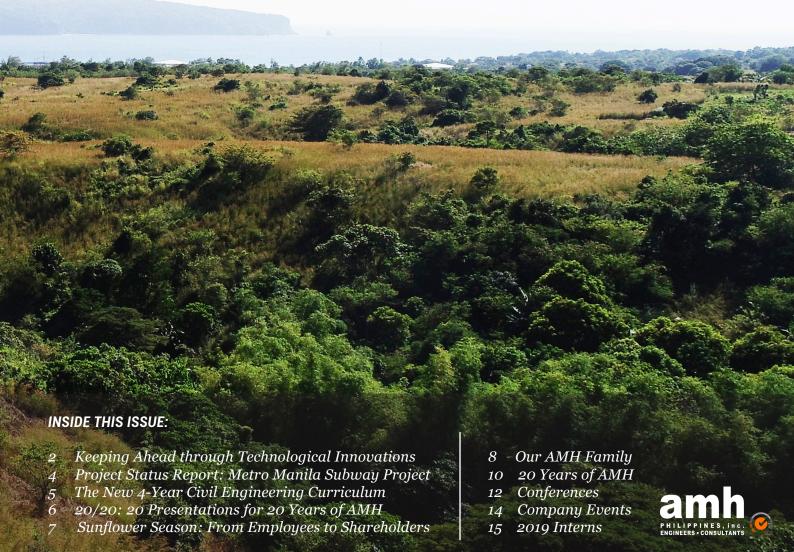
# **ENGINEERING TIMES**

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Issue No. 9 | October 2019







# KEEPING AHEAD THROUGH TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATIONS

Innovate or die, the adage goes. In a demanding and ever-changing world, innovation is indeed one of the keys to staying afloat, going further, and keeping ahead. Thus, innovation has inevitably led to advancement in various aspects of life, most notably in technology, which paved the way for countless things we know and experience today.

In a highly-competitive business arena, acquisition of new technologies gives an entity an advantage in providing improved services. This is remarkably true in the field of engineering, where innovative tools and systems provide engineers more efficient and effective means of addressing more complex problems. With this in mind, AMH has recently acquired and utilized advanced engineering equipment to further enhance its consultancy services, as part of its commitment to provide clients with responsive engineering solutions through innovation.

by Cedric Manzano, Josephine Razon, & Carissa Soria

#### **NEWLY-ACQUIRED SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT**

#### **EQUIPMENT FOR TESTING OF DEEP FOUNDATION**

#### Pile Driving Analyzer (PDA)

Dynamic Load Testing, or PDA testing, is a fast, reliable, and cost effective method of evaluating foundation bearing capacity, structural integrity, driving stresses, and hammer performance of various types of foundations including driven and bored piles. The test requires the impact of a pile driving hammer or a suitable drop weight.

#### **Pile Integrity Tester (PIT)**

Low Strain Impact Pile Integrity Testing is a non-destructive pile testing method for the forensic evaluation of existing piles or quality assurance in new construction. It assesses the integrity and consistency of piles by obtaining data on the pile's continuity and checking for defects, and evaluates unknown physical elements such as length and cross-sectional area of driven or bored piles.



To date, AMH is engaged in conducting pile test for projects with deep foundation:

- By-pass and diversion roads (Sto. Tomas, Pangasinan)
- High rise residential and commercial building (Leveriza, Pasay City)
- Residential development (Quirino Highway, Parañaque City)

#### Senior Consultant:

Benjamin Buensuceso, Jr.







#### South SDE 28S Echo Sounder | ECHO SOUNDER

The South SDE 28S Echo Sounder provides survey quality depth information. It is utilized in projects involving bathymetric surveys to collect depth measurements and corresponding horizontal positions of depths observed and assists in graphical navigation.

Other applications of this echo sounder include dredging engineering measurements and positioning of navigation terminals for dredging engineering projects.

- The South SDE 28S Echo Sounder provides survey quality depth information. It is utilized in projects involving bathymetric surveys to Checking of subway alignment section intersecting the Pasig River for the Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP) (Pasig, Metro Manila)
  - Hydrographic survey along a segment of Agno River as input in the hydrologic and hydraulic study and detailed design of water supply intake structure for PrimeWater Water Supply (Agno River, Pangasinan)
  - Site studies for design of seawall to mitigate coastal disasters (Parañaque City)



#### Robertson Geo PS Suspension Logger | PS SUSPENSION LOGGER

The PS Logger is a low-frequency acoustic sonde utilized in Seismic Velocity Logging (SVL), an intrusive non-destructive method used to determine the physical properties of the underlying soil or rock surrounding a borehole and the speed with which seismic waves propagate through the strata.

