

AGSSEA

THE ASSOCIATION OF GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (AGSSEA) 2007 TO 2013

The AGSSEA had its origins at the 16th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference held in Kuala Lumpur from 8 to 11 May 2007. The Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS) at its council meeting held on 8 May 2007 had resolved to proceed with the formation of AGSSEA and that a Pro-tem Committee was formed. Ir. Dr. Ooi Teik Aun was appointed as the Pro-tem Chairman. The operation and activities of AGSSEA was planned to set into motion within a target period of 12 months.

The prime initiator for AGSSEA was SEAGS. SEAGS was founded in 1967 with its secretariat office based at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) in Bangkok. SEAGS is affiliated with the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG) and the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM). In the early days, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam and Indonesia were member countries of SEAGS. Over the years they have grown in their local memberships and activities. They decided to leave SEAGS to join ISSMGE as direct members. Currently, SEAGS has Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar as member countries.

The founding President of SEAGS, Dr. Za-Chieh Moh has sensed the timing and mooted the idea of setting up a Federation of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia. With the direct ISSMGE membership of many national societies or institutions in Southeast Asia, he conveyed a vision for the promotion of cooperation among the geotechnical societies in the region for the advancement of knowledge in geotechnical engineering and to provide necessary assistance to member societies with insufficient resources.

The inaugural meeting of AGSSEA was held on 5 December 2007 at the Institution of Engineers, Malaysia in Petaling Jaya. It was chaired by Ir. Dr. Ooi Teik Aun. A draft statute of the association was tabled and objectives were defined. Membership is opened to any professional society or institution engaged or otherwise actively interested in geotechnical engineering or related fields. The objectives are (i) to arrange for periodic local meetings within the region for the discussion of geotechnical topics in cooperation with the member societies, (ii) to arrange for geotechnical conferences, symposia, seminars and lectures to be held in the region jointly with one or more member societies; and (iii) to publish a technical journal which contain papers of interest to geotechnical engineers. During this meeting, Ir. Dr. Ooi Teik Aun was elected as the first chairman of AGSSEA for the period of 2007 – 2010 while Dr. Za-Chieh Moh was elected as the Hon. Founder Chairman.

Since its inception in 2007, AGSSEA has organized 12 meetings to plan, discuss and co-ordinate the implementation of various activities. It has organized more than 8 short courses covering two days' events and more than 8 public lectures given by renowned speakers. It has also organized several touring

lectures for the member societies given by Profs. Jean Briaud, Pedro Pinto, Charles Ng, David Wood, Dennes Bergado, etc. AGSSEA has supported four regional conferences and symposia without financial liability. The “Geotechnical Engineering” journal is now jointly published by AGSSEA and SEAGS. The AGSSEA-SEAGS Newsletters are published on a regular basis. AGSSEA has its own website at www.agssea.com where journal papers, newsletters, notices, etc. can be downloaded free of charge.

The 1st AGSSEA Council Meeting was held in Singapore in 2009. The 2nd AGSSEA Council Meeting was held in Taipei in 2010. The 3rd AGSSEA Council Meeting was held in Hong Kong in 2011. The 4th AGSSEA Council Meeting will be held in Singapore in May 2013. The current member societies are SEAGS, Vietnam Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (VSSMGE), Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES), Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS), Thai Geotechnical Society (TGS), Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society (CTGS) and Indonesian Geotechnical Society (HATTI). The current chairman of AGSSEA is Prof. Yong Kwet Yew.

In May 2013, the inaugural AGSSEA Geotechnical Conference under the joint “18th Southeast Asian Geotechnical & Inaugural AGSSEA Conference” is to be held in Singapore. The conference is organized by GeoSS under the auspices of SEAGS and AGSSEA. The conference main theme is “Geotechnical Infrastructure”.



(L-R): Ir. Kenny Yee, Dr. C T Chin, Dr. S F Chan and Dr. Z C Moh at the dinner table after the inaugural meeting of AGSSEA on the 5 December 2007.



The Inaugural Meeting of AGSSEA on 5 December 2007 was attended by Dr. ZC Moh, Dr. TA Ooi, Ir. Kenny Yee, Dr. CT Chin, Ir. Albert Ho, Mr. Nguyen Duc Toan, Dr. WH Ting, Dr. SF Chan and Ir. YW Yee.



Prof. Charles Ng conducting the 2-day short course on "Residual Soil Slope Engineering from Theory to Practice" in Petaling Jaya from 22 to 23 July 2008.



Prof. G Mesri conducting the 2-day short course on "Construction on Soft Ground and Stability of Clay Slopes" in Petaling Jaya from 24 to 25 November 2008.



Prof. Pedro S Pinto conducting the 2-day short course on "Seismic Design using Eurocode EC8" in Petaling Jaya from 20 to 21 May 2009.



AGSSEA members (Drs. TA Ooi, SF Chan and CT Chin) at the 3rd International Conference on Site Characterization (ICS3) in Taipei from 1 to 4 April 2008.



Ir. Kenny Yee presenting the Geotechnical Engineering Journals to the 5 local universities in Hanoi (NUCE, UCT, WRU, Transportation Technology College, and Military Technical Academy)



Group photograph at the end of the 2-day seminar in Hanoi as part of the touring lectures by Prof. Jean L Briaud and Prof. Charles Ng.



Group photograph of the speakers after the end of the 1-day seminar in Bangkok as part of the touring lectures by Prof. Jean L Briaud and Prof. Charles Ng.