

Introduction (Video) - *Script*

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I am Nainan P. Kurian, retired professor of civil engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras. I welcome you all to this e-Book, under the title “Concepts and Techniques in Geotechnical and Foundation Engineering,” written by me under the aegis of the National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) of the Ministry of Human Resources Development (MHRD), Govt. of India, administered among others through IIT Madras, with P.S.G. College of Technology, Coimbatore, as one of the partner institutions. It is hosted on the NPTEL website for free downloading by any prospective user. For me it is the outcome of a long cherished desire to bring out a book in the e-format covering the subject areas I am engaged in professionally.

As regards contents, in three parts, the book presents 53 Topics, grouped into 51 Modules, which can support two courses in Geotechnical Engineering and Foundation Engineering.

In the first place, it is not the e-version of a hard copy book existing in print. It is fully launched on the e-platform, leveraging, as it does, many of the inherent capabilities of the e-format which makes its use a more user-friendly experience. This includes the use of a colour scheme in both text and figures which is expected to add to its communicative value.

A distinguishing feature of the book is the use of ‘animation’ in figures which mainly takes the form of segments appearing in sequence making up the full figure, in the same manner as the student learns to draw the figure. This should indeed make it more student-friendly when compared to his or her trying to learn a complicated figure from a hard copy.

An added feature is that text and figures are supplemented by still pictures and video clippings, wherever possible, which will add to the communicative and retentive value of the material presented. All these features are expected to contribute to making it a truly ‘technology enhanced’ learning experience.

In essence, the book is conceived as a ‘learning aid’ in the hands of the student and a ‘teaching aid’ in the hands of the teacher. The target audience also includes professionals who may want to update their knowledge in the subject field.

I request you to read the Author’s Preamble which sets out the full scope of the work, followed by Instructions on how to download and use the text and figures.

I hope you will find the experience interesting and rewarding.

So, Happy Reading