

# SLGS NEWSLETTER

SRI LANKAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY

A Member Society of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)

Established in 1986

## A Message from the Editor

2015 October: No 8

Dear Readers,

It is with great pride I announce the successful completion of ICGE Colombo 2015. Over 300 participants including over 150 foreign participants from all over the world presented their research work in three parallel sessions which spans for two days on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 in Cinnamon Grand Hotel Colombo. It is remarkable to note that the parallel sessions were almost house full while some sessions have been overcrowded. Keynote speeches were made by Prof. Harry Poulos, Prof. Buddhima Indrarathna, Prof. Kerry Rowe, Dr. John Endicott and Eng. Ken Ho. In this edition of the SLGS newsletter, I wish to share some highlights of the ICGE Colombo 2015 with you.

In addition, the details of the Annual General Meeting of SLGS which was held on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at the ICTAD auditorium are also presented.

Dr(Eng). L. I. N. de Silva - Editor Newsletter  
Email: nalinds@uom.lk

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The following keynote speeches were delivered at the conference.

**Design Challenges for Tall Building Foundations** by Prof. Harry Poulos.

**Ground Improvement for Enhanced Performance of Road, Rail and Port Infrastructure** by Prof. Buddhima Indrarathna.

**Protecting the Environment with Geosynthetics** by Prof. Kerry Rowe.

**Deep Excavations in an Urban Setting – Lessons Learnt from Past Experiences and Failures** by Dr. John Endicott.

**Advances in Landslide Risk Management and Slope Engineering** by Eng. Ken Ho.

In addition to the technical sessions, the participants enjoyed a complementary Colombo city tour, which was arranged prior to the conference and the conference banquet, which was held on 10<sup>th</sup> night at the Kingsbury Hotel. The participants were given an opportunity to experience a glimpse of unique Sri Lankan cultural heritage at the banquet. Some participants joined the overnight tours which were organized after the conference. Some highlights of the conference are presented in the following section.

## Highlights of ICGE- Colombo 2015

The International conference in Geotechnical Engineering (ICGE – Colombo 2015), organized by SLGS was successfully held on 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> August 2015 at the Cinnamon Grand Hotel. The theme of the conference was “Geotechnics for Sustainable Development”. After a thorough reviewing process, 135 papers (23 local and 112 international) were selected for publication.

A breakdown of the papers is presented in the following table. Abstracts of the papers are available at [www.slgs.lk](http://www.slgs.lk) website.

| Theme                          | Oral Presentations | Poster Presentations |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Case Histories                 | 4                  | 4                    |
| Design for Earthquakes         | 6                  | 1                    |
| Experimental Studies           | 16                 | -                    |
| Foundations                    | 8                  | -                    |
| Geo Environmental Studies      | 5                  | 2                    |
| Geotechnical Modelling         | 12                 | 5                    |
| Ground Improvements            | 13                 | 7                    |
| Investigations                 | 4                  | 1                    |
| Retaining Walls                | 3                  | -                    |
| Rock Engineering and Tunneling | 11                 | 2                    |
| Slope Stability                | 14                 | 3                    |
| Transportation Infrastructure  | 10                 | 4                    |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>106</b>         | <b>29</b>            |
| <b>Grand Total</b>             |                    | <b>135</b>           |

Over 350 local and foreign participants registered for the conference. Among them there were around 150 Foreign participants who came from Australia, Brazil, Canada, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand, Norway, Pakistan, Portugal, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand and USA.

Oral presentations were made in three tight parallel sessions.



The grand inauguration of the ICGE 2015

## Highlights of ICGE-Colombo 2015 (Contd..)



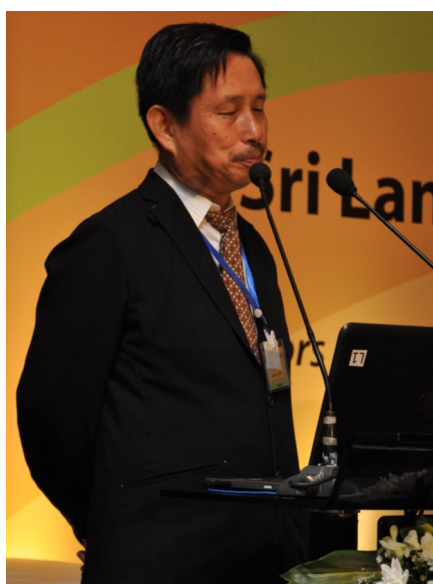
Lighting of the traditional oil lamp



Dr. U. P. Nawagamuwa introducing the head table



A section of the enthusiastic participants on the opening day



Welcome speech by the President of SLGS, Prof. Athula Kulathilaka (Left), speech by the ISSMGE Asia Vice President Prof. Ikuo Towhata (middle) and the vote of thanks by the General Secretary of SLGS, Eng. K.L.S. Sahabandu (Right).

## Highlights of ICGE-Colombo 2015 (Contd..)



Prof. Harry Poulos delivering his Keynote Speech (Left) and a Past President of SLGS, Prof. B. L. Tennekoon presenting a token of appreciation to Prof. Harry Poulos (Right).



Prof. Buddhima Indrarathna delivering his Keynote Speech (Left) and the President of SLGS, Prof. Athula kulathilaka presenting a token of appreciation to Prof. Buddhima Indrarathna (Right).



Prof. Kerry Rowe delivering his Keynote Speech (Left) and the Asia Vice President of ISSMGE, Prof. Ikuo Towhata presenting a token of appreciation to Prof. Kerry Rowe (Right).



