

Conference reports

The 2nd International Geotechnical Seminar, Maputo, Mozambique

Under the co-ordination by Prof. Pedro Sêco e Pinto, the II International Geotechnical Seminar took place in Maputo, Mozambique from 2nd to 3rd October 2019. This seminar is a joint organization of the ISSMGE and the Mozambican Geotechnical Society (SMG). ISSMGE sponsored the participation of the international lecturers including Mr. Sukumar Pathmanandavel (Australia), Prof. Roger Frank (France), Prof. Ikuo Tohata (Japan), Prof. Pedro Sêco e Pinto (Portugal), Prof. Mounir Bouassida (Tunisia), Prof. Etienne Kana (Cameroon) and Prof. Roberto Terzariol (Argentina). SMG covered the accommodation and local expenses.

More than 90 local participants attended the seminar, from which 42 students were sponsored by the African Development Bank, SMG and TECNICA, Ltd. and 54 professionals and researchers. During the Seminar, 19 papers were presented, being 13 authored by Mozambican engineers.

On the second day of the seminar, an interactive course was delivered by Eng. Roberto Terzariol, Prof. Pedro Pinto, Prof Ikuo Tohata and Prof. Roger Frank. The main subjects of in this course were foundations, retaining structures and slopes. The courses were excellent and it was a very successful initiative.

The opening ceremony was conducted by Dr. Etienne-Marcelin Kana (VP Africa), Prof. Pedro Pinto (Past President of ISSMGE), Prof. Carlos Quadros (President of SMG) and graced with the presence of Dr. Eneas Comiche, Mayor of Maputo.

The 2-day seminar contributed to foster bonds between the local geotechnical community and international experts. The significant presence and active participation of students was very encouraging and a good augur for the future. If one of the goals of the Seminar was to attract more young professionals to the field of Geotechnical Engineering it was surely achieved.

Such initiatives must be supported and encouraged, especially in Africa where many talented young engineers need guidance and more frequent interaction with experienced professionals to develop their skills and knowledge.



Delegates attending the seminar

Prof. Carlos Quadros
President of SMG