

IGC 2006, IIT Madras, 14-16 December 2006

IICSR centre was a beehive of activity even from the afternoon of December 13, 2006. A number of meetings such as the IGS executive committee meeting of the new committee for 2007-2008 and the old committee of 2005-2006, the meeting of chairmen of local chapters and the organizing committee meeting of Asian Regional Conference – 2007 were held at the building from 3 pm onwards. A large number of delegates were milling in and around in the building. They took the opportunity to register themselves early. The registration desk was functioning in full swing. This momentum continued during the next day also and the total number of delegates registered for the conference was 496.



The number of delegates who attended through the sponsors was 150. The large number of 496 delegates was an evidence of the keen interest of geotechnical engineers to participate in IGC and its activities.

The auditorium of ICSR building was overflowing with delegates much earlier before the inaugural function started at 9:30 am on December 14 and the overflow was accommodated at the lecture hall 3, where the inauguration function was projected on a large TV screen. Prof S.R. Gandhi, The organizing chairman welcomed the gathering. Prof M.S. Ananth, Director IIT, Madras presided over the inaugural function, while Maj. General S.N. Mukherjee, IGS President delivered a special address. Sri K.V. Raghavan, Vice President, L&T ECC, delivered the key note address and inaugurated the conference. The IGS awards for the best technical papers and the Kukhelmann award were then distributed followed by the induction of honorary members.



The conference proceedings in two volumes and a CD containing complete proceedings were released during the inauguration.

The exhibition was declared open by the IGS President elect Mr. Mahavir Bidasaria immediately after the inauguration of the conference. There were twenty eight organizations exhibiting their work/products. The exhibition hall was strategically located on the way from the lecture halls to dining hall. The arrangement was appreciated by both the delegates and the exhibiting organizations. The exhibitors expressed their satisfaction at the number of delegates who visited the stalls at IGC 2006.



IGS annual lecture was delivered by Dr. S. Narasimha Rao, Professor of Civil Engineering (Retd.), IIT, Madras. The theme of the lecture was pullout behaviour of screw and suction anchors in soft marine clays.

The Technical Committee had gathered an eminent group of geotechnical professionals to deliver the key note lectures. There were eleven lecturers from India and abroad, a good blend of academicians and field engineers. The response of the audience was excellent for these lectures. The speakers, particularly those from abroad, gave lucid and interesting presentations making optimal use of the projection facilities, sticking to the time constraints and following instructions.



The three parallel sessions also attracted a full house. It was encouraging to observe the delegates moving from one hall to the other even during the sessions to listen to presentations of their choice. Some senior members have earlier expressed the fear that some of the lecture halls during the parallel sessions may be deserted. This did not materialize possibly because the interest of the delegates extended over a wide range of topics.

Each parallel session had one or two invited lectures which were ably presented. There were a total of 15 invited lectures. The authors presented their papers in the remaining time after the invited lectures. Time was limited to 8 to 10 minutes for presentation. The discussion time was meagre or absent. The chairmen of the sessions had a tough problem in time management and they solved it admirably. The co-chairmen are probably superfluous in parallel sessions since in their closing remarks they mostly summarized the papers already presented.



The change of venue caused by the repairs to the big auditorium affected the cultural and banquet programme. The blend of classical and folk dances offered by Kalakshetra was short, enjoyable and brisk. Many delegates felt that it could have a bit longer. However the acoustics and seating arrangements at the Students Activities Centre were below par. The space in the dining area was also inadequate restricting free movement of the delegates.

The organizers have made elaborate arrangements for the reception, accommodation and boarding of the delegates. The delegates expressed their appreciation with the accommodation and boarding. Except for one or two cases, reception at arrival was also generally satisfactory. The credit for the success of the hospitality work should go to the students who did the bulk of the work. The students have to spend a lot of time attending to the needs of the delegates rather than attending the technical sessions of the conference. Possibly engaging event managers may be a solution to relieve the students of their voluntary responsibilities.



The valedictory function was held at 4 pm on December 16, 2007. Er. Mahavir Bidasaria, President of IGS presided over the function. Er. Shanker Guha, Technical Director, Simplex Infra Structure Limited delivered the valedictory address. Prof. S.R. Gandhi handed over a cheque for Rs 25000/- to Er. Bidasaria being its initial contribution to IGS as part of the registration fees collected.