

## Young Members' Arena

### Meet the Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG) of Term 2018 – 19

#### Message from the Young Member Arena Editor - *Tugce Baser*

This past year has been one of change in the ISSMGE Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG) and I am honored to serve as the editor of Young Member Arena for the term 2018-2019. I am thrilled to share YMPG vision for the future of young geotechnical engineers with other valuable members of the group. We will keep working hard to not only continue pursuing the YMPG vision and passion but also expand and innovate to resonate with the new generation.

Our primary goal is to help foster the community of young members including students and engage them with the legends in the field. As the YMPG grow with new members, we will provide opportunities for young members to meet and develop relationships, to connect with leaders in the field, and promote young member activities in both regional and international platforms. Our responsibilities continue to facilitate the development of the international young member community of geotechnical engineering through bimonthly articles in the Bulletin of ISSMGE. Through this media, we hope to better connect the next generation of geotechnical engineers, which we believe will aid in our future professional lives and help to grow the ISSMGE particularly among its student and younger member population. We wish a successful year to all members of the community!

YMPG of the term 2018-2019 consists of passionate members as in the previous terms and it is my greatest pleasure to introduce them. Each of us are very excited to be a part of the ISSMGE.



Tugce Baser  
(Bulletin Editor of YM Arena)  
Member Society: Canada

Dr. Baser is a postdoctoral research associate at the Department of Civil Engineering of University of Alberta. She holds a PhD degree in Geotechnical Engineering from University of California San Diego. Her main research areas are coupled flow processes in unsaturated soils, fundamental multi-physics processes; engineering challenges; and implementation strategies for soil borehole thermal energy storage (SBTES) from renewable energy sources in the vadose zone, and coupled relationships of thermal and hydraulic properties of unsaturated soils. Other research interests include energy related geotechnical applications such as geo-exchange systems, Trenchless technologies specifically Horizontal Directional Drilling, energy based subsurface characterization, and sustainability assessment of renewable energy resources. She is a member of American Society of Civil Engineers, ISSMGE, Canadian Geotechnical Society, and International Geosynthetics Society.

Dr. Baser's overall goals in geotechnical engineering profession and specifically for the ISSMGE YMPG are to:

- (a) engage students with the geotechnical engineering to increase the awareness of the profession;
- (b) enhance the knowledge in the area;
- (c) reach out young members to provide update and information to resonate; and
- (d) connect young members with legends in the professional and academic communities

Dr. Baser is also currently serving as the Public Relations Committee chair of the Geo-Institute Student Leader Council. She can be contacted at [tugce@ualberta.ca](mailto:tugce@ualberta.ca) and for more information visit [tugcebaser.wixsite.com/baser](http://tugcebaser.wixsite.com/baser)

## Young Members' Arena (Con't)

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Lucy Wu (President)  
Member Society: USA

After graduating from MIT with a Bachelor's of Science and Stanford University with a Master's of Science in Civil Engineering, I started my career as a geotechnical engineer with Arup in Hong Kong. My work is primarily focused on private building developments, mainly on the design of excavations and foundations. I have been involved in the design of several excavation with large unbalanced loads as well as the design of different types of deep foundations. I have also worked on other geotechnical work such as slope stability and natural terrain hazard mitigation. I am a licensed professional engineer (PE) in the State of California.

This is my third term as a member of the YMPG. In the previous term (2013-2015), I led the Website Task Force and am now serving as a Vice-Chair in this term. I enjoy reading, long distance running, hiking, and traveling in my free time. Feel free to contact me about anything, technical or otherwise. I can be reached at [lucywu@alum.mit.edu](mailto:lucywu@alum.mit.edu).



Jean-Timothy Potgieter (Vice President)  
Member Society: South Africa

Jean Potgieter was born and raised in Pretoria, South Africa. After graduating from the University of Pretoria, he worked at two consulting engineering firms from 2013 to 2015. Initially for Rust Geotechnical Consultants and then for Jones & Wagener. During this period, he worked on a range of geotechnical projects including tailings dams, foundation design, retaining walls, and site investigations. In 2016, Jean won a scholarship funded by Terra Strata to investigate the fundamental differences between designing retaining walls with simplistic and complex design methods. He completed his Master's degree at the end of 2016.

Currently, Jean is employed by the University of Pretoria's business arm, Enterprises, as a geotechnical consultant to Namdeb - a diamond mining operation on the west coast of Namibia. Jean currently resides in Pretoria. He enjoys public speaking, playing sports and is currently involved with triathlon.



