

XVth POLISH-FRENCH COLLOQUIUM ON SOIL AND ROCK MECHANICS

The XVth Polish-French Colloquium on Soil and Rock Mechanics, entitled “Current problems in applied soil mechanics and rock mechanics”, took place in Gdańsk (Poland) in the days October 7-9, 2010. This scientific meeting was organized by the Department of Geotechnics, Geology and Maritime Engineering at the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Gdańsk University of Technology, in cooperation with the Institute of Geotechnics and Hydro-Engineering, Wrocław University of Technology.

This international conference has a long over 30-year tradition. Professor E. Dembicki together with Professor J.-P. Giroud from the University of Grenoble (France) had initiated and organized Polish-French Colloquia. The scope of the seminar topics, initially related with soil mechanics, had been changed into applied mechanics in the following years. The seminars took place systematically every third year, once in Poland and once in France in turn. The organization of the seminar is a task resulting from a bilateral cultural agreement between Poland and France, and is supervised by the Ministries of Foreign Affairs from the both countries. The seminars are existing consecutively up to today.

The last, XVth edition of the seminar was held on under the following patronage:

- The Geotechnics and Underground Infrastructure Section of the Civil and Hydro-Engineering Committee of the Polish Academy of Science (Section Chairman – Professor Zbigniew Sikora),
- The Polish Committee of Geotechnics (President – Professor Zbigniew Lechowicz).

A honorary patronage was taken over by:

- the Ambassador of France to Poland – HE François Barry Delongchamps,
- the Honorary Consul of France to Gdańsk – Ms. Monika Tarnowska.

The keynote lectures, scientific papers and presentations given by branch companies devoted to a wide range of problems according to the following groups of topics:

- theoretical and numerical analyses of different phenomena appearing in soils and rock,
- *in-situ* investigations and case studies,
- laboratory investigations.

During the Colloquium 35 papers, divided into 3 sessions, were presented orally.

The first session pertained to: theoretical subjects, modeling, application of the finite element method, and artificial intelligence in geotechnical engineering. The second

session was focused on: calibration, triaxial shear tests, and physical modeling of deep foundations. For the third session the following items were considered: methods of reconstruction and analyses of true state of historic structures as well as experimental investigation of piling methods.

The succeeding XVth meeting enabled an exchange of experiences from scientists and engineers involved in theoretical and applied soil and rock mechanics. A numerous applications in civil, environmental, and mining engineering have been checked and proved.

The Organizing Committee of the XVth Seminar was led by the Chairman – Professor Zbigniew Sikora together with the Co-Chairman – Rafał Ossowski, Ph.D., Civil Eng. (Gdańsk University of Technology) and Krystyna Szcześniak, Ph.D., Civil Eng. (Wrocław University of Technology). The Scientific Secretary was formed by: Mariusz Wyroślak, Ph.D., Civil Eng., and Tadeusz Brzozowski, Ph.D., Civil Eng. (Gdańsk University of Technology). The Honour Chair of the Scientific Committee was assigned to Professor Eugeniusz Dembicki (Gdańsk University of Technology) – a senior of Polish geotechnics, highly esteemed by domestic and foreign societies.

A very special session, organized in the Senate's Hall, was dedicated to the 80th birthday jubilee of Professor Eugeniusz Dembicki. The session was honoured with presence of Professor Henryk Krawczyk – the Rector of Gdańsk University of Technology, and Ireneusz Kreja, Ph.D., Civil Eng. – the Dean of the Faculty of Civil and Environmental Engineering.

Within the scope of other special sessions, the representatives of the branch companies and sponsors (Stabilator, Menard, Soletanche Polska, AARSLEFF, Mostmarpal) presented the newest products and solutions applied in foundation engineering, geotechnics, and geology.

The technical programme of the Seminar was formed by a tour to the PGE stadium, being under construction, which is one of the most modern constructions in Pomerania. The stadium will serve as one of football arenas for the coming EURO 2012.

The final special session was assigned for selection of a scientific institution which will act as an organizer of the following seminar. The choice was The Mechanics and Civil Engineering Laboratory at the University Montpellier 2, under the leadership of Professor El Youssefi and Professor Jolanta Lewandowska.

Prof. Z. Sikora