

Del Fredlund's Closing Remarks to the International Conference on Problematic Soils

In the future, I will remember the 2005 International Conference on Problematic Soils for several reasons:

- 1) the warm hospitality extended to us,
- 2) the food, more food, wonderful food,
- 3) the perfect weather and the beautiful beaches,
- 4) the well-organized and informative technical content, and
- 5) I will remember it most as a time when I witnessed a dream that became a reality.

You see, I knew that Dr. Huriye Bilsel had a dream for several years to have the exchange of technical research information on unsaturated soil mechanics problems, geo-environmental problems and other problematic soils, brought to the engineers of Cyprus and surrounding regions, as well as other countries. This was an enormous undertaking for a country with less than a quarter of a million people; but it was her dream.

In order to be successful, she needed to build strong trust-relationships with many people, and this, she has done. She sought and obtained the trust and support of colleagues such as Dr. Zalihe Nalbantoglu, the graduate students at the Eastern Mediterranean University, and officials in the Government of Northern Cyprus. And the result is what we have witnessed: an extremely successful conference.

On behalf of all the attendees to the conference, I want to express our thanks for what Dr. Bilsel and all the organizers of this conference have done for Northern Cyprus, for the people in the surrounding regions, and the international geotechnical community as a whole.

You have once again demonstrated that even when you are a few people in a small country, you can have a significant impact and influence on the world. I thank you for all you have done. We will remember your sacrificial contribution to the geotechnical community.

Thank you.

Del Fredlund
May 27, 2005