

# 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

Alexandria, Egypt — 5–9 October 2009

## The Academia and Practice of Geotechnical Engineering

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*Chairman, 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE Organizing Committee*

The 17<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE) was held in the lovely city of Alexandria on the beautiful coast of the Mediterranean Sea from 5 through 9 October 2009. Alexandria, which was built for Alexander the Great in 332-331 BC, is a culturally diverse city of ancient and modern attractions with a European influence. The city extends about 32 km along the north central coast of Egypt and is 220 km from Cairo. Around 80 percent of all of Egypt's imports and exports pass through the Alexandria port.

The 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE was held at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina. Constructed with the largest diaphragm wall circle in the world, The Bibliotheca Alexandrina is a revival of the ancient Great Library of Alexandria (built in 288 BC and operating until 412 AD), which established the city as the greatest scientific and intellectual center in the world at that time.

### 1 ICSMGE OPENING CEREMONY

The 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE was opened with an address from Prof. Mamdouh Hamza, the chairman of the conference. Prof. Pedro Seco e Pinto, president of the ISSMGE, then welcomed the delegates on behalf of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, and Eng. Ahmed El Magraby, Egypt's Minister of Housing, Utilities and Urban Development, extended an official welcome to Egypt to the conference participants. Mr. Adel Labib, the Governor of Alexandria, and a representative of Egypt's Minister of Irrigation and Water Resources added their enthusiastic support to the conference and also extended their good wishes to the delegates in Alexandria.



17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE Opening Ceremony



Opening Ceremony Speakers Table

### 2 PARTICIPATION

The conference attracted 1341 geotechnical and ground engineering academics and practitioners from 86 countries, with the largest number of participants (108) hailing from Japan. Africa was also well represented with 144 participants from 16 countries across the continent. Eighty-one participants from Egypt, the host country, joined their international colleagues in Alexandria.

#### 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE Attendance

Number of Countries	86
Largest Participation from Japan	108
Participation from Africa (16 countries)	144
Participation from Host country	81
No. of Participants	983
No. of Students	75
Exhibitor Personnel	82
Accompanying Persons	201
Total Number of Participants	1341

#### Country Breakdown of ICSMGE Participants

	Country	Participants
1	Albania	7
2	Algeria	4
3	Argentina	7
4	Australia	35
5	Austria	6
6	Bangladesh	2
7	Belgium	11
8	Brazil	33
9	Bulgaria	3
10	Cameroon	4
11	Canada	25
12	Chile	6
13	China	67
14	Colombia	5
15	Congo	2
16	Costa Rica	7
17	Croatia	10
18	Czech Republic	7
19	Denmark	4
20	Dominican Republic	1
21	Ecuador	1
22	Egypt	81
23	Estonia	3
	Country	Participants
24	Ethiopia	2

25	Finland	10
26	France	46
27	Georgia	1
28	Germany	35
29	Ghana	1
30	Greece	21
31	Hong Kong	12
32	Hungary	4
33	India	16
34	Indonesia	3
35	Iran	15
36	Iraq	3
37	Ireland	3
38	Italy	34
39	Japan	108
40	Jordan	4
41	Kazakhstan	4
42	Korea, Republic of	32
43	Latvia	1
44	Lebanon	5
45	Libya	9
46	Lithuania	1
47	Macedonia	3
48	Malaysia	11
49	Mexico	16
50	Morocco	3
51	Mozambique	2
52	Netherlands	27
53	New Zealand	10
54	Nigeria	13
55	Norway	11
56	Oman	1
57	Pakistan	2
58	Panama	1
59	Peru	1
60	Poland	12
61	Portugal	16
62	Qatar	1
63	Romania	8
64	Russian Federation	28
65	Senegal	2
66	Serbia	1
67	Singapore	5
68	Slovakia (Slovak Republic)	2
69	Slovenia	6
70	South Africa	9
71	Spain	17
72	Sri Lanka	1
73	Sudan	4
74	Sweden	6
75	Switzerland	8
76	Taiwan	13
77	Thailand	7
78	Tunisia	6
79	Turkey	10
80	Ukraine	7
81	United Arab Emirates	10
82	United Kingdom	17
83	United States	57
84	Venezuela	1
85	Chad	1
86	Ivory Coast	1

### 3 SCIENTIFIC PROGRAM

The conference organizing committee received 803 abstracts from authors wishing to present their ideas and experiences at the conference. Of these, 688 papers representing 69 member societies were selected for presentation.

Five excellent State-of-the-Art Lectures were presented during the first two days of the conference. On the opening day, Prof. Paul Mayne gave a lecture on the topic Material Behaviour and Testing and Dr. Brian Simpson presented a lecture covering Analysis and Design. Dr. Arsenio Negro opened Day Two of the conference with his lecture on Prediction, Monitoring and Performance. Professors Chu Jian and Mark Jaksa then followed with their lectures addressing the topics of Construction Processes and Management, Training and Education, respectively. A spectacular Heritage Lecture was also delivered on Day Two by Dr. Zahi Hawass, Director of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities.

Delegates also enjoyed two distinguished Great Project lectures presented on Day Two: Prof. Michele Jamiolkowski discussed the site characterization and geotechnical problems faced in safeguarding Venice from high tides and Mr. Wolfgang Brunner described the development of foundation construction techniques during the past 5,000 years. The Practitioners/Academia Forum, led by Prof. William Van Impe and Prof. Mamdouh Hamza on the opening day, enabled participants to explore and debate the collaborative efforts required to achieve geotechnical and construction successes.

