

Engineering Geology & Site Characterization Committee
Conference Call Meeting, Thursday September 19, 2012
1:00-2:00PM Eastern Standard Time

List of Participants in alphabetic order

Aaron S. Budget
Allen Jones
Amy B. Cerato
Anand J. Puppala
Gerald Miller
Laureano Hoyos
John McCartney
Mike Lewis
Malay Ghose Hajra
Paola Bandini
Paul Mayne
Nick Hudyma
Kevin Stetson
Roman Hryciw
Thomas Oommen
Xiong (Bill) Yu

Agenda Items:

1. Approval of minutes from GeoCongress 2013 meeting
The minutes from GeoCongress 2013 is unanimously approved.

2. Subcommittee Updates
 - a. Awards subcommittee – Anand Puppala
One candidate paper received and is being evaluated by the award subcommittee. Nomination for paper awards is still being solicited. Committee members are encouraged to submit the nomination (including self-nomination) to Anand ASAP and by Friday. The subcommittee will review the candidate papers and decide if it will proceed with nomination.
Anand has busy administrative assignments. Nick Hudyma will gradually take over to lead the awards subcommittee.

 - b. Website Subcommittee - John McCartney
John has served in this role for the last 4-5 years and helped to maintain a very active committee website. John decided to be more closely involved in geoenvironmental engineering committee. The plan is to transit the website to a new committee member. John has initialized discussion with Tom to transfer the website maintenance function. Bill will also send out an email to the member list to see if there is an volunteer for this position.

 - c. Special project proposal – Bill Yu
The proposal will be submitted to G-I in conjunction with the annual report that is due on Oct 1st. The plan is to develop videos of a few educational module on site investigation and field instrumentation tools. The modules can potentially be transformed into webinars or short courses.

 - d. Education subcommittee - Nick Sitar
Nick has schedule conflict and is not on the call.

 - e. Committee Liaisons

- i. ISSMGE – Paul Mayne
Paul updated the committee about ISSMGE activities, including the 5th International Conference on Site Characterization is under planning. The host of the conference is still to be finalized.
- ii. TCC – Roman Hryciw, Ray Martin
Roman provided the update on the TCC. 1) Ray Martin is appointed as the liaison to EG&SC Committee; 2) Annual report is due on Oct 1st. Form will be sent to committee chairs sometime next week; 3) TCC had a meeting in August. Concerns are raised on the quality of GSPs. The quality of papers and review processes varies for different GSPs. It is recommended that technical committee needs to be involved in the review process to ensure the quality of papers in GSP. 4) G-I is in the process of setting a task force to take over the organizing of Geo-congress. The future GeoCongress might not be championed by technical committees. Specialty conferences, however, will be championed by technical committee.
- iii. ASTM D18.26 – Richard E. Gray
Dick was not able to get through the connection due to a technical issue. He plan to attend ASTM committee meeting in Jan 2014 and provide update to the committee during the GeoCongress 2014 in Atlanta.
- iv. IBC Code Task Force – Hong Yang
Hong is not on the call to give update. John provided a brief update. The IBC code review is still being conducted.
- v. AEG, IAEG (Jeff), EEGS (Jeff), SEG, CGS (Canadian Geotechnical Society), American GeoScience Institute (AGI, Roman)
Jeff has a schedule conflict with the conference call.
Roman introduced the AGI. AGI has over 60 other member organizations, including GeolInstitute. AGI has a strong lobby efforts. They are also actively engaged in publications and outreaches.
- vi. Other (technical committee updates)
Laureano provided an update on the unsaturated soils committee.
Roman indicates that while there is no former structure to liaison with other technical committee, TCC encourages the exchange between committees to bring new ideas to the loop.

f. Subcommittee structuring

3. GeoCongress 2013, San Diego, CA, March 3-6, 2013

- a. Committee meeting: Tuesday March 5, 2013, 8:00 – 11:59 PM
- b. Committee sponsored sessions for GeoCongress 2013
 - i. *Sustainable Slope Engineering* – Dipanjan Basu, Bate Bate, Louis Ge, **Jeff Keaton, Anand Puppala**
 - ii. *Reconnaissance Observations and Monitoring of Soil and Rock Slopes for Documenting Geotechnical Performance* – **Jeff Keaton, Nick Sitar**
 - iii. *Asset Management Approaches for Natural and Engineered Slopes and Embankments* – **Scott Anderson** and Norm Dennis

Bill briefly summarized the activities at GeoCongress 2013. No further discussion on this.

