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# Administrative report of TC26 – Calcareous sediments

## Compte rendu technique de la No. CT 26 – Sédiments calcaires

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### 1 TERMS OF REFERENCE

1. To promote cooperation and exchange of information on geotechnical behavior of calcareous sediments.
2. To plan the second international conference on calcareous soils and seek expressions of interest from groups willing to organize and host the event.

### 2 ACTIVITIES INITIATED

During the four-year period from 1997 to 2000, the committee initiated planning for and undertook the organization on the second international conference on calcareous soils.

In addition two subcommittees were established to develop manuals for the industry on aspects that were felt to be needed. The first related to the establishment of a classification system for engineering purposes for carbonate sediments and the second relate to the preparation of the manual outlining tests and test procedures used to obtain parameters of calcareous sediments for engineering purposes.

The two principal geological classification systems in use for calcareous sediments have been those by Clarke and Walker and by Fookes and Higgenbottom. These both provide a classification as a function of grain size and degree of induration of the material. Unfortunately, this is rather limited as far as what it means for the stability of engineering structures etc, and there was seen to be a need for a system of classifying the various forms of calcareous sediment in a way that is significant for engineering purposes. Professor Fookes agreed to undertake the task of convening a subcommittee of TC26 with the objective of developing such a system and has been working on the project since 1997.

For the work undertaken for Woodside Offshore Petroleum for the foundation remedial measures for their two platforms on the North West Shelf of Australia, a number of the innovative tests were developed and methods adopted for the purpose of preparing samples for those and for conventional tests such that the results obtained were meaningful for design purposes. The task undertaken by Professor Carter was to convene a subcommittee that had the objective of preparing a manual outlining these tests and procedures.

### 3 ACHIEVEMENTS

In planning for the second international conference on calcareous sediments, a group in Saudi Arabia headed by Khalil Al-Shafei undertook to organise the conference in Bahrain on behalf of TC26 and the ISSMGE. This conference was held in February 1999 some eleven years after the first such conference held in Perth in 1988. The two volumes of proceedings of this conference were published to Balkema, and in effect bring the state-of-the-art on Engineering for Calcareous Sediments up-to-date.

During this conference the opportunity was taken for a committee meeting of members of TC26 and also of the members of the two subcommittees working on the manuals. There was some concern expressed at that time that the work of the technical committee no longer appeared to be of interest to the major offshore oil gas companies in that it was almost impossible to get to anyone from them to attend the conference. As the major group benefiting from the work of TC26 appeared to have no interest in its activities, there was some soul-searching as to whether there was real value in the technical committee continuing to exist.

### 4 ACTIVITIES IN HAND

The major outstanding issue being addressed by TC26 is the completion and publication of the two manuals introduced in the section headed "activities initiated". Professor Fookes has developed a relationship with the publisher Whittles and it is expected that they will be publishing the manual as soon as it is completed. There is still some confusion as to whether both manuals will be combined into a single publication or whether they will be published separately. For them to be published together, it will be necessary for them to be both ready at the same time. If not, they will be published separately and it is likely that the testing manual will be placed on the "web" in pdf format such that it can be readily upgraded as thought desirable. In any event it is expected that the both publications will be issue in this 2001 year.