

**MINUTES OF JOINT MEETING
GEO-INSTITUTE RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE (GI-RAM)
AND
ISSMGE TC304 (RISK): ENGINEERING PRACTICE OF RISK ASSESSMENT AND
MANAGEMENT
HELD ON**

Sunday, June 26, 2011
7:00 – 10:00 pm

InterContinental Hotel Buckhead, Atlanta, GA 30326, USA

Attendance:

Hsein Juang (RAM Chair), Jeff Keaton (GI-TCC), T.H. Wu, D.V. Griffiths (RAM Secretary), Farrokh Nadim (TC304), Bill Roberds, Zenon Medina-Certina, Rafael Jimenez (guest), Kevin Foye (guest), Shadi Najjar, Abdul-Hamid Soubra, Yusuke Honjo, Ed Glynn, Anand Puppala (guest), Limin Zhang, Hongwei Huang, KK Phoon (TC304 Chair), Helen Cook (G-I Board Specialist), Larry Jedele (G-I President), Bob Gilbert, Christopher Kokesh (guest), Behzad Fatahi (guest), Jinsong Huang, Adrian Rodriguez-Marek, Omer Bilgin (guest), Louis Ge (guest), Yu Wang, Eric Vanmarcke, Stan Miller, Rob Schweinfurth (G-I Director)

1. Welcome and introduction

The RAM Committee Chair, Dr. Hsein Juang welcomed the participants and everyone gave a brief self-introduction.

2. Confirmation of minutes

Past RAM minutes of 21Feb 2010 and 27June 2010 were approved as posted.

3. Comments from G-I Director Rob Schweinfurth

Mr. Schweinfurth thanked the participants for their support of the GeoRisk 2011 conference which had nearly 250 delegates. He has been in post for nearly one year. Mr. Schweinfurth commented that most of the G-I staff had left, and with it some “corporate memory” had been lost. He mentioned that the new staff was getting up to speed. He particularly mentioned Helen Cook, who has responsibility for planning future meetings and conferences.

4. Comments from TCC Liaison Jeff Keaton

- A budget of up to \$3000 from the G-I was available to the committee to encourage participation of younger members.
- RAM was one of the best technical committees at reporting their activities in a timely manner.
- Andrea Welker was working to improve the number and depth of G-I webinars. He also alluded to some turf battles G-I had experienced on this topic with ASCE.
- Dr. Soheil Nazarien had recently suggested that on-line University geotechnical courses might be made more widely available.
- Dr. Jon Stewart was now the Chair of the awards committee and was encouraging nominations. Dr. Juang pointed out that RAM had recently nominated 4 papers for awards, and that Najjar and Gilbert were to be congratulated on their award of the Norman medal.

- An ASCE Board level task force had recommended the creation of a standing committee to oversee the organization and venue of future G-I annual conferences to maximize participation and attendance.
- Dr. Bob Holtz had commented that G-I members were not participating enough in international events. Dr. Juang pointed out that the RAM committee may not be a problem since it already includes a high number of foreign members.
- Dr. Roman Hryciw was investigating the status of GSP and GPP publications.
- Members were encouraged to consider applying to the AGP for the Diplomate in Geotechnical Engineering (D.P.E.).
- G-I has a new committee relating to Sustainability. Other technical committees will have a representative who will liaise with this committee in order to promote sustainability issues in geotechnical engineering.

5. Ongoing Activity

1. Dr. Juang noted that Dr. D.V. Griffiths would be giving a State of the Art presentation at the GeoCongress to be held in Oakland, CA in March 2012. Dr. Phoon and Dr. Jianye Ching would be organizing a session at that congress on Spatial Variability. Dr. Bob Gilbert would be organizing a Panel Discussion on Offshore vs. Onshore Geotechnics.

6. Comments from Dr. K.K. Phoon, Chair of the TC304

1. Dr. Phoon informed the participants of the new URL for the TC304 committee as follows:
<http://140.112.12.21/issmge/tc304.htm>
2. Recent TC304 meetings had taken place at related conferences in Hong Kong (May 2011) and Munich (June 2012).
3. A collaboration with TC205 (Limit Analysis) was planned in which 10 geotechnical examples (<http://www.eurocode7.com/etc10/>) would be made available for consideration by TC304 from a risk/reliability perspective. The liaison from TC304 is Jianye Ching. The liaison from TC205/ETC10 is Trevor Orr. Jianye Ching will email details of this exercise to both GI-RAM and TC304 members in the near future. GI-RAM and TC304 members are encouraged to participate in this exercise.
4. Dr. Phoon mentioned that TC304 activities are driven by various task forces. He opined that there are several concrete activities where TC304 and GI-RAM can collaborate fruitfully. Examples include providing reliability solutions to ETC10 examples as noted above, contribute to a draft bibliography on risk related publications in geotechnical engineering (Task force 2), and dissemination of short courses or similar events to reach out to practitioners and students (Task force 1). He briefly mentioned that Lars Olsson is compiling a list of risk analysis softwares under Task force 6.

7. Task Force 2 (TF2) report by Dr. D.V. Griffiths

- Dr. Griffiths reported on progress on TF2 (Compilation of Guidelines and Technical Resources). The initial task had been to compile a bibliography on risk related publications in geotechnical engineering. The first draft had made significant use of reference lists from the texts by Baecher and Christian (2003) and Fenton and Griffiths (2008), but much more work

was to be done. It was agreed that the current list would be posted on both the TC304 and RAM websites, with an invitation for all committee members to email additional references to Dr. Griffiths, including their own publications. Full citation information was requested.

8. Task Force 1 (TF1) report by Dr. Farrokh Nadim

- Dr. Nadim reported on progress on TF1 (Interaction with Industry). Some discussion focused on the model established by LARAM in Salerno Italy where annual workshops were organised for PhD students, young faculty and practitioners, with a broad theme of landslide research. An Asian LARAM was to start soon in China. It was suggested that this might be an interesting model for future consideration by TC304.

9. Future Activities

- 2012 was thought to be a quiet year for risk-related conferences and activities after a hectic calendar to date in 2011. The GeoCongress 2012 in Oakland, CA in March 2012 would have some risk activities, including a session on spatial variability and keynote lectures on risk in geotechnical engineering research and practice.
- Some committee members wondered how risk and sustainability could be coordinated. Dr. Erik Vanmarcke mentioned that he would be organizing a session on risk assessment and management at a sustainability conference in Shanghai in November 2012. He would forward more information to the committee.
- Dr. Hongwei Huang mentioned that there would be events recognising the 100th anniversary of the founding of the Chinese Civil Engineering Society. There would also be a conference in 2012 on Engineering Risk and Insurance Research with dates TBA. He would forward more information to the committee.

10. Other Business

- Dr. Juang encouraged new members to get involved in RAM activities and consider organizing events.
- Dr. Puppala congratulated the Chair, Dr. Juang and other key members of the organizing committee, for their work in organizing a successful GeoRisk 2011 conference.
- Dr. Phoon mentioned that in view of ISSMGE restrictions on official membership of the TC304 committee, he would be opening a category of “corresponding members” to increase participation. People who are interested to join TC304 formally (if quota of 2 members per national society has not been taken up) or informally as corresponding members can contact him directly.

(See next page for photo)



(Participants of the Joint G-I RAM/TC304 meeting on 26 June 2011 in Atlanta)