



# MGS VISIT TO GEOSS IN SINGAPORE

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## Malaysian Geotechnical Society

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The Malaysian Geotechnical Society (MGS) and Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Nov 3, 2017 in Singapore with the objective of strengthening collaborative efforts between the two societies. The two nations obviously have a rich cultural heritage together. The MGS delegation (comprising Ir. Dr. Chan Sin Fatt, Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dominic Ong Ek Leong, Ir. Dr. Chin Yaw Ming, Ir. Lo Chong Chiun, Ir. Dr. Goh Teik Cheong and Vincent Ong Yung Sheng) was led by her President Ir. Yee Yew Weng, and the event was hosted by GeoSS President Dr. Leong Kam Weng.

The MGS delegates started the tour by visiting the Land Transport Authority (LTA) office. Dr. Goh and his team gave a briefing on the High-Speed Rail Project (SG to KL), emphasizing the enormous geotechnical work required along the route, which will travel through Limestone formation. They also shared other interesting aspects of construction in Singapore, especially complexities of construction in an urban environment.

In the afternoon, National University of Singapore (NUS) hosted a visit to their centrifuge laboratory, where a range of state-of-the-art research were on display. This was followed by the MOU signing ceremony by the Presidents of MGS and GeoSS and witnessed by both committees. The MOU included commitments to organize:

1. Combined MGS-GeoSS Conference every 2 years
2. Separate Geotechnical Events / Seminars in Singapore / Malaysia but with mutual benefit of shared costs for overseas speakers

MGS gave an evening seminar attended by about 50 participants, which was well received. The topics were selected to give a broad view of the geotechnical challenges across the nation, with aptly titled topics:

1. “Grouting and Cement Mixing Methods in Kuala Lumpur Limestone” by Ir. Yee Yew Weng
2. “Hill-site Developments with Some References to Experiences in Penang” by Ir. Dr. Chin Yaw Ming
3. “Application and Experience of Pipe-Jacking in Weathered Rocks and Lessons Learnt” by Ir. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Dominic Ong Ek Leong
4. “Introductory Geotechnical Engineering in Sabah” by Ir. Lo Chong Chiun

On the next day, a site visit was arranged by LTA to Project T216 to view the rectangular Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM). The hybrid TBM-pipe jacking technology show-cases LTA’s determination to introduce innovation to drive productivity improvements in the construction industry. Besides, site safety and planning impressed the visitors.

GeoSS hosted MGS to an evening dinner on Nov 3, 2017, and Deputy President of NUS, Prof. Yong Kwet Yew kindly graced the event. MGS delegates expressed appreciation to GeoSS for generously hosting the team; not forgetting LTA for the hard work involved in arranging the office briefing and site visit. The special evening concluded with exchange of mementos, with commitment for greater future collaborations duly sealed.



*Figure 1: Photos Taken with Delegates during Visit*