



ISSMGE TC 211 GROUND IMPROVEMENT NEWSLETTER n°5, December 2012

Dear Reader,

As promised in our fourth Newsletter we will give some impressions of the Symposium and the Short Courses that were organized last May of this year in Brussels and also some ideas concerning the activities of TC 211 during the International Conference of ISSMGE to be held in Paris next year.

1 Symposium IS-GI Brussels 2012:

The International Symposium TC 211 IS – GI Brussels 2012 was a very great success due to the very large attendance (max. capacity of 280 persons fully booked), the very interesting contributions, the nice technical exhibition and the pleasant atmosphere.

During the symposium 7 plenary Technical Sessions were held. Each session consisted out of the presentation of a geotechnical report followed by the presentation of 4 selected papers and a discussion.

During the symposium the *Louis Menard Lecture* was given by Dr. Ir. Patrick Mengé of DEME on Recent Advances and Execution Aspects in Ground Improvement in Dredging and Environmental Marine Engineering and a *specialty lecture* was given by ISSMGE Chairman Prof. J.L. Briaud on Design Guidelines and Full Scale Verification for MSE Walls with Traffic Barriers Impacted by Vehicles.

The symposium Proceedings edited by Noël Huybrechts and Nicolas Denies of the Belgium Building Research Institute consists of 4 volumes:

- Volume 1 contains the General Reports , the Menard Lecture , the specialty lecture by JL Briand and some late contributions
- Volume 2, 3 and 4 contain the contributions to the Symposium.

The Proceedings of the Symposium can be downloaded from the Symposium website
www.bbri.be/go/IS-GI-2012

With contributions of all over the world, the Symposium Proceedings give a very nice overview of recent and actual research on ground improvement. From the discussion during the Symposium it appeared clearly that although a lot of research is being done, the translation of the research results into design methods or executions specifications remains problematic. This is certainly the case for:

- deep compaction of calcareous sands
- the influence of the installation method of vertical drains
- the influence of the equipment on the characteristics of soil mix material
- the design of piled embankments.



Very interesting discussion points were the uncertainty related to ground improvement works and the risk evaluation. When ground improvement works have to be performed in special grounds or special conditions it is not clear how the uncertainty related to these special conditions should be taken into account. When ground reinforcement is realised, risk evolution should be performed to clearly describe the consequences in the case of failure of the reinforcing elements.

During the Symposium an exhibition was organized for the Platinum and Gold Sponsors.

The organisers are very pleased with the very large participation of people from contractors and industry as illustrated in the table below.

	Short courses	Symposium
Contractors / engineers	48%	47%
Designers / consultants	15%	22%
Researchers / academicians	33%	26%
Ministeries / owners	4%	5%

The Technical Visit on Saturday 2 June was attended by 80 participants and accompanying persons. The boat trip on the Scheldt River, the explanation on the windmill activities of DEME, the visit of the AMORAS sludge treatment plant and the visit to the MAS museum were highly appreciated. Many thanks to DEME for offering the whole Technical Visit.

An overview of the pictures taken during the symposium, the short courses, the symposium dinner and the technical visit can be found on the symposium website.

www.bbri.be/go/IS-GI-2012

2 Short courses:

On 30 may 2012, the day before the symposium, 3 short courses took place:

- SC 1 Marine Ground Improvement was attended by 65 persons
- SC 2 Deep Mixing was attended by 100 persons
- SC 3 Rigid inclusions & Soil Reinforcement was attended by 65 persons.

The very high attendance with participants from 36 countries and the 6 continents was totally unexpected, but clearly illustrates the necessity for a well-organized transfer of information.



TC 211

3 Sponsoring

The Organizing Committee acknowledges the financial support from 19 companies, which contributed in a significant way to the success of IS-GI Brussels 2012.

3.1 Platinum sponsors



3.2 Gold sponsors



3.3 Silver sponsors



4 Webinar on Ground Improvement:

In March 2013 the Webinar of ISSMGE will be given by Serge Varaksin and Noël Huybrechts on Ground Improvement. Further information will be made available by ISSMGE.



5 TC211 activities at the next ICSMGE in Paris:

The TC211 will coordinate the technical session on Ground Improvement.

Furthermore a 1,5 hour special session will be organized, during which a written summary of the 3 Short Courses of the IS-GI Symposium at Brussels will be presented.

6 Other TC 211 related events:

Through members of the TC 211 we received information on the following events:

- George Filz, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA 24061, asked to inform you on the *2013 Geo-Congress on Stability and Performance of Slopes and Embankments III* to be held from 3-6 March in San Diego, California. Information on this Congress can be found on the website www.asce.org/GeoCongress2013 .
- The *18th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference* (18SEAGC) cum Inaugural AGSSEA Conference (1AGSSEA) will take place in Singapore from 29 to 31 May, 2013. This conference is organised by the Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS) under the auspices of Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society and Association of Geotechnical Societies in SouthEast Asia. More information is available on the conference website <http://18seagc.com> .
- The *7th International Conference on Case Histories in Geotechnical Engineering* and the symposium in honor of Clyde Baker will take place in Wheeling (Chicago) Illinois from April 29 to May 5 2013. More information is available on the conference website <http://7icchge.mst.edu> .

7 Next Newsletter:

We will try to include in the next newsletter a list with recent references to publications and internet sites concerning the themes given in the terms of reference.

Please transmit all available information to the secretary Noël Huybrechts, noel.huybrechts@bbri.be.

A next newsletter will be edited before the summer of 2013 with further information on the TC 211 contribution to the next ICSSMGE in Paris.



Some pictures from IS-GI Brussels 2012

We wish you all the best for 2013!