

Preface

The International Conference on Problematic Soils is the first Geotechnical Engineering Conference organised by the Civil Engineering Department of Eastern Mediterranean University (EMU), under the auspices of the Turkish National Committee of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, and the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE).

International focus has been on Cyprus for many years on diverse issues. Generally associated with political issues, the word 'problem' has been an integral part of the island's name for decades. However, as organisers of GEOPROB 2005 and editors of the proceedings we would like to draw international attention to a totally different issue: Problematic Soils. The conference topics consist of almost all the geotechnical engineering problems which can be encountered on the island of Cyprus. Research carried out in the Geotechnical Engineering Research Laboratory of Eastern Mediterranean University in the past decade, has concentrated mainly on swelling soils, implementing unsaturated soil technology, and remediation of swelling soils. Various potential local soil problems include natural (over sinkholes) and man-made collapsible soils, (unengineered fills), dispersive soils, copper mine waste-contaminated soils, landfills, chemo-mechanical coupling in the behaviour of overconsolidated marine clays.

The proceedings of GEOPROB 2005 are comprised of 138 papers and 7 keynote addresses compiled in three volumes. These contributions include fundamental and applied research, the relationship between research and practice, and the development of well-instrumented case studies that define the quality of design procedures. The volumes are organized to include in Volume 1, papers on advances and implementation of unsaturated soil technology, geo-environmental issues, and chemo-mechanical coupling effects in soils; in Volume 2 contributions on swelling-shrinking soils, collapsible soils and remediation and construction methodologies in problematic soils, and soil dynamic properties with an emphasis on liquefaction potential, together with miscellaneous topics, in Volume 3.

Our intention was to put together a scientific program which encourages open and constructive discussions. It is the hope of the organizers that during these three days the participants will share results, experiences and ideas on the conference theme and the related subjects.

We would like to extend our appreciation to the EMU administration for the support given to this endeavor throughout the organization period. We would further like to express our deepest gratitude to the Scientific and Technical Research Council of Turkey (TÜBİTAK) for supporting the proceedings.

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