

## GUEST EDITORS FOREWORD

We are grateful to the Editor of the New Zealand Society for Earthquake Engineering Bulletin for providing this opportunity to compile this special issue on earthquake geotechnical engineering (EGE). Earthquake geotechnical engineering is a major sub-discipline of earthquake engineering that addresses a wide range of geotechnical problems such as behaviour of slopes, earth structures, retaining walls and foundations during earthquakes, and also provides a key contribution to multi-disciplinary subjects such as characterization of ground motion, seismic soil-structure interaction and seismic hazard analysis.

The eight contributions to this special issue are invited papers from a specialized workshop ("Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering Workshop 2006") that was held at the University of Canterbury, Christchurch, in November 2006. This extremely successful event brought together about 90 practitioners and researchers including 20 leading experts in the field from USA and Japan. The workshop was part of a regular activity coordinated by TC4, Technical Committee of ISSMGE for Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering, and was also seen as an inauguration event for a specialized workshop series on earthquake geotechnical engineering here in New Zealand.

The contributing authors have provided a set of papers covering important areas in research and practice. They range from valuable overviews to specific technical details and procedures including information from recent earthquakes, case histories, benchmark experiments and analytical/numerical methods for seismic assessment of earth structures and soil-structure systems.

The editors are grateful to the contributing authors and numerous reviewers for enabling us to present to the readership this special issue focussed on the geotechnical aspects of earthquake engineering.

The editors also wish to acknowledge the special support provided by the Earthquake Commission towards the cost of running the workshop in November 2006.

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