

# IGS NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE INTERNATIONAL GEOTEXTILE SOCIETY

VOLUME 1 NO 2

JANUARY 1986

## ***Symposium and Lectures Organized by Japanese Chapter of IGS***

The Japanese Chapter of IGS with cooperation from the Japanese Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering organized a symposium on "Engineering with Geotextiles—Various Technical Problems with New Materials and Construction Methods" which was held in Tokyo, 15-16 November 1985. The symposium attracted an audience of approximately 300, including many geotechnical engineers who are members of the Japanese Society for Geomechanics. The symposium is considered a major milestone in the development of knowledge of geotextiles in Japan, and the Japanese Chapter should be congratulated for this success.

Dr. J.P. Giroud, Vice President of the IGS, was invited to present one of the two special lectures of the symposium. Dr. Giroud, who is presently involved in the design of the Kuriyama dam project in Japan, lectured in English on Geotextile Design Methods. The lecture was followed by comments in Japanese by Professor Fukuoka, chairman of the Japanese Chapter. The other special lecture, which was on the use of polymer grids, was presented by Professor Yamanouchi, who pioneered the usage of polymer grids in geotechnical engineering.

During the two days of the symposium, 27 papers were presented by Japanese authors in sessions devoted to: embankment reinforcement, soft soil stabilization, design and experimentation, testing methods, and permeability and drainage. Selected papers will be translated into English and published in a special issue of the journal "Geotextiles and Geomembranes".

Also presented at the symposium were reports on activities of two committees of the Japanese Chapter, given by Mr. Y. Watari and Dr. K. Kutara. Closing comments were made by Mr. Iwasaki, Secretary General of the Japanese Chapter. An exhibition featuring approximately twenty firms presenting geotextiles, geomembranes and related products was held in parallel with the symposium.

In addition to the symposium, two special sessions took advantage of Dr. Giroud's presence in Japan. The first, organized by the very active Japanese Chapter of the IGS, was a three hour lecture by Dr. Giroud on the state of the art of geotextiles and geomembranes. The second session included a lecture by Dr. Giroud on geotextile and geomembrane applications in large projects such as dams. This session was organized by the local branch of the Japanese Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering and was held in Fukuoka (on Kyushu Island, Western Japan). During this session, chaired by Professors Omote and Yamanouchi, papers on soil reinforcement were presented by Japanese authors. In both cases, the sessions were followed by a magnificent reception, typical of the famed Japanese hospitality.

The Japanese Chapter of the IGS was formally organized in September 1984 and incorporated in August 1985 under the approval of the Council of the IGS. At present, there are four corporate members and sixty-eight individual members in the chapter.



From left to right: Professor M. Fukuoka, Chairman of the Japanese Chapter, Dr. J.P. Giroud, Vice President of the IGS, and Mr. T. Iwasaki, Secretary General of the Japanese Chapter.

The executive board of the Chapter consists of: Chairman, Prof. M. Fukuoka; Secretary General, Mr. T. Iwasaki; and Directors, Prof. T. Akagi, Assoc. Prof. K. Makiuchi, Mr. Y. Kohgo, Dr. K. Kutara, Mr. H. Nakayama, and Mr. Y. Watari.

We are happy to congratulate Professor Fukuoka and Mr. Iwasaki, who were reelected at the General assembly of the Japanese Chapter on 5 December 1985 for another term in the same offices in which they currently serve.

The Japanese Chapter has four committees. The first, the International Committee chaired by Professor Akagi, ensures liaison with the IGS Council and handles exchanges on international matters. The Technological Committee chaired by Mr. Watari conducts joint studies with the geotextile committee of the Japanese Society of Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering, and is responsible for technological studies (which includes, at the present time, collecting information on design methods). The third committee, the Standards Committee chaired by Dr. Kutara, is responsible for studies of national and international standards on geotextiles, and the fourth committee, on Public Relations, is chaired by Associate Professor Makiuchi, who has already published two newsletters, which further demonstrates the vitality of the Japanese Chapter of the IGS.