Purchased during the last quarter of 2018, the PS Logger has already aided in assessing nearly 60 boreholes in projects such as:

- Velocity Logging (SVL) on designated boreholes along the subway alignment for the Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP) of the Department of Transportation (DOTr) (Metro Manila)
- Offshore geotechnical engineering assessment for the proposed Manila Waterfront City reclamation project (Manila Bay, Metro Manila)



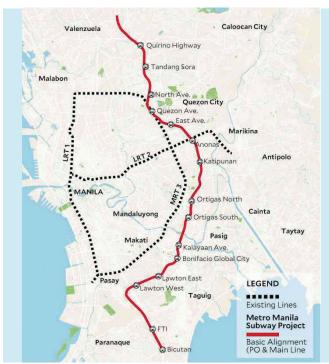
Using the DJI Phantom 4 Pro V2.0 for aerial drone survey, AMH is able to obtain details of areas that are difficult to access by foot or vehicle.

On the cover is a prospective Industrial Estate with rolling terrain. The use of drone and appropriate software allowed the production of topographic map in one week.

#### DJI Phantom 4 Pro V2.0 | DRONE

- Geohazard and geotechnical assessment of project sites prone to landslide due to the nature of the terrain (Negros Oriental and Albay Province)
- Site reconnaissance for hydrologic and hydraulic studies to show topography of project sites (Subic, Zambales)

# **METRO MANILA SUBWAY PROJECT**



Source: DOTR via Philippine Inquirer

After months of hard work and collaboration with the Department of Transportation (DOTr), it seems like there's no stopping one of the "Build, Build, Build" Program's flagship projects – the Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP) – from pushing through.

The groundbreaking ceremony was held last February 27, 2019 at Valenzuela City. This ceremony signifies the start of construction for the first three (3) stations that traverse Mindanao Avenue, Quirino Highway, Tandang Sora, and North Avenue, with the Depot stationing at Valenzuela. Phase I of this project comprises 15 stations, spanning a total length of approximately 35 kilometers across Metro Manila, and is otherwise known as the "Central Zone".

Partial operation of the first three stations is targeted to start by 2022, and is expected to be fully-operational by 2025. At its maximum capacity, the MMSP is intended accommodate millions of passengers per day traveling from city to city, or to the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (NAIA), thus decongesting roads and the load of existing high-demand railway systems (e.g. LRT, MRT).

In late 2017, the Japan Cooperation International Agency (JICA) spearheaded the feasibility study of the MMSP, wherein the joint venture of AMH Philippines, Inc. (AMH) and Soil Philippines Index Testing, Inc. (SPI) was enlisted to carry out its Geotechnical Investigation Program. It's been almost two years and the investigation program for the detailed design stage is nearing completion.

Seeing this as an opportunity to enhance the subsurface investigation practice in the Philippines, AMH invested in the equipment and training necessary in conducting the following special tests, which are paramount to understanding the characteristics and behavior of the regional bedrock of Metro Manila—the Guadalupe Tuff Formation (GTF):

- 1. Ultrasonic Pulse Velocity Testing (UPV)
- 2. Seismic Velocity Logging (SVL)

UPV tests were performed on intact rock samples cored from the GTF in order to measure the pulse wave velocity that travels across the core. This method is not new to the Philippines, but is typically used on concrete instead of rock. While UPV tests are done in the laboratory, SVL is an in-situ geophysical test conducted on boreholes to determine how fast seismic waves propagate through the strata. SVL measures in-situ compressional wave (P-wave) and shear wave (S-wave) velocities (Vp and Vs, respectively) with respect to depth.