Ceres Chung (Secretary)  
Member Society: Hong Kong

I am one of the three representatives of Asia Region in Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG). I have worked in geotechnical engineering industry since my graduation at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology with Bachelor of Civil and Structural Engineering in 2007. I mainly worked on private buildings jobs with deep excavation, and foundation design.

I have been involved in geotechnical projects in different countries/cities, including Hong Kong, Mainland China, Ireland, and Sweden. The overseas experience broaden my horizon and build up the connections with consultant and contractor in different parts of the world. I am working in Ireland currently under company transfer program, but I still have strong connections with Hong Kong office and the industry.

I am always looking to build on my technical skills. I am also eager to share my experience with others in the industry.

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Fei (Tiffany) Wang  
Member Society: China

Fei Wang is currently an Associate Professor of the Southeast University. She majors in Geo-environmental Engineering, and mainly focuses on Soil Mix Technology Stabilised/Solidified Contaminated Site Soils. She got her bachelor degree in Yangzhou University (China) in 2009. Later, she furthered her study in the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), the research topic was the Significance of Metal Exchange in EDDS-flushing Column Experiments. After she graduated from HKUST, she worked for a company as an engineer for one year and was involved in the design of a number of projects. She got her PhD degree from the Department of Engineering at the University of Cambridge.

She is a member of Cambridge Philosophical Society, Chinese Society for Rock Mechanics and Engineering, and Jiangsu Society for Environmental Sciences etc. In addition, she is a reviewer of Science and Technology Books, Elsevier; Journal of Hazardous Materials; Journal of Environmental Radioactivity; Journal of Environmental Management & Journal of Agricultural Science and Applications etc.



Mario Terceros Arce  
Member Society: Bolivia

In 2015 and 2017, I have participated in the “Congreso Internacion de Fundaciones Profundas de Bolivia” (2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> CFPB) as a member of the organization board and field expositor. At that time I realized the scarcity of engineers interested in Geotechnics, but also realized the thirst of knowledge and curiosity of the young students as engineers, which motivated me to get involved with the ISSMGE. This year (2017) will be my second period serving the ISSMGE’s Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG), a role I will enjoy with a lot of enthusiasm.

I earned my Bachelor of Science in the Tecnológico de Monterrey (ITESM, Mexico) in 2013. During a one year exchange program in the Technical University of Munich, my interest on Geotechnical and deep foundation engineer woke up. I took all the geotechnical courses of the program and afterwards I prolonged my stay in Germany in order to make an internship in BAUER GmbH. Currently I am an MSc. student in the Universidad San Francisco Xavier de Chuquisaca, Bolivia, while working in a foundation Engineering Company. My research focuses on the design of piled raft foundations for high-rise buildings and its economic benefits, focusing especially on the effect that the pile installation technology has (Expander Body on the toe of the pile, Drilled displacement piles and traditional cased bored piles) on the piled raft load-settlement behavior (“capacity”).

Personally I enjoy outdoor sports like mountain biking, running, climbing. If you would like to contact me for further information write me at: [mta@incotec.cc](mailto:mta@incotec.cc)

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Vitor Pereira Faro  
Member Society: Brazil

I am from Viseu, Portugal. I have a Bachelor's and a Master's Degree from the University of Coimbra, Portugal, and a Doctoral and Post Doctoral degrees from the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul, Porto Alegre, Brazil. Nowadays I am a Professor at the Federal University of Paraná, in Curitiba, Brazil.

I'm mostly working with soil-structure interaction, geotechnical modeling, slope stability, and Geological-Geotechnical Risks, being the coordinator of some research projects. I'm also coordinating some extension projects, where I try to bring Geotechnics to society. Part of Brazilian Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ABMS) board, where I am the treasurer of Paraná - Santa Catarina core, I am a passionate geotechnical engineer and wish to connect with geotechnical engineers and researchers around the world. You can contact me at [vitorpereirafaro@gmail.com](mailto:vitorpereirafaro@gmail.com).



Aswin Lim  
Member Society:  
Indonesia

I was born in Pontianak, a capital city of West Borneo Province, Indonesia. I finished my bachelor degree in civil engineering at Universitas Katolik Parahyangan and got my M.S. and Ph.D. degree from Taiwan Tech. My research focus is deep excavation and numerical modelling for geotechnical problems.

