

NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE

XIXth Károly Széchy Memorial Session, First Young Geotechnical Engineering Meeting, and XXIIInd Geotechnical Evening Forum Budapest, 15th of February, 2013

The Hungarian National Committee of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) jointly with the Engineering Section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and Geotechnical Section of the Hungarian Chamber of Engineers celebrated the XIXth Károly Széchy Memorial Session on the 15th February, 2013 at the Great Lecture Hall of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, with 200 persons attending the event. In the morning the inaugural meeting of the Association of Young Geotechnics was held at the central building of the Budapest University of Technology and Economics.

The members who have founded the association came from three Hungarian Universities; they were PhD and MSc students. The association is closely related to the ISSMGE HNC, and they plan quarterly meetings to discuss the results of their research, support and inform each other, listen to lectures of guest speakers, and workshop-like meetings are held. In the inaugural meeting 70 young people participated, and listened to Professor John Burland's answers to their question, and then listened to the presentation of three young people.



Participants of the first Hungarian Young Geotechnical Engineering Meeting

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XIXth Károly Széchy Memorial Session

This series of festive gatherings have been highlighted from the beginning by lectures delivered by the most illustrious professors paying tribute to the memory of the Hungarian professor, Károly Széchy. This year, the guest speaker from abroad was Prof. John Burland (Imperial College London, UK). The presentation's title was

“Interaction between Geotechnical and Structural Engineers”.

The speaker from Hungary was Dr. Balázs Kovács, University of Miskolc, and delivered his speech on “Lessons learnt and future challenges of numerical modelling”.

About the event you can see the presentations, photos and an interview with Prof. Burland on the following website:

<http://www.issmge-hungary.net>



Presidium of the opening, -left to right-: L. Kollár (Vice President of Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Engineering Department), J. Mecsi (President of the ISSMGE HNC), Askar Zhussupbekov (ISSMGE Vice President for Asia), Ivan Vaniček (ISSMGE Vice President for Europe), H. Brandl (President of the Austrian Society of Engineers and Architects - first time awarded the Széchy Károly memorial plaque from abroad) and L. Szilvályi (President, Hungarian Chamber of Engineers Section of Geotechnics.)



Participants of the Memorial Lecture

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Prof. Dr. John BURLAND



Dr. Balázs KOVÁCS Hungarian lecturer

Again, as it is traditional in these events, the Károly Széchy memorial plaque and prize was delivered. This year the recipient was Dr. Miklós Müller (Budapest University of Technology and Economics), and Prof. Peter Turček (Slovak Technical University of Bratislava) was awarded the honorary Károly Széchy prize 2013.



Dr. Miklós Müller, recipient of the Széchy Károly plaque and prize 2013.



Prof. Peter Turček awarded the Széchy Károly memorial plaque 2013.

The professional events were concluded with an informal dinner. The joyful spirit of the evening was enhanced by the toasts and the amusing speeches given by the recipients of the awards and the main speakers.

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József Mecsi
President of the HNC ISSMGE

Széchy Memorial Lecturers 1994-2012:

- 1994 FAZAKAS György (Budapest, Hungary), MISTÉTH Endre (Budapest, Hungary),
VARGA László (Győr, Hungary), Heinz BRANDL (Wien, Austria), FARKAS József (Budapest, Hungary)
- 1996 KOVÁRI Kálmán (Zürich, Switzerland)
- 1997 VARGA László (Győr, Hungary), LAZÁNYI István (Budapest, Hungary)
- 1998 Heinz DUDDECK (Braunschweig, Germany), GRESCHIK Gyula (Budapest, Hungary)
- 1999 Ulrich SMOLTCZYK (Stuttgart, Germany), SCHARLE Péter (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2000 DULÁCSKA Endre (Budapest, Hungary), Marta DOLEŽALOVÁ (Praha, Czech Rep.)
- 2001 Robert MAIR (Cambridge, United Kingdom), MÜLLER Miklós (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2002 Michele JAMIOŁKOWSKI (Torino, Italy), NAGY János (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2003 Jubilee session
James K. MITCHELL (Blacksburg, VA USA)
POSGAY György (Budapest, Hungary), TRÄGER Herbert (Budapest, Hungary)
MECSI József (Budapest, Hungary),
- 2004 Suzanne LACASSE (Oslo, Norway), SZEPEHÁZI Róbert (Győr, Hungary)
- 2005 Lothar MARTAK (Wien, Austria), SZABÓ Imre (Miskolc, Hungary)
- 2006 SECO E PINTO (Lisbon, Portugal), SZILVÁGYI Imre and SZILVÁGYI László (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2007 Serge VARAKSIN (Paris, France), KLADOS Gusztáv (Budapest and Kuala Lumpur)
- 2008 Roger FRANK (Paris, France), SOÓS Gábor (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2009 Rolf KATZENBACH (Darmstadt, Germany), JUHÁSZ József (Miskolc, Hungary)
- 2010 William VAN IMPE (Ghent, Belgium), BICZÓK Ernő (Budapest and Hamburg)
- 2011 Jean-Louis BRIAUD (USA), ZÁBRÁDI Ernő (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2012 Walter WITTKÉ (Germany), DELI Árpád (Budapest, Hungary)
- 2013 John BURLAND (UK), Balázs KOVÁCS (Miskolc, Hungary)