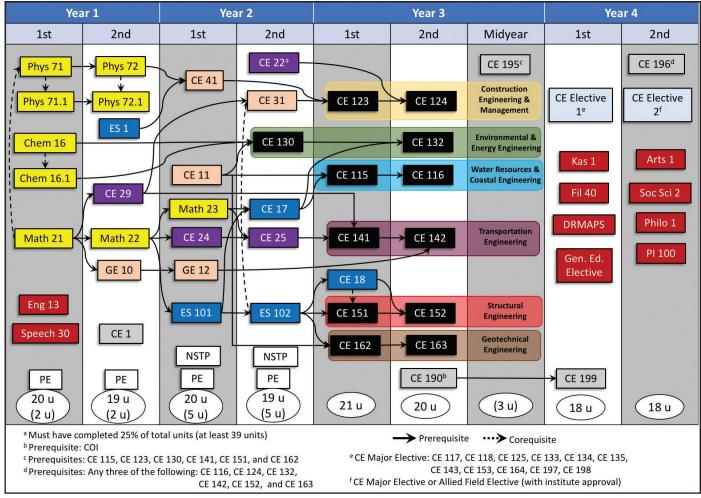


Seismic Velocity Logging Setup

Seismic wave velocities can be used to calculate the elastic material properties of rock or soil needed in numerical analysis (i.e. Finite Element Modeling). These velocities are also used to classify the subsurface site class (refer to National Structural Code of the Philippines 2015 Table 208-2) for proper selection of seismic design parameters when designing aboveground structures.

Renowned as the first major tunneling project in the Philippines, the investigation program entails conducting numerous special tests which resonates with the innovative mindset expected of Japanese engineering. This is an attempt to make the MMSP a "world class" facility that promotes the use of public transportation to Filipinos coming from all walks of life.

by Patrick Selda



UP Institute of Civil Engineering's Four-Year Curriculum Flowchart (2018)

# THE NEW 4-YEAR CIVIL ENGINEERING CURRICULUM

The Institute of Civil Engineering (University of the Philippines – Diliman) recently updated the curriculum of the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering for students who have undergone the K-12 curriculum. The 5-year degree program has been reduced to four years as an adjustment to the implementation of the K-12 curriculum. Some of the courses originally taken in college have already been taken in High School. Hence, the 4-year curriculum was made possible. The figure above shows the updated (2018) curriculum.

Apart from the 4-year curriculum, a 3<sup>rd</sup> year student now chooses a specialization among the six fields of Civil Engineering: Construction Engineering and Management, Environmental and Energy Engineering, Geotechnical Engineering, Structural Engineering, Transportation Engineering, and Water Resources and Coastal Engineering. As an ICE alumna, I believe that being able to choose a major at an earlier time gives students more time to prepare for their research topic (thesis). Moreover, the electives offered to graduating students are designed to supplement the students' knowledge on their chose track. Their research will serve as a culmination of the years of study in their field of interest.

According to Dr. Karl Vergel of UP-ICE, the selected major will appear on the transcript and certificate (e.g. Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering-Research Project in Geotechnical Engineering). This is consistent with the indication of specialization as specified by the Commission on Higher Education. With this, the qualifications of civil engineering graduates can be more easily assessed by potential employers or graduate schools.

by Samantha Ko



# 20

### 20 PRESENTATIONS 20 YEARS OF AMH

In celebration of the 20th founding year of AMH Philippines Inc., the company hosted its first research symposium entitled "20/20: 20 Presentations, 20 Years of AMH" last October 17, 2018 at Richmonde Hotel in Eastwood, Quezon City. Representatives from various client companies and affiliated institutions, such as EEI Corporation, MDC Build Plus, and UP Institute of Civil Engineering were invited to attend the event. The symposium showcased twenty papers

that were authored and presented by AMH Engineers in local and international conferences.

Technical papers from the different fields of civil engineering were presented in the symposium. The topics presented attracted the attention of the audience, and thus inviting questions from the guests. A stimulating learning environment between the presenters and audience marked the success of the event.

The list of key presentations together with the respective presenters are shown below.

