IWM 2004:
The Transition to ISM Begins

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The 6th International Workshop on Micropiles (IWM) was held at the Musashi Institute of Technology, Tokyo, Japan from August 24-27, 2004. As our readers well know, ADSC has been a major supporter of IWM over the last few years, both in terms of the time and effort put forth by its membership, and also through the generous funding provided by the Micropile Committee and the Industry Advancement Fund. This year's ADSC members. Family commitments prevented her from participating in Tokyo, a disappointment shared by all IWM members as much as by herself. ADSC Technical Affiliate, Gary Weinstein of the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn, New York, served most efficiently as the Meeting Secretary, and distinguished himself further with several valuable presentations and contributions during the breakout sessions.

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IWM was organized locally by the Japanese Group, headed by Professor Hoshiya, Mr. Otani, and Mr. Yamane, all prominent contributors in past IWMs and, in particular, last year's meeting in Seattle. ADSC Technical Affiliate, Mary Ellen Bruce, President of geotechnica, s.a., Inc. was responsible for organizing the technical program and is, as always, undertaking the task of compiling the proceedings on CD, which will be available to all attendees at 6th International Workshop on Micropiles.

Day 1: State of Practice (Design, Construction, and Research)
Day 2: Quality Assurance and Monitoring
Day 3: Case Histories, and Strategies for Database Construction

In addition to these plenary sessions, each day featured a moderated breakout session, each focusing on three different, but related topics, as follows:

Day 1: Design Issues (Pile/footing)

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connection: Effective stress analyses, Compilation of pile test data
Day 2: Administrative and Financial Issues (Fund raising, Website, Secretariat functions)
Day 3: Outreach Issues (Education-

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As a wrap up to each session, the moderators did an excellent job in pulling the various brainstorming together.

Special features of the IWM included:

- An opening greeting by Professor Kiyoshi Horikawa, the President of Musashi Institute of Technology (Japan's version of MIT).
- The second Lizzi Lecture “Research and Practice on Micropile Groups and Networks”, brilliantly delivered by Professor Schlosser.
- The award of the first Lizzi Scholarship to a young Japanese graduate student from the Toyohashi University of Technology (with a great smile), Shingo Morimasa. Due to the heroic efforts of Mary Ellen Bruce (and Federal Express), this delightful young man was awarded free registration for the workshop, and a package containing key micropile references, including:

Implementation Manual.

This 2004 IWM was of particularly crucial importance, being the first without U.S. Government financial support (as always, thanks a million, AI), and the first largely under the "new" ADSC regime and mandate. Therefore, the traditional "Steering Committee" meeting took on special significance from a strategic viewpoint. After very thorough and careful consideration, this Committee agreed to the following:

- The name is now changed to “International Society of Micropiles: ISM”, and a logo, stationary, etc. will (continued on page 33)
reflect this new name.
- Mary Ellen Bruce was confirmed as the Society Secretary and will be charged with implementing a well-defined Business Plan. First and foremost, she must make the Society — and her position — self-funding by the end of 2005 since ADSC's generosity cannot be expected to extend to provide indefinite funding.
- The key points of the Business Plan include:
  - Identifying new Chairman for ISM. Donald Bruce, Chairman of IWM since its inception in 1997, will step down as Chairman before the next IWM meeting — scheduled for Spring 2006 in Schrobenhausen, near Munich, Germany (following the kind invitation of BAUER Maschinen GmbH). This move is intended to make the respective role, duties, and responsibilities of the Secretary and the new Chairman better-defined and more amenable to independent and mutual checks and balances, and to put the whole society on a more professional administrative footing.
  - Identifying fundraising vehicles to support membership needs and research efforts (e.g., developing pile test database, researching effective stress-based design procedures and pile-footing connection details).
  - Developing educational tools.
  - Developing a website for ISM.
  - Developing an active outreach program for new members.
  - Organizing structure of ISM as a legal entity.

No description of a visit to Japan can conclude without reference to the social side. Our hosts were wonderful, and beautifully organized. The food was fabulous — especially the dishes that the ADSC contingent could recognize (or dared to ask what they were). The liquid refreshments spanned the whole spectrum of sources — from rice, through hops (continued on page 34)
and barley, to grape, oh, and tea also.

For most of us, the highlight was the closing banquet, held at the Shinkien Garden in Yokohama: a restored oasis of tranquility and antiquity set in over 100 acres of garden, but yet a two-base Ichiro drive from the wharfs of Yokohama harbor. The group was entertained impecably. Almost surrealistically, the senior Japanese group provided an amateur magician show which was wildly applauded by an enthralled group of incredulous micropile specialists: themselves no strangers to (imperfect) sleight of hand on certain occasions it has been rumored.

Your correspondent was honored by the Japanese with the award of an especially handsome trophy; the “foreigners” in turn were sufficiently good sports to perform an impromptu entertainment for hosts and guests which was (fortunately) not caught on video. Had it been, John Wolosich’s impression of a disco DJ,

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Mike Turner’s Townsendesque air-guitar riff, Tom Armour’s cabaret, and Gary Weinstein’s wardrobe would have (unfortunately) been captured for posterity. Certain photographs survive and will be destroyed.

My personal thanks to all who participated in the funding, organization, and implementation of IWM Tokyo 2004. This group – now a society – has participated in an extraordinary phenomenon: a truly unique international collaboration on a single specific technology. It has established a model which is being studied seriously by professional and trade societies both in North America and overseas. Its success owes everything to its members and its sponsors.