



International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

www.issmge.org

## A Message from the President

By Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto

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Related the recent developments of FIGS the first meeting between the Presidents of the Sister Societies with the attendance of the IAEG Secretary General took place in Paris on 6 February 2003. Since then several other meetings have taken place between the 3 Presidents and 3 Secretary Generals in Prague on 22 August 2003, in Lisbon on 28 January 2004, in Paris on 6 September 2004 and in Ghent on 18 February 2005.

A Joint European Working group on Professional Practice, Responsibilities and Cooperation in Ground Engineering had been established in June 2002, with 3 representatives of each Sister Society, and produced a report by June 2004 in which as a first step had defined the professional competences and expertise of the Sister Societies and a diagram illustrating the relationship between Soil Mechanics, Rock Mechanics and Engineering Geology within the broader field of ground engineering.

On January 2004, for the occasion of Lisbon meeting, a Joint Task Force (JTF) was created, with 3 representatives of each Sister Society, to analyze the mutual benefits from the establishment of an umbrella association to be also open to other allied societies. The Terms of Reference were drafted by the Presidents of the 3 Societies. The Secretaries General of the 3 Societies have participated in the Task Force as observers. The JTF has considered the following key areas of cooperation:

- i) The promotion of the geo-engineering profession;
- ii) Relevant technical issues, for which joint technical committees or commissions would be formed;
- iii) Education in geo-engineering;
- iv) The development of jointly sponsored conferences;
- v) Other initiatives of co-operation (publications, awards).

The JTF has delivered an interim report by the end of July 2004 and the final report by mid-February 2005. At the Council Meeting in Osaka, 11 September 2005, it was agreed to continue developing the idea of a Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies. Subsequently meetings between the 3 Presidents and the 3 Secretaries General took place in Paris on 11 November 2005, in Amsterdam on 12 May 2006, in Nottingham on 6 September 2006, with also the attendance of the Immediate Past president of ISSMGE. For the occasion of the meetings in Paris and in Amsterdam the Cooperation Agreement was discussed.

Meetings between the 3 Presidents and the 3 Secretaries General took place in Lisbon on 22 January 2007 and in Paris on 9 June 2007, with the attendance of the Immediate Past Presidents of ISSMGE and IAEG and in London on 22 January 2008 with the attendance of the 3 Immediate Past Presidents. In these meetings the process of approval of Cooperation Agreement by IAEG, ISRM and ISSMGE, the drafting of the Cooperation Agreement Sub-Clauses, the Joint Technical Committees and the International Year of Planet Earth activities were discussed. I should like to stress the excellent spirit of co-operation during these meetings.

It is important to recall that in the preamble of the Cooperation Agreement is stated: “*The presidents of ISSMGE, ISRM, and IAEG propose to start up FIGS in an informal way and only take the decision to modify it to a full legal status (including a set of By-laws) after one or two periods (of 2 years each) if it shows that such a formal status is indispensable for a proper functioning of FIGS. Such formalization will then need the explicit approval of the Councils of the three organizations.*”

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## A Message from the President (continued)

By Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto

*The present approval of FIGS Statutes by the three associations will formally commit the three associations to the existence and functioning of FIGS as outlined in the statutes. This means that FIGS has an "internal" legality. FIGS Statutes will, for the time being, only play a role in the relation between the three Members (and any newly admitted and/or Associated Members if these also approve the statutes) and describe and define the structure of cooperation. Due to the presently proposed informal status no decisions will have to be taken yet on compliance with any national legal system".*

The Federation is founded that each of the participating associations/societies will retain its identity and autonomy.

FIGS Agreement also defines the guidelines of Joint Technical Committees their terms of reference, how and where they shall meet and how they shall report. A proposal for the installation of a Joint Technical Committee shall contain the following items:

- proposed title;
- the technical question(s) to be addressed;
- justification: how important is it that the questions are answered and why is this a task for FIGS;
- terms of reference: definition of the broad terms of reference, with a list of the tasks to be performed, reports to be presented and a well defined time schedule;
- suggestion with one or more names for the chairperson of the JTC.

The Federation Board may appoint Joint Technical Committees for a maximum term of office of 4 years.

Joint Technical Committees are composed by a chairperson, core members (together with the chair forming the core-group), co-opted members and corresponding members.

The following Joint Technical Committees were established:

JTC1- Landslides and Engineered Slopes, JTC2- Representation of Geo-Engineering Data, JTC3- Education and Training, JTC4- Professional Practice, JTC5- Sustainable Use of Underground Space, JTC6- Ancient Monuments/Historical Sites, JTC7- Soft Rocks and Indurated Soils. JTC1, JTC2, JTC4 are hosted by ISSMGE, JTC3, JTC5 and JTC6 are hosted by IAEG and JTC7 is hosted by ISRM.

Since Osaka Council meeting the Member Societies were kept informed about FIGS by: (i) my messages in ISSMGE News and Bulletin and La letter de la Géotechnique; (ii) my meetings with the Member Societies; (iii) my letters to the Member Societies; (iv) through Regional Vice Presidents; and (v) through the documents sent and particularly for the occasion of ISSMGE Council meeting in Brisbane.

