

# International Geosynthetics Society

## United Kingdom Chapter



IGS/Yorkshire Geotechnical Group  
JOINT MEETING

**Tuesday 3rd March 2015**

York Engineers Triangle, Cinder Lane off Leeman Road, York, YO26 4AB  
6.00pm for 6.30pm

## **Pakyong Airport, Sikkim, India - The tallest reinforced soil structure in the world?**

**Dave Crowther, Maccaferri Ltd.**

The construction of a new airport at Pakyong in the Himalayan state of Sikkim in North East India will provide direct access to tourists and trade to this remote region. Project client, Airports Authority of India (AAI) required a 550m wide, 1.7km long corridor for the runway and airport buildings, to be carved from the mountainous topography using massive geotechnical "cut and fill" engineering works in this seismic area. The presentation will explore the reinforced soil structures required above and below the runway which reached heights of up to 74m; possibly the tallest reinforced soil walls in the world.

This scheme won the 'Ground Engineering - Best International Project' in 2012.

### Biography:

David has acquired 40 years experience in the construction industry. He began his career with Kier Ltd, working on a variety of civil engineering contracts in the UK. With Kier International, he worked in Hong Kong and Trinidad. He included his RC design work for Hong Kong MTR, Argyle Station, in his ICE submission and achieved chartered status in 1981. (C Eng M.I.C.E.)

David joined River & Sea Gabions (now Maccaferri Ltd) in 1990, as Area Manager for the Central Region, where he gained extensive experience in the design and construction of gabion structures.

With the evolution of Maccaferri into a provider of Geotechnical solutions, David has developed his expertise in the wider field of soil reinforcement. He progressed to Major Project Manager for the Southern Region. In this role he had responsibility for the larger, or more complex, design projects, in which Maccaferri were involved, from initial enquiry through to completion.

In 2005 David was appointed Design Manager for Maccaferri Ltd with responsibility to the Technical Manager for overseeing 'construction' designs produced by each of the three regional Maccaferri offices – Oxford, Perth and Belfast.

In January 2007 David was appointed Technical Manager for Maccaferri Ltd. He now carries responsibility for managing the design/engineering aspects for all UK projects in which Maccaferri Ltd are involved.

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The IGS UK Chapter is a  
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