Dr. John Endicott delivering his Keynote Speech (Left) and a the General Secretary of SLGS, Eng. K. L. S. Sahabandu presenting a token of appreciation to Dr. John Endicott (Right).



Eng. Ken Ho delivering his Keynote Speech (Left) and a Past President of SLGS, Eng. Kithi Senanayake presenting a token of appreciation to Eng. Ken Ho (Right).



A section of the participants at the closing ceremony

## Some glimpses at the conference banquet



## Annual General Meeting of SLGS 2015

The AGM of the SLGS for the year 2015 was held on 30th September at the ICTAD auditorium. The following committee was newly elected at the AGM.



Prof. S A S Kulathilaka  
(President)



Eng. K L S Sahabandu  
(Vice President)



Eng. K S Senanayake  
(Past President)



Prof. B L Tennekoon  
(Past President)



Dr. J S M Fowze  
(Secretary)



Eng. M S M Uzair  
(Committee Member)



Eng. W A A B Bandara  
(Treasurer)



Eng. R M Rathnasiri  
(Assistant Treasurer)



Dr. H.G.P.A. Ratnaweera  
(Editor- Journal)



Dr. L I N De Silva  
(Editor- Newsletter)



Prof. H. S. Thilakasiri  
(Committee Member)



Dr. A Karunawardhana  
(Committee Member)



Dr. U P Nawagamawa  
(Committee Member)



Dr. N H Priyankara  
(Committee Member)



Eng. Ms. Inoka D S Samarasinghe  
(Committee Member)

In addition to the executive committee, the following personnel were appointed as committee representatives from different organizations from the industry.

University of Peradeniya: Dr L C Kurukulasuriya  
 NBRO : Eng Mr. L N Pallegama  
 CECB : Eng (Ms) K A Chathuri Madhushanka  
 ELS : Eng (Ms) JR Manel Shashikala  
 RDA : Eng S H U De Silva

## Forthcoming Conferences

- The 15th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering -New Innovations and Sustainability, Monday 09 November 2015 - Friday 13 November 2015, Fukuoka International Congress Center, Fukuoka, Kyushu, Japan, <http://www.jgskyushu.net/uploads/15ARC/>
- International Conference on Soft Ground Engineering ICSGE2015,03 03 December 2015 - 04 December 2015, Singapore, <http://www.geoss.sg/icsge2015>
- The 1st International Conference of Geo-Energy and Geo-Environment 2015 (GeGe2015), 04 December 2015 - 05 December 2015, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), [gege2015.org](http://www.gege2015.org)
- GIFT - Geotechnics for Infrastructure and Foundation Techniques,17 December 2015 - 19 December 2015, Govt. College of Engineering PUNE,MAHARASHTRA,India <http://www.igc2015pune.in/GUI/index.aspx>
- Under-ground Construction Prague 2016, 23 May 2016 - Wednesday 25 May 2016, Clarion Congress Hotel Prague, <http://www.ucprague.com>
- 12th International Symposium on Landslides,Sunday 12 June 2016 - Sunday 19 June 2016, Naples,,Italy, [www.isl2016.it](http://www.isl2016.it)
- GeoChina 2016,25 July 2016 - 27 July 2016, Shandong, China, <http://geochina2016.geoconf.org/>
- 3rd ICTG International Conference on Transportation Geotechnics, September 4-7, 2016, University of Minho, School of Engineering, 4800-058, Guimarães, Portugal, <http://www.webforum.com/tc3>
- Fifth International Conference on Geotechnical and Geophysical Site Characterisation (ISC'5), 05 September 2016 - 09 September 2016 , QT Hotel, Gold Coast, QLD,Australia , <http://www.isc5.com.au>
- ICSMGE 2017 - 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, 17 September - 21 September 2017, Coex Convention Center,Seoul, Korea, <http://www.icsmge2017.org>
- The 7th International Conference on Unsaturated Soils (UNSAT2018) ,03 August 2018 - 05 August 2018 , The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST),Hong Kong , <http://www.unsat2018.org>

SLGS is organizing a conference on the day of its 2016 AGM for young geotechnical engineers who are below 40 yrs as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The deadline for submission of abstracts will be on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2015. Please forward your abstracts to either [athula.kulathilaka@yahoo.com](mailto:athula.kulathilaka@yahoo.com) or [nalindesilva1975@gmail.com](mailto:nalindesilva1975@gmail.com).

## Forthcoming Events of SLGS

SLGS Project day will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015.

It was proposed during the AGM to organize a half-a-day industry sessions on R&D activities related to Geotechnical Engineering on a quarterly basis. The industry representatives will be given the opportunity to present their work at the event. The opportunity will be given on first come first served basis. Any interested parties can contact the president of SLGS through the following email address.

[athula.kulathilaka@yahoo.com](mailto:athula.kulathilaka@yahoo.com)

## SLGS and ISSMGE Membership Fees

SLGS members are kindly requested to pay the membership arrears at your earliest. A notice indicating due fees was sent along with the journal

Please inform any changes in the contact details.

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Membership Admission Fee | Rs. 200/=  |
| Annual Membership Fee    | Rs. 300/=  |
| ISSMGE Fee               | Rs. 1000/= |

The SLGS Newsletter comes to you in volumes of four fascicles issued in February, May, August and November in each year. If you prefer to receive the newsletter by email, please send your email address to the following email address of the editor, newsletter.

[nalindesilva1975@gmail.com](mailto:nalindesilva1975@gmail.com)

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Note: The views of authors are not necessarily the views of SLGS.

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