



A Brief History of the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS)

The Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society was founded in 1967 by Dr. Za-Chieh Moh as a regional society to cover Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Taiwan. It is affiliated with the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (ISSMFE), the International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG) and the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM). The past Presidents of the Society were Dr. Za-Chieh Moh (1967 – 1973), Prof. Chin Fung Kee (1973 – 1975), Prof. Peter Lumb (1975 – 1977), Dr. Tan Swan Beng (1977 – 1980), Dr. E.W. Brand (1980 – 1983), Dr. Ting Wen Hui (1983 – 1985), Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam (1985 – 1987), Prof. S. L. Lee (1987 – 1990), Dr. Chin Der Ou (1990 – 1993), Dr. Teik Aun Ooi (1993 – 1996), Dr. S. Sambhandaraksa (1996 – 1998), Dr. John Li (1998 – 2001) and Prof. Kwet Yew Yong (2001 – 2006) and Dr. Chung Tien Chin (2006 – 2010). The current President of the Society is Dr. T.A. Ooi. The Hon. Secretary-Treasurers of this Society were Prof. R.D. Mackey (1967 – 1970), Dr. John D. Nelson (1970 – 1973), Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam (1973 – 2000) and Prof. D.T. Bergado (2000 to present).

During the period from 1967 to date, geotechnical engineering activities in Southeast Asia increased exponentially in terms of research, continuing education and project work. A very large number of challenging major projects have been completed or are in progress for infrastructure and resources development, as well as the prevention of natural hazards. In Malaysia, the construction of several tall buildings, roads and expressways, airports and ports and dams and reservoirs for hydropower and irrigation, the Penang Bridge one of the longest bridges is now fully utilized and overcrowded. A second bridge south of the present bridge is currently being implemented and expected to be completed by 2010. Increasing use of tunnels in the transportation, power and water supply and notably the recently completed combined traffic diversion and flood water bypass SMART project has attracted much interest internationally as can be seen at the international conference and exhibition on Tunnelling and Trenchless Technology held in Kuala Lumpur last year. Excellent progress has also been made in offshore engineering related to the exploration and extraction of oil and gas and the mining of tin.

Prof. Chin Fung Kee has contributed much to the understanding of the behaviour of pile foundations and road embankments. He developed the concept of Inverse slope method for the prediction of pile ultimate bearing capacity in 1972. This method is now known and acknowledged internationally as the 'Chin Method'. Besides geotechnical engineering, he is also well known for his works in buildings, bridges and others.

Other stars in geotechnics include Dr. Ting Wen Hui, Dr. Ooi Teik Aun, Dr. Chan Sin Fatt, Tang Tin Sing, Dr. C.T. Toh, Neoh Cheng Aik, Dr. S.S. Gue, Kenny Yee, Tan Yean Chin, Dr. C.T. Chin, Dr. Y.M. Chin, Yee Yew Weng, Dr. Ooi Lean Hock, Lee Eng Choy and others.

Large scale projects have been completed or are under construction in other member countries of the Society.

In Singapore, the number of highrise buildings has greatly increased. Further, the novel construction of the Changi International Airport on reclaimed land and other reclamation projects posed challenging geotechnical problems in ground improvement techniques. The large land reclamation projects carried out in the past include the East Coast Reclamation Project, the Tuas Reclamation Project, the Jurong Island Reclamation Project, and the Changi East Reclamation Projects. The Singapore Mass Rail Transit (MRT) System and new underground expressways that pass through areas in which highrise or preserved historical buildings are located has been constructed. Recent projects include the Northeast MRT Line, the Kallang/Paya Lebar Expressway, and the Deep Tunnel Sewage System. Dr. Tan Swan Beng, Prof. S.L. Lee and Prof. B. Broms have contributed much to the advancement of practical geotechnics in Singapore. Mention should also be made of the valuable contributions by Prof Victor Choa, Prof. S.D. Ramaswamy, Dr. G.P. Karunaratne, Prof. K.Y. Yong, Dr. C.F. Leung, Dr. Chew Soon Hoe, Dr. Harry Tan Siew Ann, Dr. Zhao Jian, Dr. J. Chu and others. The 18SEAGC jointly organized by SEAGS/AGSSEA is scheduled to be held in Singapore in 2013.