The IAEG Council meeting took place in Nottingham on 6 September 2006 for the occasion of the 10 IAEG Conference and the FIGS Agreement was approved by 43 votes in favor, 10 votes against and 1 abstention.

The ISRM Council meeting took place on 7 November 2006 in Singapore and the FIGS Agreement was approved by unanimity.

The ISSMGE Council meeting took place in Brisbane on 21 October 2007 for the occasion of 7<sup>th</sup> ANG Conference and the FIGS Agreement was approved by 46 votes in favor, 5 votes against and 1 abstention. In this meeting I have also informed the Council that Prof. William Van Impe was a candidate for FIGS president, but respecting the democratic principles the Societies were invited to put forward nominations for the candidacy of the President of FIGS, until 21 December 2007. As I have received from several Societies a letter of support to William candidature and no other candidature I have informed the Board by end of December 2008 and William Van Impe was declared the official candidate of ISSMGE for FIGS president.

For FIGS president election there were 2 candidates Prof. Ricardo Oliveira, proposed by IAEG and ISRM, and Prof. William Van Impe. As in January 2008 an e-mail ballot had been held which resulted in a tied vote of 3 votes for each candidate, a second voting took place in February. The six ballot papers were returned in sealed envelopes. The opening and counting was done in a manner that ensured complete anonymity. The result of the ballot was:

Ricardo Oliveira - 2 votes  
William Van Impe - 3 votes.

There was one ballot paper with no preference expressed (blank paper).  
William Van Impe, having received the majority of votes was duly elected as President of FIGS.

On behalf of ISSMGE I have congratulated William Van Impe for his election as FIGS president and wished him all the success.

Knowing him as well as we does, we expect William to bring to the position, unrestrained energy, devotion and new vision for the development of FIGS. Two very important Joint Technical Conferences organized by ISSMGE will take place in 2008: (i) the First International Conference on Education and Training in Geo-Engineering Sciences in Constantza, Romania, 2-4 June 2008, organized by the Romanian Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in cooperation with JTC 3 Education and Training and ETC 16; and (ii) the 10<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Landslides and Engineered Slopes, in Xian, China, June 30- July 4, under the auspices of JTC1- Landslides and Engineered Slopes. I strongly believe that these events will be an opportunity to better explore the synergies between ISSMGE, ISRM and IAEG and will bring a new vision and strategy for the developments of these themes.

The excellent contributions from the 3 Societies can be considered pieces of the same chain and will contribute for a better divulgation of the very fast developments in geotechnical engineering.

## A Message from the President (continued)

By Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto

In a world that moves in the direction of the global village it is very important the universality of the knowledge and the need for a permanent renewing. It is important to communicate, to share experiences, to compare methodologies and to monitor the results. The benefits of an open dialogue between the academicians, the researchers, the practitioners, contractors and owners are huge. We should not forget that it is not the lack of knowledge that provoke problems, but our obstinacy in having certainties.

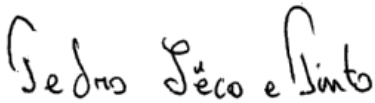
Over the past years a number of developments have taken place and FIGS will be an opportunity and momentum to capitalize on the potential benefits. Joining our efforts we will reach our goals and targets and develop our capacity to transform the projects in actions. But we should always recognize the importance of dialogue, the benefits of consensus and pursue perfection to reach the optimum solution. In a geotechnical world that every day transform and advance we face new challenges that demands great care and rigor, the role of ISSMGE is to explore new ways, supporting the Core values and models for excellence and being a continuous source of inspiration for today and tomorrow.

To all ISSMGE members I express a word of praise and gratitude for your contribution, wishing that ISSMGE continue to be a space of scientific interaction, sharing of experiences and launching of innovative ideas to open new avenues.

I should like to transmit a message of hope remembering the lines of Aristotle.

“We are what we do  
Consistently,  
So the excellence  
Is not an act  
But a practice.”

Thank you very much for your kind attention and co-operation.



ISSMGE President

## In Memoriam

### Ralph B. Peck (1912-2008)



Ralph B. Peck, Professor Emeritus of Foundation Engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign died of congestive heart failure on February 18, 2008, at his home in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was born in Winnipeg, Canada, to his American parents, Orwin K and Ethel Huyck Peck on June 23, 1912.

Ralph Peck earned a Civil Engineering Degree in 1934 and Doctor of Civil Engineering Degree in 1937, both from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, New York. In 1938-39 he attended the Soil Mechanics course at Harvard University and was a laboratory assistant to Arthur Casagrande. From 1939 to 1942 Peck was an assistant subway engineer for the City of Chicago, representing Karl Terzaghi who was a consultant on the Chicago Subway Project. He joined the University of Illinois in 1942, and was a Professor of Foundation Engineering from 1948 to 1974. Since 1974, Professor Peck was a Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois, and a consultant in geotechnical engineering. In 1948, together with Karl Terzaghi, Ralph Peck co-authored the most influential text book in geotechnical engineering, /Soil Mechanics in Engineering Practice/. In 1953 with Walt Hanson and Tom Thornburn, Ralph Peck co-authored the widely used text book /Foundation Engineering./

