

CONFERENCE REPORT – 1

Indian Geotechnical Conference (IGC-2011)

The Golden Jubilee conference of the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS), namely, Indian Geotechnical Conference, IGC-2011 (Geochallenges) was held at Gokulam Convention Centre, Kochi, Kerala, India during 15-17 December, 2011. Indian Geotechnical Conference (IGC) is an annual event of the national society i.e. IGS. It is usually held at various parts of India and organized by local chapters of IGS by rotation. Latest IGC 2011 was organized jointly by the Indian Geotechnical Society Kochi Chapter and Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT), Kochi, Kerala. This is the first time in the history of IGS, an IGC was conducted in Kerala, that too, by one of the youngest Chapters of the national society which was formed about two years back.

The inaugural ceremony of IGC-2011 was held on December 15, 2011 at the Terzaghi Hall of the Gokulam Convention Centre, Kochi, India. The conference was inaugurated by Vice Admiral K. N. Sushil PVSM, AVSM, NM, ADC, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Naval Command, Kochi, India who spoke on the complex nature of the Kochi soft soil and expressed his appreciation on the selection of the main theme of the conference as ‘Soft Clay Engineering’ as most appropriate to the challenges faced by the geotechnical engineers in coastal belt of Kerala, India. The Guest of Honour, Mr. A.P.M. Mohammed Hanish, IAS, Managing Director of the Roads and Bridges Development Corporation of Kerala Ltd., India also pointed to the need for deliberations and solutions of complex geotechnical problems faced in the state while releasing the souvenir of the Indian Geotechnical Conference-2011. The Proceedings and CD containing the Technical papers were released by Prof. A. Sridharan. Felicitations were offered by Mr. Cherian Varkey, National President of the Builders Association of India and Mr. Arvind Verma, CMD of AIMIL Ltd., the leading geotechnical instrumentation company.

The Technical exhibition was inaugurated by Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov, Vice President of Asia region of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). All facets of Civil Engineering discipline was on display at the exhibition with good representation from the natural geotextile sector. Immediately after the inaugural session, 33rd IGS Annual Lecture - 2011 was delivered by Prof. Manoj Datta on the topic ‘Geotechnology for environmental control at waste disposal sites’. A record number of 681 delegates participated in IGC -2011.

The conference proceedings in two volumes contain invited papers and 254 contributory papers selected by a streamlined review process in 4 stages from 381 abstracts received, covering the various themes such as Soft clay engineering, Developments in geotechnical laboratory testing, Field investigations in difficult sub-soil conditions, Foundations in problematic soils, Rehabilitation of foundations of old structures, Earthquake engineering, Innovations in ground improvement, Geosynthetics with natural and synthetic fibers, Deep excavations, Earth retaining structures, Landslides and Slope stability, Environmental Geotechnics, Remote sensing and GIS applications, Numerical and physical modeling, Rock engineering, Tunneling and underground constructions and Case studies in geotechnical engineering. The most significant and note-worthy aspect of this conference is that all the 254 contributed papers have been reviewed by a panel of 65 experts from India and abroad under the chairmanship of Prof. A. Sridharan.

IGC - 2011 had total 14 invited speakers from India, Japan, Korea, Iran, Kazakhstan, UK, United States and Australia. All the 14 invited papers were presented in 5 plenary sessions held in the Terzaghi Hall. These 14 invited lectures were delivered by Prof. Ikuo Towhata from Japan, Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov from Kazakhstan, Prof. K. S. Rao from India, Prof. Y. S. Jang from Korea, Prof. Vijay K. Puri from USA, Prof. M. R. Madhav from India, Dr. Yoichi Watabe from Japan, Mr. Karl Snelling from UK, Prof. S. R. Gandhi from India, Prof. P. V. Sivapulliah from India, Prof. Abbas Soroush from Iran, Prof. K. Prakash from India, Er. Hitesh H. Desai from India and Dr. J. S. Vinod from Australia. Total 254 published contributory technical papers were presented orally in 14 parallel technical sessions held in three different halls, viz. the Terzaghi Hall, the Rankine Hall and the Casagrande Hall over three days.

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The first day of the conference, witnessed the signing of the technical collaboration agreement between the Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) and the Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS), signaling a new era of international co-operation in R&D, similar to the agreement already in force with the Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS) who had brought a good delegation to IGC-2011 and one of the important event like Indo-Japan workshop on 14th December 2011 at Kochi, India.

The programme on the first day ended with a Banquet Dinner and a musical evening of Gazals held at the picturesque Bolgatty Palace Hotel, in the middle of the Kochi backwaters. A cultural programme representing the fine arts of Kerala was organised on the evening of the second day of the conference followed by Conference Dinner. The three day conference concluded with a valedictory function in the evening of 17th December 2011.

On behalf of the Organising committee, I thank each and everyone for their whole hearted support and cooperation for making the Indian Geotechnical Conference IGC-2011, a success.

Reported by

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Photo Album of Indian Geotechnical Conference (IGC - 2011) held at Kochi, Kerala, India during 15th to 17th December 2011



Inaugural session of Indian Geotechnical Conference (IGC - 2011)

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Address by the Conference Chairman of IGC – 2011



Inauguration by lighting lamp as per Indian culture



Release of conference proceedings of IGC – 2011 by Prof. A. Sridharan, Technical Chairman



Signing of MOU between Indian Geotechnical Society (IGS) and Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS)



A view of delegates during one of the sessions



Inauguration of exhibition stalls by Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov, Vice President Asia, ISSMGE

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One of the invited lecture by Prof. M. R. Madhav,
Former Vice President Asia, ISSMGE



One of the Technical sessions Chair and Co-chair



A glimpse of Indian classical dance performed during
cultural programme



Indian martial art shown during cultural programme



A view of delegates during lunch time



Valedictory session of IGC – 2011 with organizers