

Conference report

The 26th European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference, Reinischkogel, Austria

The 26th European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference was held at the Hotel Klugbauer at the Reinischkogel near Graz in Austria from September 11th to 14th, 2018. The venue (Hotel Klugbauer) is situated at an elevation of 1000 m above sea level near the top of the small mountain called Reinischkogel. It is quite a remote place (the next village is several kilometres away) and therefore participants have been forced to stay together for the time of the conference. According to the rules of the ISSMGE, all European Member Countries have been invited to select 2 participants for this conference and it is also a rule that all participants have to present their work. The response was very good in the first place and eventually, we had 45 participants from 26 countries. Overall, the presentations were of high level and well prepared by the young geotechnical engineers, covering a wide range of geotechnical problems. Participants represented a well balance of academics and practitioners. Therefore, not only high quality research outcomes have been discussed, but also interesting problems arising in practice. In addition, four keynote lectures were presented by Janko Logar (University of Ljubljana, Slovenia), Clemens Kummerer (Keller Kolding, Germany), Dietmar Adam (Vienna University of Technology, Austria) and Helmut F. Schweiger (Graz University of Technology, Austria). The presence of Prof. Mario Manassero, Vice-President of ISSMGE for Europe, was highly appreciated.

As there was no possibility to escape from the conference venue, the evening programmes have also been arranged. On Wednesday, a presentation by Keller Holding provided some insights into long term strategies of a construction company and challenges that a worldwide operating specialists in geotechnical engineering is faced with. On the second evening, a "social event" was scheduled. The task for each group (representing a country or a team of countries) was to present themselves in a "performance" of maximum 60 seconds long. It could be dancing, singing, talking, acting etc. The performances were recorded and replayed during the evening and together with a few drinks this turned out to be quite an enjoyable evening. A small "photo-studio" was also set up and all performers received a polaroid-picture as a memory to carry away. The conference ended with an excursion to a power plant under construction on the last day.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to our sponsors of the event, namely Keller Holding, Germany and the Austrian Society for Geomechanics. Their generous support made it possible to hold the conference at this wonderful place at a very reasonable cost for participants, produce nice proceedings and giving a top quality rucksack as a conference bag. Finally, I want to thank the team at Hotel Klugbauer for making our stay so enjoyable and in particular my colleague Franz Tschuchnigg, who perfectly organized and managed the event.



Figure 1. Delegates chatting with each other



Figure 2. Group photo of the participants

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