In 1942, Dr. Peck joined the Civil Engineering Department of the University of Illinois, where he remained as a teacher and mentor until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1974. After moving to Albuquerque, Dr. Peck continued his active consulting practice which included jobs in forty-four states in the USA and twenty-eight countries on five continents. His more than one thousand consulting projects include: the rapid transit systems in Chicago, San Francisco, and Washington; the Alaskan Pipeline System; the James Bay Project in Quebec; and the Dead Sea dikes. He authored over 250 technical publications, and served as the President of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering from 1969 to 1973. In 1974, he was awarded the National Medal of Science by President Ford. A few of his many honors include the Norman Medal, The Wellington Prize, and the Outstanding Lifetime Achievement Award in Education from the American Society of Engineers. His last project was the Rion-Antirion Bridge in Greece. It received the ASCE's OPAL Outstanding Civil Engineering Award for 2005, and is the only project outside the United States to be so honored. Ralph Peck married Marjorie E. Truby on June 14, 1937. He is survived by his daughter and son-in-law, Nancy Peck (Allen) Young, and son and daughter-in-law, James (Laurie) Peck, and grandchildren, Michael Young and Maia Peck.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to:  
 Ralph B. Peck Geotechnical Engineering Fund  
 Univ. of Illinois Foundation  
 1305 West Green Street, MC-386  
 Urbana, Illinois, 61801.

## In Memoriam of Professor Ralph B. Peck

By Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto, The President of ISSMGE

To Mrs. Nancy Peck Young and Family

It is a great loss for the entire geotechnical world the physical disappearance of Ralph B. Peck. In this moment of great sadness I convey my condolences and deep sympathy in my personal name and on behalf of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical to Nancy Peck Young and Family.

Ralph Peck was a man of prodigious energy and fine intellect, an outstanding geotechnical engineer, an extraordinary master, a distinguished citizen and a twinkling light for all of us. A genial thinker, Ralph Peck was one the bright talents that have enlighten the Geotechnical Engineering road. We are indebted for his outstanding contribution for the advancement of knowledge in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering and his legacy will maintain for many generations and will always be a source of great inspiration for all geotechnical engineers.

Prof. Ralph B. Peck was a frequent Keynote Speaker at International Conferences of geotechnical engineering and we were always listening to his fascinating lectures with great interest and pleasure, as they were challenging and opening new avenues of research. In the treatment with people, in the devotion and patience in interacting and educating the young generation, in the strength of his character, in the sensitiveness and affability of his behavior, we can discover a Man coated for a special mission.

Ralph Peck has oriented his existence for a great and noble ideal and has always taughted us that the correct method to learn science is to pursue the discovery of the scientific truth.

His legacies where the Scientist, the Professor and the Engineer are integrated in one soul, where the beauty and the truth give friendly their hands, totally justify the applause and the debt of gratitude of the current and next generations.

With best regards.

## TC Activity

### TC 5: Environmental Geotechnics

Technical Committee TC-5 on Environmental Geotechnics started up in 1992, under the ISSMGE presidency of prof. Norbert R. Morgenstern, reflecting the increasing need and interest of environmental disciplines among the geotechnical engineering community. Prof. John Nelson was the first chairman, followed by prof. Hans Jessberger, prof. William Van Impe and prof. Rolf Katzenbach (co-chairs), prof. Charles Shackelford and prof. Mario Manassero (co-chairs), and prof. Manassero (current chairman).

A series of International Congresses specifically devoted to Environmental Geotechnics (ICEG) were organised, the first one in Edmonton (Canada) in 1994, followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> ICEG in Osaka (1996), 3<sup>rd</sup> ICEG in Lisbon (1998), 4<sup>th</sup> in Rio de Janeiro (2002), 5<sup>th</sup> in Cardiff (2006). The 6<sup>th</sup> ICEG will be held in New Delhi in 2010. TC-5 offered workshops and technical sessions at several international and regional ISSMGE conferences, where TC-5 chairmen were also invited to give general or special lecture on environmental geotechnics.

There are currently 40 TC-5 members, from both academic and professional world. They are from 29 Countries of all Continents. The current TC-5 core members are: Marcio Almeida (Brasil), Abdelmalek Bouazza, (Australia), Antonio Gens (Spain), Jean-Pierre Gourc (France), Stephan Jefferis (United Kingdom), Takeshi Katsumi (Japan), Charles Shackelford (USA) and Peter Van Impe (Belgium).

The TC-5 Committee now covers a broad range of topics related to environmental geotechnics; its current terms of reference are as follows:

1. To promote co-operation and diffuse the knowledge in the area of environmental geotechnics.
2. To promote advancements in research activities, professional applications and standardization in the field of environmental geotechnics.
3. To cooperate and contribute to the organization of congresses, conferences and symposia specifically devoted to the environmental geotechnics or other venues incorporating relevant part of it.
4. To establish co-operation and exchange of knowledge with national, international, public and private institutions for increasing visibility and promoting the environmental geotechnics skills and experiences.
5. To promote environmental geotechnics skills in order to get involvement in preparation and updating of laws and regulations by government agencies and public institutions.
6. To contribute to the advancement of new technologies for alternative energy sources, pollutant control and disposals.
7. To promote sustainable environmental geo-technology applications and to share knowledge between countries.

