

## *Event Report*

### **17<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering**

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The 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held on 14 – 17 August, 2023, at the Hilton Astana Hotel, Astana, Kazakhstan (Photo 1). The conference was organized under the auspices of ISSMGE (International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering), the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society (KGS), Akimat of Astana, the Eurasian National University, and “Geotechnical Center” Ltd. (Saint Petersburg, Russia).

The conference was attended by more than 600 experts from 90 countries with the main theme “Smart Geotechnics for Smart Societies”. The technical program consisted of eight keynote lectures, six special lectures, six invited lectures, six thematic lectures, and three Bright Spark lectures. One of the invited lectures entitled “Creep after Surcharge Unloading” was given by IPA President Prof. Leung Chun Fai (Photo 2).

Topics covered during the conference included: soil characteristics and properties; underground spaces and deep excavations; tunneling; slope debris flows and embankments; dams; shallow and deep foundations; soil dynamics and geotechnical earthquake engineering; soil improvement; Geoenvironmental engineering; geosynthetics and geoproducts; engineering geology and rock engineering; offshore and harbor geotechnics; Geotechnical training and education; in-situ testing and monitoring; GeoEnergy; case histories; investigations of foundations of historical structures, buildings and monuments; numerical analysis of soil-structure interaction; geotechnical infrastructures; marine geotechnics; mining and geotechnics; design and modelling; transportation geotechnics, engineering, and technology, pile foundations, technologies, and testing; trenchless technology in underground constructions; pipelines on problematic geotechnical conditions; frost geotechnics; BIM technology and geotechnical engineering; and Megaprojects and Megastructures in difficult geotechnical conditions.

During the ISSMGE Council Meeting held on August 13, 2023, IPA Director Dr. Andrew McNamara assumed the position of ISSMGE Secretary General from Prof. Neil Taylor (Photo 3). During the Asian Council Meeting held on August 15, 2023, it was decided that the next Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering would be held in 2027 in Bangkok, Thailand. It was also decided that the 1<sup>st</sup> Geotech Asia Conference will be held in Mumbai, India in 2025.



Photo 1. Group picture at the closing of the 17<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering



Photo 2. IPA President Prof. Leung Chun Fai delivering an invited lecture entitled “Creep after Surcharge Unloading”



Photo 3. IPA Director Dr. Andrew McNamara assuming the position of ISSMGE Secretary General during the ISSMGE Council Meeting held on 13 August, 2023.