

News

The 3rd International Conference on Site Characterization (ISC3), Taipei 2008

President Pinto delivering a speech at the opening ceremony

The 3rd International Conference on Site Characterization (ISC3) was held at the Taipei International Convention Center in Taipei from April 1-4, 2008. The Conference was sponsored by National Chiao Tung University (NCTU), South East Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS) and Taiwan Geotechnical Society (TGS), in collaboration with Technical Committee TC16 on Ground Property Characterization by In-Situ Tests of ISSMGE. A total of 207 papers that include 13 keynote/theme lectures were contributed and published in the proceedings. All papers were reviewed by at least two reviewers assigned by the TC-16 core committee members.

More than 460 participants from 38 countries gathered in the conference to exchange their experiences in all aspects of geotechnical site characterization practice and research. These participants include practitioners, researchers, equipment manufacturers and government officials. Novel ideas in the use and developments of sampling as well as in situ testing tools such as SPT, CPT, PMT and DMT continued to be the core of the conference. Papers presented at ISC3 revealed some of the remarkable developments in geophysical testing and imaging techniques that enable nondestructive profiling of underground conditions. A rise in the use of risk management and statistical analysis in geotechnical site characterization has also been noticed. Taiwan and some parts of Asia are prone to natural hazards such as earthquakes and typhoons. As a consequence, many papers submitted from this region deals with these concerns as they relate to site characterization.

Four, one-day short courses (CPT/CPTU, DMT, Risk management & site characterization, and Estimation of soil properties for foundation design) offered by leading experts in their respective expertise served as prelude to the conference on April 1. Prof. R.G. Campanella delivered the Third JK Mitchell lecture in the evening of April 1 that followed by an ice breaker. The technical program was initiated following the opening ceremony in the morning of April 2. The oral presentations were divided into 10 sessions distributed throughout the conference, according to their contents. Poster presentations were summarized and discussed by general reporters at the sessions. The technical program adjourned late in the afternoon of April 4, followed by the closing ceremony.



Performance by China Wind at one of the two conference banquets

The TC16 board meeting was held at ISC3 where TC16 chair, Prof. P.W. Mayne presented a progress report and discussed possible candidacies for the next ISC. A total of eighteen exhibition booths were set up at the conference. The exhibition displayed some of the most advanced in-situ testing equipment, research accomplishments and services available for researchers and practitioners. The proceedings of the conference include a book published by Taylor and Francis (ISBN 978-0-415-46936-4) containing the keynote/theme lectures and a CD-ROM with all 207 papers of the conference. Financial support of ISC'3 provided by the National Science Council, Ministry of Economic Affairs of Taiwan, National Chiao Tung University and other organizations/companies are gratefully acknowledged.

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