



January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2006

Dear colleague,

With this letter we would like to invite you to participate in the workshop titled "International Journal of Geoengineering Case Histories: Case histories in the information age". The workshop will be held as part of the Geo-Congress 2006 conference in Atlanta, Georgia, on Sunday February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2006 from 8:30 am to 12:00 pm. The workshop aims to explore the means by which case histories can be more effectively documented and promoted so as to better serve the research and practice of our Profession.

The motivation for this workshop is the recently established International Journal of Geoengineering Case Histories (IJGCH). The IJGCH is a refereed journal that covers the broad area of practice in geotechnical engineering (soils and rocks), geotechnical earthquake engineering, and engineering geology. Articles on well-documented case histories with emphasis on observations and data collected during and after project construction are invited. Emphasis is given in the methods used to collect the data, the project's design and construction details, and system performance. The journal aims to become an efficient mean of publishing and distributing high quality data from research and construction projects by taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the Internet. The journal intends to be the most effective way for the publication of the wealth of case history data that practicing engineers and professors worldwide currently have that is now unavailable to the profession.

The purpose of the Geo-Congress 2006 workshop is:

- **To stress the importance of case histories and examine the relationship of case histories with the research and practice of our profession.** A survey is currently being performed and to this day more than 400 geoengineers from around the world have participated. The survey aims to explore the opinion/perception of geoengineers (involved in practice, education and research) regarding case histories and refereed journals. Limited results are presented in a subsequent page and the responses demonstrate the importance of case histories in geoengineering and the need for this workshop.
- **To identify how case histories can more effectively be promoted and be used to improve the practice and the research of our profession.**
- **To present the mission and characteristics of the newly established International Journal of Geoengineering Case Histories.**
- **To explore the point of view of various Geoengineering Associations and explore potential opportunities for collaboration among the Associations and the case histories journal.** Representatives of various geoengineering associations (including possibly ASCE GEO-INSTITUTE, ISSMGE, ARMA, ISRM, IAEG, DFI, USUCGER) will



- be invited to participate in the workshop and will have the opportunity to present the association's point of view on this topic and also provide recommendations and ideas.
- **To receive feedback from the participants of the workshop.** A discussion will follow that will aim to record the opinions of the participants on this issue and explore opportunities for improvement on the documentation and promotion of case histories in the geoen지니어ing practice and research.

We would like to invite you to participate in the workshop. While it is not required, you may want to register in the workshop so that we ensure that there will be printed documentation available for you. To register to the workshop visit: <http://www.geoengineer.org/interestform.html>

In the following pages you may find a sample of the survey questions and some information regarding the new International Journal of Geoengineering Case Histories.

Sincerely,

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## SURVEY: GEOENGINEERING, REFEREED JOURNALS AND CASE HISTORIES

An online survey was initiated through the Geotechnical website on December 15, 2005 and is still in progress. To date, about 400 geotechnical engineers have responded to a series of questions. The detailed results will be presented in the workshop, but the responses to some of the questions are included in this sheet.

### Question #6

**Question:** To how many journals are you personally subscribed?



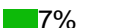

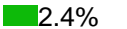

#### **Responses**

0		35.3%
1		22.6%
2-4		33.7%
>4		8.4%

### Question #9

**Question:** What is the primary reason for not subscribing to more refereed journals?


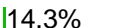
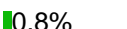

#### **Responses**

Price		58.8%
Content		9.1%
Not of much interest to my practice		7%
Quality		2.4%
No time to read it		14.4%
Other.		8.3%

### Question #12

**Question:** In your opinion, how important are well-documented case histories in the geotechnical field?



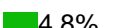

#### **Responses**

Very important		84.9%
Somewhat important		14.3%
Not that important		0.8%
Unimportant		0%

### Question #18

**Question:** Would you consider a refereed journal entirely focused on case histories useful in your practice?

#### **Responses**

Very useful		55.3%
Somewhat useful		39.9%
Not that useful		4.8%
Not useful.		0%



## INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GEOENGINEERING CASE HISTORIES

### Brief Description

The "International Journal of Geotechnical Engineering Case Histories" is a referred journal that covers the broad area of practice in geotechnical engineering (soils and rocks), geotechnical earthquake engineering, and engineering geology. Articles on well-documented case histories with emphasis on observations and data collected during and after project construction are invited. Emphasis is given in the methods used to collect the data, the project's design and construction details, and system performance. The journal aims to become an efficient mean of publishing and distributing high quality data from research and construction projects by taking advantage of the opportunities provided by the Internet. The journal intends to be the most effective way for the publication of the wealth of case history data that practicing engineers and professors worldwide currently have that is now unavailable to the profession.

The International Journal of Geotechnical Engineering Case Histories has certain characteristics that differentiate it from existing geotechnical journals:

1. Articles are accessible at no cost. Anyone interested will be able to download an article by just visiting the website. This is important for the readers but also to the authors as any article of the journal is guaranteed maximum exposure. Printed copies will be available at a cost.
2. Each article (in pdf format) will be accompanied by excel files that will contain the important data that are presented in the article. This will make the data easily available to other interested parties and allow for the widest possible dissemination of these important data to the benefit of the authors and of the profession. The data are an integral and required part of each article.
3. The journal is multi-colored. Published articles can have colored photos that more clearly show important details. This is particularly important for case histories, as typically figures are not well reproduced to illustrate important points.
4. Articles that have been accepted will be published immediately, minimizing time delays. This is particularly attractive for authors.
5. The journal and all articles will be searchable directly on the Internet by search engines that will make the articles more accessible. Articles will also be promoted in various ways.

There are many more innovative features of the journal that are presented in the journal's website.

The intention is not to establish another journal. The "International Journal of Geotechnical Engineering Case Histories" will hopefully become a much relied upon database of high-quality geotechnical information. Our main goal is to provide a high quality, useful and free tool for the practicing engineer worldwide. Articles in the journal will be refereed according to the standards established by other top journals in our field. An outstanding international editorial board is being established to ensure the quality of the published material.

The journal is available at: <http://casehistories.geoengineer.org>



## EDITORIAL BOARD

Papers in the journal are refereed according to the standards established by other top journals in our field. An International Editorial Board comprising of some of the most qualified engineers of practice and professors worldwide has been established. Some more members are expected to participate in the effort in the near future and will include practice engineers and representatives from UK, Asia and South America.

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