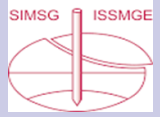




PAKISTAN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING SOCIETY (PGES) NEWSLETTER (JAN-JUNE, 2023)



16TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING (16ICGE)

PGES under the aegis of International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and in collaboration with UET Lahore and NESPAK successfully organized the 16th International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering (16ICGE) on December 7-8, 2022 at UET Lahore. The conference was organized by a vibrant committee led by Dr. Khalid Farooq as its Chairman, Mr. Sohail Kibria as its Co-chairman and Dr. Jahanzaib Israr as its Secretary. Prof. Dr. Ikuo Towhata graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The event was planned in seven consecutive parts including an inaugural session, five technical sessions, and a sight-seeing tour to the walled city of ancient Lahore. The keynote lectures were presented on miscellaneous geotechnical topics by distinguished experts like Dr. Ikuo Towhata, Dr. Cholachat Rujikiat-kamjorn, Dr. Aneel Kumar, Dr. Tarunjit Singh Butalia and Dr. Askar Zhussupbekov, while two invited special talks by notable international experts including President ISSMGE (Dr. Marc Ballouz) and ISSMGE VP Asia (Prof. Keh-Jian Shou), two ISSMGE Bright Spark lectures and 26 paper presentations were made by different geotechnical experts from both academia and industry. In all, 37 technical papers were included in the conference proceedings.

President PGES, Engr. Amjad Agha, opened the conference with a detailed address to the participants, shedding light on the leading role played by PGES in promoting geotechnical engineering countrywide. Afterwards, VC UET Lahore, Dr. Syed Mansoor Sarwar addressed the participants and expressed the honour of hosting 16ICGE at Lahore. Prof. Khalid Farooq, Chairman of conference organizing committee (OC) and General Secretary PGES, Dr. Tahir Masood, Former MD NESPAK, welcomed the delegates to the Conference.



16ICGE held in 2022 at U.E.T., Lahore, Pakistan



Engr. Amjad Agha, Prof. Dr. Ikuo Towhata, Dr. Tahir Masood addressing the participants of 16ICGE



Engr. Sohail Kibria and Prof. Dr. Khalid Farooq at the occasion of 16ICGE

Afterwards, the Chief Guest, Prof. Ikuo Towhata, from Tokyo University Japan, shared his views in a brief inaugural address. He also appreciated the continuing efforts of PGES for promoting and supporting geotechnical engineering in Pakistan. The technical papers presented in conference included work of experts in geotechnical engineering like Engr. Sohail Kibria, Dr. Khawar Munir, Dr. M. Irfan, Dr. Ammad Hassan, Engr. M. Humza, Dr. Zia Ur Rehman, Dr. Zaka Emad, Engr. Aysha Iqbal, Engr. Salman Babar, Engr. Zainab Farooq among others. Besides, 18 posters of contestants from national and international universities were shortlisted for display on the sidelines of the main event. A thematic technical exhibition was also arranged where Engineers, Contractors, Manufacturers, and Importers of engineering equipments exhibited their services and products.

In the end, in the afternoon of 8th December, an exquisite sight-seeing tour to the ancient Walled city of Lahore was also organized for the interested delegates. Places like Lahore Fort, Wazir Khan Mosque, Sheesh Mahal, Delhi Gate etc. were shown around to them. Afterwards, a lavish dinner with traditional cuisine of Lahore was hosted for the members of Executive Committee, Organizing Committee and the foreign guests. Similarly, a special trip to the ancient site of Harappa (the World Heritage by UN) was also organized on the special request of our chief guest, Prof. Ikuo Towhata, on 10th December 2022.

PREPARATION OF PGES FOR 17ARC IN ASTANA, 2023

A delegation of PGES comprising Vice President, Engr. Sohail Kibria, Secretary General, Dr. Tahir Masood, Joint Secretary, Engr. Sadaf Saeed and Executive Member, Dr. Khalid Farooq are gearing up for the 17th Asian Regional Conference (17ARC) to be held in Astana, Kazakhstan starting from August 14. The 17ARC is organized by the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society (ISSMGE) and its' main theme is Smart Geotechnics for Smart Societies. Several subjects on modern geotechnical technologies and activities will be covered at this forum. Dr. Tahir Masood and Engr. Sohail Kibria will have the huge honour of chairing two different technical sessions of 17 ARC. Besides, PGES is also contesting to win hosting of 18ARC, to be decided at Astana.



