



Vancouver Geotechnical Society

A Local Section of the Canadian Geotechnical Society

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NOTICE OF UPCOMING DINNER PRESENTATION
Thursday, MAY 19, 2011

SUBJECT: Seismically Induced Lateral Earth Pressures: A New Perspective

SPEAKER: Dr. Nicholas Sitar
Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, UC Berkeley

Nicholas Sitar is a Professor of Geotechnical and Geological Engineering at UC Berkeley. He received his undergraduate degree in Geological Engineering from the University of Windsor in Windsor, Ontario, in 1973 and his Ph.D. in Geotechnical Engineering from Stanford University in 1979. After receiving his Ph.D., he spent two years teaching in the Geological Engineering Program UBC. He joined the faculty in Geotechnical Engineering at the University of California at Berkeley as an Assistant Professor in 1981 and was promoted to Professor in 1990. He served as the Director of the University of California Earthquake Engineering Research Center from 2002 to 2008.

His professional and research interests range from various aspects of static and seismic slope stability to groundwater modeling and groundwater remediation. He has authored and co-authored over 170 publications in geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, groundwater and groundwater remediation.

He has received a number of awards for his work, including the Huber Research Prize from ASCE, the Douglas R. Piteau Award from AEG, and the Presidential Young Investigator Award from NSF.

CONTENT: Methods for evaluating the seismically induced lateral earth pressures gradually evolved from the seminal Japanese work performed in the 1920's. The resulting design procedures suggest large dynamic loads during strong ground motion. However field evidence from recent major earthquakes fails to show any significant problems with the performance of retaining structures designed for static earth pressures only. Similarly, the results of recent and ongoing centrifuge experiments indicate that seismically induced lateral earth pressures are significantly less than those estimated using the most current design methods based on the Mononobe-Okabe assumptions. The presentation will focus on a review of these latest results and their implications for a rational seismic design of retaining structures and basement walls.

DETAILS **Executive Inn**, 4201 Lougheed Highway, Burnaby, BC V5C 3Y6 (Phone: 604-298-2010)
Social Hour: 5:30 to 6:30 pm (drinks available at the hotel bar)
Technical Presentation: 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Dinner: 8:15 pm (\$10 will be charged for dinner to cover a small portion of the cost.)
RSVP: Dinner reservation to ali.amini@shaw.ca by Friday, May 16, 2011