by Mariama Rabang

	Title	Author/ Presenter		Title	Author/ Presenter
1	Geohazard Mitigation in the Design of Offshore Structures for a Luxury Island Resort in the Philippines	Jose Carlo Eric L. Santos	11	Peer Review Guidelines for High-Rise Mixed-Use Building	Victor Serra
2	Design Considerations for High Reinforced Soil Structure in Mountainous & Seismically Active Region in Luzon -	John Michael B. Gargullo	12	Liquefaction: Assessment Method- ologies and Mitigation by Ground Improvement	Dr. Alexis Philip Acacio
3	Seismic Wave-Based Geotechnical Testing: State of Practice, Applications and Local Experiences	Michael Paolo Follosco	13	Retrofit Analysis and Design of a Heritage Structure in Manila	Edgardo P. Kasilag II
4	Prospects of Waste-To-Energy Systems in the Philippines	Dr. Maria Antonia N. Tanchuling	14	Coastal Hazard Assessment for Reclamation Planning in Northern Luzon Island	Laurice Angeli Villaflor
5	Analysis of Engineering Feasibility of an Open Pier Against Coastal Hazards in Luzon Island	Ismael Aragorn Inocencio	15	Hydrologic and Hydraulic Capacity Assessment for a Tailings Storage Facility	Ronalie Pangyarihan
6	Preliminary Engineering of a SeaWall to Mitigate Typhoon-induced Wave Overtopping along Roxas Boulevard, Manila	Dr. Eric C. Cruz	16	WBS and Construction Contract Payments by Milestones	Egbert B. Abiad
7	Application of LIDAR Data in Combination with Aerial Photography for Geohazard Assessment and Mitigation in Philippine Infrastructures	Dr. Ramon D. Quebral	17	Design and Construction Considerations for the Muntinlupa-Cavite Expressway (MCX) - SLEX Underpass / Tunnel	Roy Anthony C. Luna
8	Flood Risk Assessment in an Urban Setting using HEC-RAS 2D	Jonah Malolos	18	Geotechnical & Seismic Design Considerations for Tailings and Water Dams for Mining Projects	Gian Reyes/ Luis Morillo
9	Detention Ponds for Flood Risk Mitigation in Land Developments	Maria Jocelyn Jocson	19	Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Analysis of the Coastal Region of Batangas	Patrick Selda
10	Plate-Based Analysis and Design of Non- Symmetric Liquid Containing & Frame Structure for Sewerage Treat- ment Plants	Mary Grace Casuncad	20	Suitability and Assessment of Recreational Open Spaces as Emergency Shelters in Dinalupihan, Bataan	Lawrence Chua

# SUNFLOWER SEASO FROM EMPLOYEES TO SHAREHOLDERS

In the University of the Philippines, sunflowers symbolize graduation. In early May, when sunflowers start to line the stretch of the University Avenue leading to the Oblation, graduating students are reminded to finish their thesis/exams as graduation will soon commence. This sunflower season, AMH takes pride in the graduation of its own scholars; five employees under the Employee Education Assistance Program (EEAP) have just completed their graduate studies.

With this, AMH sends its heartfelt congratulations to Engr. Lawrence Angelo Chua (MA Urban and Regional Planning), Engr. John Michael Gargullo (MS Geotechnical Engineering), Engr. Geogy Vizcarra (MS Geotechnical Engineering), Engr. Gian Paulo Reyes (MS Geotechnical Engineering), and Engr. Jenna Carmela Pallarca (MS Geotechnical Engineering).

Four of them have been with AMH for at least five years. Having performed well in projects and corporate assignments and having conducted themselves in a manner consistent with the culture and values of AMH, the four engineers have been invited to become shareholders of AMH.

by Samantha Ko



#### JENNA CARMELA C. PALLARCA | BSCE, UST, 2013

Jenna joined AMH as an Intern in January 2014. She was first immersed in projects by the Structural and Water Resources PBG, before finally settling with the Geotechnical Engineering PBG. Jenna is engaged in several projects involving foundation systems analysis and design for infrastructures and land development, slope stability-related risk, and geohazard assessment and mitigation work, among others.



#### JOHN MICHAEL B. GARGULLO | BSCE, UP, 2010

Mike joined AMH in April 2012. Although tracked under the Geotechnical Engineering Practice Based-Group (PBG), Mike has been involved in structural engineering, land development, and utility infrastructure projects for real estate developers like Ayala Land, Inc through MDC, Vista Land, among others. He is also the project lead to various technical due diligence studies and geotechnical design projects. One of his recent notable projects is the JICA-funded Metro Manila Subway Project (MMSP).



#### GIAN PAULO D. REYES | BSCE, UP, 2012

Gian joined AMH in November 2013 after spending six months in MDC. Gian is a lateral-hire employee, and had work experience under the Structural and Water Resources PBGs. At present, he is a key member of the Geotechnical Engineering PBG focusing on projects related to foundation systems analysis and design for infrastructures and land development, slope stability-related risk, and geohazard assessment and mitigation work. More recently, Gian also applies numerical/finiteelement modelling for slopes and foundations of his projects.



#### GEOGY B. VIZCARRA | BSCE, UST, 2012

Geogy joined AMH as an intern in January 2013. He was exposed across the different PBGs (coastal, civil works, water resources), and is now an instrumental member of the Structural Engineering PBG. His engagement in projects include those related to liquid-containing structures, building systems, bridges, and related infrastructure design work. Geogy has also taken roles as Project Lead for technical due diligence studies and land development.



