

ASSOCIATION OF CHARTERED  
ENGINEERS IN ICELAND

## International Symposium on Mitigative Measures against Snow Avalanches

Co-sponsored by:

Ministry of Environment  
IceGrid  
National Planning Agency  
Icelandic Meteorological Office

First Circular

September 2006

The Association of Chartered Engineers in Iceland will hold an International Symposium on Mitigative Measures against Snow Avalanches in November 2007. The Symposium will be held in eastern Iceland from November 12<sup>th</sup> to November 15<sup>th</sup> 2007.

### THEME AND TOPICS

Mitigative measures against snow avalanches have been built for many decades and even centuries in various places in the world. Improved knowledge and better equipment have in recent times made it possible to build even larger and more complicated structures and new mitigative measures have also been developed. The aim of the measures is usually to protect human lives but they do also affect humans in many ways. Large structures usually have a significant impact on the environment. In many cases the structures have to be built close to dense settlements and they can be overwhelming. Relocation of buildings usually means that many people must move to a new home without really wanting it. Many questions about the value of the buildings rise.

The theme of this symposium is to connect three different topics and discuss them.

#### *Engineering:*

Research, development and invention in connection with mitigative measures.

- Dense settlements
- Rural areas
- Back country areas
- Roads
- Transmission lines
- Geotechnical aspects

#### *Environment:*

Landscaping and architecture of mitigative measures.

- Structures of various materials in the starting zone
- Structures of various materials in runout zone
- Removal/relocation of buildings or other structures

#### *Social aspects:*

- Removal/relocation of buildings
- Communication between the authorities and local population
- Do the local people trust the measures?
- What is the value of properties in avalanche prone areas?

### SESSIONS

The Symposium will be divided into three sessions. Oral presentations will be held at the first session in Egilsstadir from November 12<sup>th</sup> to November 13<sup>th</sup>. The second session will be a field trip on November 14<sup>th</sup> to inspect protection measures for the villages Seydisfjardur and Neskaupstadur will be inspected as well as measures constructed to protect the electrical transmission lines to the new aluminum smelter of Alcoa in Reydarfjordur. The third session, a workshop, will be held in Egilsstadir on November 15<sup>th</sup>.

### PUBLICATION

Papers will be published in the Symposium Proceedings.

### ACCOMMODATION

Details will be given in the Second Circular.

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### INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM ON MITIGATIVE MEASURES AGAINST SNOW AVALANCHES

Egilsstadir, Iceland,  
12–15 November 2007

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

First Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

I hope to participate in the Symposium in November 2007

I expect to submit a paper

My paper will be most closely related to the following  
topic(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

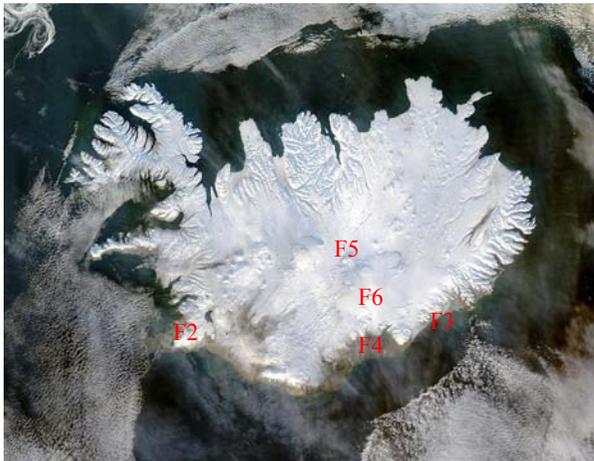
### PLEASE RETURN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO:

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E-mail: vfi@vfi.is Web: http://www.vfi.is

# Glimpse of Iceland



F 1. Iceland seen from outer space. Photo: NASA.

**Table 1. Data from Statistics Iceland.**

Area:	103,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Area of glaciers:	12,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Area of lakes:	3,000 km <sup>2</sup>
Population:	300,000 pers.
Religion:	Lutheran Protestant
Main industry:	Fishing

Famous volcanoes:	Hekla
	Askja
	Katla
	Grímsvötn

Glaciers:	Vatnajökull	8,300 km <sup>2</sup>
	Hofsjökull	925 km <sup>2</sup>
	Langjökull	953 km <sup>2</sup>
	Mýrdalsjökull	596 km <sup>2</sup>

Famous persons:	Snorri Sturluson	Writer ~year 1200
	Ari fróði	Writer ~year 1200
	Halldór Laxnes	Writer 20 <sup>th</sup> . century
	Vigdís Finnbogadóttir	Ex. president
	Björk	Musician
	Jón Páll Sigmarsson	Strongest man in the World
	Hólmfríður Karlsdóttir	Miss World 1985
	Linda Pétursdóttir	Miss World 1988
	Unnur B Vilhjálmstöttir	Miss World 2005



F 2. Reykjavík.



F 3. Jökulsárlón Breiðamerkursandi. A view to Öræfajökull in Vatnajökull glacier.



F 4. View from the National Park in Skaftafell to Öræfajökull in Vatnajökull glacier. The highest peak in Iceland (2110 m) is in the glacier to the right.



F 5. Hot springs and small warm streams can be found in many places. Those travellers are resting and relaxing in a small stream in Vonarskarð in central Iceland.



F 6. A view to the hut at Grímsfjall on Vatnajökull glacier. The Grímsvötn frozen lake is on the left side.

Additional information on Iceland can be found at:  
<http://www.visiticeland.com>  
<http://www.statice.is/>