

Conference Report

The 1st. Turkish International Symposium on Deformations

Istanbul, Turkey, September, 1994

Dr. Khairul Anuar Abdullah

Preamble

This write up attempts to report on the conference on deformation the writer attended in September, 1994 held in Istanbul, Turkey. This report will try to inform the reader on the following; the conference and the organiser, the place, the papers presented and the participants, the social events and lastly some personal observation on the conference and Istanbul.

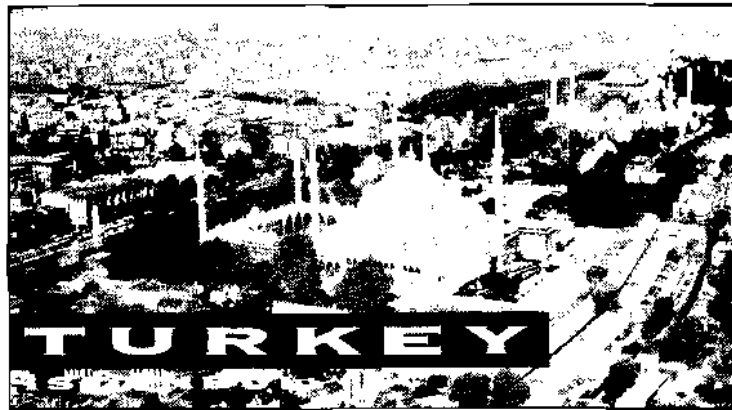
The Conference

The conference was named "The First Turkish International Symposium on Deformations" and was sponsored by four international bodies comprising of The International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), the International Association of Geodesy (IAG), Scientific & Technical Research Council of Turkey (TUBITAK) and lastly the American Geophysical Union (AGU). The conference was jointly organised by the UCTEA-Chamber of Surveying Engineers, Turkey, Istanbul Technical University and the University of Newcastle upon Tyne. The conference was held from 5 to 9 September, 1994. This is the first time a conference on deformation was held in Turkey and plans are underway to make such conference an annual event.

The Place

As mentioned earlier, the conference was held in Istanbul. Istanbul embraces two continents, one arm reaching out to Asia, the other to Europe. In the city's heart, the Bosphorous strait course the waters of the Black Sea, the Sea of Marmara and the Golden Horn. Istanbul was the former capital of three successive empires, Roman, Byzantine and Ottoman. The city with a population of 10 million encompasses a range of people who fully embody the diversity of culture to be found throughout the land. It is the epitome of the country's immense range of archaeological sites, world famous monuments and historical sites.

These includes the Aghia Sofia, the Topkapi Palace, the magnificent Suleymaniye Mosque and the grandeur of the Blue Mosque. For the ardent shopper, besides the usual shopping complexes, the Grand Bazaar offers a magnificent collection of merchandise.



The Papers Presented and Participants

This conference not only attracted participant from the surveying community but also from other disciplines such as civil engineers, physicist, geophysicist among others. The topic of papers presented as also as varied. The conference was well attended by about 250 international participants. More than 130 papers were presented during the five days meeting which requires papers to be presented in two different streams and 16 different session. Obviously, from this arrangement it is quite impossible for a participant to attend each and every session. Some of the major topics covered relating to deformation includes measurement techniques, computational methods, statistical methods, vertical movements, global geodesy, dam monitoring, physical modeling, application in Turkey, application in Mediterranean, worldwide application and engineering application. For those interested, a copy booklet giving abstracts of all paper presented at the conference can be found in the University's library.

Social Events

On this score I must congratulate the organiser for their excellent handling of this event. The first event takes the participants on a cruise along the Bosphorous that divide Istanbul into two continent. The participants was taken from the European side to the Asian continent. The participants was treated to a sea food lunch aboard the cruiser, but being a hard-core melayu, I still say our seafood is the best. The second events is something which in my opinion most participant would rate it as one of the highlight of the conference. The organiser had organised a Turkish night. Apart from the sumptuous meal, belly dancing was presented.

Some Personal Observations

In my view, the conference was a success. It brings together researcher from all over the world to discuss almost everything about deformation. Why I say 'almost' borne from a remark made by a husband and wife medical doctors from the U.S.A who I met at Aghia Sofia. This couple happens to be staying in the hotel where the conference was held and upon knowing that I was one of the participants starts to inquire whether I am a medical specialist. It seems that they thought the conference will address problems relating to human deformations. So the next time we organise a seminar on deformation we should be sensitive on this matter. And lastly, for those who intend to visit Istanbul, be prepared to bring lots of U.S dollars. That is the only currency sought after by the shopowners.

Acknowledgment

The author would like to express his gratitude and thanks to the Faculty of Surveying and Real Estate, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia in providing the necessary funding for attending this conference.