

Activity of Member



Hungarian National Committee

Hungarian National Committee of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering is pleased to announce the election on 20th of January 2010 of the President, Prof. József Mecsi, and Secretary, Dr. András Mahler. The Secretary of the Hungarian Society is based at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Department of Geotechnics and the e-mail contact address is: contact@issmge-hungary.net.

- **XVIth Károly Széchy Memorial Session and XIXth Geotechnical Evening Forum**

The Hungarian National Committee of the Internal Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) jointly with the Geotechnical Section of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers (MMK) organized the XVIth Károly Széchy Memorial Session on 12th February, 2010 at the Great Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, with over 250 persons attending the event.



This series of festive gatherings has been highlighted from the beginnings by lectures delivered by the most illustrious professors paying tribute to the memory of the Hungarian professor, Károly Széchy. This year, the guest speaker from abroad was Professor William Van Impe (Ghent, Belgium), president of ISSMGE from 2001 to 2005, and currently president of the Internal Association of Geoengineering Societies (FIGS).

The home speaker was Dr. Erno Biczók, invited professor at the Budapest University of Technology, formerly head of the Geotechnical Laboratory at the same University, and later technical director of the GTU Engineering Bureau in Hannover, Germany.

Traditionally, a young engineer who has excelled as the best junior speaker at the annual national geotechnical conference is offered the opportunity to introduce himself by a lecture at the memorial session. This year the candidate was Zoltán Káposztás from Geoplan Ltd.

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The topics of the lectures were:

William Van Impe (Belgium, president of FIGS): Analysis of observations and experience on underwater dam construction on soft subsoil.

Erno Biczók (GTU Hannover): Reinforcement and heightening of coastal flood control dams in Northern Germany.

Zoltán Káposztás (Geoplan Ltd.): An evaluation of numerous static pile loading tests from recent motorway construction in Hungary.

The two main lectures addressed the intriguing topic of underwater construction of dams and reinforcement of flood defence dams. This topic is of particularly high importance in Hungary. This country has very special hydrogeological conditions due to its being situated in the Carpathian basin, which is one of the most confined basins of the Earth, with inadequate drainage and thus exposure to ever present flood hazards hydraulic.

Following the traditions, the Károly Széchy memorial plaque and prize was awarded, this year to Dr Béla Balázs. Professor Dr Márta Doležalová, director of Dolexpert-Geotechnika, Pague, was awarded the honorary Károly Széchy prize.



In the photo from left to right:

Dr. József Mecsi, president of Geotechnical Section of MMK, president of National Committee of ISSMGE, Dr. Béla Balázs, Károly Széchy prize winner, Dr. Márta Doležalová, decorated with honorary Károly Széchy prize, Mrs Barsi Etelka Pataky, president of MMK, István Lazányi, honorary president of Geotechnical Section of MMK.

The professional events were concluded by an informal dinner with more than 200 participants having a good time together in very friendly atmosphere. Joyful spirits of the evening was enhanced by the toasts and the amusing speeches given by the recipients of the awards and the main speakers.

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Széchy Memorial Lecturers in the past:

1994 Fazakas György (Budapest), Mistéth Endre (Budapest),
 Varga László (Gyor), Heinz Brandl (Wien), Farkas József (Budapest)
 1996 Kovári Kálmán (Zürich)
 1997 Varga László (Gyor), Lazányi István (Budapest)
 1998 Heinz Duddeck (Braunschweig), Greschik Gyula (Budapest)
 1999 Ulrich Smoltczyk (Stuttgart), Scharle Péter (Budapest)
 2000 Dulácska Endre (Budapest), Marta Doležalová (Praha)
 2001 Robert Mair (Cambridge), Müller Miklós (Budapest)
 2002 Michele Jamiolkowski (Torino), Nagy János (Budapest)
 2003 Jubilee memorial lecture (BME-MTA) James K. Mitchell (Blacksburg, VA)
 Mecsi József (Budapest), Posgay György (Budapest), Träger Herbert (Budapest)
 2004 Suzanne Lacasse (Oslo), Szepesházi Róbert (Gyor)
 2005 Lothar Martak (Wien), Szabó Imre (Miskolc)
 2006 Seco e Pinto (Lisboa), Szilvágyi Imre és Szilvágyi László (Budapest)
 2007 Serge Varaksin (Párizs), Klados Gusztáv (Budapest and Kuala Lumpur)
 2008 Roger Frank (Párizs), Soós Gábor (Budapest)
 2009 Rudolf Katzenback Juhász József (Miskolc)

For a history of the Széchy Memorial Lectures, and a biography of Professor Széchy, please see
<http://www.issmge-hungary.net>

Reported by . J. Mecsi (ISSMGE HNC)
 President of the HNC ISSMGE