#### Recent Activities

One of the main and most demanding activities of the TC-5 during the last years was to prepare a TC-5 report devoted to environmental geotechnics. The report is a scientific and technical state of the art addressed to practitioners and researchers in the field of environmental geotechnics. The report was officially presented at the 5<sup>th</sup> ICEG (Cardiff, 2006). It consists of seven chapters: 1. Design basics and performance criteria; 2. Managing contaminated sites; 3. Traditional and innovative barriers technologies and materials; 4. Underwater geo-environmental issues; 5. Landfill design within seismic areas; 6. Research and education; 7. Nuclear waste disposal.

TC-5 was involved in the organisation of sessions related to environmental geotechnics at the XVI ICSMGE, Osaka (2005); a half-day workshop on Environmental Geotechnics was held at the same conference, during which a draft version of the TC5 report was presented and discussed among participants. TC-5 was also deeply involved in organising the V ICEG (Cardiff, UK, 26-30 June 2006): a Congress Advisory Committee was created to deal with the scientific program, people on the stage, paper reviewers, etc. The theme of the congress was: "Sustainable Development: Issues, Challenges, and Responsibilities of Environmental Geotechnics". All the TC5 core-members and task-force leaders contributed as paper reviewers and some of them as speakers or lecturers.

TC-5 cooperated with IGS in organising the session "Landfill liners on slopes" at the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geosynthetics (Yokohama, Japan, 18-22 September 2006). TC-5 collaborations in organizing conferences were also given to the last Pan-American Conference of Soil Mechanics Geotechnical Engineering (Isla Margarita, Venezuela, July 2007) and to the XIV African Regional Conference (Yaoundé, Cameroon, November 2007).

The XXI Geotechnical Engineering Conference (Torino, Italy, November 2007) devoted to "Geosynthetics and Environment" and the Touring Lecture on Environmental Geotechnics (Lagos, Nigeria, January 2008) were specifically organised by TC-5.

#### Current and future activities

An additional chapter to the TC-5 report on "Regulations and technical guidelines" is now in progress. It is focused on collecting, analyzing and summarizing the state of the art of the official regulations, technical recommendations and guidelines available worldwide on waste disposal and remediation of polluted soils.

## TC Activity

### TC 5: Environmental Geotechnics

A fruitful cooperation with the International Geosynthetics Society is in progress, resulting from the more and more frequent use of geosynthetics in environmental geotechnics.

TC-5 will contribute (by organising sessions, workshops and/or training lectures) to the following events:

- GeoAmericas 2008 - 1<sup>st</sup> Pan-Am Geosynthetics Conference - Cancun, Mexico, 2-5 March 2008, [www.geoamericas.info](http://www.geoamericas.info)
- GeoCongress 2008 "The Challenge of Sustainability in the Geoenvironment" - New Orleans, USA, 9-12 March 2008, [www.asce.org/conferences/geocongress2008](http://www.asce.org/conferences/geocongress2008)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference on Geosynthetics, Geosynthetics Asia 2008 - Shanghai, China, June 2008, [www.4acg-2008sh.com/english](http://www.4acg-2008sh.com/english)
- Geo-Environmental Engineering Workshop, GEE 2008 - Kyoto, Japan, 12-14 June 2008.
- 4<sup>th</sup> European Geosynthetics Conference, EuroGeo4 - Edinburgh, UK, 7-10 September 2008, [www.eurogeo4.org](http://www.eurogeo4.org)
- 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE - Alexandria, Egypt, 5-9 October 2009 - "The Academia & Practice of Geotechnical Engineering". [www.2009icsmge-egypt.org](http://www.2009icsmge-egypt.org)
- Workshop on "Chemo-Physical and Hydro-Mechanics Phenomena in Environmental Geotechnics", Ghent (Belgium), spring 2009.
- 6<sup>th</sup> ICEG - New Delhi, India, October 2010.



Prof. Hywel Thomas (5<sup>th</sup> ICEG Chairman) during the 5<sup>th</sup> ICEG opening ceremony



Prof. L. De Mello (4<sup>th</sup> ICEG Chairman) , Prof M. Davies (Chair of British Geotechnical Association), Dr. D. Cazzuffi (IGS Past-President), prof. M. Manassero (TC5 Chairman) and prof. P. Seco e Pinto (ISSMGE President) during the 5<sup>th</sup> ICEG opening ceremony.

*Reported by Evelina Fratolocchi, secretary of TC5*

## Activity of Member

### Asia

#### 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

The 13<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held at ITC Sonar Bangla Sheraton and Towers, Kolkata on 10-14 December 2007. The preparations for the Conference had been going on for the best part of last three years. The conference was supported - technically and financially - by the industry and the civil engineering profession in a big way. 470 delegates - 260 from India and 210 from abroad - participated in the conference.

