

EDITORIAL

A new beginning for *Ground Improvement*

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Progress in engineering comes about through innovation and in recent decades there has been an explosion of innovation in the field of ground improvement. New techniques have been introduced and established techniques refined. The main drivers for this unprecedented level of innovation include an increasingly competitive construction industry and the development of new materials and processes that may be applied to ground engineering. In addition the relatively young field of geotechnical engineering has come of age, permitting innovation in ground improvement techniques to stem from a greater understanding of the mechanics of soil, rock and anthropogenic fill materials, together with more sophisticated techniques that may be employed in the analysis and design of ground improvement systems.

In any professional or academic field there is a requirement for developments to be recorded and disseminated. In a field that is developing rapidly there is the added imperative that advances should be published as quickly as possible, to allow good practice to be shared and exposed to critical assessment by professional peers. It was in this context that this journal was launched, under the editorship of Professor Ilan Juran, in 1997. *Ground Improvement* publishes practical papers and technical notes in all aspects of ground improvement, soil reinforcement and treatment by grouting and admixtures. The intention of the journal is to disseminate developments quickly, but not at the expense of quality. To ensure this, papers are subject to the same international standards of peer review as that expected of the leading academic and professional journals in engineering.

At the time when this journal was launched Professor Juran was chairman of TC-17 (Ground Improvement) of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) and for most of the time since it was first published *Ground Improvement* was considered the official journal of TC-17 and, indeed, bore its logo on the front cover. Although this is no longer the case, the journal still maintains close contact with the ISSMGE and members of TC-17 continue to serve on the editorial board. Having successfully established the journal Professor Juran has now decided to stand down as Honorary Editor and I am delighted to have been invited to become only the second Chairman of the Editorial Panel and Honorary Editor of

Ground Improvement. At the same time Professor Anand Puppala has been appointed as Deputy Editor and I am looking forward to working closely with him in our new roles.

The handing over of the editorship is not the only change that is taking place and I am particularly pleased to announce that in 2008 *Ground Improvement* will be re-launched as a part of the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*. The journals that make up ICE's Proceedings enjoy a very high international reputation for the high quality of both the papers and their production. Currently within the proceedings the journal *Geotechnical Engineering* covers the full breadth of the discipline of geotechnical engineering. It is intended that by concentrating on the research and practice within a rapidly developing area and publishing fast-tracked papers *Ground Improvement* will continue to complement the papers in *Geotechnical Engineering*.

As part of the ICE Proceedings *Ground Improvement* will continue to be very much an international journal and, as in its current form, will publish papers written by practitioner and academic authors from around the world. The strong international flavour will also be reflected in the editorial board. In the months leading up to the journal becoming part of the Proceedings Professor Puppala and I are inviting leading geotechnical engineering practitioners and academics to become members of the Editorial Panel. In doing this we wish to ensure that there is not only a good geographical mix of membership but also that the panel has expertise covering the full range of ground improvement techniques.

As Chairman of the Editorial Panel of *Ground Improvement* it is my intention that the journal will grow on the firm foundations established by Professor Juran, in order to become regarded as the most authoritative source for the latest developments in the field. To achieve this, the journal must not only continue to maintain its high reviewing standards but also attract strong papers from both leading practitioner and academic authors. I invite you to submit papers on aspects of novel ground improvement techniques, advances in understating mechanisms, and development in analysis and design techniques. In addition, well documented case histories are an invaluable source of information and papers describing these are always most welcome.