Soil and rock description: a comparison between BS5930 (1999), BS5930 (1981), GCO Geoguide 3 and common local specification

NURIL ANWAR AHBA ABDUL HAMID & ABD RASID JAAPAR

Soils & Foundations Sdn. Bhd.
23, Jalan Desa, Taman Desa
Off Jalan Kelang Lama
58100 Kuala Lumpur

Soil and descriptions for civil engineering applications are typically carried out in three main locations;

- In the field, at a natural or man-made exposure.
- In the field, on soil sample or rock core obtained from site investigation drilling rig.
- In the laboratory, on pieces of soil sample or rock core before or after the testing were carried out.

The main purpose of soil and rock description for civil engineering purposes is to give an indication of the likely engineering properties of the material. Soil and rock description is to a certain degree subjective. In order to minimize the subjective element; a systematic examination should be carried out using a standard terminology, whether the material be in natural exposure, trial pit face or samples recovered from borehole. The use of a standardized scheme of description ensures that:

- All factors are considered and examined in logical sequence.
- No essential information is omitted.
- No matter who describes the sample, the same basic description is given using all terms in an identical way.
- The description conveys an accurate mental image to the reader.
- Any potential user can quickly extract the relevant information.

This paper will discuss on comparison between various standards, references and specification currently being used in Malaysia when there is no *'compulsory'* method of soil and rock description. The CIDB's Working Group 3 of Technical Committee 5 had agreed to adopt Section 6 of the latest version of BS5930 published in 1999 as Malaysian Standard for soil and rock description; we, therefore must be ready and familiar with this method. This paper is also intended to provide the brief explanation on the method of description using BS5930 (1999).

Warta Geologi (Newsletter of the Geological Society of Malaysia), Vol. 27, No. 4, July-August 2001