

**GEO-INSTITUTE
RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE**

MINUTES OF MEETING

HELD ON

Monday, Mar 10, 2008

7:30 – 11:30 pm

Estherwood Room, Sheraton New Orleans
New Orleans, Louisiana

Present: KK Phoon (Chair), Awilda Blanco, Robert Gilbert, Ed Glynn, Hsein Juang (Secretary), Stanley Miller, Jeff Keaton (TCC Councilor), Lance Roberts, Limin Zhang.

Guests: Zhongqiang Liu (representing Hongwei Huang), Sivakumar Babu

Regrets: Laurie Baise, Philippe Bourdeau, Jianye Ching, Mark Jaksa, Gordon Fenton, Vaughan Griffiths, Yusuke Honjo, Hongwei Huang, Bak-Kong Low, Amy Rechenmacher, Bill Roberds, Mary Roth, Adrian Rodriguez-Marek, Wilson Tang, Erik Vanmarcke, Thomas Wolff, TH Wu, Aspasia Zerva, Hongbo Zhou

1. Introductions

KK convened the meeting at 7.30pm, Estherwood Room, Sheraton New Orleans. Members and guests present introduced themselves.

2. Review of previous minutes

Minutes of the last meeting (Denver, 20 Feb 2007) were reviewed and approved without comments.

3. Report from Geo-Institute TCC (Jeff Keaton)

Jeff briefly presented the ASCE sustainable development action plan and requested the committee to consider how it could incorporate elements of sustainable development in future activities.

Jeff alerted the committee on the availability of the special project fund. One possibility is to apply for this fund for improvement of the GI-RAM website.

Jeff requested the committee to participate in ASCE webinars. KK mentioned that Adrian Rodriguez-Marek had conducted a survey in 2005 (see item 9, 2006 minutes) and members cited lack of time, direction, and incentive as reasons for low participation. KK requested Jeff to provide details on webinars, particularly pertaining to logistics and financial incentives. KK would upload details to the GI-RAM e-Room and request Adrian to think how webinars can be promoted.

4. Report on past year's committee tasks

- a) GeoDenver, Denver, Colorado, Feb 18-21, 2007
Vaughan was co-chair for GeoDenver. KK was track chair for the Risk Assessment and Management Track comprising of 4 technical sessions:
 - Advances in Load and Resistance Factor Geotechnical Design
Session Organizers: Gordon Fenton & Vaughan Griffiths
 - Probabilistic Methods and Applications
Session Organizer: Kok-Kwang Phoon
 - Serviceability Issues in Reliability-Based Geotechnical Design
Session Organizers: Hsein Juang & Limin Zhang
 - Slopes, Embankments, and Related Problems
Session Organizers: Edward Glynn and Thomas Wolff

- b) 1st Sri Lankan Geotechnical Society International Conference on Soil and Rock Engineering, Colombo, Sri Lanka, 7 – 11 August, 2007
Pinnaduwa was co-chair and technical program chair. One relevant session was organized:
 - Application of Statistics and Probability
Session Organizer: M. Gunaratne & Pinnaduwa Kulatilake

- c) 10th International Conference on Applications of Statistics and Probability in Civil Engineering (ICASP10), University of Tokyo, Japan, 31 July – 3 August, 2007
Yusuke was member of steering committee. Yusuke, Limin and KK organized 2 technical sessions:
 - Risk Assessment and Management of Geohazard
Session Organizers: Farrokh Nadim & Kok-Kwang Phoon
Co-organized with ISSMGE TC32
 - Reliability Analysis and Design in Geotechnical Engineering
Session Organizers: Yusuke Honjo & Limin Zhang

- d) First International Symposium on Geotechnical Safety & Risk, Oct 18-19 2007, Shanghai, China
Hongwei was chair and KK was co-chair. KK reported the following statistics on behalf of Hongwei: paper contributions (110 papers submitted; 81 full papers accepted; 77 papers published of which 31 are international authors and 46 are authors from China), delegates (90 full registrations; 114 delegates out of which 46 are international), and countries represented (16). This symposium was financially supported by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the National High-tech R&D Program (863 Program) of China.

e) Erik Vanmarcke, "Quantitative Risk Analysis Applied to Dams", Workshop at 4th Civil Engineering Conference in the Asian Region (4th CECAR), Taipei, 25-28 June 2007

f) Short course

Vaughan reported that the ASCE Continuing Education seminars initiated by him and Gordon in 2007 are now up and running and doing well. The course "Probabilistic Methods in Geotechnical Engineering" was offered three times in 2007, Denver CO (July 2007), Burlington VT (September 2007) and San Francisco CA (December 2007).

g) Publications

Griffiths, D. V. & Fenton, G. A., Probabilistic Methods in Geotechnical Engineering, (CISM International Centre for Mechanical Sciences Courses and Lecture Notes No. 491) Springer Wien, New York, 2007.

5. Ongoing committee activities

a) GeoCongress, New Orleans, Louisiana, Mar 9-12, 2008

The committee contributed significantly to GeoCongress 2008. KK reported that this is the best effort so far -- 7 technical sessions and 2 panel discussions:

Applications of Risk Analysis in Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering

Session Organizers: Jason Goldsworthy & Gordon Fenton

Reliability-based Foundation Design

Session Organizers: Gordon Fenton & Vaughan Griffiths

Risk and Reliability of Dams and Levees - I

Risk and Reliability of Dams and Levees-II

Session Organizers: Robert Gilbert & Limin Zhang

Should Levees Be Treated Like Dams?

