

Book Launch at UOW "GEOTECHNICAL SLOPE ANALYSIS"

The book "Geotechnical Slope Analysis" by Professor Robin Chowdhury, Dr Phil Flentje and Dr Gautam Bhattacharya was launched at the UniCenter Bookshop on June 24 by Professor Chris Cook, Dean of Engineering. The launch was attended by a number of university staff, namely from the Faculty of Engineering. Professor Chris Cook congratulated the authors on producing a significant and impressive body of work and he noted, among other things, that the book was the end-product of many years of research and scholarships. Professor Robin Chowdhury referred to the motivation and process of writing the book and how it had been a most rewarding experience including the smooth collaboration with the co-authors. He also spoke about the significance of books in the engineering profession and the role which should be played by academics in encouraging the writing and reading of such literature:



In photo from left: Dr Phil Flentje Professor Robin Chowdhury, Professor Chris Cook

"Knowledge in engineering disciplines has been growing at an increasing rate. The research output of engineering academics has been growing steadily in the form of research papers in journals and conferences. However, the writing of books has lagged behind considerably except perhaps at conference proceedings. There are of course many types of engineering books such as; text books, books about individual research topics and reference books. All these types of literature are required in increasing quantity and quality. In particular, it is most desirable to encourage scholarly books which can place the growing knowledge in the correct theoretical and practical contexts. Having this launch today gives me the opportunity to talk about the importance of books generally and to our profession in particular."

A brief description of the "GEOTECHNICAL SLOPE ANALYSIS" by Professor Robin Chowdhury, Dr Phil Flentje and Dr Gautam Bhattacharya:

This reference book gives a complete overview of the developments in slope engineering in the past 30 years. Freshly updated and an extended version of Slope Analysis with its multidisciplinary, critical approach and the chapters devoted to seismic effects and probabilistic approaches and reliability analysis, reflect the distinctive style of the original. Subjects discussed are: the understanding of slope performance, mechanisms of instability, requirements for modelling and analysis, and new techniques for observation and modelling. Special attention is paid to the relation with the increasing frequency and consequences of natural and man-made hazards. Strategies and methods for assessing landslide susceptibility, hazard and risk are also explored. Moreover, the relevance of geotechnical analysis of slopes in the context of climate change scenarios is discussed. All theory is supported by numerous examples.

INTERNATIONAL REVIEWS

"I have yet to see a book that excels the range and depth of Geotechnical Slope Analysis... I have failed to find a topic which is not covered and that makes the book almost a single window outlet for the whole range of readership from students to experts and from theoreticians to practicing engineers..."

-Prof. R.K. Bhandari, New Delhi, India

"The experience of the authors, drawing on research over many years, has resulted in an essential volume on theory and practice, of value to both researchers and practising geotechnical engineers involved with studies of slopes and their mechanisms of failure."

-Dr Robin McInnes OBE FICE FGS FRSA

"This book gives a comprehensive coverage of the subject matter and it is easy to read. The brief examples and case studies are very helpful. It facilitates teaching in schools, in short courses and for self learning by practitioners. The book addresses a variety of common questions and that readers would raise concerning slope analysis."

-Professor Wilson Tang, Hong Kong University of Science & Technology.



In photo from left: Professor Buddhima Indraratna, Professor Robin Chowdhury, Dr Phil Flentje, Professor Chris Cook, Dr Cholachat Ruji-kiatkamjorn, Associate Professor Muttucumaru Sivakumar,