

26 November 2016

Dear Colleagues,

Nomination for ISSMGE President for the Period 2017 - 2021

The Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES) would like to nominate **Professor Charles W.W. Ng** as a candidate for the President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) for the period from 2017 to 2021. The HKGES strongly believes that Professor Ng is extremely well-qualified to lead and serve the ISSMGE professionally and effectively. Professor Ng has excellent academic accomplishments and standing worldwide. He is well-recognised as a world-leading professor in the areas of soil-structure interaction, unsaturated soil mechanics and slope engineering. He has delivered about 80 keynote lectures and state-of-the-art reports etc. across five continents. Moreover, he has a proven track record in leading and serving various key activities of the ISSMGE. He has served the board of the ISSMGE since 2010: first as an appointed Board member between 2010 and 2013; subsequently as the Chair of the board-level Awards Committee from 2013; and as the Editor-in-chief of the ISSMGE bulletin from July 2014. More details are given in the following paragraphs:

Key academic accomplishments

- Professor Ng is a Chair Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering and the Associate Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). He was elected as an Overseas Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, in 2005. He is a Chartered Civil Engineer (CEng) and a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers (FICE), the American Society of Civil Engineers (FASCE), the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (FHKIE) and the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences (FHKEng). He was elected as a Changjiang Scholar (Chair Professorship) by the Ministry of Education in China in 2010.
- He is a preeminent and prolific researcher and has published about 240 SCI articles in major reputable international journals. Many of them are in *Géotechnique*, *Géotechnique Letters*, *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, *Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering*, *ASCE*. Moreover, he has published over 210 conference papers and 50 technical and consulting reports. He is the main author of two reference books entitled “*Advanced Unsaturated Soil Mechanics and Engineering*” and “*Soil-structure Engineering of Deep Foundations, Excavations and Tunnels*”.
- To date, 33 Ph. D and 37 M. Phil students have graduated under Professor Ng’s supervision. His research group is a paragon of diversity, currently consisting of research students from 16 countries worldwide. He has delivered about 80 keynote lectures, as well as state-of-the-art reports, general reports and invited major lectures, in five continents.
- He has received a number of awards, including the Henry Adams Award from the Institution of Structural Engineers (UK); the first Tan Swan Beng Award from the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society; the Mao Yisheng Youth Award from the Chinese Institute of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering; the R M Quigley Award (twice) from the Canadian Geotechnical Society; the 2015 Scientific

Technological Advancement Award (2nd class) by the State of China; and 2013 Scientific Advancement Technological Award (1st class) by the Ministry of Education, China.

