

ISSMGE Foundation Reports

The 2017 year edition of the quadrennial International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held by Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS) and took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea. The event consisted of 2-days International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC6) and 5-days 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (19th ICSMGE). These two conferences covered all main issues of geotechnical engineering and soil mechanics through Plenary reports, Discussion sessions and meetings organised by technical committees.

Participation in the international conference provides an incomparable experience not only in public speaking, but also gives leaders of academia, consultancy and industry a chance to get together and discuss the changes that are going on in their field. Two conferences (9 lectures, 734 oral presentations and 320 posters in total) revealed the actual problems that geotechnical engineers around the world are engaged in, namely: slope stability analysis, soil-structure interaction, risk assessment, deep-foundations and retaining structures, physical modelling and testing, etc.

Additionally to the scientific benefits of the conference, I want to mention the lecture on Ethic and Leadership presented by Dr. Za-Chieh Moh (MAA Droup, Taiwan). In this outstanding lecture questions were raised that are rarely discussed at technical events, namely the responsibility of the engineer for the decisions made, professional ethics and human morality, confidence and the role of the leader in team as a keystone to successful work. I am convinced that such discussions are very important especially for young engineers, so we do not forget that all our work is aimed at performing safe, reliable and comfortable life conditions.

The ICSMGE offers a unique opportunity to communicate with professors, senior engineers, leaders of academia, industry and consultancy as well as numerous young engineers from all over the world. The first YMPG workshop provided an opportunity for younger members and senior engineers to discuss the role of younger members in the profession, their member societies, and the ISSMGE. As a member of the YMPG, I was fortunate to be involved in the organisation and moderation of the first workshop.

I would like to express my appreciation to ISSMGE Foundation in general and prof. J-L Briaud personally for the opportunity to attend such first-class conferences and for the grant.

Many thanks to the entire Organizing Committee for leading-up and holding the conferences at such a high level, for an individual approach and attention to details. Everything was very stylish and innovative (especially the Opening Ceremony).



Photo 1. During my presentation

Aleksandra Chepurnova
NIIOSP - JSC Research Centre of Construction, Moscow, Russia

ISSMGE Foundation Reports (Con't)

The 6th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC6) was held on 16 to 17 September 2017 in Seoul. iYGEC is a platform for young engineers to share and discuss the current research and projects over the world. The conference consisted of two keynote lectures and sixteen parallel discussion sessions.

First keynote lecture is about application of GIS in earthquake hazard assessment provided by Professor Choong-Ki Chung while the second keynote lecture is Ethics and Leadership provided by Za-Chieh Moh. The keynote lectures cover from application of new technology to code of conduct of an engineer.

The presentations of the delegates were categorized in different topics, including in-situ investigation and characterization, foundation, excavation, ground improvement, etc. Thanks to the organizing committee for offering me an opportunity to present my paper "Prediction of ground settlement of deep excavation works adjacent to operating railway tracks in Hong Kong". I am glad to share my knowledge and lesson learnt in my deep excavation project in Hong Kong and get feedback from other young engineers. Their comments and queries provided me with new ideas for future work of the project.

The 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held on 18 to 21 September 2017 in Coex Convention Centre, Seoul. The main theme of the conference was "Unearth the Future, Connect Beyond []". The conference included a welcome reception, opening ceremony, Honours and Special Lectures, and parallel discussion sessions and workshops organized by technical committees.

One of the most inspiring lectures was "Challenges and shortcomings in geotechnical engineering practice in the context of developing country" provided by Professor Peter Day. Professor Peter Day mentioned one of the challenges is how to apply available knowledge in practice, and the gap between theory and practice. He discussed the process of transferring of new knowledge to industry, and collaboration between academics and practitioners which is an important topic in our industry. Effort from both academia and industry professionals are required to bridge the gap. The lecture made me think how I can contribute to applying knowledge to practice.

I would like to thank ISSMGE Foundation to support my participation in both conferences.



Photo 1. During my presentation



Photo 2. Participants from Hong Kong and China

Chung Man Yui
Hong Kong Geotechnical Society (HKGES)

ISSMGE Foundation Reports (Con't)

The 6th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference took place at the National University of Seoul, South Korea from September 16 to 17, 2017. During the conference, about 120 presentations were delivered by young participants from all over the world. The sessions were divided into Energy Geotechnics and Sustainability, Engineered Soil, Excavation, Foundations, Geotechnical Practices, Ground Improvement, In-situ Investigation and Characterization, Liquefaction, Rock Mechanics & Tunneling, Slope Stability, Soil Behaviors & Characterization and Soil Dynamics.

Since the conference covered a large number of geotechnical topics, I had a comprehensive understanding on what issues are the participants, universities and research institutions, dealing with nowadays. I had also the great opportunity to present my research on "Prevention of liquefaction of transported ores in bulk carriers". It was a great opportunity to discuss my on-going research and share my experience.

