

## *Report from USA*

### **Geotechnical and Foundation Engineering Societies and Industry Associations in the United States (Part1)**

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There are multiple geotechnical and foundation engineering societies/associations based in the United States. Giken America Corp. and some of its employees, including the author, have joined these societies and have been participating in some committee activities. As the first of the series articles on these societies, let us look at the Geo-Institute of American Society of Civil Engineers (G-I of ASCE) and Deep Foundations Institute (DFI).

#### ◆ **Geo-Institute of American Society of Civil Engineers (G-I of ASCE)**

According to its homepage, ASCE is the oldest engineering society in the United States, founded back in 1852. This non-profit organization is headquartered at Reston, Virginia; a suburb of Washington, D.C. The current size of membership is estimated at about 170,000 from more than 170 countries worldwide although the majority of them are in North America, especially the United States.

One of its 9 Institutes (technical discipline-based groups of the members) is the Geo-Institute (G-I), which is “a specialty membership organization focused on geo-professionals and the geo-industry”. The G-I was established in 1996 and is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary with over 13,000 current members. (<https://www.asce.org/communities/institutes-and-technical-groups/geo-institute/about>)

The G-I organizes and holds an annual GeoCongress Conference and other geotechnical engineering conferences, such as the GeoExtreme Conference held in Savannah, Georgia in November 2021, where the author and his colleague exhibited and presented a couple of papers. ASCE publishes the proceedings of these conferences in the name of G-I in addition to peer-reviewed the Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering and the Journal of Geomechanics. They are available online at the “ASCE Library” and also in a print format.

The bi-monthly “GeoStrata” magazine is edited and distributed by G-I for its members. See Fig. 1 for the cover of a recent issue of “GeoStrata” along with “Civil Engineering”, an ASCE monthly magazine.

G-I has 20 technical committees on various aspects of foundation and geotechnical engineering such as computational geotechnics, deep foundations, earth retaining, soil improvement, unsaturated soil, and so on.



Fig. 1. Covers of Civil Engineering and GeoStrata

## ◆ Deep Foundations Institute (DFI)

DFI was established in 1976 as a non-profit organization; representing as “bringing together contractors, specifications writers, soils design and construction engineers, material suppliers, and equipment developers to provide a common forum for all concerned with deep foundations” (<https://dfi.org/about-dfi/history/>).

Headquartered at Hawthorne, New Jersey, DFI has more than 4,000 members worldwide from a wide range of the geotechnical/foundation engineering design and construction industry as originally envisioned. Geographically speaking, about two thirds of the members are in the U.S. with the balance from the rest of the world. In terms of the business sector representation, contractors, consulting engineers, suppliers, and owners make up 26%, 23%, 18%, and 5% of the membership respectively, while students and professors constitute 28% (<https://dfi.org/members/>). There are three types of memberships offered; corporate, student, and individual. Giken America Corp. is a corporate member.

The DFI Europe, DFI Middle East and DFI India chapters have been established and active as the chapters outside of the U.S.

DFI hosts an annual conference as well as theme-focused conferences/seminars throughout each year at various locations in North America. For example, the author and his colleagues exhibited and presented papers at the SuperPile’21 Conference in Philadelphia in June and also at the 2021 Annual Conference in Las Vegas in October.

Besides the conference proceedings and foundation engineering guidance/manuals, DFI publishes the DFI Journal which is “an international peer-reviewed publication that supports authors whose research and practice covers a broad range of subjects on deep foundation engineering and construction” (<https://dfi.org/publications/>). They are available online at the “DFI Publication Store”. Also published is the bi-monthly “Deep Foundations” magazine distributed to its members. Fig. 2 shows the cover of its recent issue.

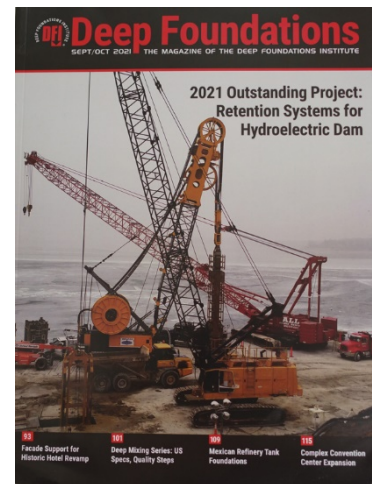


Fig. 2. Cover of Deep Foundations

DFI currently has 28 technical committees. The author and his colleagues have joined and are active in the following committees: Driven Pile, Marine Foundations, Manufacturers, Suppliers, and Service Providers, and Women in Deep Foundations. DFI is governed by a board of trustees who are elected by DFI members and run by a group of staff headed by an executive director. One of the author’s colleagues at Giken America Corp. has recently been elected as a DFI trustee (Srilakshmi “Lucky” Nagarajan).

In the article in the next newsletter, the author plans to discuss the Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA) and the United States Society on Dams (USSD).

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