

Geotechnical & Geophysical Site Characterization (2008)

The Third International Conference on Site Characterization (ISC-3) was successfully held in Taipei, Taiwan from April 01-04, 2008. The conference proceedings are entitled *Geotechnical & Geophysical Site Characterization (2008)* and include some 207 papers with 11 keynote lectures (total of 1516 pages). The special series of James K. Mitchell Lectures has continued here with the latest delivered by Professor Dick Campanella (Note: JKM's first PhD student). The proceedings have been produced with the keynotes in a hard copy volume and all papers on an electronic CD rom published by Taylor & Francis Group, London. The conference was organized around seven themes including: Case histories in field applications; Characterization of unusual/unsaturated geomaterials; Development of new equipment & methods; Geophysical testing and imaging techniques; Interpretation and analysis of test data; Pavement geomechanics; and Sampling disturbance.

The ISC-3 represents a continuation of a list of prior momentous events on various aspects of geotechnical site characterization that can be traced back to the ISC-1 (Atlanta 1998) and ISC-2 (Porto 2004). The idea and theme for these ISC series were initiated under the auspices of TC 16 - Ground Property Characterization by In-Situ Tests of the ISSMGE. Our gracious organizer and host was Professor An-Bin Huang of National Chiao Tung University. Plans are now underway for the next of these international conferences to be held in Recife, Brazil in 2012.

A diverse and international group of around 460 researchers, practitioners, and academicians from 38 countries gathered at the Taipei International Convention Center (TICC) to exchange their experiences and findings on site investigation methods and testing. [Note: the TICC is one block away from Taipei 101 - currently the tallest building in the world]. At the ISC-3, creative and novel ideas in the use and development of sampling of soils and rocks, geophysical techniques, and in-situ testing were discussed and presented. Topics on in-situ field methods included the cone penetrometer, piezocone, standard penetration testing, flat dilatometer, pressuremeter, and vane shear devices, as well as hybrids such as the seismic piezocone test and seismic dilatometer. Papers presented at ISC-3 revealed some of the remarkable developments in geophysical field mapping and imaging techniques that enable nondestructive profiling of underground conditions. A rise in the utilization of risk management, probability, and statistics in geotechnical site characterization was clearly evident. Particular useful applications include the evaluation and assessment of natural hazards including earthquakes, tsunamis, and hurricane/typhoon related-events.

Online order for book: <http://www.taylorandfrancis.com/>

ISC-3 Website: <http://www.elitepc.com.tw/ISC3/>

Direct book info: <http://tinyurl.com/ggsc2008>