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## ***Society Activity***

In August 1985, the Council of the Society met in San Francisco during the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering. It was reported that as of June 1985 there were 235 individual members and 19 corporate members.

The General Assembly of the Society that is to be held on 8th April 1986 during the Vienna Conference represents a most important stage in the development of the Society. It represents the first time since formation that all members can gather to express democratic opinion on the progress of the Society and its future direction. As such, much of the Council meeting was spent making preparations for that general assembly. Procedures for voting and for obtaining nominations for office were developed. Suggestions for amendments to the Byelaws were also discussed. One very important proposed amendment will be to include Geomembranes within the scope of the Society.

IGS has been formed as a Society of Individual Members. The value of having geographically defined "Chapters" within the Society has however been recognized. Therefore a policy for the establishment of Chapters was developed. This policy, which is presented elsewhere in the newsletter, was then used to consider a proposal from Japan. The proposal was accepted and the Japanese Chapter became the first chapter in the Society.

The state of organization of the IIIrd International Conference was discussed. It was reported that over 200 papers would be published in the proceedings. Such interest augers well for the technical success of the meeting.

The IVth International Conference proposed for 1990 was also discussed. Following approaches to people in more than 30 countries, a short list of groups from four countries have been requested to provide detailed proposals for hosting that conference. The countries are Canada, Finland, the Netherlands and Singapore. A decision as to the location of the IVth Conference will be announced in Vienna in April.

A policy for holding regional conferences under the auspices of the IGS was also developed. Under this policy it is hoped that conflicts between conferences may be avoided and that quality conferences may be encouraged especially in areas of the world where geotextiles are not yet well known.

The activities of the Technical Committees were also briefly discussed. The most important single item here was that Committee 84-2 on Standards hopes to have a report prepared for Vienna that will list and describe the test methods used or specified by standards or regulatory bodies throughout the world. Financial assistance was approved to assist in the preparation and printing of this report.

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## ***Establishment of Geographic Chapters***

Many nations already have national geotextile and geomembrane organizations. It is hoped that where such organizations are of a form compatible with IGS that they may ultimately wish to become affiliated with IGS. In areas where there is no local grouping presently in existence it is probably desirable for IGS members to group together to organize local activity. With these thoughts in mind the Council developed a policy for the establishment of "Chapters". This policy is given below to assist any who may be contemplating the formation of such a group.

### **1. Establishment of a chapter**

A proposal shall be received by the secretary of the IGS no later than two months prior to a council meeting. Discussion of this proposal is then automatically included in the agenda of that council meeting.

### **2. Proposal**

The proposal presented to the Council shall include letters of intent prepared by potential chapter members, and proposed bylaws.

### **3. Letters of intent**

A chapter can be established by the Council of the IGS only if more than one half of the IGS members in

the considered geographic area agree in writing to establish a chapter and accept the proposed bylaws of the chapter.

#### 4. Geographic area

A chapter shall invite and accept as their chapter members, all IGS members in the given geographic area. The geographic area can be a country, a portion of a country, or a group of neighboring countries. A chapter can also have associate members from other geographic areas.

#### 5. Membership

Chapter bylaws shall state, among other items, that membership is open to all persons who would qualify as IGS members in the considered geographic area, especially geotechnical engineers and polymer specialists. A chapter cannot accept members who are not members of the IGS.

#### 6. Chapter bylaws

Applicable portions of chapter bylaws shall be in agreement with IGS bylaws and the IGS policy regarding chapters.

#### 7. Membership dues

Chapter members shall pay their IGS membership dues directly to the IGS. Additional membership dues may be required by the chapter.

#### 8. Activities of chapters

Activities and decisions of chapters must be in conformance with the bylaws and policies of the IGS. A statement to that effect shall be included in the chapter bylaws.

#### 9. Termination

A chapter can be terminated by the IGS Council at any time if the activities and decisions of the chapter are not consistent with the bylaws and policies of the IGS.



