 235, coming from 32 countries. Apart from the hosting country Italy (93 delegates), the most numerous participants came from Japan (26), together with Greece (21), USA (16), U.K. (10), Turkey (8), Canada (7), Germany (7), Portugal (5), India (4) and New Zealand (4).

The conference was opened with the addresses by prof. Pedro Seco e Pinto (on behalf of the President of ISSMGE), Prof. Kyriazis Pitilakis (Chairman of the Conference Scientific Committee), Prof. Michele Maugeri (Chairman of the Conference Organizing Committee), and Prof. Stefano Aversa (President of AGI, Italian Geotechnical Society).

The State-of-Art Lecturers were: K. Ishihara (Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan), M. Jamiolkowski (Politecnico of Torino, Italy), G. M. Calvi (University of Pavia and EUCENTRE, Pavia, Italy), G. Gazetas (National Technical University of Athens, Greece), and K. Pitilakis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece).



Photo 1 Main entrance of the conference venue



Photo 2 Technical exhibition in patio

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The Keynote Lecturers were: A. Ansal (Boğaziçi University, Turkey), A. Anastasiadis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece), K. H. Stokoe (University of Texas, USA), T. Kokusho (Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan), S. Foti (Politecnico of Torino, Italy), S. Kramer (University of Washington, USA), A. Elgamal (University of California, San Diego, USA), R. W. Boulanger (University of California, Davis, USA), J. Bray (University of California, Berkeley), E. Rathje (University of Texas, Austin, USA), I. Towhata (University of Tokyo, Japan), C. Di Prisco (Politecnico di Milano, Italy), K. Tokimatsu (Tokyo Institute of Technology, Japan), S. Yasuda (Tokyo Denki University, Japan), G. Bouckovalas (National Technical University of Athens), R. Paolucci (Politecnico of Milano, Italy, on behalf of A. Pecker), E. Cascone (University of Messina, Italy, on behalf of M. Maugeri), Y. Miyata (National Defense Academy of Japan), E. Kavazanjian (Arizona State University, USA), S. Rampello (University La Sapienza, Rome, Italy). R. Saragoni (University of Chile) was not available to present orally his keynote lecture.



Photo 3 Ongoing session in the main hall



Photo 4 Malcom Bolton, Rankine lecturer 2012, and Michele Maugeri, the conference organizer

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Detailed information on sessions is provided in the table shown below. Moreover, the participants were able to learn about experiences and lessons obtained from recent two big earthquakes in Japan and New Zealand. One more session was devoted to respect the long contribution of Prof. Shamsher Prakash to this field of study.

Session No.	Chair persons	Topic
1	Chairman: A. Ansal (Boğaziçi University, Turkey) Co-Chairman: A. Anastasiadis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece)	Case histories on ground motion and site effects
2	Chairman: K. H. Stokoe (University of Texas, USA) Co-Chairman: S. Foti (Politecnico of Torino, Italy)	Soil investigation with field and laboratory testing
3	Chairman: M. Cubrinovski (University of Canterbury, New Zealand) Co-Chairman: S. Lanzo (University La Sapienza, Rome, Italy)	Dynamic characterization and modelling
4	Chairman: S. Kramer (University of Washington, USA) Co-Chairman: D. Chodhury (Indian Institute of Technology, India)	Methodologies for performance-based design and codes
5	Chairman: J. Koseki (University of Tokyo, Japan) Co-Chairman: F. Silvestri (University Federico II of Napoli, Italy)	Physical modelling by shaking table tests and centrifuge tests
6	Chairman: R. W. Boulanger (University of California, Davis, USA) Co-Chairman: S. Yasuda (Tokyo Denki University, Japan)	Liquefaction
7	Chairman: A. Elgamal (University of California, San Diego, USA) Co-Chairman: C. Vrettos (Technical University of Kaiserslautern, Germany)	Numerical analyses for performance-based design
8	Chairperson: E. Rathje (University of Texas, Austin, USA) Co-Chairman: S. Rampello (University La Sapienza, Rome, Italy)	Slopes
9	Chairman: P. Seco e Pinto (University of Coimbra, Portugal) Co-Chairman: I. Towhata (University of Tokyo, Japan)	Embankments, landfills and dams
10	Chairman: G. Gazetas (National Technical University of Athens, Greece) Co-Chairman: R. Paolucci (Politecnico of Milano, Italy)	Shallow foundations and invited Lecture by A. Papadimitriou (University of Thessaly, Greece)
11	Chairman: W. D. L. Finn (University of British Columbia, USA) Co-Chairman: A. L. Simonelli (University of Sannio, Italy)	Pile foundations and invited lecture by G. Mylonakis (University of Patras, Greece)
12	Chairman: M. Maugeri (University of Catania, Italy) Co-Chairman: A. Papadimitriou (University of Thessaly, Greece)	Retaining wall and wharf structures
13	Chairman: S. Prakash (University of Missouri, Rolla, USA) Co-Chairman: E. Cascone (University of Messina, Italy)	Retaining wall and wharf structures
14	Chairman: D. Cazzuffi (CESI, Italy) Co-Chairman: P. Carrubba (University of Padova, Italy)	Earth reinforced retaining wall and invited lecture by J. Koseki (University of Tokyo, Japan)
15	Chairman: K. Pitilakis (Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece) Co-Chairman: F. Silvestri (University Federico II, Napoli, Italy)	Underground structures
Special session	Replication of the Rankine Lecture	Delivered by Prof. Malcom Bolton (Cambridge University, UK) (Photo 4)

Reported by

Francesco Castelli (General Secretary of the Organizing Committee),
Michele Maugeri (Chairman of the Organizing Committee), and
Ikuo Towhata (Chief Editor of ISSMGE Bulletin)