

CONFERENCE REPORT

International Symposium on Ground Technology and Geo-Information (IS-AGTG), Singapore, 1-2 Dec 2011

The International Symposium on Ground Technology and Geo-Information (IS-AGTG) was successfully held in conjunction with the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS) in Singapore between 1 and 2 Dec 2011. This symposium continues the information technology theme established at the First International Conference on Information Technology in Geo-Engineering (ICITG) that was held in Shanghai, 16-17 September 2010. IS-AGTG was organized by the Geotechnical Society of Singapore, National University of Singapore, and Tongji University, China.

The growth of mega cities has been particularly dramatic across parts of Asia. The need for quality living space coupled with the increasing density of infrastructural development poses unprecedented challenges and opportunities for the geo-industry. The purpose of this international symposium is to provide a platform to showcase recent advances in ground technology and geo-information systems that can promote more creative exploitation of underground space/systems while improving safety, productivity, economy, and harmony with the natural environment.

The symposium was opened by Professor Kok-Kwang Phoon, Chair of IS-AGTG (Photo 1), Professor Yun Bai, Tongji University (Photo 2), and Professor Askar Zhussupbekov, ISSMGE Vice-President for Asia (Photo 1). It was also graced by the Chair of Joint Technical Committee 2 (JTC2) on Representation of Geo-Engineering Data in Electronic Form, Professor David Toll (Photo 3), and the Chair of Asian Technical Committee 10 (ATC10) on Urban Geo-informatics, Professor Mamoru Mimura (Photo 4). Highlights of the symposium include 8 keynote lectures and 7 invited lectures organized under the auspices of ATC10.



Photo 1
(from left to right) Professor Askar Zhussupbekov, VP for Asia, ISSMGE, and Professor Kok-Kwang Phoon, Chair of IS-AGTG, at the opening ceremony



Photo 2
Professor Yun Bai, Tongji University delivering his keynote lecture

In the 1st morning, Professor Mamoru Mimura (Japan) delivered Keynote Lecture 1 entitled "Development of Geoinformatic Databases and their Application to Geotechnical Problems". The second keynote lecture was presented by Professor António Gomes Correia (Portugal) on "Application of Data Mining in Transportation Geotechnics". After lunch, Professor Tarek Abdoun (USA) presented an interesting Keynote Lecture 3 on "Advanced Real-time Monitoring and Health Assessment of Geotechnical Systems". Keynote Lecture 4 was presented by Professor Yun Bai (China) on "Recent Development of Underground Engineering in Shanghai".

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Photo 3

Professor David Toll, Chair of Joint Technical Committee 2 (JTC2) on Representation of Geo-Engineering Data in Electronic Form, at one of the Q&A sessions



Photo 4

Professor Mamoru Mimura, Chair of Asian Technical Committee 10 (ATC10) on Urban Geo-Informatics, delivering Keynote Lecture 1

On the 2nd day, Keynote Lecture 5 was given by Professor Thiam-Soon Tan (Singapore) on "Innovative Approaches to Land Reclamation in Singapore". Keynote Lecture 6 was presented by Professor Tadashi Hashimoto (Japan) on "New Technologies for Shallow to Deep Underground Construction in Urban Area". Professor Chungsik Yoo (South Korea) delivered the Keynote Lecture 7 on "Bringing Information Technology into Geotechnical Engineering Practice: Concept and Development". Professor Victor Li (Hong Kong) delivered Keynote Lecture 8, in which he spoke on "Recent Development of Jacked Piling in Hong Kong". The following exhibitors also participated in the symposium: Datgel, Keller Foundations (S.E. Asia), Ryobi Geotechnique International, and Sea and Land Technologies.

The proceedings of IS-AGTG contains 58 technical papers from 17 countries (Australia, Austria, China, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Malaysia, Portugal, Singapore, Taiwan, Turkey, United Kingdom, and United States). Topics covered are: urban geo-informatics, innovative construction methods, new design method and new test technology, numerical methods for geo-engineering, data acquisition and monitoring, database and data mining, case studies with innovative technology, geo-modeling and geo-informatics, and emerging techniques in information technology.

At the closing of the symposium, Professor Jun Otani invited the delegates to the International Workshop on Information and Communications Technology in Geo-Engineering, which is scheduled to be held on 17-18 May 2012 in Kyoto, Japan. On behalf of Uzbekistan Geotechnical Society, Professor Askar Zhussupbekov invited the participants to the 4th Central Asian Geotechnical Symposium which will be held on 21-23 September 2012 in Samarkand, Uzbekistan. Professor Askar also participated in the 4th Annual General meeting of GeoSS. He made a presentation about MPAC of ISSMGE and invited corporate members from GeoSS to consider enrolling as Corporate Associates and Foundation Donors of ISSMGE.

Professor David Toll, Chairman of JTC2 (Photo 3) graciously delivered the closing address for the symposium.