



Malaysian Geotechnical Society

WEBINAR ON

“Georisk Encountered in Recent Projects and Need for More Geotechnical Investigation”

27th May 2021 (Thursday), 5.00 pm – 7.00 pm

BEM Approved CPD Hours: 2 Ref. No.: IEM21/PP/029/T(w)

SPEAKER'S PROFILE



PROFESSOR IKUO TOWHATA

Kanto Gakuin University, Yokohama, Japan

Prof. Towhata obtained all of his degrees from bachelor (1977) to Ph. D. (1982) at Civil Engineering Department, Univ. Tokyo. Afterwards, he worked at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, the Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, and the Public Works Research Institute together with Univ. Tokyo. He was a professor at Tokyo from 1994 to 2015. Since then, he has been a director of an architectural design company and a technical advisor of a geotechnical consulting firm. He is a specially appointed professor at Kanto Gakuin University, Yokohama, while he was a Distinguished Visiting Professor in 2016 at IIT Bombay. What are important among his awards, Shamsheer Prakash Research Award of Soil Dynamics, IGS-Chennai Chapter Biennial Prize for the Best Paper and 2018 Shamsheer Prakash ISET Award 2018 for Significant Contribution in Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering. He was the Heritage Lecturer at 2005 International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and the 2019 Ishihara Lecturer of Technical Committee 203 on earthquake problems in Rome. In 2021, he was one of the key-note lectures and delivered a comprehensive lecture on earthquake-induced landslides. His majoring field is geotechnical disasters and mitigation with emphasis on seismic and landslide problems. Among his 490 international publications, Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering published by Springer is the most important achievement.

SYNOPSIS

Geotechnical engineering is a handicapped engineering that has to handle its target without seeing it. Subsoil is a product of nature that does not care its engineering quality and uniformity, and geotechnical engineering has to feel its way forward on the basis of limited information obtained by borehole and sounding investigations. As a consequence, it is not rare that unexpected soil conditions are encountered and the construction cost/period increases. This adverse situation is called “georisk”. The only way to mitigate georisk is to increase the amount of reliable subsurface information prior to design and construction. In other words, more budget should be allocated to subsoil investigation.

Despite this, some people insist that true geotechnical experts should be able to capture the subsoil conditions without many data. Such an idea does not make sense. One should imagine a brave medical doctor who is proud of his skill and wants to start surgery (cutting the cancer, for example) without inspecting the patient’s body. Good medical doctors make sufficient effort for preoperative examination.

To promote subsoil investigation, it is important that the clients understand georisk and agree to allocate more budget to investigation. At the same time, the investigators should exhibit good quality of their works that deserves more budget to be paid.

The lecture will start with several examples of georisk that have occurred in the recent times. Moreover, the financial benefit of detailed subsoil investigation is touched upon as well. Then, the lecture will introduce the comprehensive studies conducted by the Georisk Society and attempt to suggest the reasonable budget for subsoil investigation that can drastically reduce georisk. Finally, societal issues to promote the subsoil investigation will be discussed, including the qualification of consulting firms.

Registration Fee:

MGS / IEM / GeoSS Members: **Free**
Non Members: **RM20.00**

Bank details:

Payee: **Pertubuhan Geoteknikal Malaysia**
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Ir. Liew Shaw Shong
President
Malaysian Geotechnical Society

