

EDITORIAL

This August 2011 issue is wholly dedicated to the special issue of *Soils and Foundations*, published in link with the Fifth International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials (IS-Seoul), which will be held in Seoul for the period between 31 of August and 3 of September, 2011 under the joint auspices of the ISSMGE -Committee TC101 entitled “Stress-strain and Strength Testing of Geomaterials” and the Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS). This is the second special issue of *Soils and Foundations* published in conjunction with TC101, noting that the preceding special issue was published in August 2003 (Vol. 43, No. 4) at the occasion of the Third International Symposium held in Lyon, September 2003.

The idea for holding “the Fifth International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials” in Korea, together with the publication of special issue in link with the symposium, came up at the meeting of TC29 (currently renumbered to TC101) held in Kobe on 28 July, 2008. The meeting was organized during the International Workshop on “Recent Development of Advanced Laboratory Testing of Geomaterials” sponsored by TC29 and co-sponsored by the Japanese Geotechnical Society (JGS)/Graduate School of Engineering, Kobe University. The Kobe workshop was scheduled just before IS-Atlanta, the preceding the Fourth International Symposium held in September 2008. Upon request by Professor Richard Jardine, the former Chairman of TC29 from Imperial College, Professor Dong Soo Kim, the Korean representative for TC29 from Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, promised those present to discuss the possibility of holding the IS in Korea at the board meeting of the KGS. A few weeks later, all the members of TC29 including me as the secretary were delighted with the positive answer that the KGS made an official decision to host IS-Seoul in the year of 2011.

A total of 17 technical papers are compiled in this special issue. The contributed papers deal with a wide spectrum of topics regarding the shear behavior of geomaterials over a wide strain range; i.e., the quasi-elastic stiffness at very small strains, the strength at peak conditions and the development of shear band at post-failure regime. A few papers are dedicated to the application of advanced laboratory testing in research in integrated site characterisation studies and in ground modelling. A case study on rainfall-induced slope failure is also included. I believe that this special issue like the previous August 2003 issue will remain longer than usual as an important archive in experimental soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering.

I would like to thank all the authors contributed to this special issue. The rapid review by the editorial committee led to this special issue in time for IS-Seoul. Special thanks are extended to Professor Junichi Koseki and Dr. Reiko Kuwano, the Institute of Industrial Science, the University of Tokyo, and Professor Hirofumi Toyota, Nagaoka University of Technology, for their pains-taking work as executive board members in charge of the peer-review. It should be mentioned that the quality of papers was maintained with great supports from TC101 headed by Professor Herve Di Benedetto, ENTPE, France, and also from local organizing committee of IS-Seoul.

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