

Description of the Organization

Deep Foundations Institute was incorporated in 1976 in the State of New Jersey as a non-profit educational activity. DFI can best be described as being a technical association of firms and individuals in the deep foundations and related industry. DFI covers the gamut of deep foundation construction and earth retention systems. Although the bulk of the membership is in North America, the Institute is worldwide.

Our strengths are:

- Communication of information concerning the state-of-the-art and state of the practice of deep foundation technologies
- Offering networking opportunities for our members
- Offering opportunities for members to improve the industry through publications produced by volunteer committees
- Offering educational conferences, seminars and workshops in the industry.

The core strength of DFI is the broad spectrum of its membership. All disciplines participate on an equal footing, be they contractors, engineers, owners, academicians, equipment manufacturers and distributors or materials manufacturers and suppliers. All types of foundation systems are represented, whether installed by driving, drilling or other means. This diversity and openness without bias provides a forum for free exchange of knowledge and a platform for the development of new technology and opportunity.

Who is DFI?

- An international network of heavy construction professionals dedicated to quality and economy in foundation design and construction
- A forum open to all construction professionals across disciplines and borders
- A technological association devoted to gathering, storing and disseminating practical information
- A resource for identifying and locating the specialists and sources of expertise
- An initiator and participant in research

The Institute is organized to serve as a primary means through which members of the Institute may participate in improvement of the planning, design and construction aspects of deep foundations and deep excavations. The basic mission of the institute includes but is not limited to the following:

1. To affiliate contractors, engineers, owners, material suppliers, equipment manufacturers and other persons concerned with the planning, design and construction of deep foundations and protection of deep excavations.
2. To improve and extend knowledge of new ideas and practices of geotechnical design, construction and installation.
3. To encourage and participate in the practical application of research related to deep foundations and deep excavations.
4. To gather, catalog and disseminate information to effect the most economical design and construction for support of structures on deep strata and for protection of deep excavations.

5. To improve understanding by the public and by government bodies of the deep foundation industry.
6. To establish contacts with other groups working on related goals in the United States and abroad.
7. To participate in or conduct such other activities as will best promote these foregoing purposes.

Each Fall DFI programs an annual meeting held in North America which has been coupled to a technical conference. This event is also the setting for technical committee meetings, an exhibition, social events and the informal chance to pass by hundreds of peers, clients and competitors, making the Annual Conference on Deep Foundations a must attend for industry leaders.

Additionally, DFI has successfully organized ten "International" Conferences held in Europe and Asia as well as numerous specialty seminars, short courses and workshops to provide members and industry professionals exposure to the state of the practice and the state of the art. These events are driven by member driven committees.

Our technical committees are:

- Augered Cast-in-Place Pile
- Codes and Standards
- Deep Foundations for Landslide/Slope Stabilization
- Drilled Shaft
- Driven Pile
- Ground Improvement
- Helical Foundations & Tiebacks
- Marine Foundations
- Micropiles
- Seismic & Lateral Loads
- Slurry Wall
- Soil Mixing
- Sustainability
- Testing and Evaluation
- Tiebacks & Soil Nailing

These committees also serve as a reference point for the consensus leadership relative to different foundation systems and technology. It is through the reputation of the Deep Foundations Institute and the interdisciplinary input of these committees that individuals can serve to promote the advancement of the field improving the industry of deep foundations from within.

DFI -Europe

On May 19, 2005, a European branch was founded by a few prominent European Members. DFI Europe was born as an independent association for the European DFI Members, who enjoy the benefits of the joined DFI and DFI Europe memberships. The new association has its own office in Harderwijk, the Netherlands. The European Conference at Amsterdam on 31 May- 2 June 2006 in co-operation with the EFFC, combined with the first General Meeting of DFI Europe, was an important milestone.

DFI Europe Mission Statement

1. DFI Europe is open to all professional corporations and persons, involved in design and construction of foundations, they being academics, consultants, engineers, contractors, equipment manufacturers, material suppliers, public authorities or researchers.
2. The objective of the European Chapter of the Deep Foundations Institute is to provide a forum for these corporations and individuals in Europe, to improve the planning, design, construction and testing of deep foundations including deep excavations.
3. The association will work at eliminating the barriers between the various professions in the field of deep foundations and at improving the understanding and sharing of knowledge and experience.
4. More precisely, the association endeavours to achieve its objectives by
 - a. gathering, disseminating and cataloguing existing information among members primarily but also outside the institute;
 - b. influencing the improvement and extension of the knowledge of new ideas and practices of geotechnical and geo-environmental design, construction and testing;
 - c. participating and encouraging practical application of research in the field of deep foundations;
 - d. producing written material such as guidelines and manuals gathering the State-of-the-Art of deep foundations practice.
5. The association will establish contacts with existing organizations working on related goals, such as the EFFC and the ISSMGE and its national chapters.
6. The association will participate in or conduct events such as local and international conferences, short courses and other activities as will best promote the foregoing purposes, and all other related matters thereto.

DFI -Middle East

In February 2010, DFI formed a committee in the Middle East, based in Dubai, UAE. The committee's purpose is to bring DFI's strengths to industry members in that region and provide educational forums.

DFI -Middle East Mission Statement

1. To educate the practicing engineers, contractors and authorities on the Deep Foundation Institute's vision and other technical activities;
2. To hold different educational seminars in different engineering and construction areas in the Middle East and participate in such technical seminars organized elsewhere in the Middle East;
3. To organize other specialty seminars in coordination with other DFI Technical Committees to have their specialty seminars in the Middle East;
4. The Committee is responsible for the annual piling and deep foundation summit in different areas in the Middle East;
5. To impart knowledge of breakthroughs in research and technology, dissemination of knowledge, recognize challenging projects and reward them;
6. To conduct specialized training courses, short seminars, and arrange field visits to special projects;
7. To cooperate and coordinate with other professional organizations in the Middle East to achieve our above stated objectives.

DFI Educational Trust

Established by DFI in 2006, the DFI Educational Trust is an independent charitable foundation. Its goal is to enable better industry-academia communications, build appeal of the construction industry to students, and allow better professional education opportunities to persons in the geotechnical engineering and deep foundations construction fields.

DFI Educational Trust Mission Statement

- To provide financial assistance to high school and college students so that they may pursue a career in the practice of designing and/or constructing deep foundations.
- To promote awareness amongst high school and college students about career opportunities in the deep foundations field of engineering design and construction.
- To provide financial support for the promotion of educational programs that include deep foundation design and construction, as well as for related student activities.

The Educational Trust has its own governing Board of Trustees:

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