## ***International Committees***

Throughout the world there are many groups or committees involved with or studying geotextiles and geomembranes. These committees cover the whole range of activity from standardization to research and from professional interest to trade organization. The newsletter has already started a series of articles on national organizations. In the interest of furthering communications and understanding it may also be helpful to introduce some of the many committees operating internationally, together with their goals and where possible a point of contact. As an editorial note one might comment that this may be useful if it does nothing else but explain what the acronyms of these organizations stand for!

It should also be pointed out that Technical Committee 84-2 of IGS is preparing a comprehensive report for

the Vienna Conference that will present a worldwide list of the groups that are developing test methods for geotextiles together with descriptions of the various forms of tests under development. This will be a most valuable reference document.

### **RILEM**

Réunion Internationale des Laboratoires d'Essais et de Recherches sur les Matériaux et les Constructions  
International Union of Testing and Research  
Laboratories for Materials and Structures

RILEM has a Technical Committee on Synthetic Membranes, TC47-SM. Its objective is to develop recommendations on test methods for geotextiles, geomembranes and stressed membranes. Its chairman is Professor K. Gamski of the Université de Liège, 6 Quai Banning, B-4000, Liège, Belgium.

### **ISO**

International Organization for Standardization

The ISO Technical Committee TC38 on Textiles has formed a Sub-Committee SC21 on Geotextiles. The first meeting of this group was held in Manchester, England in June 1985. The Secretariat for the new Sub-Committee is provided by AFNOR, the Association Française de Normalisation.

The first meeting of ISO/TC38/SC21 Geotextiles Subcommittee was held under the chairmanship of M. Leflaive, M. Floch being secretary. Forty-three participants attended, representing 17 countries and 3 observing members were also present. The countries were: Austria, Belgium, Canada, China, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany F.R., India, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and U.S.A. The observing members were EDANA (European Disposable and Nonwoven Association), BISFA (International Bureau for the Standardization of man-made Fibres) and RILEM.

Resolutions were adopted aiming to delete the study of classification and specification for geotextiles from the proposed scope of the work of the subcommittee. Therefore the scope is to standardize terminology, methods of tests and identification of geotextiles.

After discussion, four working groups were established:

- GT1 Terminology (convener M. Perfetti)
- GT2 Identification and Sampling (M. Mortensen)
- GT3 Mechanical Properties (M. Rigo)
- GT4 Hydraulic Properties (M. Myles)

Sub-meetings of the working groups were held, which issued brief reports of their discussions and proposals; these were discussed at the last plenary meeting (5th June) and amended, defining clearly the purpose and scope of the working groups.

For detailed information, contact your national Standards Institute (Textile Committee) and/or your fellow members of IGS involved in the subcommittee work.

**BSI**  
British Standards Institution

Two committees have recently been established. The first of these, Technical Committee TCM/35: Geotextiles, is chaired by Bernard Myles of ICI Fibres Geotextiles Group and is responsible for developing British Standard Specifications for index testing. Work is well underway on basic test methods including determination of tensile strength, pore size and mass per unit area. It is anticipated that the first of these standards will be available in 1986. In parallel with developing national standards the committee is working in liaison with the International Standards Organization Committee ISO/TC38 towards international standards for index testing.

The second BSI committee, FBM/56: Reinforced and Strengthened Soil, is chaired by Nick Paine of consulting engineers Binnie and Partners and has the brief of preparing a code of practice covering a wide spectrum of soil reinforcing techniques. These include soil reinforcement and mini-piles, however parts of the proposed code are likely to be devoted to the use of reinforcing materials with a range of extensibilities and therefore would include geotextiles and geogrids.

**IFAI**  
Industrial Fabrics Association International

IFAI is a major international trade organization based in the USA and composed of more than 2200 companies involved in the field of industrial fabrics. Within this group there are separate divisions for companies who manufacture or distribute geotextiles and geomembranes. This association sponsored both the Second International Conference on Geotextiles in Las Vegas and the International Conference on Geomembranes in Denver. It is very active in education, promotion and organization in the fields of geotextiles and geomembranes. Their most recent initiative is a drive to organize a chapter of the IGS in North America. Their address is IFAI, 345 Cedar Building, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101, U.S.A.