Geotechnical engineering activities in Hong Kong have also been dynamic. Despite its small size, Hong Kong is of international significance as the world's third most important financial center, as its third largest port and as a leading manufacturing and exporting center. The Territory's phenomenal economic expansion over the past few decades has been accompanied by extensive civil engineering and building in both the public and private sectors. The combination of extremely hilly terrain, deeply weathered rock profiles and high seasoned rainfall has in the past resulted in severe landslide problems in Hong Kong's intensely developed urban areas. To combat the landslide problem, a dedicated body was formed by the government in 1977 – now the Geotechnical Engineering Office (GEO). Under the leadership of Dr. E.W. Brand, Dr. A.W. Malone and Ir Raymond K.S. Chan, the GEO made significant contribution in reducing landslide risk in Hong Kong. The effort of local practitioners and researchers in enhancing slope safety and the quality of geotechnical works in developments also cannot be ignored. In particular, the late Prof. Peter Lumb pioneered geotechnical research, e.g. in the application of statistical and probabilistic analyses to geotechnics. A country report on topics of slopes, landslides, geotechnical breakthrough, tunnels and reclamation in Hong Kong can be found in the 40 th anniversary commemorative special volume published together with the 16 th Southeast Asia Geotechnical Conference. Hong Kong is hosting the 14ARC in May 2011.

Geotechnical engineering activities in Taiwan were well summarized in lectures given by Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, the founder President of the Society. Taiwan, with an area of 36,000 sq km, has more than 18 million people living mostly on lands which are alluvial plains or basins underlain by soft clays and recent deposits of sands and gravels. Many of the recently completed major projects in Taiwan have incorporated research and development in ground improvement with the use of compaction sand piles, preloading with and without drains and grouting. In addition, Taiwan is located in the active Pacific seismic zone and experiences over a thousand earthquakes and tremors every year. Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, Prof. J.J. Hung, Dr. Chin Der Ou, Dr. Woo Siu Mun, Dr. John Li, Prof. Meei-Ling Lin, Prof. Der-Wen Chang and other researchers in Taiwan must be congratulated for the enormous progress they have made in geotechnical engineering in Taiwan. The Mass Transit System in Taipei has been completed as well as the Rapid Railway System from Taipei in the North to Khaosung in the South. The 17SEAGC was held in May 2010 in Taipei.

The Secretariat of the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society has been located at the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok from the very inception of the Society. Much of the geotechnical engineering research in Thailand has been conducted at the Asian Institute of Technology and Chulalongkorn University. Other universities such as Kasetsart University, King Mongkut's University Thonburi, King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang, Suranaree University, Khonkaen University Chiangmai University etc. are fast catching up. This has been concentrated on detailed studies of the quaternary deposits found in the southern part of the lower Central Plain in which the city of Bangkok is situated. Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, the first Chairman of the Division of Geotechnical Engineering at the Asian Institute of Technology and his colleagues, Dr. E.W. Brand and Dr. John D. Nelson, initiated a comprehensive research program on the engineering behaviour of these quaternary deposits. Other early researchers include Dr. Chai Muktabhant and Mr. Nibon Ranand. The current leaderships in geotechnical engineering in Bangkok is spearheaded by Dr. S. Sambhandaraksa, Dr. Warakorn Mairaing, Dr. Wanchai Teparaksa, Dr. Noppadol Phienwej, and others. At the Asian Institute of Technology, Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam and his colleagues Prof. Prinya Nutalaya, Prof. T. Akagi, Mr. Soren Holmberg, Prof. Onodera, Dr. H. Ohta, Dr. A. Tomiolo, Dr. G. Rantucci, Dr. F. Prinzl, Dr. R.J. Whiteley, Prof. D.T. Bergado and Dr. S. Chandra, Dr. N. Phienwej, Dr. P.H. Giao and others have been active in research and development on large variety of geotechnical engineering topics. Dr. Moh, Prof. Bergado and Prof. Balasubramaniam have pioneered the improvement techniques of soft Bangkok clay. Among the infrastructure projects recently completed in Bangkok includes the New Bangkok International (Suvarnabhumi) Airport, Bangkok-Chonburi Motorway, Eastern, Western and Southern Outer Ring Road, Second and Third Stage Expressway, Bangkok Elevated Transit System and Bangkok Mass Transit Underground System, Rama 9 and Rama 7 Cable Stayed Bridges across the Chao Phraya River, etc.

The objectives of the Society when it was created in 1967 by Dr. Za-Chieh Moh was to promote cooperation among engineers, geologists and other scientists in Southeast Asia for the advancement of knowledge in geotechnical engineering. This has clearly been fulfilled over the years through periodic meetings within the region for discussion of geotechnical engineering topics; geotechnical engineering conferences, symposia, seminars and lectures held in the region; publication of a journal which contains papers of interest to geotechnical engineers; and collaboration with the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation/Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMFE/ISSMGE), the International Association of Engineering Geology (IAEG), the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) and such other bodies and societies as appropriate.