17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE Program Statistics

State-of-the-Art Lectures	5
Contributors to SOA Lectures	18
Heritage Lecture	1
Great Project Lectures	2
Practitioners/Academia Forum	1
Technical Sessions	15
General Reporters	16
Panelists	45
Short Presentations	180
Total Speakers	260



Plenary Session Day 1



Terzaghi Orator Prof. Harry Poulos receiving the certificate from Prof. Pedro Seco e Pinto



Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud the new president of ISSMGE shaking hands with Prof. Pedro Seco e Pinto the president of ISSMGE



Kevin Nash Gold Medalist Prof. Sven Hasbro receiving the medal from Prof. William van Impe



Session Presenter

#### 4 SATELLITE CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Sixteen Satellite Conferences and Workshops were held before or during the conference. The list below shows the Technical Committees, Joint Technical Committees, and Regional Technical Committees that organized the events.

- TC 4 Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering
- JTC 2 Geo-Engineering Data: Representation & Applications
- TC 8 Frost Geotechnics
- TC 19 (Joint) Preservation of Historic Sites/
- JTC 6 Ancient Monuments/Historical Sites
- TC 23 Limit State Design in Geotechnical Engineering
- TC 38 Soil Structure Interaction
- TC 34 Prediction & Simulation Methods in Geomechanics
- TC 2 Physical Modelling in Geotechnics
- TC 5 Environmental Geotechnics
- ATC 17 Solid Waste Management in Geo-environmental Engineering
- TC 6 Unsaturated Soils
- TC 17 Ground Improvement
- TC 28 Underground Construction in Soft Ground
- TC 29 Laboratory Stress Strain Strength Testing of Geomaterials
- JTC 7 Joint Technical Committee on Soft Rocks & Endurated Soils
- JTC 3 Education & Training

#### 5 FOURTH INTERNATIONAL YOUNG GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERS CONFERENCE (4iYGEC)

The 4iYGEC began in Alexandria at the El Mahrousa Hotel two days before the main conference. The 4iYGEC participants then attended the State-of-the-Art and Special Lectures on the first two days of the ICSMGE. On 6 October, Prof. Fatma Baligh, the chairperson for the 4iYGEC, along with three selected 4iYGEC participants presented a briefing on the events of the young engineers' conference to the 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE participants.

#### 6 SOCIAL EVENTS

Following the first day of the ICSMGE program, a Welcome Reception was held for all conference participants and their accompanying persons at the Qaitbay Citadel. The conference's Gala Dinner was held the next night in the Tea Garden of Salamlek Palace in Montazah, once the summer residence of King Farouk, Egypt's former ruler. The gala dinner was attended by around 700 people.

An Egyptian Cultural Evening was held at Antoniadis Gardens in central Alexandria on the evening of 8 October, where attendees, who included most conference participants and their accompanying persons, were able to experience the sights, sounds, and tastes of Egypt.



Gala Dinner, 6 October 2009





Cultural Evening, 8 October 2009



Stand Set-up, West Exhibition Hall

## 7 PROGRAM FOR ACCOMPANYING PERSONS

Persons accompanying conference registrants to Alexandria were able to participate in various organized tours in and around Alexandria, as well as attend the evening social events. The tours were quite popular, as represented by the number of participants:

Alexandria National Museum & Qaitbay Citadel	65
Roman Amphitheatre, Catacombs & Pompey's Pillar	52
Bibliotheca Alexandrina	44
Underwater City of Cleopatra	3
Excursion to Rosetta (Rashid)	34
Excursion to Al Alamein	23
Over-day visit to Cairo	38

## 8 TECHNICAL VISITS

Five visits to geotechnically interesting sites were organized for interested conference participants on 9 October. The following table shows the number of people who participated in the visits:

Alexandria Port	242
East Port Said Port	21
Cairo Metro	26
Giza Pyramids Archaeology	297
Aswan Dams	8

## 9 TECHNICAL EXHIBITION

Forty-three companies participated in the technical exhibition held in parallel to the 17<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE. The companies included developers and manufacturers of software, instruments and equipment, geosynthetics, geotextiles, contractors, consultants, and technical book publishers.

Software	8
Instrumentation & Geotechnical Testing Equipment	18
Contractors	7
Geosynthetics & Geotextiles	4
Consultants	4
Publishers	2
Total	43

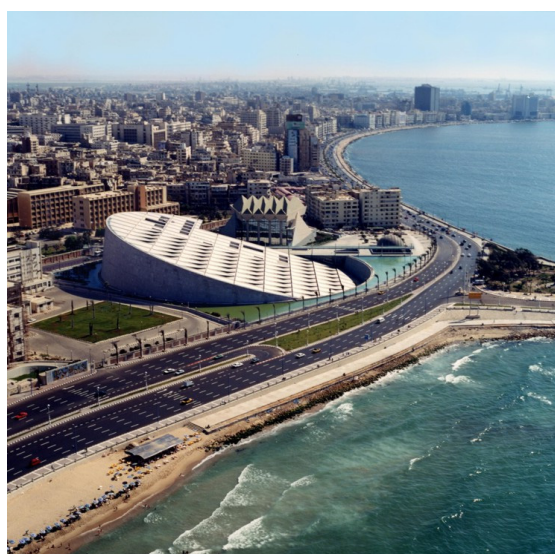
The conference in Alexandria brought together academics and practitioners from around the globe who share an interest in geotechnical engineering and working together to develop innovative ideas that will contribute to the future successes in our profession and the built environment in which we all live.



East Exhibition Hall



Level B1 Open Exhibition Area



Bibliotheca Alexandrina – Venue for the 17th ICSMGE