

Tuesday 14th February 2012, 6pm, Room 3.403
Faculty of Engineering, University of Auckland



Abstract

For the last five years Grant has acted as the lead Civil / Geotechnical Engineer for SKM in their role as Independent Engineer for the international lending agency IFC on the Ambuklao and Binga Hydro schemes in the Philippines.

SKM completed an original due diligence on the schemes and their proposed rehabilitation and refurbishment in 2007. SKM were subsequently engaged to provide an independent review of the design and construction proposals for the rehabilitation of the schemes and undertake periodic site visits to inspect construction activities on behalf of the lenders.

One particularly challenging design and construction feature of the rehabilitation of the Ambuklao scheme involved the installation of an isolating plug in the live, high pressure headrace tunnel. The presentation will attempt to describe the construction processes and the unique tunnelling and underground construction methods implemented in the successful completion of this project. This includes the design and temporary

stability of drill and blast tunnels and caverns opened within 13m of the live tunnel operating at 130m pressure head.

In Grant's 27 years experience of hairy-arsed geotechnical engineering this was a classic.

Grant Murray

Grant moved to New Zealand from the UK in 1996 to lead the geotechnical team at SKM (formerly, Kingston Morrison). Grant spent eight years on the management board of the NZGS serving two years as Treasurer, two years as editor of Geomechanics News and four years as the Australasian Vice President for the ISSMGE. Grant is a Fellow of IPENZ.

Grant's interests and experience in the broad discipline of geotechnical engineering are quite diverse after starting his career working for consulting engineer specialising in dams he subsequently worked throughout Europe and Asia on significant maritime, port and harbour projects. Moving to NZ meant a shift in emphasis towards power and infrastructure projects and he has spent the last fifteen years working on a variety of hydro & geothermal power, roading, water & waste water projects in NZ, Australia, Asia, the Middle East and Africa.

Grant was on the peer review panel for the AGS Landslide Management Guidelines (2007).

Grant is currently the Geotechnical Engineering Practice Leader for SKM but would prefer to be playing with his rock band down the pub than presenting at technical meetings.

You are invited to enjoy a selection of refreshments, from 5.30pm kindly sponsored by