

IFCEE09 Chairman's Welcoming Comments

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Mohamad Hussein, consulting civil engineer and manufacturer of electronic equipment for the foundations industry; and the outgoing Chairman of the Geo-Institute's Deep Foundations Committee, many of whose members were instrumental in the development of this congress.

As Chairman of this conference and on behalf of the entire organizing committee, I sincerely welcome you to the International Foundations Congress and Equipment Expo 2009 – IFCEE09. And as a citizen of Orlando, I proudly welcome all of you to my Magical home-town – truly a “City Beautiful”.

The seed for this unprecedented event was planted four years ago (by a wishful suggestion from me as representative of the Geo-Institute to Mr. Scot Litke, the ADSC's Executive Director); Fast forward to today, where we now have before us several fruitful days full of learning, professional advancement, and business development through the exchange of ideas, sharing of experiences, viewing innovative equipment and supplies, discussions with colleagues, making new acquaintances, and seeing old friends.

This first-of-its-kind conference is jointly organized by the Geo-Institute of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE's-GI), The International Association of Foundation Drilling (ADSC), and the Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA).

15 organizations from around the world join us with representation from Canada, China, Japan, Russia, Singapore, and the United States as official supporters.

The 52 technical and business development sessions include state-of-the-art and state-of-the-practice presentations by distinguished industry experts. This conference also includes the ASCE's prestigious Terzaghi and Peck Lectures, as well as the annual meetings of the GI, ADSC, and PDCA, in addition to short courses, technical committees and boards meetings.

The 2000-page proceedings compiled in 3 separate volumes promise to be a landmark in the engineering literature.

The massive indoor and outdoor exhibitions of equipment and supplies are the largest of their kind solely dedicated to foundations and earth retention works.

Organizing an event of this magnitude could not have been done without the hard work and commitment of many dedicated individuals; including hundreds of volunteers, and staff, who put in the extra hours, worked within the constraints of ever growing budgetary restrictions, and often-times had to meet demanding deadlines.

While the list of individuals who made this event a reality is long, I would like to express special recognition to the following individuals who served with distinction in the Congress's various organizations, technical and management committees: Dr. Dan Brown, Dr. Magued Iskander, Dr. J. Brian Anderson, Mr. Scot Litke, Ms. Carol Bowers, Ms. Jan Hall, Mr. Steve Hall, Dr. Debra Laefer, Dr. Sarah Gassman, Mr. Allen Cadden, Mr. Billy Camp, Dr. Paul Mayne, Dr. Sam Paikowsky, Mr. Mike Moore, Mr. Alan Macnab, Mr. Van Hogan, Ms. Lauren Tighe and the entire Geo-Institute's Deep Foundations Committee's membership. Please stand to accept our many thanks for your tireless and outstanding efforts.

I would like to acknowledge the presence amongst us today and welcome Professor Pedro Pinto from Portugal the President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), Professor Neil Taylor from England, its's Secretary General, Professor William Van Impe from Belgium it's Past President, the Vice Presidents of the 6 world regions, and 3 appointed members delegation. Thank you for your participation.

As the “EOR” of this “project”, I take full responsibility for any “errors and omissions” - as they say in engineering lingo, or “unforeseen conditions” - if you happen to be of the construction persuasion - that may be found as we “dig deeper” into the various events over the next few days.

Speaking for everyone involved in the preparation and management of this extraordinary event: compliments and expressions of support are appreciated; constructive criticism is welcomed for the improvement of future events, while complaints will be heard - and quietly filed away.

As the first order of business, it is my privilege and pleasure to introduce the American Society of Civil Engineers' President-elect: Mr. Blaine Leonard.