The 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held at the COEX from September 17 to 22, 2017. The conference venue was absolutely appropriate as there were more than a thousand participants registered. All the keynotes and invited lectures were very informative and educational. Various parallel discussion sessions were arranged after the lunch in all day of conference. Also, poster presentation was organized during coffee and lunch breaks.

As a young geotechnical engineer and student, participation in these great events was a brilliant way for me to make contacts with leading and rising scholars in the geotechnical engineering society. Apart from paper presentation, this conference gave me an opportunity to know various industrial organization, software developers and companies working in the field of geotechnical engineering.

As a nominee member of the Association Tunisienne de Mécanique des Sols (ATMS), I was very privileged to represent this society in an International event of greater importance as was the 6th IYGEC. The participation in this important event was a great success and an achievement for my professional career in the geotechnical engineering field. I believe that this kind of experience helped me to grow professionally and personally.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people that helped me to attend this event. I am really grateful to the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering Foundation (ISSMGE Foundation) for providing me with this great opportunity to build network and exchange beneficial knowledge.



Photo 1. During my presentation

Samar Daoud
Tunisienne de Mécanique de sol

ISSMGE Foundation Reports (Con't)

The two conferences (sixth international Young(er) Geotechnical Engineering Conference (6th iYGEC) and nineteenth International Conference of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (19th ICSMGE)) were prestigiously organized. Their diversified themes covered almost all domains of the profession. Engineers, professors, researchers, and students from all over the world attended the conference. Having the 6th iYGEC held just before the 19th ICSMGE offered a precious opportunity for young geotechnical engineers to attend both conferences given the low-priced registration fees. It should be noted that the majority of the young attendees were nominated by their corresponding local geotechnical societies. The choice of Seoul, which is an extremely developed city with an outstanding transportation system, as the location of the conference made attending the conference events and having touristic visits inside the city an easy mission.

The 6th iYGEC was a worthwhile opportunity to:

- Meet colleagues with comparable professional backgrounds and expertise.
- Interact and express common concerns, experience, and visions.
- Discuss on-going research and practice advancements in the domain.

Keynote lecture 1 by professor Choong-Ki Chung from Seoul National University, Korea included a work related to spatial variability and spatial interpolation. This lecture provided a wider and a more detailed view to this domain and it was an opportunity to compare the approach I used in one of my works. Keynote lecture 2 related to the ethics and leadership given by Professor Za-Chieh Moh, MAA Group, Taiwan was extremely important particularly with the presence of huge challenges in the profession nowadays.

The conference allowed me/us to get a deeper insight about the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering specifically its role, structure, objectives and technical committees. As a result, I decided to join as a young member in the society.

In the two conferences, I got in contact with geotechnical engineers within leading geotechnical engineering companies and testing-machines manufacturers. This could be a window for new job offers and to a wider range of alternatives.

In the 19th ICSMGE, all keynote lectures were heavily informative, however, the lecture by Professor Peter Day from the university of Stellenbosch, South Africa was inspiring and stated realistically the current limits of research and practice in the profession.

I believe that attending the 6th iYGEC and 19th ICSMGE was a thrilling experience for me and all other attendees in all aspects. The conferences were ultimately fruitful and endlessly beneficial. They were a valuable chance to create relationships with people from all regions covering almost the entire world. The ISSMGE and the Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS) are highly accredited for their tremendous efforts in organizing these undoubtedly successful geotechnical conferences and achieving the main objective: “Unearth the Future, Connect beyond []”. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the ISSMGE Foundation for providing financial support without which I wouldn't be able to attend both conferences that I recommend for every young(er) geotechnical engineer.

*Ahmad Kahiel
American University of Beirut
Lebanese Geotechnical Engineering Society*

ISSMGE Foundation Reports (Con't)

The 19th ICSMGE conference “Unearth the Future, Connect Beyond []”, was held in Seoul, Korea from 17th until 22th September 2017. The aim of this conference was about bridging the gaps between past and future, between young and senior engineers, and between developing and developed nations among others.

Participating at the 19th ICSMGE was really an exciting experience from personal and professional point of view. Meeting personalities in the field and other young geotechnical engineers was really like a dream. What I noticed was that one doesn't need to speak the same language to unite to the same problems and challenges in our profession. It was a good feeling to know that there were no borders and if you can manage to be one of the top leaders in geotechnical engineering in your country, you can be comparable and your knowledges can be valuable all over the world. At this point I think that the aim of the conference was accomplished.

The main features were Honour Lectures, Plenary Session, Parallel Sessions, Discussion sessions, iYGEC, Technical visits, and posters exhibitions. The topics of the Honours Lectures were: unsaturated soils, soil-structure interaction, earthquake geotechnics, soft ground stabilization, laboratory testing, historical heritage and environmental geotechnical and risk management. The Special Lectures were about municipal solid waste, historical heritage, geophysical characterization, and landslides. The last two day comprised a variety of discussion sessions, with the papers of invited presenters, and special workshops. Two technical tours were also provided.

The discussion session was a platform where participants, researchers, authors and presenters from all the national societies and technical committees had the chance to meet, present and discuss their works on practical and scientific aspect.

