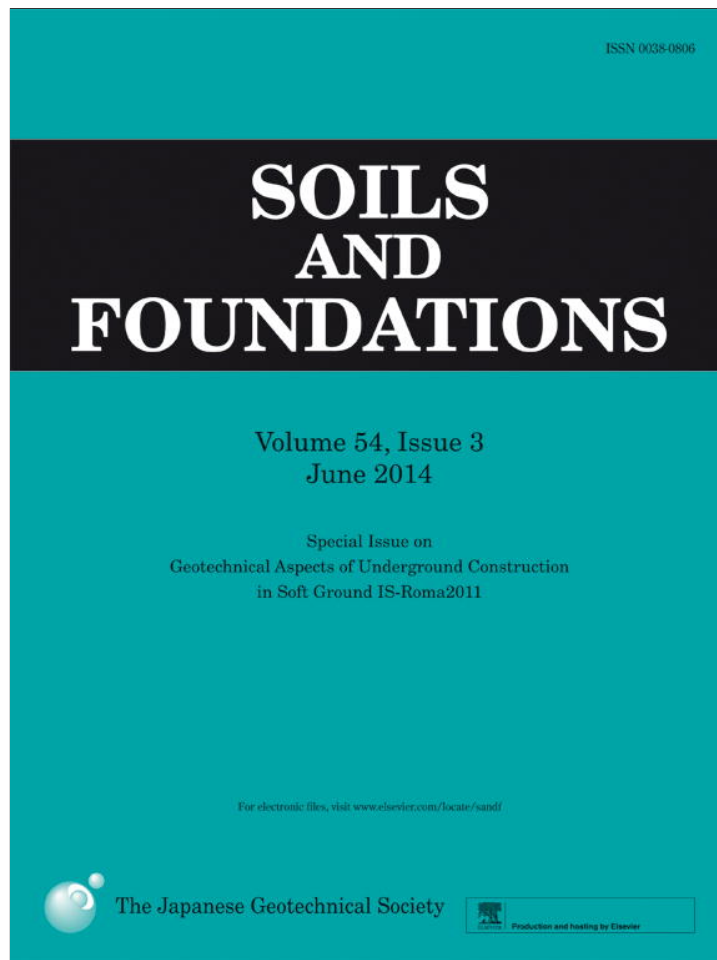


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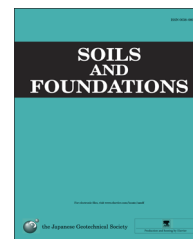


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## Foreword

The first four technical papers in this special issue were selected from the Seventh International Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Underground Construction in Soft Ground held in Rome, Italy, 17–19 May 2011, i.e., IS-Roma 2011. IS-Roma 2011 was organized by the ISSMGE Technical Committee TC204 on Underground Construction in Soft Ground. Previously, *Soils and Foundations* published two special issues derived from international symposia organized by TC204 (formerly TC28). The first special issue was published in 1999 with IS-Tokyo 1999 papers, and the second issue was published in 2004 with eight technical papers and reports selected from IS-Toulouse 2002.

According to the same procedure as that of the two previous special issues of *Soils and Foundations*, 18 technical papers have been selected from 116 symposium papers, and their authors have been invited to submit manuscripts for the special issue of *Soils and Foundations* by the Editorial Committee of the proceedings for IS-Roma 2011, chaired by Professor Giulia Viggiani. The manuscripts submitted for this special issue have been reviewed by the Editorial Committee of *Soils and Foundations*, according to its normal practice, and four technical papers have been successfully accepted and published in *Soils and Foundations*.

During IS-Roma 2011, a launch session for the Keiichi Fujita Lecture was organized. Following the death of Professor Keiichi Fujita on 31st July 2010, who was the founder of TC28, TC204 proposed the idea of introducing a prestigious lecture to be entitled the Keiichi Fujita Lecture and to be given at future international symposia of TC204; this proposal was approved by ISSMGE. The first Keiichi Fujita Lecture will be given by Dr. Hugh D. St John (GCG, UK) during the Eighth International Symposium on Geotechnical Aspects of Underground Construction in Soft Ground to be held in Seoul, Korea, 25–27 August 2014, i.e., IS-Seoul 2014. Moreover, four technical papers generated from IS-Roma 2011 shall be dedicated to the late Professor Keiichi Fujita and will provide another valuable source of reference on geotechnical aspects of underground construction in soft ground.

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Peer review under responsibility of The Japanese Geotechnical Society.



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<sup>1</sup>Ad-hoc editorial board member of *Soils and Foundations* and core member of ISSMGE Technical Committee TC204.