My motivations to serve the YMPG as a committee member:

1. I have felt the benefit from ISSMGE Foundation and I realize that most of my colleagues do not know or do not care about ISSMGE. In my opinion, serving YMPG is an excellent opportunity in order to promote ISSMGE within young geotechnical engineers.
2. In my humble opinions, Southeast Asia Young Geotechnical Engineers have not adequately exposed to the international activity compared to other regions. Meanwhile, most of the country in Southeast Asia are developing countries and many infrastructures are under construction. I hope I could attract them to show up in the international activities to gain more experiences and build networking in international society. I believe the experiences and networking can benefit all parties.



Ezra Yoanes Setiasabda  
Member Society: USA

I am currently a PhD candidate in Geotechnical Engineering at University of California, Berkeley. I am primarily working on numerical modeling of cyclic behavior of sand using Material Point Method (MPM). Originally from Indonesia, I earned my B.Eng in 2014 from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and M.S. in 2016 from University of California, Berkeley. Upon my graduation from HKUST, I worked at Arup Hong Kong on jobs including 27 m excavation at Repulse Bay and preservation of historical retaining walls at Central area. In the San Francisco Bay Area (California), I have worked at Rockridge Geotechnical on jobs including ground improvements using drill displacement column, and earthquake retrofitting and seismic upgrades.

This would be my first term as a Member of Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG). A little bit more about myself: I am a die-hard fan of Liverpool FC, enjoy classical music, and love to read about philosophy and Christian theology. Should you want to talk more, technical, otherwise, feel free to reach me at [ezrayst@gmail.com](mailto:ezrayst@gmail.com).

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Truong Hoang Minh  
Member Society: Australia

After graduating from Taiwan Tech in 2013 with a Master of Science, I have worked for Golder Associates in Singapore for almost 4 years. I have been involved in various industry projects such as design of foundation, deep excavation, tunnelling, land reclamation, and ground improvement. I am a member of Geotechnical Society of Singapore since 2013.

I am currently undertaking my PhD at University of Wollongong, working for the Australian Research Council project in the field of ground improvement and stabilization for soft soils under heavy haul train loads.

I am passionate about geotechnical engineering and wish to be connected with the globally young geotechnical engineers and researchers. You can contact me at [truonghoangminh88@gmail.com](mailto:truonghoangminh88@gmail.com).



David Buxton  
Member Society: New Zealand

I graduated from Canterbury University, Christchurch, NZ in 2006 with a BE Civil (Hons). From 2007 to 2016 I worked for Tonkin + Taylor, the largest geotechnical consultancy in New Zealand. Since mid-2016 I have been based in Whangarei, Northland, working for Hawthorn Geddes Engineers and Architects, a local consulting company of 25 staff including Geotech, structural, civil and architecture. I have a wide range of geotechnical experience including shallow foundations, piles, landslips, retaining walls, excavations and settlement.

I attended the 10th Australia New Zealand Young Geotechnical Professionals Conference (ANZ YGPC) in 2014 and found it a rewarding experience. I was then an organiser of the 11th ANZ YGPC in 2016 and attended the 6th International Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC6) in Seoul 2017. Young engineers conferences are rewarding - take any chance to attend you get. You can contact me at [dsb@hgcs.co.nz](mailto:dsb@hgcs.co.nz).



Daniel King  
Member Society: Australia

I am a geotechnical engineer with Golder Associates in Melbourne, Australia. Following my undergraduate studies, I worked full-time for 4 years at Golder Associates, before returning to university to complete a PhD. I returned to full time work with Golder in 2017.

While at Monash University, I presented at the 10<sup>th</sup> International Geosynthetic Conference in Berlin in 2014 and the 11<sup>th</sup> ANZ Young Geotechnical Professional conference in 2016. I was the postgraduate student representative for the Engineering Faculty Research Training committee and tutored a number of geotechnical subjects. I have been a committee member of the Australian Geomechanics Society for the past 4 years and chaired the organising committee for the 2016 and 2017 AGS Victoria Symposium.

I have nominated myself for the YMPG committee of the ISSMGE because I have an active interest in the geotechnical profession and hope to encourage young students and engineers to become involved with the ISSMGE. You can contact me at [dking@golder.com.au](mailto:dking@golder.com.au)

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Fabio Tradigo  
Member Society: Italy

After graduating as a Structural Engineer at Politecnico di Milano, I became Doctor of Philosophy in Seismic, Structural, and Geotechnical Engineering at Politecnico di Milano with a thesis on soil-structure interaction (2015), developing solid numerical skills and experience in the field of Finite Element Analyses. Since 2014 I'm working in Arup Milan office as a Senior Civil and Geotechnical Engineer, being involved in national and international projects, including preliminary to detailed design, assistance to general contractors for design and built, as well as due diligences. I am also involved with a number of research projects in collaboration with European universities.