Delegates came from Bangladesh, China, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Nepal, Pakistan, South-east Asia, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Brazil, Germany, France, Turkey, Russia, UK and USA

The Inaugural function of 13<sup>th</sup> ARC 2007 was held at 9 a.m. on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The function was presided over by Prof. Pedro Seco E Pinto, President, ISSMGE. Dr. E. Sreedharan, Managing Director, Delhi Metro Rail Corporation Ltd was the Chief Guest. Also present on the dais were Dr. M. R. Madhav, Vice-President for Asia, Er. Mahavir Bidasaria, President, IGS, Dr. Neil Taylor, Secretary-General, ISSMGE, the Chief Patron Shri B. D. Mundhra, Dr. N. Som, Chairman, Organizing Committee and Dr. K.S. Rao, Secretary.

The highlights of the conference were the presentation and discussion of 271 papers from all over Asia and the rest of the world. There were eighteen technical sessions covering the fourteen chosen themes of the conference. A large number of authors - nearing 200 - were given the opportunity to make oral presentation of their papers. The plenary sessions saw invited presentations by ten keynote speakers.

The pre-conference Proceedings - Volume 1 were published in two parts. This contained all the 271 papers presented at the conference. The post - conference volume containing the keynote lectures, proceedings of technical sessions and other relevant details of the conference will be published by August 2008

A technical exhibition was held to display materials, processes, equipment and software development in geotechnical engineering. Thirty two organizations from India and abroad took up stalls in the exhibition.

An Industry-academia interactive session on the theme "Characterizing the ground" was held on the last day of the conference in a plenary session. Three speakers from industry and three from the academics gave their views on need for close interaction between field and academics.

Nine TC/ATC meetings were held in separate sessions during the conference. These were organized by the respective technical committees of ISSMGE and the Asian Region. These were highly successful in focusing attention on specific issues relates the themes of the concerned technical committees.

The Asian Societies' meeting was held on 11 December 2007. This was attended by representatives from all member societies of the Asian region. Hong Kong was chosen as the venue for the 14<sup>th</sup> ARC to be held in 2011.

Apart from the technical activities of which there were plenty a welcome reception was held for the delegates on the hotel lawns on 10<sup>th</sup> December evening. A cultural programme giving a glimpse of the rich tradition of Indian music and dance was presented at the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre on 11<sup>th</sup> December. A gala banquet on 13<sup>th</sup> December gave an opportunity to delegates to mix freely and interact outside the technical surroundings. Visits to Santiniketan, Mayapur Iskcon temple and a Kolkata City tour were organized for the delegates on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2007.



Lighting up the lamp



The Asian Societies' meeting

## Activity of Member

### Africa

#### 14<sup>th</sup> African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering Yaoundé November 26<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

The 14<sup>th</sup> ARC on SMGE was held at Palace of congress in Yaoundé (Cameroon). This event was attended by about three hundred (300) Cameroonian participants; eighty (80) African representative and twenty two (22) overseas participants.

The attendees are originated from twenty five (25) African countries and five (5) non African countries.

How to find out solutions for problems posed when dealing with projects of construction on soils of Africa? This was the main question for which African geotechnical engineers tried to answer.

Replying to such a question in Africa it is worth noticed, first, a big variety of soils is encountered: laterites, soft clays, swelling soils are just few examples of soils. Second, the variety of projects is not the main point in Africa, rather, geological conditions, on one hand, as natural slopes, cavities, etc and climatic facts, on the other hand, as dryness areas, torrential rains are serious factors which influence significantly the behaviour of projects.

Five keynote lectures were presented by Professors:

- J.P. Magnan (France) on "The influence of geotechnical engineering on construction works".
- B. Indraratna (Australia) on "Vacuum consolidation of soft clay via vertical drains and associated design charts".
- G.E. Ekodeck (Cameroon) on "Geology and geotechnique for management of hazards, natural risks and disasters.
- A.T. Visser (South Africa) on "Low volume roads".
- A.G. Coelho (Portugal) on "The added value of geology in site investigation".

During eight oral sessions , after presented and discussed case histories it came out the encountered geotechnical problems are mainly due either to insufficient or to bad designed soil investigations. For affected projects occasioned reparation and rehabilitation are certainly with high cost. For this reason, it is compulsory to enhance the competence of African geotechnical engineers by attracting more engineers and geologists in well valorised profession by actors from civil engineering, management of natural risks and environment fields. With better background, much matured African geotechnical engineers will endeavour, politically and technically, for rentable construction projects. It results the benefit of economical impact for involved countries with emphasis on environmental aspect more and more required.

Further, due to hard economical situation faced by some African countries, African geotechnical engineers have to set up technical solutions in concordance with local conditions. That was the case in Kenya of unpaved road, in difficult accessible site with rainy climate, built by carrying out a simple construction technique by using available local materials. The 14<sup>th</sup> ARC was the occasion to organize several educative sessions aimed at interesting themes, as geotextiles and deep foundations in which a large number of engineers and technicians from the industry participated. Also two African geotechnical engineers exposed two recently published books. All these facts show the motivation to promote the development of geotechnical engineering both in Africa and worldwide.