#### **SHAREHOLDERS**

**Egbert Abiad** Alexis Acacio Edgardo Atanacio Jerome Catbagan Eric Cruz Nathaniel Diola Edsel Edra Michael Paolo Follosco Fernando Germar Maria Jocelyn Jocson Ulpiano Ignacio Jr. Edgardo Kasilag II Roy Anthony Luna Mitchay Pacia Vic Pulmano Ramon Quebral Ma. Elena del Rosario Rodolfo Salazar Jose Carlo Eric Santos Maria Antonia Tanchuling Christopher Valdez

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Edgardo Atanacio Jose Regin Regidor

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Egbert Abiad Edgardo Kasilag II Roy Anthony Luna Mitchay Pacia Rodolfo Salazar Jose Carlo Eric Santos

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Paul Gaton Eloi Napilot Jet Querijero Paolo Valencia

#### **GEOLOGY**

Ramon Quebral Monica Baniquett

#### COASTAL ENGINEERING

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#### WATER RESOURCES ENGINEERING

Maria Jocelyn Jocson Annette De La Rosa Jonas Eyana Stephanie Grace Quezada Jonah Malolos Samanvitha Nagendra Ronalie Pangyarihan Rafielle Pintor Maria Cristelle San Antonio



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Yama Rabang
Ronald Valdez

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Francis Bernales
Michaela Biscocho
Mark Chan
Johanna Cunanan
Mark Escorido
Luigi Francisco
Marvin Malonzo
Christian Maniti
Jayvee Marjes
Raul Mendoza
Gabby Opiña

#### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Muriel Mangaran Meann Dela Cruz Adrianne Rubio

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Raymund Lachica
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Melissa Pascua
Michael Teoxon
Ma. Cristina Virata
Bernadette Tabangay
Karmel Pilones
Charm Pontigon

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Mary Grace Quipse Liza Bares Angelica Bayot Denice Dueñas Julie Ann Reyes Beah Yuson

## ISO - DOCUMENT CONTROLLER

Mary Valencia

# **20 YEARS OF AMH**

AMH opened for business at Room 207, Bahay ng Alumni, U.P. Diliman campus on January 4, 1999. Ten (10) AMH Incorporators each paid ten thousand pesos (PHP 10,000), for a grand total of one hundred thousand pesos (PHP 100,000), as initial paid-up capital.

"To be an engineering consultancy company that Filipinos can be proud of" is the phrase that has always been the impetus of AMH Philippines, Inc. From its humble beginning in 1999 up to today, each milestone the company has reached – from its anniversaries, office expansions, to its ISO accreditation – can be attributed to the determination of its people to uphold the the core values of the founders committed to 20 years ago: truth, localness, and merit.



First Strategic Planning Meeting (Clark, Pampanga, 1999)

First project with fee >Php1M,

Union Church of Manila

Redevelopment Project (Ayala

Corp.), Construction Quality

Control (2000)

2001

2002



In addition to project personnel, three full-time office engineers hired in 2001: Freli Abeabe, Niña Sto. Domingo, and Cesar Zamora



Founders Roy Luna and Eric Santos earn their MSCE in Geotechnical Engineering (2005)



AMH Success = Eric and Au, Jon and Ces,



AMH received its Certificate of Incorporation August 31, 1999



First Shell Project (2003)

2003

First major site development project, The Garlands of Greenfield Dev. Corp. (2003)

Adopted good corporate governance guidelines (2009)

Elected two (2) Independent Directors (2009)

