

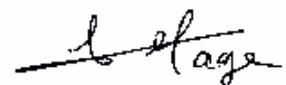
Preface

Geotechnical research into the field of Unsaturated soils started in the 50's with some seminal contributions including pioneering papers by Croney, Coleman and Bishop. An important further step occurred with the venue of the UNSAT'95 - First International Conference on Unsaturated Soils held in Paris in 1995, following a series of successful Conferences on Swelling soils with the last one held in Dallas in 1992. This series of conferences sponsored by the TC6/TC106 Technical Committee of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) was afterwards followed by a series of successful Regional Conferences that started in Singapore in 2000 with the Asia-Pacific series, followed by the European one, started in Durham (UK) in 2008 and, finally, the Pan-American series started in Cartagena de las Indias (Colombia) in 2013.

In the meantime, research into the behaviour of unsaturated soils expanded in a spectacular manner in terms of laboratory/in-situ investigations and conceptual/numerical modelling. Researches were aimed at solving practical engineering problems based on sound analyses of coupled multi-physics phenomena that became less mysterious thanks to the sound and deep investigations carried out all over the world by a constantly increasing number of research groups.

In this context, the E-UNSAT2016 Paris Conference attracted quite a good response to the call for papers with 166 accepted papers from all over the world, quite a large number for a regional Unsat Conference. 18 Distinguished Lecturers (Keynote, Plenary and Invited Lecturers) also provide insights into the more advanced achievements in the field, playing an important role in the interest and scientific outcome of the Conference. The topics that drew particular interest are *Advances in experimental methods*, *Water retention and transport properties* and *Mechanical behaviour*, with also significant contributions on *Numerical and Constitutive modelling*. The practical applications that have been dealt with are *Dams and dykes*, *Soil-Vegetation-Atmosphere interaction*, *Slope stability* and *Geo-environmental applications* (a session organised together with the ISSMGE TC215).

As expected and confirmed by the large number and the high quality of the papers received, the E-UNSAT2016 Paris Conference fostered fruitful presentations and discussions on up to date ideas, concepts and achievements in Unsaturated Soils, from many researchers from Europe and other continents.



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