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Life of Károly Széchy

- 1903 born in Budapest on 17th December as the son of Ilona Zwerencz and Károly Széchy, MSc in Civ. Eng. chief inspector at the Hungarian Railway and
- 1922 matured at the Secondary School "Árpád" in Budapest
- 1926 MSc Degree in Civil Engineering at the Technical University József in Budapest
- 1926-27 Assistant Professor at the Water Engineering Department of the same University
- 1927-28 scholar at the University College London
- 1928-32 private engineer, construction manager
- 1930 married, wife Margit Kókai, son Károly Széchy (1930) MSc in Civ. Eng. and Edit Sós (1932) pharmacist
- 1932-45 various posts at the Bridge Department in the Hungarian Ministry for Transport and Communication
- 1933 Doctor of Law
- 1935-37 management the Widening of the Margaret-Bridge
- 1937-39 leader of the General Planning of the Árpád-Bridge 1938 supervisor for the Modernizing of the Ferenc József-Bridge (today Freedom-Bridge)
- 1939-43 management the Construction of the Árpád-Bridge
- 1944 Dr. Techn.
- 1945-51 Head of the Bridge Department in the Hungarian Ministry for Transport and Communication, administrative leader for the reconstruction of blasted bridges in W. W. II.
- 1945-46 leader of the Planning and Construction of the Kossuth-Bridge demolished in 1960
- 1945-46 leader of the Temporary and the Final Repairing of the Ferenc József-Bridge
- 1945-47 leader of the Reconstruction of the Margaret-Bridge
- 1947-49 leader of the Renovation of the Chain-Bridge
- 1946 awarded with Officer's Cross of the Republic-Order
- 1948 awarded with the Golden Grade Kossuth-Prize
- 1948 Honorary Professor at the Technical University of Budapest
- 1948-50 supervisor at the construction of the Árpád-Bridge
- 1949 started the lectures on Foundation Engineering at the TU Budapest
- 1950 The Hungarian Academy of Sciences declares to Technical Fellowship
- 1950-53 General Director for the Underground Railway Investment Co. in Budapest, Leader of the planning and construction of the Metro
- 1952 The Hungarian Academy of Sciences declares to Corresponding Member Fellowship
- 1952 published the first edition of the book "Foundation Engineering" Volume I and II in Hungarian
- 1952 Distinct "Excellent Worker of the Transport"
- 1953-54 Director of the Underground Railway Construction Co. in Budapest
- 1953 Ordinary Professor of Foundation Engineering and Tunnelling at the Technical University in Budapest
- 1956-57 Head of the Technical Board at the Ministry of Transport and Communication
- 1958 published the first edition of the Book "Foundation failures" in Hungarian
- 1958 Visiting Professor in Egypt for 2 months
- 1959-60 contribution to the Planning of the Renovation of the Elisabeth-bridge
- 1961 published the first edition of the Book "Tunnelling" in Hungarian
- 1964 Visiting Professor in Egypt for 2 months
- 1966 awarded with "Excellent Worker in Higher Education" distinction
- 1966 awarded with Honourable Degree at the Technical University of Helsinki
- 1968 Invited Lecturer for a semester in Canada
- 1970 The Hungarian Academy of Sciences declares his Ordinary Member Fellowship
- 1970 awarded by Budapest Municipality with Distinct "Pro Urbe" for his prominent lifetime activity in the reconstruction of the bridges and the establishment of the Underground Railway network in Budapest
- 1970 awarded with Honourable Degree at the Technical University of Wroclaw
- 1972 died on 22nd May in Budapest