

# Editorial

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Welcome to volume 3 of *Geotechnical Research*, the Institution of Civil Engineers' first gold open access journal. The first issue of *Geotechnical Research* in 2016 includes two technical articles dealing with very practical aspects of geotechnical engineering. The first article, written by Chambers *et al.* (2016), describes the design and operation of a large temporary propping system, constructed at the Crossrail Paddington station in London. The paper explores the design and operation of this system through the analysis of a data set collected during the construction period and the numerical modelling undertaken at Durham University. The findings from this research have led to a greater understanding of the behaviour of propping systems under different environmental conditions, and may lead to more efficient and safer designs in the future.

It is worth mentioning here that the first author of this article, Paul Chambers, is the winner of the 2015 Emerging Engineers Award. Wei Liu, chair of the judging panel, said that Paul was selected as the winner as he, 'took a subject considered to be dry and technical and made it interesting, relevant and enjoyable' (Gladwell, 2015). Such a comment should convince geotechnical engineers that the paper is worth reading. It is also worth pointing out that since the paper describes the Crossrail project it must be made free to read. We are glad that Paul Chambers and his colleagues have decided to publish their paper in *Geotechnical Research*. The main aim of *Geotechnical Research* is to make research outputs more widely read, cited and used. Thus, the paper by Chambers *et al.* (2016) fits this aim very well.

The second paper in this issue is written by Hari *et al.* (2016). The authors introduce floating stone compaction piles of small replacement area ratio as an effective solution for improving the soft clay for constructions of low-rise buildings in India. Several field and laboratory tests are then used to verify the effectiveness of the proposed improvement method.

While 2016 is underway, I would like to take this opportunity and look back at 2015 and in particular the articles published in issue 4 of volume 2. Similarly to 2014, the editorial panel together with ICE Publishing have made a huge effort in promoting the journal to an international audience. As a result, ten articles were

published in *Geotechnical Research* in volume 2, covering 154 pages in total.

It is interesting to note that issue 4 of volume 2 included two short communications, written by Santamarina (2015) and Wesley (2015), initiated in the LinkedIn blog for *Géotechnique Letters*. Both articles discuss various aspects related to geotechnical education and practice and include several comments from other participants of these discussions. As Editor-in-Chief of *Geotechnical Research* and an academician, I would welcome more contributions on similar topics in this journal. We must not forget that investigating engineering pedagogy is also important and could be very challenging.

The last issue of 2015 also included an article by Latapie and Lochaden (2015), both of whom work for Atkins in the Middle East region. Their article, although not project specific, is an outcome of the research work they undertake routinely on live projects in order to provide cost-effective and safe engineering solutions for their clients. This article is hopefully the first of a long series of industry-oriented research publications; the idea being to encourage professional engineers working in the industry to publish with *Geotechnical Research* and share what they have learned and accomplished while delivering their projects. This may relate to sharing good design practices that have worked effectively on projects or simply case studies of successful implementation of designs through construction support and validation by back-analysis on the basis of instrumentation and monitoring data. We would like to extend our encouragement to all our colleagues around the globe, but in particular to ground engineers working on projects in the Middle East region.

The Middle East region is currently investing greatly in civil engineering construction in the sectors of property, infrastructure and rail. This means that our industry has the opportunity to work on a plethora of mega-projects which are currently under design and/or construction. Excellent work is being carried out by ground engineers in the region and it deserves to be recorded, published and shared with the profession. We would like to encourage colleagues to use the excellent open access format to publish their

great work with *Geotechnical Research*. This is easy for authors as it ensures that the article will be reviewed and made ready for publication within a few weeks after submission and hence the entire publishing process is done while the information is still fresh and hopefully before the next project starts.

The *Geotechnical Research* editorial panel and ICE Publishing would like to extend their invitation to geotechnical engineers from all over the world to consider *Geotechnical Research* as a platform for disseminating their research, design and construction accomplishments. We hope readers have found volumes 1 and 2, published in the last 2 years, interesting and useful for their careers in academia or engineering industry. In particular, we would like to invite state-of-the-art review papers and outstanding case histories from leading scientists and geotechnical engineers. Full publication fee waivers are available for outstanding contributions to 2016 issues. We would also like to encourage our readers to submit discussions on articles published in *Geotechnical Research* last year. Constructive discussions are extremely valuable for all technical publications and are always welcome for open access articles such as those published in *Geotechnical Research*.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank members of the editorial panel for their hard work in promoting the journal as

well as their timely reviews and assessments of submitted papers. Last but not least, I would like to thank Ben Ramster and Alison McAnena from ICE Publishing for their continuous support.

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