4. GeoCongress 2014 Update (Atlanta, GA, February 23-26, 2014, <http://content.asce.org/conferences/geo-congress2014/index.html>)

- a. Conference update - Jeff, Nick, Scott
 - i. Conference Chairs - Jeffrey R. Keaton, Nick W. Hudyma, Scott A. Anderson
 - ii. Technical Program Chairs - Anand Puppala, Paola Bandini, Thomas Sheahan

- iii. Technical Publication Committee - Murad Y. Abu-Farsakh, Xiong (Bill) Yu, Laureano R. Hoyos
 - iv. Short Courses/Workshops Co-Chairs - Andrew Kyuho Cho, Ranjiv Gupta
 - v. Local Liaison Chair - Paul W. Mayne
 - vi. Poster Session Chair - Ning Lu
 - vii. Young Geotechnical Engineers - Amy Beth Cerato
 - viii. Exhibits and Sponsorships Chair - J. David Frost, Andrew Robert Shinnfield
 - ix. International Liaison Chair - Ian Jefferson
 - x. Student Paper Competition Chair - John Scott McCartney
 - xi. Student Design Competition Chair - Richard A. Coffman
- b. Committee Meeting
 - i. TBD but will not interfere with Soil Properties and Unsaturated Soils Committees
- c. Committee sponsored sessions for GeoCongress 2014
 - i. *Recent Advances in Characterizing Coastal Deposits*, Malay Ghose Hajra
 - ii. *Conservatism in Geo-Characterization, Analysis, and Design*, Session Number: 18, Track B - Innovation, Standardization, and Regulation, Nick W. Hudyma
 - iii. *Modeling and Characterization of Frozen Unsaturated Soils*, Session Number: 41, Track D - Sustainable Design, Visualization, and Communication, Xiong (Bill) Yu and Bin Zhang
 - iv. *Remote Sensing Techniques for Geo-characterization*, Session Number: 13, Track A – Geo-Characterization Thomas Oommen and Richard A. Coffman
 - v. *Improvement of the Practices for Selection of LRFD Design Soil/Rock Properties that Consider Project Site Variability*, Session Number: 14, Track A - Geo-Characterization, Naser Abu-Hejleh
 - vi. *Recent Advances in Characterizing Coastal Deposits*, Session Number: 24, Track B - Innovation, Standardization, and Regulation, Malay Ghose-Hajra
 - vii. *Underground Space Characterization*, Session Number: 40, Track D - Sustainable Design, Visualization, and Communication, Ian Jefferson
 - viii. *Geo-Characterization for Mega Projects*, Session Number: 6, Track A - Geo-Characterization, Hong Yang
 - ix. *Innovative Rock Characterization and Analysis*, Session Number: 9, Track A - Geo-Characterization, Fulvio Tonon
 - d. Other activities at the conference (i.e., celebration the delivery of the conference?)

Nick updated the GeoCongress 2014: regular conference call meeting is organized by Helen Cooke. A special arrangement is the interactive poster session on Wednesday morning. Poster boards will be arranged on the side of the room. Each presenter is given 2 minutes overview of the poster to initialize the discussion afterwards. The poster session will only be in parallel with panel sessions, no podium sessions. Ning Lu is the chair of the poster session. No set format for poster session but will make the session 'theatre' style.

Anand provided update on the conference program: More than 440 abstracts accepted. Around 280 papers for podium session. 100 or so for interactive poster session. 8 keynote speakers plus 3 regular keynote lectures (Terzaqhi, Peck, Seed). All together 11 keynote lectures.

Roman confirmed with Anand about the Oct 4th deadline for resubmission of revised paper for GeoCongress 2014. Anand indicated a fast track review will be conducted so the review will be done by the end of October.

John told a meeting is set up to discuss plan for student activities. Amy expressed interest to get updated to better coordinate activities for the students and the young professions. John will include Amy in the email list for the meeting.

Anand suggested he will discuss with Jeff and Nick about having G-I to assign a helper for student activities.

Paola updated on the panel sessions.

- 5. IFCEE 2015 – International Foundations Congress & Equipment Exposition, San Antonio, Texas, March 17-21, 2015
 - a. Session Proposals by Members of the Committee
 - i. *Direct CPT Methods for Axial Pile Evaluation* by Paul Mayne
 - ii. *Geotechnical Instrumentation and construction performance monitoring* by Malay Ghose-Hajra
 - iii. *Engineering Geology and Site Characterization for Underground Energy Utilization* by Bill X. Yu and Bin Zhang

b. Short Course Proposal:

Geotechnical Instrumentation Performance Monitoring for Construction by W. Allen Marr, Barry Christopher, Rob Nyren, and Malay Ghose-Hajra

Bill: three session proposals from the EG&SC committee have all been accepted by IFCEE 2015 organizing committee. The short course proposal is being reviewed. No decision has been made so far.

6. Other noteworthy activities:

a. SEEC 2014 – Shale Energy Engineering Conference (SEEC), Pittsburgh, PA, July 21-23, 2014

i. Organized by ASCE Energy Institute (the first one). Conference Tracks

1. Water Resources Management
2. Geological/Geotechnical
3. Environmental Regulatory/Public Policy
4. Supportive Infrastructure/Technology

ii. Abstract deadline was September 11, 2013. The submission link remains open.

iii. A few members of the EG&SC committee involved.

Bill described the SEEC 2014. There are still opportunities to submit papers.

b. Opportunity for specialty conference

Bill suggest the EG&SC committee to think about the possibly to organize a specialty conference. There are partner organizations we can work with. Geoenvironmental committee is planning for one.

Roman indicated that slots are open for specialty conferences.

c. Other issues

Laureano provided the information that ISSMGE is setting up a Technical Committee on Energy Technics. A colleague at University of Texas (name not recorded) is spearheading the effort.

No other issues are raised. Bill proposed to adjourn the conference call, which is second by the members. The EG&SC Committee conference call adjourned at 2:00PM EST.