

## EuroGeo4 - Edinburgh 2008

### 7 - 10 September 2008, Edinburgh, United Kingdom



The Fourth European Geosynthetics Conference was held on 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> September 2008 at the Edinburgh Conference Centre, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, Scotland, United Kingdom.



EuroGeo4 welcome reception with Right Honourable George Grubb, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh, and Derek Smith, Chairman of the Organizing Committee

The conference was organised by the IGS UK Chapter under the auspices of IGS and with the support of the British Geotechnical Society, The Scottish Geotechnical Group, The Engineering Group of the Geological Society of London and The Ground Forum. The conference was a great success with more than 520 delegates (including day delegates and training course attendees) and around 60 accompanying persons. Although a European conference, delegates came from all over the world.

The conference was officially opened by the Right Honourable George Grubb, Lord Provost of the City of Edinburgh at a welcome reception on the evening of 7<sup>th</sup> September. Three days of parallel technical sessions, training courses and trade exhibition then followed, covering all aspects of the use of geosynthetics in civil engineering.



Plenary session at EuroGeo4

Each day of technical sessions started with a great keynote lecture given by Prof Colin Jones (Electrokinetic geosynthetics - from research to applications); Dr Nathalie Touze-Foltz (Geoenvironmental applications of geosynthetics); and Dr Grace Hsuan (Long-term performance and lifetime prediction of geosynthetics). The conference was also fortunate to be able to host the Mercer Lecture, given by Prof Ennio Palmeira (Soil-geosynthetics interaction: modelling and analysis). This lecture was given on the first evening of the conference and was open to delegates and non-delegates alike. Three parallel technical sessions made up the remainder of each day, with the quality of presentations being very good throughout.

The training courses were developed by IGS UK Chapter in conjunction with Thomas Telford Limited. There were 3 one day courses on Ground Reinforcement, Waste Containment and Hydraulic Applications.

The trade exhibition was very popular with delegates. All lunches and refreshments were served in the exhibition hall. 32 companies were represented from all over the world. The conference organisers were very grateful to all exhibitors and sponsors, especially the four premier sponsors (Don and Low Limited, Geofabrics Limited, Huesker Geosynthetic GmbH and Tensar International), for helping to make the conference the great success that it was.



Ode to the Haggis ceremony at the conference dinner

The conference also had a great social programme. The accompanying persons were treated to a daily programme of entertainment including whisky tasting, a tour of The Royal Yacht Britannia, and visits to Loch Lomond and Edinburgh City. The highlight of the social programme was the conference dinner, which was held at Stirling Castle, some 40 minutes drive away. After a frantic 20 minutes of loading all delegates onto coaches, everyone enjoyed the evening of entertainment which included pipers welcoming delegates to the castle, a falconry display, addressing of the haggis and then when all had finished their dinner, a march back to the coaches behind a pipe and drum band.



Pipe and drum band at the festive evening at Stirling Castle

The conference was friendly and relaxed and had high quality papers and presentations that helped to make sure that all delegates enjoyed the event, met old friends and made new ones and learned something new about geosynthetics in the process.

*Reported by  
Derek Smith, Chairman,  
EuroGeo 4 Organizing Committee*