

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SOIL MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING



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12th Australia New Zealand Conference on Geomechanics (ANZ 2015)

“The Changing Face of the Earth – Geomechanics & Human Influence”

22-25 February 2015, Wellington, New Zealand

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WELCOME

It is with great pride and pleasure that I welcome you all to the 12th Australia New Zealand Geomechanics Conference which is being held at Shed 6 / TSB Bank Arena on Queens Wharf beside Wellington's waterfront on 22 - 25 February 2015. This prestigious international event is the regional conference of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and is held approximately every 4 years.

The last Australia New Zealand Conference held in Wellington, New Zealand was in 1980. Thirty-five years later, this event has returned to Wellington, to a city and a world that is experiencing significant change and challenges resulting from human influences in our built environment.

As in 1980, our profession has the potential to shape and influence the future. For 2015, our conference theme is "The Changing Face of the Earth – Geomechanics & Human Influence". The worldwide community is currently facing great change; a changing climate, an evolving legislative environment and changing human perceptions and awareness of the cause and effects of our actions. This change presents an exciting series of risks and opportunities within the wider geotechnical industry. This conference seeks to explore and better understand the drivers for changing our world and the impact we make – be this in marine and coastal areas or the built environment, from open cast mining to creating brand new communities.

Locally in New Zealand, the 2010/11 Canterbury earthquake sequence has had an unprecedented impact on the geotechnical profession. It has raised the profile of our science through all levels of society, from home owners to our nation's leaders and has been the catalyst for a surge of invaluable observations, data and learning. It has also served as an international reminder as to the terrible social and economic damage such seismic events can inflict.

We are extremely honoured to welcome Professor George Gazetas, Professor Johnathan Bray and Dr Fred Baynes as keynote speakers to our conference. The Conference Organising Committee is extremely grateful that these world-renowned experts accepted the offer to speak and share some of their wisdom first-hand with the New Zealand and Australian geotechnical fraternity.

We wish to thank Fran Wilde, Chair, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Mike Stannard, Chief Engineer Infrastructure & Resource Markets, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Sir Ron Carter for their addresses providing an introduction to our Conference theme.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the financial support which was afforded by the Conference sponsors, and the effort which was made by the Conference Organising Committee. This event would not have occurred without each and every one of these organisations and individuals.

Guy Cassidy
Conference Chair