

Obituary (Con't)

Prof. Gert den Hoedt (1935 – 2019)

In memory of Gert den Hoedt (1935-2019)

Only few weeks ago I was informed that Gert den Hoedt passed away on 8 March 2019 in Velp (the Netherlands).

Gert was a fine researcher on the use of geosynthetics for soil reinforcement in the AKZO Group: he was the author of several fundamental papers on the subject.

Moreover, Gert was a very active member of CEN TC 189 on Geosynthetics since its foundation in November 1989 in Brussels: he was an expert in WG 3 (Mechanical tests) from 1990 to 1996 and he was the Project Leader of the standard on Tensile Creep, EN ISO 13431, very much used in the design and practice of soil reinforcement structures.



In particular, from 1997 to 2000 he was Chairman of CEN TC 189 and in this capacity he led the plenary sessions in Goteborg (June 1997), Torino (November 1997), Nuremberg (December 1998), Brussels (June 1999), Paris (December 1999), Helsinki (June 2000) and Milano (October 2000).

Gert was also member of ISSMGE and one of the pioneers of the International Geosynthetics Society (IGS): he received in 1994 the IGS Honorary Membership for his full dedication to the organization of the 4ICG (4th International Conference on Geosynthetics in Den Haag in May 1990) and of the 5ICG (5th International Conference on Geosynthetics in Singapore in September 1994).

Most important, he was a very nice person: he had a great family with his wife Alice, daughters Ellen and Stella, and son Kim, and all the relatives.

He was able to establish a unique relationship with the entire group of geotechnical engineering and geosynthetics experts, both nationally and internationally.

Personally, I like to remember him as a real friend: in his memory, I enclose the photo taken during his after-dinner speech in occasion of the last CEN TC 189 meeting that he chaired in Italy in October 2000. Thanks Gert: your example and your precious contribution to the overall geotechnical community will remain for ever!

Daniele Cazzuffi
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IGS Past President and Chairman of CEN/TC 189