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50 YEARS OF ENGINEERING GEOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WARSAW

September 26, 2008 marks the 50th anniversary of founding the Engineering Geology Chair at the University of Warsaw. To commemorate this date, a scientific symposium and a reunion of the graduates was held. Results of recent research carried out by the scientific staff of the Department of Engineering Geology, Department of Geomechanics, and Chair of Environmental Protection and Natural Resources were presented in 22 papers were printed in the *Geologija (Geology)* journal published by the Lithuanian Academy of Sciences Publishers (*Geologija* 2008, Vol. 50 Supplement). Results of the studies, their interpretation and conclusions pertain to the following four disciplines: 1 – geological-engineering properties of soils, 2 – geological-engineering properties of anthropogenically modified soils, 3 – geophysical methods in geological engineering studies, 4 – geomechanical properties of rock. The papers are published in English, with abstracts in Russian, Polish and Lithuanian.

The anniversary symposium, organized under the auspices of the Chancellor of the University of Warsaw and the Chief National Geologist, was attended by more than 200 graduates of the Chair and specialists from many scientific centers in Poland and from Vilnius University.

Three talks were presented at the Symposium:

1. “Engineering geology in the tests of construction subsoil” by Profesor Dr. Hab. eng. Stanisław Rybicki (a keynote lecture and a summary of the papers published in the “*Geologija*” journal). Prof. S. Rybicki highlighted the outstanding contribution of the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw to the development of scientific research and education in the field of engineering geology.

2. “Engineering geology at the University of Warsaw” by Prof. Dr. Hab. Ryszard Kaczyński who presented the fields of research undertaken by the staff of the Chair of Engineering Geology (1958–1968) and later of the Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology (1968–2008). They include:

- determination of the physical and mechanical properties of the main soil and rock genetic types in Poland;
- studies of the stability of slopes, rock and soil erosion, karst, and filtration deformations;
- geological-engineering aspects of the development of fluvial valleys;
- behaviour of soils under static and dynamic loads;
- determination of complexity criteria of geological-engineering conditions;

- geological-engineering cartographing;
- development of methods of improving the soil properties.

During the 50 years of geological engineering activities at the University of Warsaw, more than 700 MSc, 58 PhD and 11 habilitated doctor specialists have been trained.

3. “Engineering geology of tomorrow” by Dr. Marek Barański, Dr. Andrzej Domonik, Dr. Dorota Izdebska-Mucha, Dr. Piotr Zawrzykraj. The talk dealt with the forecast of the development of engineering geology as a scientific discipline. In Poland, the guidelines for the development of geology in general are determined by the Ministry of Environment, based on the prognosis of needs of the Polish economy. The priorities adopted for 2008–2015 are the following:

- Informatization.
- Assessment and prognosis of changes in geological engineering conditions.
- Integrated assessment of rock and soil parameters.
- Education.
- Legal regulations.
- Enhancement of the prestige and status of the engineering geology profession.

Concerning rock geomechanics, it was underlined that there exist very good prospects for the progress in the fractal-dimension methodology applied to developing, reliable models of the mechanism of rock destruction with regard to the scale effect.

In the studies of soil environment, it is desired to address the problem of the natural variability of construction subsoil, which should enable correct assessments of the interaction of the geological environment with the engineering construction in question. Taking into account the natural conditions and limitations, it will facilitate assessment of changes in soil behaviour with time.

In the field of soil studies, an increasing emphasis is being put on the reconnaissance of the problem of modifying the physical and chemical properties of organoclay soils and nanocomposites and their application in environmental protection and industrial activities. Recently, the Institute of Geological Engineering has initiated development of non-invasive (geophysical) methods of soil testing, including surface seismic (SASW, CSWS) and geoelectrical methods. As regards education, the need to modify the curricula so as to offer the students a possibility to graduate with a diploma of MSc in Engineering was stressed. Such a background would provide the trainees with a better potential for cooperation with construction

engineers and a better competitive position on the labour market at the start of their career.

The talks were published in the proceedings of the session "Materiały sesji jubileuszowej 50 lat geologii inżynierskiej na Uniwersytecie Warszawskim" (published by the Institute of Hydrogeology and Geological Engineering of the Faculty of Geology of the University of Warsaw, 2008). The program of the

symposium included a tour of the soil and rock research labs at the University of Warsaw and a presentation of the equipment and research capabilities of these facilities. The scientific session was followed by an informal reunion of the graduates.

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INŽINERINĖS GEOLOGIJOS VARŠUVOS UNIVERSITETE JUBILIEJUS

2008 m. inžinerinei geologijos veiklai Varšuvos universitete sukako 50 metų. Ta proga Varšuvos universiteto Gamtos fakultete rugsėjo 26 d. įvyko mokslinė konferencija ir absolventų suvažiavimas. Dabartiniai mokslinių tyrinėjimų rezultatai paskelbti 22 straipsniuose ir išspausdinti „Geologijos“ žurnale (*Geologija*, 2008, vol. 50, Vilnius: LMA leidykla). Šioje mokslinėje konferencijoje perskaityti trys pranešimai: 1) inžineriniai geologiniai statybinio pagrindo tyrinėjimai, 2) inžinerinės geologijos veikla Varšuvos universitete, 3) inžinerinės geologijos ateities perspektyvos. Konferencijos

dalyviai aplankė gruntų ir uolienu laboratorijas, susipažino su modernia tyrimų aparatūra. Konferencijoje dalyvavo per 200 absolventų, svečiai iš daugelio mokslinių centrų bei Vilniaus universiteto.

Pranešimai, laboratorijų aprašymai bei absolventų ir darbuotojų sąrašas lenkų kalba yra išspausdinti proginiame Varšuvos universiteto Gamtos fakulteto leidinyje.

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50-ЛЕТИЕ ИНЖЕНЕРНОЙ ГЕОЛОГИИ В ВАРШАВСКОМ УНИВЕРСИТЕТЕ

50-летие инженерной геологии в Варшавском университете отмечали в сентябре в 2008 г. На Факультете естественных наук проведены научная конференция и съезд выпускников. Результаты современных исследований по инженерной геологии представлены в 22 научных статьях в журнале „Геология“ (*Geologija*, 2008, vol. 50). На указанной конференции зачитаны 3 доклада: 1) инженерно-геологические исследования строительных грунтов, 2) инженерно-геологическая деятельность в Варшавском университете, 3) перспективы инженерной геологии. Участники конференции посетили лаборатории грунтов и пород, ознакомились с

методами исследования, их возможностями и новой аппаратурой, имеющейся в лабораториях. В работе конференции приняли участие более 200 выпускников университета, гости из многих научных центров, в том числе Вильнюсского университета. Доклады, описания лабораторий, списки выпускников и сотрудников опубликованы на польском языке, в специальном издании Факультета естественных наук Варшавского университета.

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