**PIANC**  
Permanent International Association for Navigational Congresses

This association set up a working group in 1984 on "Flexible armoured revetments incorporating geotextiles for inland waterways". Its chairman is Mr. I.M. Walker from the British Waterways Board.

The purpose of the group is to study the use of geotextiles in canal revetments and to establish guidelines to help engineers to design and construct flexible revetments incorporating geotextiles. The revetment is considered as a system, with the geotextile being one component of the system.

A first meeting was held in London in November 1984, with representatives from Belgium, Norway, Italy, France, Finland, Netherlands, United Kingdom and U.S.A.

**PIARC**  
Permanent International Association for Road Congresses

A working group on Earthworks and Drainage has been established. Its chairman is Mr. Alcaide from Spain. This group has a subgroup on the use of geotextiles in earthwork and drainage systems. It will work in connection with the working group on geotextile testing which has already produced recommendations (Paper by M. Delmarcelle at the Second International Conference on Geotextiles).



## **Information Sources**

### ***"Second Canadian Symposium on Geotextiles and Geomembranes"***

On the 23rd and 24th September 1985 the Canadian Geotechnical Society organized and sponsored their Second Symposium on Geotextiles and Geomembranes. Approximately 160 persons attended the meetings. Most were from Canada but the organizers were pleased to receive a number of papers and speakers from the U.S.A. and Europe. Altogether 33 papers were presented in the preprinted proceedings volume. They were evenly divided with 17 on geotextile subjects and 16 on geomembranes. On geotextiles, 5 papers dealt with the topic of soil-geotextile friction. Other papers dealt with drainage, and the reinforcement of walls, embankments, roads and railways. On geomembranes the papers dealt with a number of case histories and on basic testing.

The preprint volume is available from Mr. R.B. Wallace, the Chairman of the Symposium Organizing Committee for Canadian \$50.00. Please contact:

Mr. R.B. Wallace  
EBA Engineering Consultants Ltd.  
14535 118th Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5L 2M7, Canada

### ***"Construccion—Pan Americana"***

This construction magazine distributed throughout Central and South America had a special section on Geotextiles in its February 1985 edition. A general paper was presented by J.A. Andreu indicating the varied uses of geotextiles all illustrated with examples of projects in Venezuela. Other papers covered a drainage application from Chile and a haul road constructed in Oklahoma.

It is interesting to hear about the increasing use of geotextiles in Central and South America. It was also reported to the newsletter that a seminar on geotextiles was scheduled for Bogota, Colombia for November 1985. The seminar was a joint venture of the Colombian Ministry of Public Works and the Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chaussées of Paris, France.

## **"Recent Developments in Ground Improvement Techniques"**

This book represents the proceedings of an international symposium held in Bangkok in December 1982. It has only recently been published by A.A. Balkema of Rotterdam and it contains one section on "Reinforced Earth, Soil Fabrics and Geotextiles". At least 7 papers are presented dealing directly with geosynthetics.

## **"The Use of Geotextiles Under Fills Built on Compressible Soils"**

This is a booklet published by the French Geotextile and Geomembrane Society. It is the fifth in a series of booklets published on applications and on standards. It is available from:

CFGG  
B.P. 79  
92105 Boulogne-Billancourt Cedex  
France

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## ***Members of the Council of IGS***

A list of the present members of the council of IGS together with their addresses is presented below. Should you have any questions concerning society operation or suggestions for society development please feel free to contact any or all of the members.

The presentation of addresses is a means of attempting to improve communications within the society and within the geotextile community. For this same reason, the next edition of the newsletter will include a complete listing of all society members and their addresses.

### **President**

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# **The French Geotextile and Geomembrane Society**

by  
**E. Leflaive**

The development of geotextiles began in France in the late sixties with the cooperation of producers, civil engineering government institutes, universities and textile research. This cooperative approach led to an early development of geotextile use in practice in road construction and many other fields of geotechnical engineering, and also to a fairly comprehensive approach to research problems raised by the use of these new materials.