One of the most important activities of the Society is the series of regional conferences held once every two or three years. These conferences are held in the member countries of the Society and offer a unique opportunity for the geotechnical engineers in the region, as well as those from outside, to meet and exchange ideas. To date, seventeen Southeast Asian Conferences of the Society have been held as follows:

1st Conference in Bangkok (1967)

Dr. Za-Chieh Moh served as Chairman
of the Organizing Committee

2nd Conference in Singapore (1970)

A. Vijiaratnam and Chan Chee Wah
served as Chairman and Co-Chairman
respectively. Michael Lee was the
Secretary.

3rd Conference in Hong Kong (1972)

Prof. Peter Lumb served as Chairman
of the Organizing Committee

4th Conference in Kuala Lumpur (1975)

Prof. Chin Fung Kee and Dr. Ooi Teik Aun
were respectively Chairman and Secretary
of the Organizing Committee.

5th Conference in Bangkok (1977)

Dr. E.W. Brand and Prof. A.S.
Balasubramaniam served as Chairman and
Secretary of the Organizing Committee
respectively.

6th Conference in Taipei (1980)

Dr. Za-Chieh Moh served as Chairman
of the Conference Committee

7th Conference in Hong Kong (1982)

Mr. Stanley Elliott served as Chairman
of the Organizing Committee

8th Conference in Kuala Lumpur (1985)

Dr. Ting Wen Hui and Dr. C.T. Toh served
respectively as Chairman and Secretary of
the Conference Committee.

9th Conference in Bangkok (1987)

Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam (Chairman)
Dr. N. Phienwej, J. Kuwano
G. Rantucci, P. Nutalaya

10th Conference in Taipei (1990)

B.P.C. Chi (Chairman)
Dr. C.D. Ou (Secretary General)

11th Conference in Singapore (1993)

Prof. S.L. Lee (Chairman)
Dr. K.Y. Yong (Secretary)

12th Conference in Kuala Lumpur (1996)

Dr. Ooi Teik Aun (Chairman)
J.T.F. Wong (Secretary)

13 th Conference in Taipei Dr. ZaChieh Moh (Chairman)	(1998)
14 th Conference in Hong Kong Dr. A. Malone (Chairman)	(2001)
15 th Conference in Bangkok Dr. S. Sambhandaraksa (Chairman) Dr. T. Boonyatee (Secretary)	(2004)
16 th Conference in Kuala Lumpur Dr. Ooi Teik Aun (Chairman) Yee Yew Weng (Secretary)	(2007)
17 th Conference in Taipei Dr. John C.C. Li (Chairman) Dr. Der-Wen Chang (Secretary)	(2010)

Asian Regional Conferences are held once in four years. Dr. Za-Chieh Moh and Dr. E.W. Brand actively participated in the 3rd Asian Regional Conference held in Haifa, Israel in 1967. The 4th Asian Regional Conference was hosted by the Society in Bangkok in 1971. It was one of the most successful Asian Regional Conferences and was attended by over 500 participants. Drs. Za-Chieh Moh, E.W. Brand and A.S. Balasubramaniam attended the 5th Asian Regional Conference held in 1975 in Bangalore, India. The 6th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering was held in Singapore in July 1979. Dr. Tan Swan Beng served as Chairman of the Organizing Committee. Prof. Peter Lumb and Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam attended the 7th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering held in Haifa, Israel in 1983. SEAGS also hosted the following regional conference in Asia:

9th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held in Bangkok, 1991.

12th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held in Singapore, 2003.

14th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering will be held in Hong Kong in 2011.

