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Kok-Kwang PHOON (方国光)

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Kok-Kwang Phoon, Ph.D., P.Eng., F.IES, F.ASCE is Professor and Director of the Centre for Soft Ground Engineering in the Department of Civil Engineering, National University of Singapore. He is a professional engineer in Singapore. He received his bachelor's (first class) and master's degrees from the National University of Singapore and his Ph.D. from Cornell University (Ithaca, New York) where his research became the first comprehensive approach for reliability-based design of foundations, focused on transmission line structures. Dr. Phoon's current research focuses on risk and reliability in geo-engineering and geohazards, fast iterative solvers for very large scale soil-structure interaction problems, numerical simulation of seepage in unsaturated porous media, and rainfall-induced landslides.

His 2003 ASCE Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering paper "Multiple Resistance Factor Design (MRFD) for Spread Foundations" was awarded the 2005 Norman Medal, the highest and most prestigious technical paper award in ASCE. His 2006 Geotechnical Testing Journal paper "In-situ Evaluation of Radioisotope Cone Penetrometers in Clays" received the much coveted Hogentogler Award. In 2008, he received the IACMAG Excellent Contributions Award from the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) "in recognition of his excellent scientific contributions and leadership in the advancement of probabilistic methods and large-scale computing in geomechanics and geotechnical engineering practice". In the same year, he also received the Minister's Innovation Award (Distinguished) from the Ministry of Transportation, Singapore.

Dr. Phoon has authored or co-authored more than 160 scientific publications, including 31 invited papers. He was granted the rare honour of delivering a keynote lecture at GeoCongress, Atlanta, 2006, as part of the 10th Anniversary Celebration of ASCE Geo-Institute. He has participated on numerous editorial boards including the top three journals in geotechnical engineering: Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering (ASCE), Canadian Geotechnical Journal (NRC), and Geotechnique (ICE). He received the Editorial Board Member Exemplary Award in 2007 for his "exemplary service in the capacity as an Editorial Board Member for the Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering". He is the founding editor-in-chief of *Georisk* (Taylor & Francis) - an international journal dedicated to the promotion of multi-disciplinary research and practice on assessment and management of risk for engineered systems and geohazards. He is the book editor of *Reliability-Based Design in Geotechnical Engineering*, co-author of two ASCE/EWRI Standards on probabilistic characterization of saturated groundwater conductivity, and co-editor of three ASCE Geotechnical Special Publications (GSP 131, 153, 170)

Dr. Phoon has been active in coordinating and promoting risk analysis and reliability-based codes. He is a core member of several technical committees of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). He has been invited to serve on scientific/advisory committees for numerous international conferences. Dr. Phoon was past Chair of the Geo-Institute Technical Committee on Risk Assessment and Management, which received the 2007 Committee of the Year Award. He is also the scientific advisor to the International Centre for Geohazards (Norway), board member of the Civil Engineering Risk and Reliability Association (USA), board member of the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (USA), scientific council member to the Inter-Polytechnic Doctoral School (Italy), and chair of executive board of the Geotechnical Safety Network.

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