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Final Program

# ATLANTA GEOCONGRESS 2006 FEBRUARY 26 – MARCH 1

Geotechnical Engineering in the Information Technology Age

SENSING METHODS AND DEVICES

DATA SYNTHESIS AND MANAGEMENT

NUMERICAL MODELING AND ANALYSIS

SIMULATION AND VISUAL ANALYSIS

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# Welcome from Chair to GeoCongress 2006....

On behalf of the organizing committee of GeoCongress 2006 - Geotechnical Engineering in the Information Technology Age, I am very pleased to welcome you to Atlanta and the signature Geo-Institute meeting of 2006. The goal is that during the next few days, you will be exposed to an exciting showcase of recent advancements in all geo-applications including field characterization, laboratory characterization, numerical simulation, data management, subsurface visualization and geotechnical education as a result of the adoption and integration of information technologies in practice and academia. The conference includes short courses, workshops, software and hardware demonstrations, exhibits, debates, as well as technical paper presentations. The organizers accepted over 300 papers and have developed a strong technical program that merges traditional geotechnical problems with technology-based solutions. The meeting also seeks to expand interest in the abundant opportunities that are on the horizon as a result of recent and impending developments in areas such as sensors, nanotechnology, and cyber infrastructure. In addition to the breakout technical paper sessions, a number of invited keynote plenary lectures will be delivered on topics ranging from instrumentation to data management to numerical analysis to visualization. Further, the Terzaghi, Peck and Seed Lectures will be delivered at the conference. The conference will also recognize some giants from our field as "Heroes". Unique events to be held during GeoCongress 2006 include a special session on the role of information technology and high performance computing in the future of geotechnical engineering and a student competition that is designed to make extensive use of the internet and the unprecedented access to data that it provides. This latter event truly showcases how our world and field are changing in that teams of students from all around the US are competing real-time in the competition.

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