

Introduction

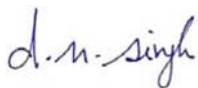
This special issue of **Geotechnical Testing Journal**, **ASTM International**, is dedicated to the 12th Conference of the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) held in Goa, India from 1–6 October 2008, with the theme of *Geomechanics in the Emerging Social & Technological Age*. From 1200 abstracts from 52 countries spanning all continents, 604 papers were selected for inclusion in the conference which had 550 participants. Each paper was peer reviewed by at least two reviewers. After going through all the papers carefully, giving due consideration to the scientific merit and originality, 7 papers that are within the scope of GTJ and would be well received by the readers were selected.

The International Committee for Numerical Methods in Geomechanics was established in July 1976, after two international conferences in Vicksburg, Mississippi (1972) and Blacksburg, Virginia (1976). These were followed by conferences in Aachen (1979), Edmonton (1982), Nagoya (1985) and Innsbruck (1988). IACMAG (<http://www.iacmag.org>) was founded at the time of the sixth conference in Innsbruck, with its secretariat at the University of Arizona, Tucson, with Dr. Chandra Desai as the President.

After 1988, the conferences were held every three to four years under the banner of IACMAG. They were at Cairns (1991), Morgantown (1994), Wuhan (1997), Tucson (2001), Torino (2005) and most recently in Goa (2008). The next IACMAG conference will be held in Melbourne (2011). IACMAG also acts as the co-sponsor of the International Journal of Geomechanics (IJOG) published by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)—Geo-Institute.

I acknowledge the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) for the approval for publication of the papers contained in this special issue, which were adapted from the Proceedings of the 12th IACMAG Conference in Goa, India. I also thank the authors for modifying their papers significantly and extending their fullest cooperation in preparing the manuscripts to the GTJ guidelines, taking aboard the additional review comments.

Sincerely,



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