

# THE INAUGURAL LUMB LECTURE

## Performance in Geotechnical Practice



**Presented by Professor N R Morgenstern**

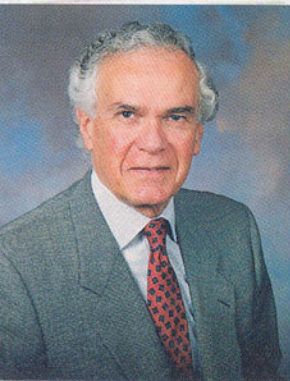
*at 6:00 p.m., 10 May 2000, Theatre One,  
Hong Kong Convention & Exhibition Centre  
(Admission: Free of Charge)*

*The Lumb Banquet – \$800/head  
(First come first serve – limited places available)*

Please contact Miss Shanny Leung for details



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### *About the Speaker*

**Professor N R Morgenstern** is currently an Emeritus Professor of Civil Engineering at the University of Alberta in Canada. He is a Past President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering. He was a Member of the 1976 Independent Review Panel on Fill Slopes in Hong Kong and was the independent reviewer of the investigation of the 1994 Kwun Lung Lau landslide. He presently serves on the Slope Safety Technical Review Board for the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the Government of HKSAR.



## Synopsis

The end product of successful Geotechnical Engineering is to ensure performance. Performance requires consideration of safety, serviceability and affordability. Serviceability criteria apply to such considerations as limited deformations, limited leakage and consistency with environmental constraints. The difficulties in assuring performance are often under-estimated. It is a complex process that underpins all of the value-added contributions of Geotechnical Engineering. When it goes wrong, the penalties are severe.

The value of prediction in performance assurance has been over-estimated. Case histories will illustrate the limits of prediction. Additional case histories will be summarised to provide examples of both unanticipated unsuccessful performance and successful performance.

Recurrent sources of uncertainty will be summarised. The lecture will emphasise that in face of the intrinsic uncertainties associated with geotechnical practice, the consistent application of Consequential Risk Analysis is essential to provide the assurance of performance. Consequential Risk Analysis involves a number of techniques, including the Observational Method, and they will be briefly described.

## Programme

- 6:00 p.m.**     *Welcoming Speech by Prof. Y K Cheung*  
*Reflections on Professor Lumb by Dr Victor Li*  
*Introduction of Professor Morgenstern by Prof. C F Lee*
- 6:20 p.m.**     *Lumb Lecture*
- 7:30 p.m.**     *Vote of Thanks by Dr Paul Tong*
- 8:00 p.m.**     *The Lumb Banquet*



## About Professor Lumb

**Professor Lumb** became a lecturer in the Department of Civil Engineering, University of Hong Kong in 1954. After 32 years of service at the University, he retired in 1986. Many of his ex-students will have fond memories of him as a modest lecturer who prefers to keep a low profile. He has dedicated his life towards the 'dawning' of geotechnical engineering in Hong Kong and has received numerous awards in recognition of his great contributions.