The Society members also have participated actively in the International Conferences organized by ISSMFE/ISSMGE. Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, Dr. E.W. Brand and Dr. John D. Nelson attended the 7th International Conference in Mexico City in 1969. Dr. Za-Chieh Moh was also the Chairman of a Specialty Session on Lateritic Soils; the two volume Proceedings of that session continue as a useful reference on the engineering behaviour of laterites. Society members also participated in the 8th International Conference held in Moscow in 1973. Prof. Chin Fung Kee, Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, Dr. E.W. Brand and Dr. John D. Nelson attended and presented papers at that important conference. In the 9th ICSMFE held in Tokyo in 1977, Dr. Za-Chieh Moh served as the Chairman of the Specialty Session on Geotechnical Engineering and Environmental Control. Prof. Peter Lumb and Dr. A.S. Balasubramaniam were panelists in the Main Session on Slope Stability and Stress Deformation of Soils. In the 10th ICSMFE held in Stockholm in 1981, Dr. Za-Chieh Moh served as Chairman of the Session on Environmental Control and Dr. A.S. Balasubramaniam and Dr. E.W. Brand served as panelists. Dr. E.W. Brand will serve as a Theme Leader in the forthcoming San Francisco Conference in 1985. Dr. Za-Chieh Moh, the founder President of the Society served as the Vice President of ISSMFE for the period 1969 to 1973. The Society is fortunate to have Prof. Chin Fung Kee serving as the Vice President of ISSMFE from 1981 until the San Francisco Conference in 1985. Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam served as Vice President for IAEG from 1978 – 1982 and Vice President for Asia of ISSMGE from 1994 – 1997. Dr. Ou Chin Der served as the Vice President of International Society of Rock Mechanics from 1995 to 1999. The valuable contributions received by the Society from these Vice Presidents are gratefully acknowledged. The Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society has always valued the attendance of its office bearers at the Executive Committee meetings of ISSMFE, IAEG and ISRM. Attendance at Executive Committee meetings was as follows:

7 th ICSMFE in Mexico Dr. Za-Chieh Moh Dr. John D. Nelson	(1969)
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8 th ICSMFE in Moscow Dr. Za-Chieh Moh Dr. John D. Nelson	(1973)
Istanbul Conference Dr. Za-Chieh Moh	(1975)
9 th ICSMFE in Tokyo Prof. Peter Lumb Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam	(1977)
3 rd IAEG Congress and Council Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam Meeting in Madrid	(1978)
4 th ISRM Conference and Council Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam Meeting in Montreux, Switzerland	(1979)
10 th ICSMFE in Stockholm Dr. E.W. Brand Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam	(1981)
4 th IAEG Congress and Council Dr. E.W. Brand Meeting in New Delhi, India	(1983)
5 th ISRM Conference and Council Prof. Yudhbir Meeting in Melbourne, Australia	(1983)
11 th ICSMFE in San Francisco Dr. Za-Chieh Moh Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam	(1985)
12 th ICSMFE in Rio de Janeiro Dr. Z.C. Moh Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam	(1989)
13 th ICSMFE in New Delhi Dr. Z.C. Moh Prof. K.Y. Yong	(1994)
14 th ICSMFE in Hamburg Dr. Z.C. Moh Dr. T.A. Ooi	(1997)
15 th ICSMGE in Istanbul Dr. Z.C. Moh Dr. John Li	(2001)
16 th ICSMGE in Osaka Prof. K.Y. Yong Prof. D.T. Bergado	(2005)
17 th ICSMGE in Alexandria Dr. C.T. Chin Prof. D.T. Bergado	(2009)

Dr. Za-Chieh Moh attended the Executive Committee meeting in Tokyo in 1977 as the Vice President of ISSMFE for Asia and the Stockholm meeting in 1981 as the Chairman of an ISSMFE Subcommittee. Prof. Chin Fung Kee has attended several of the Executive Committee meetings of ISSMFE since he became the Vice President of ISSMFE for Asia in 1981. The expenses related to the attendance of the Executive Committee meetings are not borne by our Society nor ISSMFE, IAEG or ISRM. In addition to the active participation of the Society in the Regional and International Conferences, Society members also have taken an active role in the work of the various committee of ISSMFE. Among various committee that the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society has sponsored is the ISSMFE Technical Committee on Sampling and Testing of Residual Soils; this covered the period 1981 to 1985. The Chairman and Secretary of this Technical Committee were Dr. E.W. Brand and Mr. H.B. Phillipson respectively, both of the Geotechnical Control Office, Hong Kong. The main work of the committee was to publish a volume entitled Sampling and Testing of Residual Soils – A Review of International Practice. This contains state-of-the-art reports from 18 countries and has proven to be a valuable reference for engineers concerned with residual soils.

