Editorial

William Powrie, *Honorary Editor*

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Geotechnical Engineering is published with the objective of bringing 'practical aspects of the art and science of modern geotechnics to as wide a civil engineering audience as possible'. In the five years since the first issue, we have pursued this objective by publishing papers over the range of geotechnical engineering activity, including new and developing areas such as environmental geotechnics.

Case-based papers have covered projects such as the Docklands Light Railway extension to Bank, the Great Belt crossing, the Heathrow Express trial tunnel and the Ekofisk North Sea oil/gas field, and events such as the Kobe earthquake.

We have also published papers of historical interest describing the work of Coulomb, Terzaghi, Baker and Harding, and re-published as tributes papers by Bill Ward and Pat Cashman. In two editions of the journal, most or all of the papers were connected by a common theme—soil dynamics and geotechnical centrifuge testing. An issue devoted to the geotechnical aspects of landfill engineering is planned for July 1999.

Turning to the future, *Geotechnical Engineering* (as part of the *Proceedings of the Institution of Civil Engineers*) must continue to serve the Institution's membership. We therefore want to publish more case-based papers by members of the ICE and other practising engineers. By way of encouragement, we have set up a panel link system whereby prospective authors can be put in touch at an early stage with a member of the editorial advisory panel. If required, the panel link will discuss the basic outline of a proposed paper before even the abstract is written. If you are interested in this facility, please contact Lesley Wilson at the ICE (tel. 0171 665 2242) in

the first instance. A second point is that a recent survey of our readers has identified a demand for short papers, and for an increased coverage of small projects with interesting features. In response to this, we have decided to publish brief case notes, which should make a significant practical point but might only be 500–1000 words in length.

Every paper we publish should contribute in some way to either the art or the science of geotechnical engineering. For example, a case-based paper might describe a complex, innovative or otherwise challenging piece of ground engineering; or it might make use of a less prestigious project to draw out some more general truths. Research papers must be directly relevant to geotechnical engineering practice. Short papers and technical notes are particularly welcome, provided they are complete and self-contained and make a significant point.

Our main aims over the next five years are to expand our circulation internationally to match our authorship (about 40% of our papers are from authors based outside the UK), and to publish more high quality case-based papers by practising civil and geotechnical engineers. Our interpretation of the term geotechnical engineering will continue to be wide, embracing both traditional and developing areas such as innovative geotechnical construction, geotechnical project management and environmental geotechnics. Whether we achieve these aims depends on you, as readers and authors: it is only with your active support that *Geotechnical Engineering* will continue to fulfil its mission and bring practical aspects of the art and science of modern geotechnics to as wide a civil engineering audience as possible.