

International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering ICGE Colombo 2015

Geotechnics for Sustainable Development

Organised by the Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society

**Cinnamon Grand Hotel, Colombo, Sri Lanka
10 – 11 August 2015**

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Preface

Sri Lankan engineers encounter many challenges in the field of Geotechnical Engineering. To overcome those challenges we need to be aware of the current developments in the field and should find ways of applying this new knowledge under our own conditions and make further innovations. Over the last twenty nine years of its existence Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society has provided a forum for disseminating new knowledge in the field of geotechnical engineering and promoting research.

It is with the same objective that the Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society (SLGS) is holding the International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering (ICGEColombo2015) under the theme “Geotechnics for Sustainable Development” on 10 and 11 August 2015 at Cinnamon Grand in Colombo. With many infrastructure development projects in progress or completed recently with a wide range of applications from the field of Geotechnical Engineering, SLGS believes this is the ideal time to stage a conference of this nature that brings together experts from all around the world. The conference is fully recognized by the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE).

There will be keynote addresses by eminent international experts covering the current state-of-the-art in the key areas of;

- Design Challenges for Tall Building Foundations by Prof Harry Poulos (Coffey Geotechnics, Australia)
- Ground Improvement for Enhancing the Performance of Road, Rail and Port Infrastructure by Prof Buddhima Indraratna (University of Wollongong, Australia)
- Design and Construction of Excavations in an Urban Setting – Lessons Learnt from Failures by Prof John Endicott (AECOM, Hong Kong University)
- Protecting the Environment with Geosynthetics by Prof Kerry Rowe (Queens University, Canada)
- Advances in Landslide Risk Management and Slope Engineering by Ir Ken Ho (Geotechnical Engineering office, Hong Kong)

Around 125 papers from researchers from all around the globe as well as from Sri Lanka on a number of themes that are very relevant to Sri Lanka have been received. New knowledge and practices developed in Asia as well as Australia, Northern America and Europe will be presented and a forum is created for interaction of eminent researchers and practitioners.

Geotechnical Engineers of Sri Lankan origin have made enormous contributions to the advancement of the field all over the globe. Contributions made by Prof. A Thuraiajah who is considered as the father of Soil Mechanics in Sri Lanka in the development of critical state soil mechanics is widely acknowledged by all. Since then many geotechnical engineers who had their initial training in Sri Lanka have excelled in the field as academics researchers and practitioners in the developed part of the world. It is very pleasing to note that a number of them have contributed generously to this conference.

The organizing committee made all possible attempts to encourage young geotechnical engineers from Sri Lanka to publish in the conference. This will give them much needed encouragement to be involved in research and practice in the field with a keen analytical mind.

We are hopeful that conference will be a turning point in the field of geotechnical engineering with new encouragement for development of innovative techniques and well directed research to address geotechnical engineering challenges faced by the country.

The papers submitted for the conference went through a thorough review process and all the authors, reviewers and members of the editorial panel should be congratulated for their untiring efforts. The efforts of the five keynote lecturers are also gratefully acknowledged.

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