

**SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
CASE HISTORIES IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING AND  
SYMPOSIUM IN HONOR OF PROFESSOR JAMES K. MITCHELL**

Arlington, VA (USA)-August 11-16, 2008

<http://www.6icchge2008.org>

## **CONFERENCE REPORT**

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Missouri University of Science and Technology, in collaboration with many partners from all over the world, successfully presented the Sixth International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering in August 2008 in Arlington, VA, USA. After the debut of the conference in May 1984, this conference had been organized in June 1988, May 1993, March 1998, August 2004, and now in August 2008 to meet the demands of the profession. This conference has not only provided a common platform for all geotechnical engineers and engineers who collaborate with geotechnical engineers for discussing and learning from failure and successes from completed projects but has revolutionized the way case histories in geotechnical engineering are used to perform safer and more cost effective projects and train geotechnical engineers ready to face challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century projects.

The opening session of the conference highlighted dedication of conference proceedings to the memory of the late Ralph Peck who transformed the practice of geotechnical engineering by suggesting the “observational method.” The conference also recognized the pioneering work of one of the most respected geotechnical engineers in the world, Prof. James K. Mitchell, by organizing a special session and a symposium in his honor. Many successful engineers who worked with Prof. Mitchell shared their stories on how their association with him influenced their careers and the profession of geotechnical engineering. In addition, they presented results from their recent projects which were designed based on the pioneered work of Prof. Mitchell. Prof. Mitchell received the standing ovation and the conference hall roared with the sound of applause for several minutes.

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A total of 318 participants from 43 countries attended the conference and benefited directly from outstanding presentations on 10 themes, and 11 State of the Art and Practice lectures presented by world renowned engineers. A total of 19 commercial exhibitors displayed most current geotechnical equipment, instruments, and services available for researchers and professional engineers. A pre-conference short course on “Soil Dynamics in Engineering Practice,” attended by 43 engineers from 41 countries set the stage for the conference. Hundreds of engineers, particularly young geotechnical engineers, availed the opportunity to present their work and interact with international audience. Keynote Lecture was delivered by Professor Liam Finn. Other state of the art and practice lectures were delivered by Clyde N. Baker, Jr., Des Hartford, Kjell Karlsrud, Ed Kavazanjian, Yoshiaki Kikuchi, Ronaldo Luna and J. David Rogers, K. Rainer Massarsch and Bengt Fellenius, Pedro Seco e Pinto, Raymond B. Seed, J.P. Singh and William Van Impe.

One of the unique features of the sixth conference was the addition of a session on “Application of Case Histories to Geotechnical Practice and Education,” for the first time. The distinguished lecture for this session by David Rogers provided a historical perspective on the use of geotechnical case histories in education, beginning from a course developed and taught by Prof. Ralph Peck around 1956. A special session was also devoted to presentation of annual “Shamsher Prakash Research Award and Award for Excellence in the Practice of Geotechnical Engineering.”

A very well organized spouses program provided unique opportunities for families of the participants to enjoy rich history and magnificent architecture of the Capital City, Washington D.C. The conference concluded with a post conference tour to the Woodrow Wilson Bridge and an excavation site.

A set of conference proceedings which include 11 state of the art and practice papers, 336 papers authored by leading geotechnical engineers, 10 general reports and an abstract volume, edited by Prof. Shamsher Prakash, Conference Chairman, is available at a rate of \$250 plus shipping and handling. For additional information about the conference and ordering proceedings of this and previous conferences, please visit <http://www.gicchge2008.org>.