In Arup, I am currently the geotechnical numerical skills representative for Europe, the responsible for Arup Italy research activities and I am leading Arup Italy BIM development in the geotechnical and infrastructure sector.

I am serving the YMPG committee because I believe an active well connected network of young professionals is key to strengthen the relationship between research and practice, to share experiences across the globe and to develop our discipline in the next years.

I am a father of two sons and a daughter, I am passionate about soccer, classical and rock music, good food, data, and digital.

Feel free to contact me at [fabio.tradigo@arup.com](mailto:fabio.tradigo@arup.com)



Hong Doan  
Member Society: France

Dr Hong Doan has ten years of experience in geotechnical engineering, including over seven years in the offshore sector. This includes a wide experience as a practicing geotechnical engineer, working on projects related to foundation design and soil-structure interaction analysis, including advanced testing techniques and advanced numerical techniques for jackets, jack-up rigs, subsea structures and offshore wind turbines.

Current role of Principal Engineer at Subsea7, he is responsible for project management, commercial management, technical management, consultancy and supervision of engineering teams on a variety of projects across the project life cycle from business development, tendering through to delivery of projects and close out. Furthermore daily duties include business development, client relations, networking, and mentoring newly hired engineers.

He teaches Civil Engineering graduates and Master's students about advanced Geotechnics at ENPC Ecole des Ponts ParisTech and is an invited speaker at Ecole Centrale Nantes. He provides also the technical training to a large spectrum of Clients at Client premises. He is an active member of CFMS's group preparing the recommendation on foundation design for offshore wind turbine at French coast. He was awarded in 2016 one of two French nominated participants for 25<sup>th</sup> European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference, has authored 3 journal publications and over 10 communications at specialty conferences and congresses. He holds a MBA degree from School of International Management Paris (2011).

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Azucena Roman  
Member Society: Mexico

I am a Civil Engineer graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico and I hold a Master's Degree in Civil Engineering Systems from the Technical University of Madrid. I have focused my professional career on geotechnical engineering studies as well as transportation network analysis and modelling. I have been widely involved in research activities in the last 8 years regarding geotechnical studies and foundation design for strategic infrastructure such as urban overpasses, tunnels, and metro lines. I have also developed transit efficiency optimization models in a sustainable framework. My main areas of expertise are seismic soil-structure interaction for transit systems, networks modeling and simulation, traffic studies and sustainable mobility. I am currently a lecturer at the Faculty of Engineering at UNAM and I work at the Institute of Engineering at UNAM on my PhD research, building an integrated model to conduct seismic hazard assessments and vulnerability studies for urban transportation networks. I can be reached at [roman.delasancha@gmail.com](mailto:roman.delasancha@gmail.com).



Daniel Avutia  
Member Society: South Africa

Daniel is a Chartered Professional Civil/Geotechnical Engineer in the Renewable Energy, Infrastructure and Mining sectors and sits on the National (SAICE) and International (ISSMGE YMPG) Geotechnical Engineering executive committees. Daniel is the Chair for the 7<sup>th</sup> African Young Geotechnical Engineer Conference to be held in Cape town in 2019. Daniel won the Young Engineer of the Year Award in South Africa in 2015, the National Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining Young Persons' Lecture Competition representing Africa in Dublin, Ireland and was selected to represent Africa at the International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM) RockBowl competition in Montreal Canada in 2015. Daniel was also a finalist for the prestigious SAICE JE Jennings in 2014 and has presented at International and National Engineering conferences with technical publications on four continents.



Mauro Giuliano Sottile  
Member Society: Argentina

I was born and raised in Corrientes, Argentina. I carried out my studies there, at the Universidad Nacional del Nordeste. I earned my Bachelor Degree in Civil Engineering in 2008, highly motivated and intrigued by soils complex behavior. A year later I awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. I had the chance to carry out a Master of Science at MIT, with Prof Andrew Whittle as my advisor. I had the opportunity to carry out laboratory and numerical research. I wrote my thesis in the implementation and evaluation of an elasto-visco-plastic constitutive model in Abaqus.

In 2016, I returned to Argentina and I am currently working at SRK Consulting Buenos Aires with Alejo Sfriso. My expertise is numerical modeling of civil structures and we are currently working on a R&D programme which includes the development of constitutive models to be implemented in Plaxis.