By the mid-seventies this work resulted, in a need for specifications, to help users in selecting products and making a rational use of their possibilities, and in a large number of contacts with companies and laboratories beginning to be involved in geotextile engineering all over Europe. To answer the need for technical guidance and specifications it appeared useful to collect the information available in the different countries to build up a basis as firm as it could be at the time to establish sound and reliable construction rules. Since there were yet very few publications, the French Highway Administration (Ponts et Chaussées) decided to organize an international symposium on the use of textiles in geotechnics.

It was difficult to anticipate the number of participants likely to attend a meeting on such a new and specific subject. The symposium was held in Paris in April 1977, with many more participants than expected: more than 500, coming from 29 countries all over the world. It became known as the First International Conference on Geotextiles. The technical information that was made available through this conference and its obvious success made it a stepping stone for the development of geotextiles. They became not only more widely known, but also with the image of a dependable new family of materials deserving attention and opening new ways for the future. The number of publications and the turnover generated by geotextiles increased very strongly in the late seventies.

Following the conference the work of writing recommendations and preparing testing standards had to be undertaken at the national level. It appeared as a good basis to bring together civil engineers and textile specialists to work with each other to make use of their complementary knowledge and to develop good relations. The French Geotextile Society (Comité Français des Géotextiles) was thus created in 1978 as a technical association to exchange information on these new matters and to set up working groups as necessary. To outline its concern to be a meeting point between civil engineers and polymer and textile engineers, the by-laws have a provision according to which the chairman comes alternatively from one of the two groups.

The members of the society are corporate members such as companies, research establishments, etc. In 1983 the society extended its scope to geomembranes and its membership is now around 80 organizations represen-

ting users, producers, designers, dealers and researchers. Since 1985 the membership dues include the registration of one individual member in the International Geotextile Society.

The main results of its activities have been the publication of several booklets of recommendations for the use of geotextiles in various applications: roads, embankments, storage areas, sports grounds, etc. and the issue, with the French Standard Institute (AFNOR), of 10 official standards on testing and terminology published in 1983.

The Society helps the promotion of geotextiles through contacts between its members, encouragement of research, visit of laboratories and field sites, etc. Relations with other countries have been established through the invitation of foreign speakers to society meetings and the organization of seminars where members may invite foreign guests; the subjects of these seminars have (so far) been drainage (1983) and creep (December 1985).

The address of the Society is:

C.F.G.G.  
B.P. 79,  
92105 Boulogne-Billancourt Cedex,  
France.



## **Editorial Request**

The value of a newsletter lies not only in the basic articles but in the presentation of useful and up-to-date information. To assist in gathering information for this newsletter, a group of regional correspondents have been formed. We ask all members to provide information that they feel will be of interest to other members, either directly to the editor or to a regional correspondent in their area. Such information would include:

Calls for Papers  
Announcements of Conferences and Short Courses  
Lists of Recent Publications and Proceedings  
Items for the Calendar of Events  
Interesting Photographs  
Unique Uses of Geotextiles or Geomembranes  
Cartoons  
Letters of Opinion, etc.

Please do not hesitate to provide information because you feel everybody must know of it already. If we hear of something two or three times that does not hurt us. What hurts us is if all three of the people think that someone else will tell us and then we never find out!

A list of the present Regional Correspondents is given below with addresses. We thank these members for their efforts and hope that you will provide them with the necessary information. We also hope that the network of correspondents will soon extend to regions that are poorly covered at present. If you would like to be a correspondent please write to the Editor.

# NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENTS

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ASTM Committee D35 on Geotextiles  
and Related Products, semi-annual  
meeting.

Cocoa Beach, Florida, U.S.A.  
26-29 January 1986.

Contact: Janet Bove, Staff Manager,  
D35, ASTM, 1916 Race Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103,  
U.S.A.