2008



Egbert Abiad President / Managing Director 1999 - 2004



2004

2005

Alexis Acacio President



2009

Alexis Acacia Chairman 2009 - 2014



Eric Santos Vice President, Managing Director 2004 - 2006

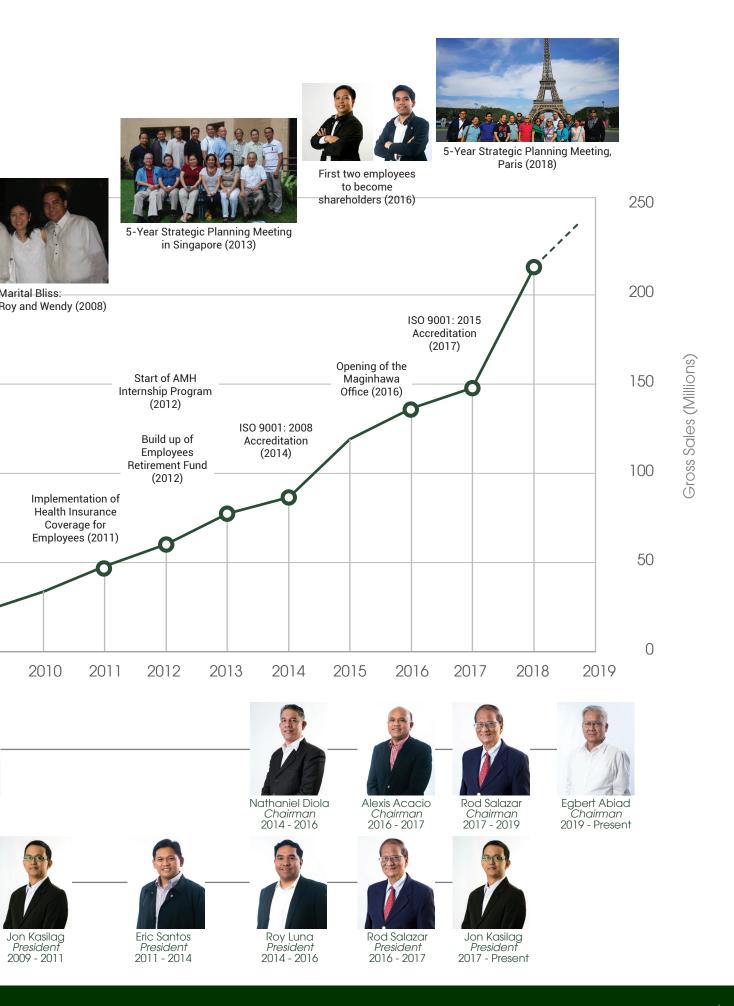


2006

2007

Roy Luna Vice President , Managing Director 2006 - 2009

## "To be an engineering company that Filipinos can be proud of"





**BERLIN, GERMANY** International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) International Infrastructure Conference September 9-11, 2018



**ROME, ITALY** 7th International Conference on Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering (7ICEGE) June 17-20, 2019

# INTERNATIONAL AND LOCAL CONFERENCES



**NEW YORK CITY, USA** International Conference on Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI) 2017 October 26-28, 2017

**TEXAS, USA** Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering and Soil Dynamics V (5th GEESD) June 10-13, 2018



**SINGAPORE** Plaxis Asiapac: Singapore Users' Meeting 2018 June 7, 2018





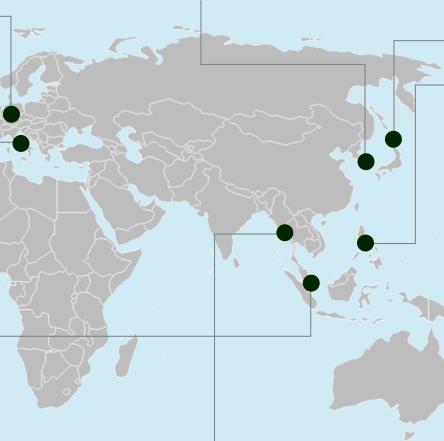
SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

11th International Conference
on Geosynthetics (11ICG)
September 16-21, 2018



SAPPORO, JAPAN
International Ocean and Polar
Engineering Conference 2018 (ISOPE 2018)

June 10-15, 2018



#### **PHILIPPINES**

ASEP Technical Conference: Disaster-Resilient Structures for Sustainable Development (October 19-20, 2018)

PICE 11th Region XI Technical Conference (November 22-23, 2018)

Philippine Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (PSSMGE) - Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) Geotechnical Symposium (August 12-13, 2019)

PSSMGE Seminar on Liquefaction and Seismically Induced Hazards: Assessment and Mitigation (September 6, 2019)

#### **BANGKOK, THAILAND**

7th Asia Conference on Earthquake Engineering (7ACEE) November 22-24, 2018



#### **AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND**

International Conference on GIS and Geoinformatics Zoning for Disaster Mitigation (GIZ 2018) November 15-17, 2018



# **COMPANY EVENTS**

#### **COMPANY OUTING**

July 5 to 6, 2019

AMH held its most awaited company outing -#bestoutingever at Whiterock, Subic, Zambales. Team building activities, "Ibida mo!" Commercial contest, and night socials were enjoyed by 105 employees in attendance during this two-day event.