Sustained professional leaderships in and services to the ISSMGE

- Professor Ng has been the Editor-in-chief of the ISSMGE bulletin since July 2014. Under his visionary leadership, he has made some major new additions including “Research Highlights”, “Major Projects” and “Young Members’ Arena (YMA)” to the bulletin. The YMA was created to give younger members of the ISSMGE an international platform to promote their research”.
- He has been Chair of the Board-level Awards Committee of the ISSMGE since October 2013. Under his leadership, the Committee has just completed the assessments of all the awards ahead of schedule, ready to be discussed and approved by the Board.
- Professor Ng has been actively involved in various activities and technical committees (TCs) within the geotechnical community worldwide. Furthermore, he was the Chairman for the 6th International Conference on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics (TC2) held in 2006 in Hong Kong; a co-Chairman of the 6th International Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Underground Construction in Soft Ground (TC28) held in 2008 in Shanghai; and the Chairman of the Technical Committee for the 14th Asian Regional Conference held in May 2011. He is the Chair of the Organising Committee for the 7th International Conference on Unsaturated Soils (TC106) to be held in 2018 in Hong Kong.
- Together with Professor Pedro Pinto, a previous President of the ISSMGE, Dr T.A. Ooi (the former President of the Southeast Geotechnical Society) and others, Professor Ng has been contributing to the series of seminars to promote ISSMGE and geotechnical engineering throughout Asia, including Malaysia, Myanmar, Cambodia, Singapore and the Philippines. Furthermore, he has given lectures with the immediate past President of the ISSMGE, Professor Jean-Louis Briaud to visit and deliver a total of five ISSMGE lectures in Vietnam and Thailand in 2013. All of these demonstrate Professor Ng’s considerable prowess at international collaborations and promoting ISSMGE worldwide.
- Professor Ng was an Appointed Board Member of the ISSMGE from July 2010 to August 2013. He was also an inaugural Vice-Chair of the Board Level Innovation Development Committee (IDC) of the ISSMGE from November 2009 to July 2010, and contributed many new ideas under the presidency of Professor Jean-Louis Briaud.
- Professor Ng was the secretary and core member of Technical Committee (TC2) on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics of the ISSMGE from August 2002 to June 2010; a core member of Technical Committee (TC28) on Underground Construction in Soft Ground of the ISSMGE from Oct. 2005 to June 2010; and an active member of the Technical Committee (TC6) on Unsaturated Soils of the ISSMGE from January 2000 to June 2010. Currently, he continues to serve in a number of TCs including TC104 (Physical modelling), TC106 (Unsaturated soils), TC107 (Lateritic soils) and TC 308 Energy Geotechnics.
- Professor Ng has been the President of the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES) since 2014. He has previously served as the Vice-president, from 2012 to 2014, and a founding Secretary General (2004 – 2007) of the HKGES.

Extensive administrative experience

- Professor Ng has been the Associate Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) since 2014.
- He has served as the Associate Dean of Engineering between 2007 and 2011 at HKUST.
- He was the Director of the Geotechnical Centrifuge Facility at HKUST from 2001 to 2015.

Selected editorships

- Professor Ng has served as an Associate Editor of *the Canadian Geotechnical Journal* since 2002. He has also been an Editor for *the Journal of the International Consortium on Landslides*, and an editorial board member of both *Computers and Geotechnics* and *Geomechanics for Energy and the Environment*.
- He has previously served as an editorial board member of the *Journal of Geotechnical and Geo-environmental Engineering, American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE)* from October 2001 to December 2005, and as an international member of the editorial panel of *Geotechnical Engineering, Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers, U.K.*, from July 2001 to 2009.

Yours faithfully,



Dr Johnny Cheuk
Secretary General of the Hong Kong Geotechnical Society

Encl: Brief biography of Professor Charles W.W. Ng and election manifesto for the Presidency of the ISSMGE (2017 – 2021)

Brief Biography



Professor Charles W.W. Ng is the Associate Vice-President for Research and Graduate Studies and a Chair Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST). After graduated from the Hong Kong Polytechnic in 1986, he went to the UK to read a M. Sc at the University of Southampton. After completing the Master's degree in 1987, he worked for the consulting engineers - Ove Arup & Partners in London for about two years before going to read his Ph. D at the University of Bristol. After obtaining his PhD degree in Civil Engineering in 1993, he joined the University of Cambridge as a postdoctoral Research Associate between 1993 and 1995 before returning to Hong Kong to join HKUST as Assistant Professor in 1995. He then rose through the ranks to become chair professor in 2011.

Professor Ng was elected an Overseas Fellow from Churchill College, Cambridge University, in 2005 and Changjiang Chair Professor in Geotechnical Engineering by the Ministry of Education Department in China in 2010. He is a Fellow of the Institution of Civil Engineers (FICE), the American Society of Civil Engineers (FASCE), and the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences.

Professor Ng is the President of Hong Kong Geotechnical Society and he has served the Board of International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) from 2010 to 2013. Currently he chairs the board-level Awards Committee and has been the editor-in-chief of the ISSMGE Bulletin since 2014. He has also served in a number of ISSMGE Technical Committees (TCs). He chaired and organised the *6th International Conference on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics* (under former TC2) in 2006 and co-chaired the *6th International Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Underground Construction in Soft Ground* (under former TC28) in 2008. Additionally, he is chairing and organising the *7th International Conference on Unsaturated Soils*, which will be held in August 2018 in Hong Kong (under TC106).