As first recommendation, more scientific and technical meetings should be held in the African region by geotechnical engineers in view of a better implication in pointing out and solving geotechnical challenges. African geotechnical engineers will collaborate much better within a new created regional technical committee with theme "Problematic soils of Africa". Due to its location in the centre of Africa and its two language speaking (English and French) Cameroon will host, first, this technical committee. Nevertheless, all competent African geotechnical engineers, having good motivation, are welcomed to animate this new vehicle of development.

During the meeting, held on November 25<sup>th</sup> 2007, of ISSMGE African membership societies

It was voted the venue 15<sup>th</sup> edition of ARC on SMGE at Maputo (Mozambique) 2011.

See you in Maputo, and Good Bye.



*The 14<sup>th</sup> African Regional Conference for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering*

## Activity of Member

### Africa

#### Geotechnical Engineering in Africa - An Overview

Since 1997, the African region was represented in ISSMGE by ten member societies. Recently, in May 2007, Mozambique became the eleventh African society (Congratulations). From 2003 to 2007 total African members in ISSMGE remain under 5% of total number of adherents worldwide. Per country (or society) the number of members in ISSMGE is mostly constant. However countries like Tunisia and Egypt endeavoured to increase their subscription.

The crucial problems faced by African Geotechnical Societies can be classified as follows:

1. Membership in ISSMGE is not strong. Only eleven (11) societies, among 54 independent countries, are official ISSMGE members.
2. Because of different reasons, only seven countries (e.g. societies) are active in ISSMGE. Unpaid (in arrear) fees make, by law, a society inactive. Therefore, the effectiveness of membership, both in Africa and worldwide, is too low (by 10%).
3. Communication between all African members is not good. Then, collaborative actions are missed.
4. African geotechnical engineers are not attending frequently the international events (conferences, lectures).

African geotechnical engineers need some actions to overcome such uncomfortable situation. As first action, membership in ISSMGE should be increased despite inconveniences encountered by very active but non official society like Algeria. Also, African membership should be encouraged since a minimum membership of thirty was stated recently in ISSMGE by law. Such results will be attained when African societies will launch more and more activities within the region. As a matter of fact, in the period 2005-2007 the number of national or international (seminars, courses, touring lectures, Young geotechnical engineering conferences) events, held essentially in (or by) Algeria, CTGA, Nigeria, South Africa and Tunisia, is remarkable. For the period 2007-2009 other actions will certainly enhance the potential of geotechnical engineering in Africa. For instance, the recent creation of the first African regional technical committee (ARTC) in which African specialists will undertake common concerns as related to construction on problematic soils of Africa. Such a RTC will be hosted officially by an African ISSMGE member for the period (2009-2013). Further, more collaborative actions might be projected after identification of potential centres for education, training and research activities in African countries. Setting up a data base of these centres will be helpful for African geotechnical engineers.

A look on the evolution of African Regional Conference (ARC) on SMGE will highlight how African geotechnical engineers (GE) are moving. Indeed, analysing statistics through 1999 to 2007 over three ARC, the following status comes out.

1. The number of papers in ARC published exclusively by African GE, without collaborative overseas authors, is slightly increasing. In average it represents the two third of total number of papers.
2. Papers published (in ARC proceedings) by African societies is, in average, 83% of total number of papers. Thirteen African societies (or countries) often participate in this achievement. Algeria, Egypt, Côte d'Ivoire, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa and Tunisia are permanently participating and attending the ARC.

For the period 2008-2009 several events on geotechnical engineering are scheduled to be held in African countries. The biggest and likely latest one is the venue in Egypt (Alexandria) of 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE preceded by the ICYGE. These facts witness that Africa is, slowly but surely, going forward for the emancipation of geotechnical engineering culture. That is a way for development in Africa.

*Reported by Professor Mounir Bouassida, Vice President of ISSMGE for Africa (2005-2009)*

## News

## Thailand: A New Member Society of ISSMGE

## Thai Geotechnical Society

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President: Dr. Watcharin Gasaluck (watgas@kku.ac.th)  
 Secretary General: Dr. Pongsakorn Punrattanasin (ppunrattanasin@gmail.com)

## The workshop on Ground Improvement Techniques

The workshop on ground improvement techniques jointly organized by the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society (SLGS) under the ISSMGE Touring Lecture Programme held at Hotel Galdari on 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December 2007. The two-day workshop was held very successfully with around 100 participants. There were three presenters from overseas and two from Sri Lanka. The workshop was organized as a part of the ISSMGE touring lecture program.

Prof. Pedro Sêco e Pinto (Portugal) - the President of ISSMGE explained about the worldwide activities of the ISSMGE and how the members of Member Societies could actively participate in them through the various technical committees. He made presentations on: In situ Ground Improvement Techniques without adding elements and Ground Improvement by Compaction Grouting and Chemical Treatment. Prof. Georg Heerten (Germany) made presentations on; Improvement of Filtration and Drainage of Soils with Geosynthetics and Improvement of Bearing Capacity of Soils with Geosynthetics. Prof. Buddhima Indrarathna (Australia) made presentations on; Engineering of Ground by Preloading & Vertical Drains and Improvement of Soft Clays by Vacuum Consolidation with Vertical Drains. Prof. Athula Kulathilaka (Sri Lanka) made presentations on Experiences on laboratory studies on the improvements of soft peaty clays in Sri Lanka and on the Use of Deep Mixing method for the improvements of soft clays. Dr. Kamal Dissanayaka (Sri Lanka) made a presentation on the experiences in the improvement of soft peaty clays in the southern expressway project. Prof. Madira Madhav (India), the Vice President Asia of ISSMGE could not make it due to flight problems. But his presentations on Preloading and Vertical drains and Granular Piles-construction, design and behaviour are available in the proceedings of the workshop.