The event concluded by awarding the winners of the various activities: the Green "Matcha Green" Team was crowned champion of the teambuilding activities, while the Yellow "Cornflex" Team was awarded best commercial.



#### CHRISTMAS PARTY

December 14, 2018

Before welcoming another year full of hopes, AMH capped off 2018 by commemorating the new opportunities that opened, the new achievements that were unlocked, and the challenges it has surpassed during its Christmas and year-end party. It is both a celebration of a prosperous year and of talents as showcased by its employees during the event.



#### AMH FIT: FUN RUN

June 7, 2019

#### **GK ENCHANTED FARM**

December 19, 2018



AMH launched its wellness initiative this year, "AMH Fit" which was jumpstarted through a Fun Run held last June 7, 2019 at the U.P. Diliman academic oval.

A total of forty-six (46) runners attended the event. The run was organized by the AMH Fit committee comprised of seven (7) members led by Engr. Vic Serra, with the help of an additional seven (7) employee volunteers. Warm-up exercises were conducted prior to the 4.4 km run around the academic oval.

Engr. Clint Reyes finished first with a time of 20:27, while Engr. John Escarro finished second with a time of 24:08.





As a commitment to give back and be of service to the community, AMH visited the Gawad Kalinga Enchanted Farm to participate in the community's activities and social enterprise programs. The half day program culminated with a "boodle fight" lunch that was shared between the local farmers and AMH.

by Carissa Soria



# AMH INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

2019 Interns. From left to right, top row: Marvin Malonzo, Francis Bernales, Mark Chan, Mark Escorido, Raul Mendoza. Bottom Row: Luigi Francisco, Jayvee Marjes, Deandra Andal, Micah Biscocho, Johanna Cunanan, Gabby Opiña, Christian Maniti.

Now on its 8th year, the AMH Internship Program allows interns to rotate among different fields every 3-6 months. The fields, or Practice Based Groups (PBG), include Civil Works, Structural Engineering, Water Resources, Geotechnical Engineering, Earthquake Engineering, and Coastal Engineering. AMH invited more than 30 candidates for the Internship Program orientation, out of which, 12 were selected by the recruitment team headed by head coach Egbert B. Abiad. The 2019 batch of interns are:

- 1. Deandra Andal, cum laude
- 2. Francis Bernales, summa cum laude
- 3. Michaela Biscocho
- 4. Mark Chan, cum laude
- 5. Johanna Cunanan, magna cum laude
- 6. Mark Escorido
- 7. Luigi Francisco, cum laude
- 8. Marvin Malonzo, cum laude
- 9. Christian Maniti, magna cum laude
- 10. Jayvee Marjes, magna cum laude, 7th place November 2018 CE Board Exam
- 11. Raul Mendoza, magna cum laude, 6th place November 2018 CE Board Exam
- 12. Gabby Opiña

Forus, joining AMH was the right choice. As Jayvee has mentioned, "the mentoring culture and the exposure to different fields in civil engineering" is what he likes most about the internship program. Truly, the firsthand experiences, the hands-on mentoring from experts in the office, and the opportunity to engage in discussion with our bosses and clients, are crucial for our development as young engineers.

At AMH, the job is not limited to submitting outputs and finishing projects. It also comes with memorable experiences that enrich and shape our well-being. One of the things that the interns look forward to are the out-of-town site visits as a part of a project. As Raul recounted, "My most memorable experience was my first ever plane ride when we did a site visit in

Cebu." Michaela had her most memorable experience in Batangas, when she saw concrete realization of plans on paper; Christian had a wonderful experience in Pasig, when he got an opportunity to interact with a client. Being able to access/learn a myriad of software and the encouragement from our colleagues, is what we look forward to in our jobs. As Marvin mentioned, "the first time setting up a meeting with the managing director of an international company is an experience that boosted my confidence and helped me to improve my presentation skills."

As William Shakespeare had said, twisted a little, "The course of the first love never did run smooth." Replace first love with first job and it makes perfect sense. But what you see at the end of each undertaking – after planning, calculating and finalizing structures that go beyond mere steel bars and concrete walls – is the future of the nation that we have helped build rightly so. This is what AMH is striving for – to be a consultancy company that Filipinos can be proud of. And this is what we interns have understood in every step of the way.

by 2019 Interns

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