THE FUTURE OF GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

by

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Preface

Future events can be divided into three categories:

1. All those things that you know will happen. For example: the sun will come up tomorrow, the other line always moves faster, and late flights will get later. Your life experiences tell you how to deal with these.

2. All those future events that you can influence in some way – you know, or think you know, where you want to go, or what you want to achieve.

3. All those things that are totally unpredictable. For example, you never know when you will be in the right place at the right time, or the wrong place at the wrong time. The best you can do in these situations is to be ready to take advantage of opportunities in the case of the former and to be sure your affairs are in order in the case of the latter.

This report has been prepared to address the future of geotechnical engineering. A review of the growth and development of many areas within this important discipline and an assessment of its present status provide a strong foundation for dealing confidently with Category 1 events. New understanding, technology developments of many types, and many important societal and environmental challenges should provide opportunities for geotechnical engineers to make important contributions to success in dealing with events in the second category. By being alert, perceptive, innovative, and proactive there will be opportunities make major contributions in dealing with geotechnical aspects of issues that arise from the first type of unknown events in Category 3, and to mitigate potential adverse effects from the second type.