A special feature of the workshop was the active participation of the audience in long discussion sessions. Participants made maximum use of the opportunity clarifying doubts they had on novel methods of ground improvement by having a direct dialogue with the experts present.



*The workshop on ground improvement techniques*

*Reported by Dr. Athula Kulathilake*

## Event Diary

### ISSMGE SPONSORED EVENTS

#### 2008

The 3rd International Conference on Site Characterization  
Date: 1 - 4 April 2008  
Location: Taipei Int. Conv. Center, Taipei, Taiwan  
Contact person: An-Bin Huang (abh Huang@mail.nctu.edu.tw)  
Website: www.elitepc.com.tw/ISC3/

VI International Symposium Geotechnical Aspects of  
Underground Construction in Soft Ground - IS- Shanghai  
2008  
Date: 10 - 12 April 2008  
Location: Shanghai, China  
Contact person: Dr. Xiongyao Xie (secretary@tc28-  
shanghai.org) Website: www.tc28-shanghai.org

2nd International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering  
for Disaster Mitigation and Rehabilitation- GEDMAR08  
Date: 30 May - 2 June 2008  
Location: Nanjing, China  
Contact person: Dr. An Deng (GEDMAR08@hhu.edu.cn)  
Website: www.GeoHohai.com/GEDMAR08

1st International Conference on Education and Training in  
Geo-Engineering Sciences (2-4 June)  
Date: 2 - 4 June 2008  
Location: Constantza, Romania  
Organizer: Romanian Soc SMGE, JTC3  
Contact person: Iacint Manoliu (manoliu@utcb.ro) Nicoleta  
Radulescu (nicoleta@utcb.ro)  
Website: www.ppm.ro/srfg

International Geotechnical Conference "Development of  
Urban Areas and Geotechnical Engineering"  
Date: 16-19 June 2008  
Location: Saint Petersburg, Russia  
Contact person: Dr. Michael Lisyuk (mbl@georec.spb.ru)

10th International Symposium on Landslides and  
Engineered Slopes  
Date: 30 June - 4 July 2008  
Location: Xi'an, China  
Contact person: Zuyu Chen (chenzy@iwhr.com)  
Website: www.landslide.iwhr.com

E-UNSAT 2008: First European Conference on Unsaturated  
Soils  
Date: 2 - 4 July 2008  
Location: Durham University, Durham, UK  
Organizer: Durham & Glasgow Universities  
Contact person: Dr Charles Augarde (e-unsat@durham.ac.uk)  
Website: www.e-unsat.dur.ac.uk/

1st International Conference on Transportation  
Geotechnics  
Date: 8-10 September 2008  
Location: Nottingham, UK  
Contact person: Ed Ellis (tc3conference@nottingham.ac.uk)  
Website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/ncg/

19th European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference  
Date: 4 - 5 September 2008  
Location: Gyor, Hungary  
Contact person: Dr Eموke ImreE-mail:  
issmge@ymmfk.szie.hu; imreemok@hotmail.com

5th International Geotechnical Seminar- Bored and Auger  
Piles  
Date: 8 - 10 September 2008  
Location: Ghent, Belgium  
Contact person: Prof. William Van Impe  
E-mail: william.vanimpe@ugent.be

Stress Wave 2008 - 8th International Conference on the  
Application of Stress Wave Theory to Piles  
Date: 8 - 10 September 2008  
Location: Lisbon, Portugal  
Contact person: Prof. Jaime Santos (sw2008@civil.ist.utl.pt)  
Website: www.civil.ist.utl.pt/sw2008

11th Baltic Sea Geotechnical Conference - Geotechnics in  
Maritime Engineering  
Date: 15 - 18 September 2008  
Location: Gdansk, Poland (BC11@pg.gda.pl)  
Website: www.pg.gda.pl/~BC11

4th International Symposium on Pre-Failure Deformation  
Characteristics of Geomaterials and Symposium on  
Characterization and Behavior of Interfaces  
Date: 21 - 24 September 2008  
Location: Global Learning Center, Atlanta, Georgia, USA  
Contact person: Glenn J. Rix (glenn.rix@ce.gatech.edu)

IV International Conference on Scour and Erosion 2008  
Date: 5-7 November 2008  
Location: Chuo University, Tokyo, Japan  
Contact person: Professor Sekiguchi  
(sekiguch@ujigawa.mbox.media.kyoto-u.ac.jp)  
Website: icse-4.kz.tsukuba.ac.jp/

