

A Brief Report on ICGE-Colombo-2015

International Conference in Geotechnical Engineering (ICGEColombo2015) was held on 10-11 August at Cinnamon Grand with the participation of more than 300 delegates. Number of overseas participants was 110.

There were 135 research papers published after a through peer review process. Papers were under the themes; Case Histories (8), Design for Earthquakes(7), Experimental Studies(16), Foundations(8), Geo Environmental Studies(7), Geotechnical Modelling(17), Ground Improvements(20), Investigations(5), Retaining Walls(3), Rock Engineering and Tunnelling (13), Slope Stability(17) and Transportation Infrastructure(14). Conference was run with three parallel sessions and 106 papers were presented orally. There were 29 poster presentations. All the papers were printed in a proceedings and a soft copy in a CD was also prepared. There were 112 papers from the overseas and 23 papers were from the local authors.

The conference was conducted with very active participations during the discussions and it was pleasing to see that more than 80% attended the events up to the closure.

There were five keynote lectures by most eminent experts in different themes in the field of Geotechnical Engineering. The Keynote lectures were by;

- By Prof. Harry G. Poulos (*Senior Principal, Coffey Geotechnics Australia and University of Sydney*) on Design Challenges for Tall Building Foundations

This paper discussed some of the challenges in designing foundations for high-rise buildings. It sets out the principles of a limit state design approach to design a pile or piled raft foundation system.

- By Prof. Buddhima Indraratna (*Professor and Director of Centre for Geomechanics and Railway Engineering Research, University of Wollongong Australia*) on Ground Improvement for Enhanced Performance of Road, Rail and Port Infrastructure

This paper will covered the present track stabilization techniques using geosynthetics (geogrids, geocells and shockmats), and performance verification through comprehensive field trials in the state of New South Wales, Australia.

- By Prof. Kerry Rowe (*Professor Queens University Canada*) on Protecting the Environment with Geosynthetics

The paper covered the use of geosynthetics for containing contaminants from lagoons, landfills, and heap leach pads. Particular emphasis is placed on the use of geomembranes and geosynthetic clay liners. Examples of excellent performance were illustrated.

- By Prof. John Endicott (*AECOM Fellow, Adjunct Professor at Hong Kong University of Science and University of Hong Kong*) on Design and Construction of Deep Excavations in an Urban Setting - Lessons Learnt from Past Experiences and Failures

This keynote lecture made reference to major issues encountered in past deep excavation projects in an urban setting, and some catastrophic failures of deep excavations. The lecture identified causative factors and explored what lessons have been learned from those cases.

- By Eng. Ken Ho
Deputy Head, Geotechnical Engineering Office – Hong Kong on Advances in Landslide Risk Management and Slope Engineering

This keynote lecture discussed recent advances in slope stabilisation, landslide mitigation and slope landscaping, together with insights in landslide risk management based on lessons learnt over the past 40 years in Hong Kong

The conference dinner was held on 10th night at Hotel Kingsbury. Along with the dinner there was a cultural program depicting the rich cultural of the country.

There was one post conference tour of two days duration on 12-13 August covering the Uma Oya multipurpose project and the scenic central highlands of the country.



Ceremonial opening procession



Lighting the oil lamp



Keynote lecture by Prof Poulos



Keynote lecture by Prof Indraratne



Keynote lecture by Prof Rowe



Keynote lecture by Prof Endicott



Keynote lecture by Eng. Ken Ho



Participants at the conference



Lunch at the conference



Conference Dinner



Conference Dinner



Cultural performance