



IGS News

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Geotechnical Services

CPT & Piezocone

Dilatometer

Seismic Dilatometer

Vane Shear

Tee-Bar

Piston & Eziprobe Sampling

PPI Piston Sampling

Piezometer Installation

In Situ Permeability



ISC'4 Conference - Brazil an excellent conference - technically & socially



Matthew Tutton (Golder)

Barry Lehane (UWA)

Yusuke Suzuki (UWA)

Rajah Gnanendran (UNSW@ADFA)

Richard Kelly (Coffey)

Michael O'Rourke

Allan McConnell

Robert Harrington

Russell Vincenzi

Nine Aussies attended the ISC'4 Conference in Porto de Galinhas, Brazil. Of these, three were from IGS and one was our 2012 Young Geo-Professionals' essay prize winner, Robert Harrington, from Cardno Bowler.

Overall there were 530 delegates from many countries.

The world's leading experts in Site Characterisation attended, presented and ran courses.

Richard Kelly from Coffey presented an excellent paper on characterising a very soft clay project site that IGS worked on with him.

Referring to the above photo: (i) Barry presented on use of CPT in foundation design and contributed to other papers, including one by (ii) Yusuke on variable penetration rates using piezocones; (iii) Matthew presented on robust geological modelling; (iv) Rajah presented on tensile characteristics of stabilized bases; and (v) Allan presented in a course on DMT & SDMT.

some key things we learned

- Best quality site characterisation usually hinges around up-to-date in situ testing of one type or another, supported by push-sampling techniques. IGS's PPI Sampler raised some interest.
- Excellent new software developed by Peter Robertson is changing how people manage and analyse CPT data. There will be more discussion of this in a following IGS Technical Note.
- There is ever-increasing utilisation of DMT and SDMT by world class practitioners. A significant number of papers reflected the reliability, accuracy and usefulness of these methods.
- Universally, in situ testing contractors are enthusiastic "inventors and developers" - new things are evolving all over the place - and IGS is respected as a contributor to this process. Some sharing of other's inventions will be discussed in later IGS Newsletters, as things progress.
- Research into variable push-rates in CPTu testing shows some useful outcomes. These rates vary from almost-stationary to near-super-sonic speed. IGS applauds research into this area.
- Australians are contributing significantly to the practice of site characterisation, at home and abroad.

There is no doubt that quality site characterisation leads to quality geo-engineering - hence our unequivocal support of ISC'4.

reducing geotechnical uncertainty