

PREFACE

The 4th Asian Rock Mechanics Symposium (ARMS) received overwhelming response for its call for papers in early 2006 with about 450 abstracts received by the Organising Committee. After a rigorous selection process, just over 300 papers were finally accepted for the proceeding, a record for ARMS. This is also the first time that the ARMS proceedings volume consists of printed copies of full papers of keynote lectures and extended abstracts of all the technical papers while the full technical papers are provided in a CD-ROM. This has enabled the Organising Committee to accept as many high quality technical papers as possible.

The theme of the Symposium is “Rock Mechanics in Underground Construction”. Fittingly all the seven keynote lectures from Asia, Australia, Europe and North America deal with underground rock engineering topics. In fact, about half of the technical papers concern with underground construction such as tunnelling, rock caverns and underground mining. In addition, a large number of the remaining technical papers are directly or indirectly involved with rock mechanics in underground construction. Although the majority of the technical papers are contributed by rock engineers and researchers from Asia, the editors are glad to note that there are considerable number of contributions of high quality technical papers from many countries outside Asia.

The contributions of the technical paper reviewers and the ARMS 2006 award selection committee members are gratefully acknowledged. They play important roles to ensure that the papers in this proceedings volume are of high standard. The editors would like thank the able compilation and thorough checking of the scripts by Ms Chelsea Chin and her colleagues from World Scientific Publishing Company, and the diligent assistance of the staff from the symposium Secretariat, Meeting Matters International. With the efforts of all the above persons, the editors hope that this proceedings volume will serve as a useful reference for the engineers and researchers in rock mechanics and rock engineering.

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