

NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCES (Continued)

TC 215 CPEG 2013 - COUPLED PHENOMENA IN ENVIRONMENTAL GEOTECHNICS

The International Symposium on Coupled Phenomena in Environmental Geotechnics (CPEG): from theoretical to experimental research to practical applications was held in Torino (Italy) from the 1st to the 3rd of July 2013. The Symposium, organized by the Italian Geotechnical Society (AGI: Associazione Geotecnica Italiana), was part of the activities of Technical Committee TC 215 of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) "Environmental Geotechnics" for the term 2009-2013 and was hosted by Politecnico di Torino.

Environmental Geotechnics deals with a wide variety of applications, such as the characterization of polluted sites and landfill waste, the design of containment systems for subsoil pollutant control, radioactive waste disposals, geo-energy exploitation and bacteria-driven soil modification, among others. In order to obtain reliable and effective predictions of the actual behavior and performance of these very complex systems, theoretical and experimental research and advanced design procedures need to take into account coupled hydro-bio-chemo-mechanical phenomena occurring at very different scales. Further progresses in the scientific state of the art and substantial advancements in the standard practice are then closely related to the development of a shared knowledge among different disciplines. The extension and refinement of theoretical modeling and experimentation capabilities stimulated by geo-environmental applications provide more in general the framework for substantial advancements in the fields of soil and rock mechanics.

The International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) contributes to these developments with the activities of an ad hoc Committee (TC 215 - Environmental Geotechnics - formerly TC 5). The committee was established under the ISSMGE presidency of Prof. M. Jamiolkowski (1994-1997) and it has been very active since then. A number of very lively conferences, symposia and workshops have been organized culminating in the 6th Edition of the International Conference on Environmental Geotechnics (TC 215 - ICEG) held in New Delhi, India (2010).

The conference was conceived as an opportunity for discussion and sharing of knowledge, skills and front edge research activities in the field. By including contributions coming not only from the geotechnical community, but also from related and complementary disciplines, the conference gathered new experimental evidence, contributions to theoretical developments and innovative applications. Kerry Rowe, Antonio Gens and Majid Hassanizadeh presented outstanding keynote lectures. The conference was then organized in 9 sessions devoted to specific topics of Geotechnical Engineering. Four sessions of the symposium dealt with landfills: waste characterization, stability problems, lining and capping systems. Three sessions were devoted to polluted sites and their interaction with aquifers both in terms of characterization and remediation strategies. The remaining two sessions focused on the emerging topics of energy issues and bio-chemical processes. Each session included a general report, a specific lecture and a session report, as well as a lively floor discussion on the contributed papers animated by a discussion leader. A list of the sessions and general reporters is provided below.

The Proceedings, published by CRC Press, collect 21 invited papers and 61 contributed papers, covering a wide range of fundamental and applied research on the topics of geo-environmental engineering.

We wish to thank all the participants for their invaluable contribution and for their enthusiasm, which was undoubtedly the key element for the success of the event.

On Behalf of the Organizing Committee

Mario Manassero, Andrea Dominijanni, Sebastiano Foti, and Guido Musso

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List of the sessions:

Session	General Reporter
1. Landfill bottom and sides lining systems	C. Shackelford
2. Landfill waste characterization	W. Powrie
3. Stability and settlement analysis of landfills and natural slopes	D. Zekkos
4. Linings for radioactive waste and capping systems for landfills and polluted sites	C. Benson
5. Underground energy issues	L. Laloui
6. Natural and anthropogenic bio-chemical processes within soils and rocks	J.D. DeJong
7. Characterization of polluted sites and related aquifers	P. Delage
8. Degradation, extraction and inerting systems for the reclamation of polluted sites	K.R. Reddy
9. Active and passive barriers for polluted sites	K. Soga and J. Evans



Opening session of CPEG 2013 in the auditorium of Politecnico di Torino



CPEG 2013 Social Dinner at the Circolo dei Lettori of Torino