Communicating Risk with the Public

Panel Organizers: Robert Gilbert & Limin Zhang

Emerging Technologies for Geohazards Assessments

Session Organizer: Hsein Juang

Uncertainty Modeling in Geoenvironmental Systems

Session Organizers: Kok-Kwang Phoon & Gopal Achari

Risk Assessment

Session Organizer: Kok-Kwang Phoon

Short course: Risk and Reliability of Levees and Dams

Robert B. Gilbert, Gregory B. Baecher, Martin W. McCann Jr.

Keynote Lecture: Our Role as Engineers in Mitigating Natural Hazards

Robert Gilbert

- b) 4th Asian Pacific Symposium on Structural Safety and Reliability, 19-20 June 2008, Hong Kong (Wilson Tang, Chair)

Limin reported on behalf of Wilson that Bob Gilbert and Yusuke Honjo have been invited as keynoted lecturers for the above event.

- c) 10th International Conference On Structural Safety And Reliability September 13–17, 2009, Osaka, Japan

Risk Evaluation on Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Problems

Session Organizers: Yusuke Honjo, Takeshi Katsumi, Shin-ichi Nishimura & Achintya Haldar

- d) Vaughan reported that probabilistic short course is slated for at least three more appearances in 2008. Vaughan & Gordon have just completed Atlanta GA (February 2008) and later this year will go to San Antonio (May 2008) and Baltimore (September 2008). Attendance has been very encouraging, and helps raise the visibility of our committee in the practitioner community.

- e) Publications

The textbook "Risk assessment in geotechnical engineering" by Gordon A. Fenton and D.V. Griffiths, John Wiley & sons will be published in 2008.

The edited book "Reliability-based design in geotechnical engineering: computations and applications" by KK Phoon, Taylor & Francis, will be published in 2008. KK reported that many GI-RAM members are contributors to this book. They are Bob Gilbert, Yusuke Honjo, Hsein Juang, BK Low, KK Phoon, Tom Wolff, TH Wu & Limin Zhang.

- f) Post-meeting notes

Pinnaduwa is organizing an International Conference on Rock Joints and Jointed Rock Masses, Tucson, Arizona, Jan 4-11, 2009. He is planning to organize one session on "Application of Probability and Statistics to Rock Mechanics/Rock Engineering".

6. Future activities

- a) International Foundation Congress & Equipment Expo, IFCEE09, Buena Vista Palace Resort, Orlando, Florida, 15-19 March 2009

Some proposals:

Proposal	Organisers
LRFD – Practitioner’s perspective (1 technical session)	Lance Roberts & Awilda Blanco
Serviceability Issues in Reliability-Based Geotechnical Design (1 technical session)	Limin Zhang & Hsein Juang
Recent developments in foundation reliability-based design (2 technical sessions)	KK Phoon
Teaching reliability uncertainty in undergraduate geotechnical engineering (1 technical session)	Andrea Welker (USUCGER education committee) Ed Glynn
Painless guide to reliability-based design in foundation engineering (short course)	KK Phoon & Lance Roberts

- b) 2nd International Symposium on Geotechnical Safety and Risk (IS-Gifu2009), June 11-12, 2009, Gifu, Japan (Yusuke Honjo, Chair)

Yusuke extended an invitation to all members to participate in the above symposium.

- c) NeoGeo 2010 - Advances in Analysis, Modeling and Design, Miami (?), 2010 (Pat Fox, Chair)

Vaughan has been invited to serve in the organizing committee as conference co-Chair. GI-RAM is expected to play a significant role given the theme of this conference.

- d) Hsein has prepared a draft proposal for Georisk 2011, Atlanta, summer 2011. KK Phoon submitted the proposal to TCC on behalf of GI-RAM. TCC has accepted this proposal.

7. Awards Subcommittee report

TH Wu delivered the Peck Lecture in GeoCongress 2008. The committee congratulated TH on this immense honour. Hsein nominated TH on behalf of our committee. The nomination package included excellent supporting letters

from members and friends of this committee (Pat Fox, John Christian, Wilson Tang, and Bob Gilbert). The committee would take this opportunity to thank Hsein and other contributors for their support and efforts.

KK received the Committee of the Year Award on behalf of GI-RAM during the GI Annual Meeting, March 10, 2008. Barbara Luke (Chair of TCC) cited our distinguished service to the Geo-Institute. GI-RAM is the 5th technical committee (out of 19 technical committees in G-I) to be conferred this award since its inception in 2004. This award recognizes the immense collective efforts of the committee chairs and members, both past and present, who have devoted significant time into organizing conference sessions, short courses, and other RAM associated activities over the years.

Mary Roth requested to step down as Chair of the Awards Subcommittee. The committee thanked Mary for her dedicated service. KK has requested GI to mail Mary a certificate of appreciation. KK nominated Lance Roberts as new Chair of Awards subcommittee. The nomination was unanimously accepted.

8. Membership issues

The committee welcomed Awilda Blanco and Xiong (Bill) Yu as new members.

Lakshmi N. Reddi (member since 1998) and Mary Roth (member since 1992) requested to retire from GI-RAM. The committee thanked both of them for their contributions and long service.

Mary requested to stay on as a "Corresponding member".

9. Other business

KK highlighted that 2009 would be the end of his second term as committee chair. He proposed the appointment of a chair-elect this year so that the chair-elect would have the opportunity to play a more active role. Based on committee's succession plan approved in 2006, the secretary is slated to take over as new chair, subject to the approval of the committee.

KK nominated Hsein as chair-elect. Bob seconded the nomination. The nomination was unanimously accepted. KK would forward Hsein's name to TCC for approval.

KK Phoon proposed holding the next committee meeting at IFCEE09, Orlando, Florida, 15-19 March 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 PM.



GI-RAM committee meeting in Estherwood Room, Sheraton New Orleans, New Orleans, Louisiana, 10 March 2008