Editorial

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This issue of *Ground Improvement* is the final issue of the first volume of the journal to be published as part of the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*. You may have noticed that the volume number for the journal in 2008 is 161 (in 2007 it was 11). This is because the numbering of volumes of the journal now corresponds with the other journals of the *Proceedings* package. The change in the numbering and status of this journal coincides with significant changes that have been taking place in the learned society activities of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). The major thrust of these changes has been for the Institution to enhance its position as the leading source of expert civil engineering knowledge for practitioners, industry and society. One of the mechanisms by which it is proposed that this can be achieved is by strengthening the link between ICE's journals and the new learned society structure, which is represented by 'expert panels' that specialise in specific areas of civil engineering. Another of these mechanisms has been the adoption of a number of 'strategic knowledge themes' to focus ICE learned society activities and each of ICE's journals has been asked to consider ICE's knowledge themes when selecting possible special issues that focus on a specific theme.

Ground Improvement has previously published special issues that were based on presentations at international conferences on ground improvement techniques. In response to the request from ICE, the *Ground Improvement* editorial panel has agreed

to publish a special issue that addresses the ICE strategic knowledge theme 'Meeting human needs whilst accepting environmental limits' by publishing papers on the topic of 'Sustainability in ground improvement projects'. The special issue will be Issue four of Volume 162 (2009) and further details of the scope of the papers for this issue will be provided in a call for papers. Although ICE is a UK-based organisation, (albeit with a worldwide membership) the objective of *Ground Improvement* is to publish papers on leading international research across the breadth of ground improvement techniques and papers in the special issue will reflect this purpose.

A key to ensuring the international character of *Ground Improvement* is through having an editorial panel that consists of leading international geotechnical engineering practitioners and academics. In the last year membership of the *Ground Improvement* editorial panel was finalised, and I am delighted to welcome as new members: Amer A. Al-Rawas (Oman), Abir Al-Tabbaa (UK), Sivakumar Babu G L. (India), Dennes T. Bergado (Thailand), Buddhima Indraratna (Australia), Doncho Karastanev (Bulgaria), Chun F. Leung (Singapore) and Ali Porhaba (USA). The new members not only increase the geographical spread of the editorial panel, but also the breadth of technical expertise in both research and practice in ground improvement. The editorial panel looks forward to receiving high quality papers for consideration for publication in the journal.