NOMINATION FOR ISSMGE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL, 2023

PGES takes pride in nominating the most experienced & celebrated geotechnical engineer of Pakistan, Mr. Amjad Agha, for receiving the coveted ISSMGE Lifetime Achievement Medal in 2023. The founding President of PGES has developed a strong legacy for young engineers to develop. PGES takes pleasure in strongly recommending him for the ISSMGE Lifetime Achievement Medal considering his outstanding contributions to geotechnical engineering.



1ST INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NEW TRENDS IN CIVIL ENGINEERING

Members of PGES in collaboration with UCP Lahore successfully organized 1st International Conference on New Trends in Civil Engineering on March 20-21, 2023 at UCP Lahore. Engr. Sohail Kibria, VP PGES and Co-Chairman Conference Organizing Committee, organized the conference. Secretary General PGES, Dr. Tahir Masood was the Chief Guest while Pro-Rector UCP, Rear Admiral Prof. Dr. Nassar Ikram, HI(M), SI(M) also graced the occasion. The 1st International Conference on New Trends in Civil Engineering covered a wide range of themes touching various facets of civil engineering including geotechnical engineering. Esteemed international guests from Spain, Australia, USA, Vietnam, Kazakhstan, Belarus etc. attended the two-day conference which comprised one Inaugural and five Technical Sessions. Engr. Sohail Kibria also presented his paper titled "Cracks in Structures due to geotechnical reasons - identification, causes and mitigation".



HOSTING OF 18ARC IN LAHORE, 2027

PGES feels pleasure to announce its participation in the contest amongst Asian countries, for winning venue for holding 18th Asian Regional Conference (18ARC) in Pakistan in 2027. The voting for 18ARC will take place at the Asian Council Meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan on August 15, 2023. PGES had made numerous efforts for putting up a great show to be a strong contender for

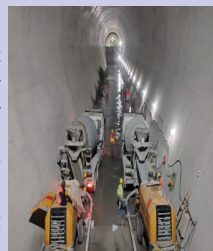


winning the hosting of 18ARC. In the past, ARCs have been held in many Asian countries (and a multiple number of times in some of the countries). Although, PGES has a rich experience of holding successful international conferences in Pakistan, but never had the opportunity of holding an ARC here. In view of the above, PGES think tank has decided to make best possible efforts for winning 18ARC's hosting. Under the able guidance of Engr. Amjad Agha, after gathering maximum data and resources, Engr. Sohail Kibria along with PGES executive council prepared a documentary (showing the potential of PGES for hosting 18ARC) to be projected at mega event of 17ARC in Kazakhstan. Besides, a proposal for hosting 18ARC was also sent to VP ISSMGE, Asia and the same will be presented by the PGES delegate in 17ARC. All the Asian Societies of ISSMGE were personally contacted by the executive council members convincing them to vote for Pakistan for holding 18ARC.

PROJECT NEWS



The construction of Damer Basha Dam is in progress on the Indus River. The project involves construction of 272 m high Roller Compacted Concrete Dam, spillway, power intake, waterway tunnels and underground powerhouse with a total installed capacity of 4500 MW and gross water storage of 10 Billion cubic meters. The construction phase is in full swing and currently, work on lining of diversion tunnels, outlet structures, dam foundation and abutments, cut slopes and other structure locations is in progress.



SLGS PROJECT DAY COMPETITION

The Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society (SLGS) conducted a successful SLGS Project Day competition on April 20, 2023 which was attended by Engr. Sohail Kibria, Vice President PGES. The event was inaugurated in 2000, with the prime objective of promoting research and enhancing the writing and presentation skills of undergraduate students doing research projects in geotechnical engineering at Sri Lankan universities and was held annually without interruption over the last 22 years. This year, there were 18 participants from five universities competing for the award, submitting a 4-6-page research paper and a 5-minute presentation. The event was graced by Dr. Marc Ballouz, President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), who joined virtually despite the challenging time difference between the two countries. Other notable ISSMGE representatives in attendance were Dr. Anil Joseph, President of the Indian Geotechnical Society, and Engr. Sohail Kibria from the Pakistan Geotechnical Society.