6th Asian Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference - Next  
Generation Geotechnics (20 - 21 December)  
Date: 20 - 21 December 2008  
Location: Indian Inst. Science Campus , Bangalore, India  
Contact person: Prof. TG Sitharam  
(sitharam@civil.iisc.ernet.in)  
Website: civil.iisc.ernet.in/~igc2008/

#### 2009

International Symposium on Prediction and Simulation  
Methods for Geohazard Mitigation  
Date: 25 - 27 May 2009  
Location: Kyoto Internat. Conference Ctr , Kyoto, Japan  
Contact person: Prof. F. Oka  
E-mail: foka@mbox.kudpc.kyoto-u.ac.jp  
Website: nakisuna2.kuciv.kyoto-u.ac.jp/tc34/is-kyoto/

IS-Tokyo 2009 - International Conference on Performance-  
Based Design in Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering -  
from case history to practice  
Date: 15 - 17 June 2009  
Contact person: Dr Y Tsukamoto (ytsoil@rs.noda.tus.ac.jp)  
Website: www.rs.noda.tus.ac.jp/ytsoil/IS2009.htm

## Event Diary (continued)

The 3rd International Geotechnical Symposium (IGS2009) on Geotechnical Engineering for Disaster Prevention and Reduction (22-25 July)  
 Date: 22 - 25 July 2009  
 Location: Harbin, China  
 Contact person: Professor MC Zhao,  
 E-mail: maocai@mail.ru, zhao\_maocai@sohu.com  
 Website: igs2009.hit.edu.cn

XVII International Conference for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering  
 Date: 5 - 9 October 2009  
 Location: Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Alexandria, Egypt  
 Website: www.2009icsmge-egypt.org/

### NON-ISSMGE SPONSORED EVENTS 2008

GEESD IV - Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics IV  
 Date: 18 - 22 May 2008  
 Location: Sacramento, California, USA  
 Contact person: Ross W. Boulanger  
 (rwboulanger@ucdavis.edu)  
 Website: www.geesd.org

International Conference on Geotechnical and Highway Engineering  
 Date: 26 - 27 May 2008  
 Location: Seri Pacific Hotel , Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
 Contact person: Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nurly Gofar  
 (geotropika2008@spaceutm.edu)  
 Website: seminar.spaceutm.edu.my/geotropika2008

2nd British Geotechnical Association Conference on Foundations- ICOF2008  
 Date: 24 - 27 June 2008  
 Location: University of Dundee, Dundee, Scotland, UK  
 Contact person: Dr. Michael Brown  
 E-mail: m.j.z.brown@dundee.ac.uk  
 Website: www.dundee.ac.uk/civileng/icof2008

33rd International Geological Congress  
 Date: 4 - 15 August 2008  
 Location: Oslo, Norway  
 Contact person: 33rd IGC  
 Website: www.33igc.org

6th International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering  
 Date: 11 - 16 August 2008  
 Location: Washington, D.C., USA  
 Contact person: CShamsher Prakash (prakash@umr.edu)  
 Website: www.6icchg2008.org

4th European Geosynthetics Conference, Edinburgh, UK  
 Date: 7 - 10 September 2008  
 Organizer: UK Chapter of the IGS  
 Website: www.eurogeo4.org/eurogeo4/index.htm

12th International Conference - Geotechnics 2008  
 Date: 10 - 12 September 2008  
 Location: Vysoké Tatry, Slovakia  
 Contact person: Ing. Nora BADIKOVÁ  
 E-mail: orgware@mail.t-com.sk

XII International Conference of IACMAG  
 Date: 1 - 6 October 2008  
 Location: India  
 Contact person: Dr. D. N. Singh (dns@civil.iitb.ac.in)  
 Website: www.12iacmag.com

NUCGE 08: International Conference on Numerical Computation in Geotechnical Engineering  
 Date: 27-29 October 2008  
 Location: University of Skikda, Skikda, Algeria  
 E-mail: larmacs@univ-skikda.dz, nucge08@gmail.com  
 Website: www.univ-skikda.dz

GEOAGE - Advances in Geotechnical Engineering - IGC 2008 (17-19 December)  
 Date: 17 - 19 December 2008  
 Location: Bangalore, India  
 Contact person: Prof. TG Sitharam  
 E-mail: igc2008@civil.iisc.ernet.in  
 Website: civil.iisc.ernet.in/-igc 2008

### 2009

GeoHunan International Conference: Challenges and Recent Advances in Pavement Technologies and Transportation Geotechnics  
 Date: 3 - 6 August 2009  
 Contact person: Dar Hao Chen, PhD, PE  
 E-mail: dchen@dot.state.tx.us

## Editorial Remarks

The editorial board is pleased to send the ISSMGE members ISSMGE Bulletin Vol.2, Issue 1 in March 2008, which includes a message from the President, a memoriam of Professor Ralph B. Peck, regional conference report and activities. Contributions from member societies and Technical Committee are very much welcome. Any comments to improve the Bulletin are also welcome. Please contact a member of editorial board or Vice-President for the region, or directly e-mail to Osamu Kusakabe (kusakabe@cv.titech.ac.jp).

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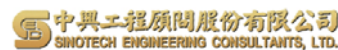
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