The Society Journal is published semi-annually and the editorial work is handled by the Division of Geotechnical and Transportation Engineering at AIT. Currently, the editorial work is handled by the staff of the Asian Center for Soil Improvement and Geosynthetics (ACSIG) of AIT. The editors of the journal are as follows:

1970 – 1973	Dr. E.W. Brand
1974 – 1976	Dr. E.W. Brand Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam
1977 – 1978	Dr. E.W. Brand Dr. V.K. Campbell
1978 – 1980	Dr. V.K. Campbell
1980 – 1985	Mr. J.S. Younger
1986 – 1987	Mr. D.R. Greenway
1988 – 1989	Mr. P.G.D. Whiteside
1990 – 1995	Mr. C.A.M. Franks
1996 – 2001	Prof. D.T. Bergado
2002 – 2010	Dr. N. Phienwej
2011 – Present	Prof. A. S. Balasubramaniam (Editor-in-Chief)

In addition to the regular Society conferences, symposia and courses, a number of interesting topics have been organized by AIT in association with the Society. These symposia have now become very popular because of their direct relevance and usefulness to practicing engineers. A list of these symposia is given below:

- (1) International Symposium on Soft Clay in 1977
- (2) Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Highway Engineering in 1979
- (3) International Conference on Engineering for Protection from Natural Disasters in January 1980
- (4) International Symposium on Large Dams in December 1980
- (5) Symposium on Modern Developments in Underground Works in May 1981
- (6) Symposium and Short Course on Coastal and Offshore Structures in December 1981
- (7) Symposium and Short Course on Soil and Rock Improvements in November-December 1982
- (8) Symposium and Short Course on Laboratory and Field Tests and Analysis of Geotechnical Problems in December 1983
- (9) Symposium and Specialty Session on Mass and Material Transportation in December 1984.
- (10) Environmental Geotechnics and Problematic Soils and Rocks (1985)
- (11) Computer Aided Design and Physical Modelling Using Centrifuge (1986)
- (12) Ninth Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference (1987)

- (13) Restoration and Maintenance of Infrastructures and Historical Monuments (1988)
- (14) Developments in Laboratory and Field Tests in Geotechnical Engineering Practice (1989)
- (15) Embankments, Excavations and Buried Structures (1990)
- (16) First Asian Young Geotechnical Conference (1991)
- (17) Ninth Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering (1991)
- (18) Symposium on Prediction Versus Performance and Workshops on Computer Applications and Ground Improvements (1992)
- (19) International Short Course on Evaluation of Design Parameters From Laboratory Tests (1993)
- (20) Training Course on Construction Quality Control for Sea Dykes (1993)
- (21) Symposium on Developments in Geotechnical Engineering (From Harvard to New Delhi 1936 – 1994 (1994)
- (22) International Conference on Deep Foundations and Ground Improvements (1994)
- (23) Southeast Asian Symposium on Tunnelling and Underground Space Development (1995)
- (24) International Course on Natural Hazards and Environmental Geotechnics (1995)
- (25) International Course on Numerical Analysis in Geotechnical Engineering (1996)
- (26) International Course on Estimation of Design Parameters for Soils and Rocks (1996)
- (27) International Course on Problematic Soils and Ground Improvement Techniques (1996)
- (28) International Course on Advanced Geotechnical Analysis (1997)
- (29) Geotechnical Hazards and Dam Construction (1997)
- (30) 30th Year Anniversary Symposium on Deep Foundations, Excavations, Ground Improvements and Tunneling, Bangkok, Thailand (1997)
- (31) Civil and Environmental Engineering Conference New Frontiers & Challenges Conference, Bangkok, Thailand (1999)
- (32) GeotechYear 2000 Conference, Bangkok, Thailand (2000)
- (33) International Symposium on Ground Improvement and Geosynthetic Applications (2001)
- (34) International Seminar on Geo-environmental Engineering: Assessment and Remediation of Contaminated Sites (2002)
- (35) International Symposium and Short Course on Soil/Ground Improvement and Geosynthetics in Waste Containment Applications (2003)
- (36) AuGeo Pile/BeauDrain System and Geosynthetics Applications Seminar (2004)
- (37) Pre-Conference Short Course on Dam Safety Risk Assessment (2004)
- (38) 15th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference (2004)
- (39) International Symposium on Tsunami Reconstruction with Geosynthetics (2005)
- (40) International Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Second Bangkok International Airport (2006)
- (41) International Symposium on Geotechnical Engineering, Ground Improvement and Geosynthetics for Human Security and Environmental Preservation (2007)
- (42) International Symposium on Geotechnical Engineering, Ground Improvement and Geosynthetics for Sustainable Mitigation and Adaptation to Global Warming including Climate Change (2009)
- (43) International Symposium, Exhibition and Short Course on Geotechnical and Geosynthetics Engineering: Challenges and Opportunities on Climate Change (2010)
- (44) Practical Design Approach to Geotechnical Engineering in the Tropical Environment by Dr. Laurie Wesley, Mr. Mike Dobie and Mr. Nick Shirlaw on 17 & 18 January 2011. The event was managed by IEM Training Centre and it was held in Kuala Lumpur.
- (45) The Third International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering for Disaster Mitigation and Rehabilitation 2011 (GEDMAR 2011), 17 – 20 May 2011, Semariang, Indonesia.
- (46) AGSSEA, SEAGS and ISSMGE Touring Lectures on Far Field Seismic Design, Unsaturated Soils & Soil Improvements at the following locations:-

