

REVIEW: CHARACTERIZATION & ENGINEERINGG PROPERTIES OF NATURAL SOILS (2007)

In this latest series on the theme of *Characterization and Engineering Properties of Natural Soils (2007)*, the selection of 31 papers covers a diverse and complex assortment of various geomaterials that have received important assessments by laboratory, field in-situ geotechnical testing, geophysics, and statistical evaluations.

The workshop was held in Singapore in December 2006 with the proceedings under the combined editorships of Thiam Soon Tan, Kok-Kwang Phoon, David Hight, and Serge Leroueil. These two new volumes (3 and 4) complement the prior series in two volumes (1 and 2) issued in 2003 (Balkema). Both hard cover series sets are accompanied by electronic CD versions that are searchable. These latest volumes start with three overview papers by Professor Paul W. Mayne on In-Situ Testing, Dr. Suzanne Lacasse on Statistical Variability, and Prof. Chris Clayton on Lab Testing. These are followed by invited papers on a variety of interesting topics ranging from alluvial clay deposits, marine clays, stiff soils, organic clays and peats, loess, silts, volcanics, residua, hydrates, and recent sediments, as well as methods to handle variability and uncertainty. Some of the invited speakers included: Andrew Whittle, Marco Uzelli, Paolo Simonini, Mike Long, Dennis Becker, H. Tanaka, Mark Jaksa, Paul Chiasson, Serge Leroueil, Laurie Wesley, L. Picarelli, V. Rinaldi, and Roberto Coutinho, as well as other distinguished authors. **ISBN: 9780415426916**

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These references will be invaluable to any and all who are engaged in the field of geotechnical site characterization and the determination of engineering soil parameters of geomaterials. Each site represents an important formation or notable deposit which has been subjected to extensive series of lab and field testing, as well as several with either case histories, full-scale load testing results, geophysical mapping, or construction applications. From all four volumes, it is clear that a comprehensive assessment of soil & rock materials may take from one to four decades for an initial understanding of their behavioral aspects to be realized. Some of the geomaterials covered in these latest 2 volumes include: Beaufort Sea clays, Troll clay in the North Sea, Dublin Boulder clay, Mekong Delta, Taipei clay, Champlain Sea clays, Old Alluvium in Puerto Rico, Hong Kong saprolites, pumice sands, Chinese loess, Argentine loess, Dutch peats, Recife Brazilian soft clays, Canadian peats, Japanese weathered granites, Venetian lagoon silts, Ariake clay, fissured plastic clays from Italy, as well as data analyses on North American soils from Charleston/SC, Baton Rouge/LA, Chicago soft clays, Bootlegger Cove clay from Anchorage/AK, Texas A&M sand site, and others. These volumes will become an invaluable resource for those wishing to calibrate their constitutive soil model, show illustrative examples of site characterization, develop interrelationships between in-situ and laboratory test data, and/or gain an excellent understanding of the nuances and varieties on the complexities of soil behaviour. The table of contents for all four volumes in the series is attached for consideration.

