Editorial

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On behalf of the Editorial Panel of the *International Journal of Physical Modelling in Geotechnics*, welcome to the first issue of 2018. Following continued growth in the number and length of papers submitted and accepted, 2018 will see a major change to the journal, with the publication frequency increasing to 6 issues within the year. This change will (i) help to reduce the time between acceptance of papers and appearance in print and (ii) provide a platform for sustainable future growth of the journal. The papers appearing in this issue have been available online ahead of print (AoP) for approximately 12 months and over the coming year we hope to be able to reduce this time steadily, without leaving the journal short of content. As this happens, we will continue to publish papers online AoP as soon as possible, to ensure that the newest material is fully citable.

Also over the coming year, the Editorial Panel will focus on optimising the review process and minimising the time between submission and first decision, so that we can continue to push new physical modelling research into the public domain as soon as possible. We will also be focussing on providing additional guidance to authors at the review stage on the length of accepted papers where necessary, as many accepted papers have now grown beyond the typical 10–12 pages and is one of the key reasons for increasing the number of journal issues per volume.

In this issue, we have three papers that are linked by a consideration of lateral soil–structure interaction, but for different geotechnical systems. In each case, physical modelling is used effectively to better understand or improve upon the design of the systems considered.

In Kokkali *et al.* (2018), centrifuge modelling is used to trial floodwall protection systems, based around T-wall retaining structures supported by battered piles. The paper describes the performance of these systems during and post-construction to provide a benchmark for validation of numerical models that can be used to produce improved designs for the protection of New Orleans (LA, USA) in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In Vu *et al.* (2018), battered piles are also considered,

but with the focus on their performance in pile groups and rafts under direct lateral load application. 1 *g* models are used to demonstrate that battered foundations have increased resistance and reduced settlement, along with illustrating implications for the structural behaviour and design of the piles. In the final paper of the issue (Nakamoto *et al.*, 2018), the use of prestressed soil nails for the stabilisation of sloping ground is considered. Centrifuge modelling is used to demonstrate the effects of the amount of prestress in the nails on the deformation mechanics of the nailed soil.

While 2018 represents an important year for the journal, with the increased number of issues and pages in volume 18, it also represents an important year for the physical modelling community, with the quadrennial 9th International Conference on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics taking place on 17–20 July at City University in London, UK. It is exciting to have the conference coming to the UK, the current home of the journal, and we hope that it will lead to exciting new submissions to the journal (at all scales!) following the main event in the summer.

As always, the Editorial Panel and I would like to thank the physical modelling community for their continued support of the journal through submission and reviewing of papers (a list of reviewers for 2017 may be found within this issue and at <https://doi.org/10.1680/jphmg.2018.18.1.56>). We hope you enjoy the contents of this issue.

REFERENCES

- Kokkali P, Tessari A, Abdoun T *et al.* (2018) Settlement-induced bending moments on pile-founded floodwalls. *International Journal of Physical Modelling in Geotechnics* **18**(1): 2–20, <https://doi.org/10.1680/jphmg.16.00019>.
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- Vu TA, Matsumoto T, Kobayashi S and Nguyen LT (2018) Model load tests on battered pile foundations and finite-element analysis. *International Journal of Physical Modelling in Geotechnics* **18**(1): 33–54, <https://doi.org/10.1680/jphmg.16.00010>.