Shirley Institute Geotextiles Seminar.  
Manchester, England.  
19 March 1986.

A series of presentations will review  
geotextiles from the textile viewpoint  
and this will be followed by a  
consideration of the engineering use  
of geotextiles.

Contact: John Jackson, Shirley  
Institute, Didsbury, Manchester,  
M20 8RX, England.

IIIrd International Conference on  
Geotextiles.

Vienna, Austria.  
7-11 April 1986.

Contact: Third International  
Conference on Geotextiles, c/o  
Österreichischer Ingenieur- und  
Architektenverein (ÖIAV),  
Eschenbachgasse 9, A-1010 Wien,  
Austria.

Geosynthetic Installation Seminar,  
Demonstration and Exhibition.  
Texas A and M University, College  
Station, Texas.  
6-8 May 1986.

To provide "hands on" experience of  
installation problems, techniques and  
other concerns of specifiers and  
inspectors of geosynthetics.

Contact: Joan Haglund, IFAI, 345  
Cedar Bldg., St. Paul, Minnesota,  
55101, U.S.A.

ASTM Committee D35 on Geotextiles  
and Related Products, semi-annual  
meeting.

Louisville, Kentucky, U.S.A.  
18-20 June 1986.

Contact: Janet Bove, Staff Manager  
D35, ASTM, 1916 Race Street,  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103,  
U.S.A.

Geosynthetics '87.  
New Orleans, Louisiana, U.S.A.  
February 1987.

A regional (North American)  
conference on geotextiles and  
geomembranes.  
Contact: IFAI, 345 Cedar Building,  
St. Paul, Minnesota, 55101, U.S.A.

RILEM Conference, "From Material  
Science to Material Engineering".  
Paris, France.  
7-11 September 1987.

Contact: RILEM General Secretariat,  
12 rue Brancion, 75737 Paris Cedex  
15, France.



The International Geotextile Society was formed with the following objectives:

- (1) to collect, evaluate and disseminate knowledge on all matters relevant to geotextiles;
- (2) to improve communication and understanding regarding geotextiles and their applications;
- (3) to promote advancement of the state of the art of geotextiles and their applications;
- (4) to encourage through its members the harmonization of geotextile test methods, equipment and criteria.

### ACTIVITIES OF IGS

- promotion of seminars, symposia and conferences
- publishing or sponsoring of papers, books or journals
- maintaining reference collections related to the objectives
- publishing a semi-annual Newsletter
- establishing liaison with other groups or bodies which could have an interest in geotextiles and their applications
- encourage research and development in Industry, Universities, Laboratories and other organizations
- encourage academic institutions to provide courses on geotextiles and their applications
- afford recognition of achievement in the advancement of the science and practical use of geotextiles
- establishment of international technical committees on topics of importance. Committees are already established on Symbols and Terminology, Standards and Specifications, Publications and Education, Geomembranes

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Membership of the Society is open to Individuals or Corporations "... engaged in, or associated with, the research, development, teaching, design, manufacture or use of geotextile products or systems and their applications, or otherwise interested in such matters".

The annual fee for membership is (US) \$30 for Individual Members and (US) \$1000 for Corporate Members.

The following application form may be used to apply for membership and sent to:

Mr. Guy Massenaux  
 Secretary, IGS  
 c/o EDANA  
 51 Avenue des Cerisiers  
 B-1040 Brussels  
 BELGIUM

OR

Mr. P.E. Stevenson  
 Treasurer, IGS  
 c/o Burlington Industrial Fabrics Co.  
 3330 West Friendly Avenue  
 Greensboro, North Carolina  
 27410 U.S.A.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBER ( )

CORPORATE MEMBER ( )

NAME.....

ADDRESS .....

CITY..... COUNTRY .....

TELEPHONE..... TELEX .....

ELIGIBILITY (i.e. evidence of suitable connection with geotextiles)

.....  
 .....

The applicant hereby agrees to pay the appropriate fee.

SIGNATURE..... DATE.....

\* A copy of the byelaws is available upon request.