Finally, I would like to thank the ISSMGE Foundation Awards Committee for supporting my attendance and all the participants for their excellent effort and work in engineering field.



Photo 1. Albanian Geotechnical engineers, (left- Mr. Skender Allkja the first author of our presentation)

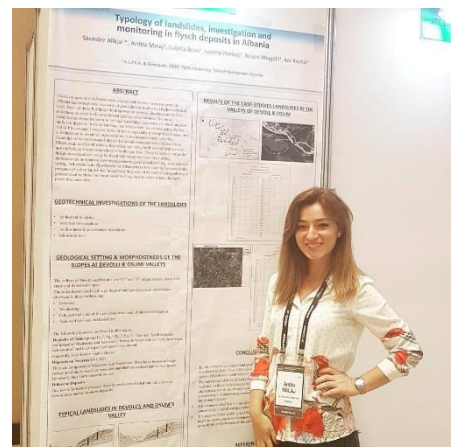


Photo 2. During poster presentation

Ardita Malaj
AGS

ISSMGE Foundation Reports (Con't)

The 19th ICSMGE (19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering) was very well organized with scientifically interesting presentations. There was a lot of TC (Technical Committee) sessions about different topics in the Geotechnical Engineering. I presented two papers in TC 202 “Transportation”, namely “Frost depth monitoring of pavement and evaluation of frost susceptibility at soil ground of Kazakhstan” and “Impact of subgrade freezing on pavement deformation”, which were interesting to the audience. They asked questions related to moisture content change in the winter season and so on.

There was also a Workshop 216 “Frost” which I attended since the research of mine is close to it. Discussions consisted of 2 questions: Common design codes for infrastructures in cold regions and artificial ground freezing technique. A lot of ideas was conveyed during this session and amazing opinions of the participants was heard. The chairman of the Workshop was Prof. Takashi Ono, chaired this event very well. The next meeting of TC216 was chosen as The 5th European Conference on Permafrost (EUCOP 2018) in Chamonix-Mont Blanc, France, 22 June - 1st July 2018.

On 22th September, I attended Technical Visits to Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Plant + Gwangmyeong Tunnel. Sihwa Lake Tidal Power Plant is the largest power plant in the world which produces energy through tidal action. Gwangmyeong Tunnel is deep tunnel with a depth of 200 meter. It was amazing experience for me to see constructions like as this, I had got a lot of impression according to this visit.



Photo 1. During presentation



Photo 2. Delegates from Kazakhstan

*Zhanbolat Shakhmov
LN Gumilyov Eurasian National University,
Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society*

ISSMGE Foundation Reports (Con't)

The Korean Geotechnical Society hosted the 6th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC6) at Seoul National University (Global Education Center for Engineers) from 16-17 Sept, 2017 and the 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (19th ICSMGE) at COEX from 17-22 Sept, 2017. The two-day iYGEC6 started with the welcoming addresses by Prof. Moonkyung Chung, Prof. Roger Frank and Prof. Sangseom Jeong. There were two keynote lectures during conference by Professors Choong-Ki Chung (Korea) and Za-Chieh Moh (Taiwan) followed by the technical presentations by the young engineers. The KGS hosted a dinner for young engineers after the presentations. The conference ended on 17th Sept, 2017 with 19th ICSMGE Welcome Reception at COEX.

The 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (19th ICSMGE) was a 6 days (17-22 Sept, 2017) conference which consisted of Welcome Reception, Opening Ceremony, Terzaghi Oration, Bishop, James K. Mitchell, Gregory Tschobotarioff, Blight, Heritage, Schofield, Proctor, Ishihara, Louis Menard, R.K. Rowe, Kerisel, Suzanne Lacasse Lectures, Technical Committees discussions, Closing Ceremony and Technical Visit. During the first two days, honorary lectures were provided by Professors viz. David Muir Wood (UK), John Powell (UK), Mark Randolph (Australia), Delwyn G. Fredlund (Canada), Chris Haberfield (Australia), Antonio Gomes Correia (Portugal), Carlo Viggiani (Italy), Jonathan D Bray (USA), Buddhima Indraratna (Australia), Mario Manassero (Italy), Farrokh Nadim (Norway).

At the Closing Ceremony, the new President of ISSMGE, Professor Charles Ng and his new team were introduced. This International Conference ended the next day on September 22, 2017 after a technical tour. Overall, the both Conference were full of technical discussions, meetings and greeting new friends, exchanging business cards, smiles and laughters. The fruitful exchange of ideas and discussions between all participants of iYGEC6 and 19th ICSMGE was indeed a positive sign in the development of Geotechnical Engineering profession. I would like to thank ISSMGE Foundation for their award, thereby giving me the opportunity to participate in such elite conferences. This exposure will surely give my research abilities a clear direction and purpose.



Photo 1. Photo with Prof. Ikuo Towhata



Photo 2. Photo with the new ISSMGE President, Prof. Charles Ng

Menal Zaheer
National Engineering Services Pakistan (NESPAK)