Professor Ng is an associate editor of the *Canadian Geotechnical Journal* and has served on many other editorial boards. Professor Ng has solely supervised 33 Ph. D and 37 M. Phil students to graduation. He has published some 240 SCI journal articles (many of them published in *Géotechnique*, *Géotechnique Letters*, *Canadian Geotechnical Journal*, *Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering*, *ASCE*, *Computers and Geotechnics*) and delivered about 80 keynote lectures, general reports and state-of-the-art reports etc across five continents. He is the main author of two reference books: (i) *Soil-structure Engineering of Deep Foundations, Excavations and Tunnels*; and (ii) *Advanced Unsaturated Soil Mechanics and Engineering*. He has received many awards including the R. M. Quigley Award from the Canadian Geotechnical Society twice for his two best papers. Professor Ng is the recipient of the first Tan Swan Beng Award by the Southeast Asian Geotechnical Society for the best paper published in the Geotechnical Engineering Journal of SEAGS between 1998 and 2001, and also at the 14th Southeast Asian Geotechnical Conference. He was conferred the 2003 Mao Yisheng Youth Award by the Chinese Institute of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering for his significant contributions to Geotechnical Engineering. Furthermore, he was one of the recipients of the 2015 Scientific Advancement Award (2nd class) by the State Council of China and also the 2013 Scientific Advancement Award (1st class) by the Ministry of Education, China.

Future plans for the ISSMGE

By Charles W.W. Ng, candidate for the ISSMGE President 2017-2021

Under the leadership of previous and current presidents, the governing and management structures of the ISSMGE have improved considerably, in terms of soundness, efficiency and accountability. Under my presidency I wish to strengthen our society with new visions, initiatives, and improvements, including (NOT necessarily in the order of priority):

- Set-up a task force to establish an on-line “ISSMGE university” to provide and enhance free education and professional training for our members such as online short-course series using MOOC (massive open online course) platforms.
- Raise the profile of geotechnical engineers in the society and render its multi-faceted role more visible in the society with several initiatives to be prioritised by ISSMGE Board, and with the help of the ISSMGE Council, including featured stories of achievements and contributions made by geotechnical engineers via various social media and channels, and concerted actions for the public and the media.
- Prepare a short and convincing motivation list for membership (both member societies and individual members) of ISSMGE: "What's in ISSMGE for us/me?" Provide assistance to the member societies for recruiting additional individual members. Considering a gradual membership fee scale for new member societies (like a trial period) and (2) proposed activities to make new adhesion to ISSMGE more attractive.
- Seek donations to establish the ISSMGE website into a modern *e*-meeting place for both member societies and individual members. Coordinate all media instruments (e.g. lectures, library, course, TC's etc.) into an efficient *e*-space.
- The work of the Technical Committees represents the core of the ISSMGE competence development and knowledge. Continue to improve the functionality of the technical committees by: (1) making absolutely clear to each TC responsible that the task assignments are made on a performance and competent basis; (2) making TC documents more easily accessible to all members
- Encourage the ISSMGE get involved in (1) Big Data Research and Management and (2) Machine learning in geotechnical engineering
- Provide open access to keynote oral presentations and conference proceedings in major conferences for our members, as well as links to other key lectures, like the numerous honours lectures in different countries.
- Create a platform to encourage and promote geotechnical-related start-ups and spinoffs
- Embrace even further diversity, by first recognising which are the under-represented groups (geography, gender, ethnicity, etc.) and second promoting improved representation in key roles on the ISSMGE Board, Board-level committees, Technical Committees, task forces and platforms and other ISSMGE and activities, including lecturing. Encourage member societies to give the same attention to the benefits of diversity.
- Review all awards and honours lectures of ISSMGE and set them in a consistent package, making sure that the main and appropriate merits are recognised.