

# DFI of India



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Last year ended with a promising future outlook for both India and DFI of India. As mentioned in the Nov/Dec 2016 issue of this magazine, the Goods and Services Tax (GST) was passed by Parliament and approved by the President of India. One India and One Tax is now an Act and becoming a reality. It is now a matter of implementation, and it is heartening that some states in India have taken the lead in implementing the GST. Positive results are expected gradually, in

terms of increased base to the economy, increased GDP, increased tax collections, as well as formal and informal segments of the economy implementing GST, etc. Foreign entrepreneurs should consider establishing manufacturing units in India given the tremendous internal demand for manufactured goods; pressure for India to increase its share of exports to world markets; and the abundant availability of young manpower, raw materials and power.

In November 2016, the Prime Minister of India made a surprise announcement to demonetize higher value currency with the aim of demolishing the black market economy. This led to some initial difficulties with everyone in the country, and doomsayers predicted that it would have a major negative impact on India's economy. Fortunately, little or nothing of that kind happened. The remonetization process is almost complete, and the economy is reported to be doing well. Banks' coffers are full, creating favorable conditions for reducing lending rates and priming the wheels of India's economy to pick up momentum. The Prime Minister promised further stringent measures to clean up the economy, such as reducing the nonperformance assets of public sector banks, curbing illegal ("Benami") transactions to acquire wealth, and more. All of these steps mean more accountability in all sectors of the economy, which should lead to the economy becoming very strong and resilient.

## Full-Time Staff

During the 2016 DFI Winter Planning Meeting, we made a proposal to set up a full-fledged office for the DFI of India Regional Chapter, with paid staff to run the activities on a full-time basis. As part of that proposal, we requested DFI to provide financial support to DFI of India for the first two years to provide the staff sufficient time to streamline the chapter's activities and to generate revenues for the chapter's continuity, self-reliance, sustenance and growth. Thankfully, the DFI Board of Trustees accepted and granted funds to DFI of India for 2017, with a promise to continue support for an additional year pending the chapter's performance.

T. S. Mahendran has been hired as senior executive, administration and accounts for DFI of India. Efforts are ongoing to recruit a chief executive and an executive assistant on a full-time basis. Once this is done, the most important initiative — operator and front-line staff training — and linking with government and nongovernmental agencies are expected to commence.

## Use of CFA Piles in India

The other important initiative for DFI of India is technology implementation. A proposal was submitted to the DFI Committee Project Fund in 2016 for full-scale implementation trials of continuous flight augered (CFA) piles. The proposal was accepted for funding during the DFI Winter Planning Meeting in February, which provided an impetus toward achieving the chapter's initiative. Dr. Sunil S. Basarkar, general manager of AFCONS Infrastructure, one of the reputed foundation and infrastructure companies in India, and an executive member of DFI of India, has agreed to be the coordinator for this important project. We are confident this initiative will be performed and completed successfully, and will result in the development of a manual on the implementation of CFA/ACIP piles in India. Increased use and greater productivity of CFA piles would ease the pressure on hydraulic rotary piling rigs, which would result in better use of equipment and manpower resources.

## India Events

Since my last report, a workshop was held on December 14, 2016, the day before the Indian Geotechnical Society's Annual Conference at IIT Madras, Chennai. I.V. Anirudhan, vice chairman of DFI of India, was the coordinator for the workshop. The theme of the workshop was "Deep Foundations in Liquefiable Soils and Deep Excavation Experiences," and was attended by 85 delegates. There were four morning lectures on deep foundations in liquefiable soils and three afternoon lectures on deep excavations. In spite of severe damage and disruption caused by the cyclonic storm Vardah, just two days prior to the event, the workshop was a grand success, was well conducted and attended.



Audiences actively participated in the December workshop



**Attendees of the Pile Foundations Workshop**

Chapter events for 2017 began on a resounding note with a first quarter workshop held in association with the Institution of Engineers (India) on April 15 at Nagpur Local Centre in the central part of India. Dr. Sunil S. Basarkar was the co-coordinator for this workshop. The theme of the workshop was “Pile Foundations: With Special Context to Metro Works,” which was intended to create awareness and to disseminate the state-of-art knowledge in the field of pile foundations as applied to Metro works. This seminar evoked an overwhelming response with more than 150 participants representing contractors, designers, government agencies, private consultants, service providers, equipment suppliers and academics.

The workshop was well supported by the industry. Special thanks are extended to Geo Systems Research & Consultancy, HBL Power Systems, GEO – Ground Engineering Operations India, Bauer Equipment India, Stewols India, Nagpur, Itasca India Consulting, and SKW Soil & Surveys for sponsoring the event.

The chapter's second quarter workshop/seminar was held on May 27-28, 2017, at the Sardar Vallabhbhai National Institute of Technology (SVNIT), Surat in the western state of Gujarat. The theme of the workshop was “Pile Foundations - Advances in Design and Construction Practices,” and was organized and hosted in association with SVNIT and IGS. Prof. S.R. Gandhi, director of SVNIT and an executive committee member of the chapter, acted as chair and Dr. C.S. Solanki, professor and head of civil engineering at SVNIT, was the coordinator of this two-day event.

The chapter's third quarter workshop is being held in Chennai on October 5, 2017, a day before the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference (DFI-India 2017). The theme of the workshop is “Mass Soil Stabilization and Deep Soil Mixing.”



**Speakers at the Pile Foundations Workshop**

DFI-India 2017: 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Deep Foundation Technologies for Infrastructure Development in India is being organized by I.V. Anirudhan and Dr. K.S. Rama Krishna in collaboration with IIT Madras and the Chennai Chapter of the Indian Geotechnical Society. This two-day conference on October 6-7 focuses on emerging technology developments and case histories on deep foundations, deep excavations and ground improvement, and features presentations of practical importance showcasing latest technologies in a wide array of topic areas, including geotechnical investigation, analysis and design including seismic aspects, treated soil properties, and computer software. The event will be of interest to contractors, developers, local and government representatives, designers, consultants and educators involved in geotechnical design and construction. Equipment, material and instrumentation suppliers, contractors and other vendors will present their products and services in the Exhibit Hall.

Visit [www.dfi-india2017.org](http://www.dfi-india2017.org) for more details and to register.

**DFI, in collaboration with IIT Madras and the Chennai Chapter of the Indian Geotechnical Society, presents:**



# **DFI-India 2017: 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Deep Foundation Technologies for Infrastructure Development in India**

**October 5-7, 2017 | IIT Madras, Chennai, India**