

**International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering**

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Research highlights

Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) Geotechnical Group

1. Introduction

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) was established in 1991. The main campus is ideally located within the natural beauty of the Clear Water Bay peninsula in East Kowloon, Hong Kong (Fig. 1). The serenity of the setting creates the perfect environment for research. The HKUST has four major schools: Engineering, Science, Business and Management, and Humanities & Social Science. The total number of undergraduate students is about 9,500 and that of postgraduate students is about 4,300. The Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering is one of six engineering departments and the geotechnical group at HKUST is one of several research groups within the Department. The group comprises six professors and two research assistant professors.

HKUST 2005-2020 is a strategic plan set out by the university with becoming a world leader in environmental and sustainable development as one of its milestones. The geotechnical group's interests range from fundamental to applied research in broad areas: constitutive and numerical modelling of static and cyclic saturated and unsaturated soil behaviour at various temperatures; multi-phase flow in soil; mechanical behaviour of granular soil; physico-chemical soil behaviour of clayey soil; soil testing techniques; dynamic soil properties; wave-based characterization of geomaterials; development of innovative geomaterials; geo-energy issues including energy pile foundation and off-shore foundation engineering, geo-environmental problems such as innovative membrane-free landfill covers and green slope engineering; onshore soil-structure interaction involving piles, tunnels, and deep excavation; and the risk and reliability modelling of geotechnical performance.