

## Report on the GSM-IEM Oktoberforum 2006: “Engineering Geology and Geotechnical Engineering”

By : Assoc. Prof. Tan Boon Kong



The GSM-IEM Oktoberforum 2006 on “Engineering Geology and Geotechnical Engineering” was jointly organised by the Working Group on Engineering Geology & Hydrogeology of the Geological Society of Malaysia (GSM) and the Geotechnical Engineering Technical Division of IEM. This forum was the 14<sup>th</sup> in the series of such forums organised by GSM/IEM, initiated by GSM since 1992.

This 14<sup>th</sup> forum was made very general in nature in order to encourage more paper contributions. It covered various topics and was targeted as a compilation of local case histories on engineering geology and geotechnical engineering. A total of 12 papers were received and included in the proceedings volume of the forum – 5 by geologists and 7 by engineers.

Response to the forum was overwhelming, with 200 participants. As a matter of fact, many late requests had to be turned away due to space constraints. Ample time was allocated for questions and discussions, and these were fully utilised, resulting in very lively and fruitful discussions after every presentation. ■

**Footnote:** Limited copies of the proceedings are available for sale at RM30. Please enquire at GSM Secretariat (c/o Geology Dept., Univ. Malaya, Jln. Pantai Baru, KL): < geologi@po.jaring.my >, tel. 03-79577036.

## Seminar on Geotechnical Works in KARST in South East Asia, Hong Kong

By : Engr. Yee Yew Weng, M.I.E.M., P.Eng.

This seminar was jointly organised by the Geotechnical Engineering Technical Division, The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia and eight major societies in the Geotechnical field in Hong Kong. The focus of the seminar was on geotechnical experience in Limestone in the South East Asian region. The seminar, held at City University, Hong Kong, was opened by Ir. Chan R. K. S. (Head, GEO) with about 300 people in attendance.

Eleven papers were presented, which covered both engineering and geological aspects of karst, dealing with topics ranging from Geological Investigation, to case studies of sinkholes. Three papers were presented by IEM, represented by Engr. Tan Yean Chin, Engr. Simon Tan S. M. and Engr. Yee Yew Weng, which were generally well received. Very lively questions and answers

followed each session, displaying the viewpoints of practitioners from diverse backgrounds. Overall, it was recognised that Karst formation presents geological hazards and constructors would do well to treat it with due respect. The main deliberations can be summarised as follows:

- i. It is necessary to conduct thorough geological study of limestone formation prior to engineering analyses. Engineers should seek the aid of Geologists in this area.
- ii. Engineering design analyses should be done by experienced engineers, following available guidelines and past experience.
- iii. Competent contractors should be employed to carry out the works. Construction should be supervised by representative of the Design Engineer and a program of verification test is normally necessary.

A copy of the proceedings is available at the IEM Library. The meticulous attention to detail displayed by the organising committee headed by Ir. L. M. Mak; and hospitality shown by Ir. Albert Ho (Chairman, HKIE Geotech Div.) and HKIE members; are gratefully acknowledged.

The IEM representatives also took time to visit the office of GEO in Kowloon. Ir. Y. C. Chan (Deputy Head, GEO) and team were kind enough to give a briefing of the extensive slope work done on the island to ensure public safety. With a budget of RM 750M per annum, much emphasis is placed on monitoring works (rain gauge warning system), databases (many are on-line), public education, R&D and of course, physical slope works on site. The reader is referred to <http://hkss.cedd.gov.hk> for more information. ■