

## INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR MICROPILES (ISM)

Dear Colleague:

We hereby invite you to join the newly-formed International Society for Micropiles (ISM). This consortium of international representatives involved in the research and development, design, and construction of micropiles has been in existence since 1994 as the International Workshop on Micropiles (IWM). The core group was formed in 1994 as an international peer review team for the FHWA's State of the Practice Study on Micropiles (1993-1997), which focused on "classic" micropiles, namely drilled and grouted elements of high capacity. The synergy of this group of individuals, allied with major demands for technology transfer to "newer" markets mainly from Japan and Scandinavia, led to the organization of the first IWM in Seattle, WA in September 1997. Six workshops were held since this initial meeting: Ube, Japan (1999); Turku, Finland (2000); Lille, France (2001); Venice, Italy (2002); Seattle, WA (2003); and Tokyo, Japan (2004). The workshops included a series of technical presentations and workshops complemented by local site visits and cultural events. The current Chairman of the ISM is Dr. Donald A. Bruce, C.Eng. of Geosystems, L.P. Current and past IWM/ISM activities may be reviewed on our website at [www.ismicropiles.org](http://www.ismicropiles.org).

Micropiles are arguably the fastest growing specialty geotechnical construction technology, with the market likely doubling in the last 5 years. The IWM has been critical in the development of the technology nationally and internationally. Countries sponsoring delegates and providing major contributions to the IWM throughout the years include the United States, France, Japan, Germany, Finland (and other Scandinavian countries), Italy, Belgium, Canada, the U.K., and Greece. The IWM has had over 80 active members, and each workshop has been attended by approximately 50 to 60 delegates.

**Vision of ISM:** ISM will be respected internationally as the preeminent center of knowledge for the development, advancement, and promotion of micropile technology.

The past workshops have been co-sponsored by FHWA and ADSC; however, the funding that had been enjoyed could not reasonably be guaranteed in the long term. The IWM delegation agreed that becoming a full-fledged, independent society was required to continue the workshops that have allowed the micropile technology to be expanded and transferred internationally. The goals of the ISM include:

- Organize regular ISM meetings (possibly every 18 to 24 months on average).
- Establish a micropile database, especially of case histories and testing data, for use by designers, contractors, and educators worldwide.
- Act as an international "authority" providing oversight input to local/national codes.
- Act as a facilitator/disseminator of micropile information generated worldwide.
- Issue annual practice updates.
- Help expand use of micropiles internationally by making knowledge available.
- Act as a facilitator/coordinator/promoter for international research and demonstration programs (especially relating to seismic performance).
- Identify fundraising vehicles to support membership needs and research efforts.
- Develop educational tools.

The ISM Steering Committee, which comprises one member from each contributing country plus the ISM Secretary and Chairman, will serve as the ISM's Board of Directors and guide the activities of the group. Operational costs for the ISM will be funded by membership dues, and additional workshop and research activities will be funded through other means, such as corporate sponsorships, grants, etc. Membership dues are \$100/year for Individuals and \$400/year for Corporate Members (including 2 Individual Memberships) [Dues for additional members from the same company (after the first two) are \$100/year.] Corporate Memberships would also include other benefits (e.g., website linking, sponsorship, and advertising/promotional opportunities, etc.) Founding Memberships will be granted in this first year of ISM operation. Founding Membership fees are \$200/year for Individuals and \$600/year for Corporate Members. Founding Members will receive a commemorative plaque that recognizes the member's contribution in the initiation of the ISM and will be listed on the ISM website. Please use the attached registration form to apply for membership. The ISM website will soon be able to accept online applications ([www.ismicropiles.org](http://www.ismicropiles.org)).

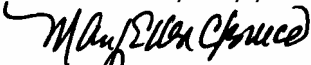
**Mission of ISM:** A permanent, proactive ISM organization will act as the international forum for coordinating and promoting all phases and aspects of micropile technology. It will act in the best interests of the technology and the potential users, will be easily accessed and will be strictly non-partisan. It will collect and disseminate knowledge via meetings, reports, and databases, and act as a forum for promoting relevant research.

### Benefits of Individual and Corporate Memberships

- Networking • Education • Workshops • International Exposure
- Posting of Corporate Logo on ISM Website and Website Linking
- Access to Technical Resources
- Membership Directory
- Annual Practice Updates
- Access to Micropile Literature Database
- Advertising and Promotional Opportunities

We would welcome you as a new member. Please contact me at (724) 942-0813 or [mebruce@cobweb.net](mailto:mebruce@cobweb.net) with questions or requests for additional information.

Very truly yours,

  
Mary Ellen C. Bruce, P.E.  
Executive Secretary, ISM