Kuala Lumpur – 31 July, 1 & 2 August 2011

Phnom Penh – 4 August 2011

Vientiane – 8 August 2011

Yangon – 10 August 2011

Mandalay – 11 August 2011

The speakers were Professor Dennes T. Bergado, Ir. Dr. Ooi Teik Aun, Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto and Professor Charles W.W. Ng.

1. Disaster Management & Mitigation and Performance Based Design for Coastal Structures by Professor Hemanta Hazarika on 27 August 2012.
2. AGSSEA, SEAGS and ISSMGE Touring Lectures at the following locations:-

Phnom Penh – 7 November 2012
Kuala Lumpur – 9 November 2012
Manila – 12 November 2012
Palawan – 14 November 2012
Vientiane – 19 November 2012

The speakers were Professor Pedro Sêco e Pinto, Ir. Dr. Ooi Teik Aun, Professor Charles W.W. Ng, Professor Dennes T. Bergado and Professor S S Lin.

The Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society founded in 1967 by Dr. Za-Chieh Moh has indeed made very significant contributions to the development of geotechnics in Southeast Asia and elsewhere. This, of course, could not have been achieved without the hard work and generous efforts put forward by our members, supporters and participants of conferences, symposia and short courses. Among these, the contributions from the Past Presidents and General Committee members should be gratefully acknowledged and documented. Dr. Za-Chieh Moh celebrates his 80th birthday in September 2010.

Today the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society (SEAGS) is a regional society covering Malaysia, Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

It has been generally accepted that it is advantageous to form an Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia so as to include those members who have left SEAGS to join the ISSMGE as direct members. In this way they can continue to work closely with the SEAGS in matters of common interest and the geotechnical development, advancement and achievements of geotechnical engineering in the Southeast Asian region. As a forerunner of the Association Concept, the MGC 2004 was held in Kuala Lumpur with Dr. Ooi Teik Aun as Organizing Chairman with the help of Prof. K.Y. Yong, Prof A.S. Balasubramaniam, Dr. Ting Wen Hui, Dr Chan Sin Fatt, and others. Short course on practical use of Q system was run by Dr. Barton, the originator of Q system through the good office of Prof. Balasubramaniam in conjunction with the International Conference and Exhibition on Tunnelling and Trenchless Technology held in Kuala Lumpur in 2006 by Dr. Ooi Teik Aun as Chairman of the Tunnelling and Underground Space Technical Division of The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM). Presently, SEAGS is a bonafide member of the Association of Societies in Southeast Asia (AGSSEA), together with the geotechnical societies in Hong Kong, Indonesia, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam.

The Association of Geotechnical Societies in Southeast Asia was founded in 2007 with Dr. Za-Chieh Moh as Hon. Foundar Chairman, Dr. Ooi Teik Aun as Chairman, Kenny Yee as Hon. Secretary and Albert Ho as Hon. Treasurer. The current Chairman of AGSSEA is Prof. Kwet Yew Yong, Hon. Secretary is Kenny Yee and Dr. Chung Tien Chin is the Hon. Treasurer. The AGSSEA has organized many quality short courses through the good office of Prof. A.S. Balasubramaniam in Kuala Lumpur and Vietnam. Prof. David Muir Wood has just completed his lecture tour of Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bangkok, Hanoi and Taipei on “Modelling of Soft Clay” and has given Public Lectures on :The Magic of Sand”.

Professor Pedro Simão Sêco E Pinto, immediate Past President of ISSMGE delivered his 20th Professor Chin Fung Kee Memorial Lecture on Dam Engineering: State of the Art and Practice, Observed Behavior and Future Challenges on 23rd October 2010 in Kuala Lumpur. This Lecture is supported by AGSSEA and well attended by over 130 participants.

Contributed by

Prof. A. S. Balasubramaniam
Prof. Dennes T. Bergado
Prof. Kwet Yew Yong
Dr. Ooi Teik Aun

Revised April 2013