

## Conference Reports

### Geo-Environment and Construction European Conference, Albania

The Geo-Environment and Construction European Conference was in Tirana, Albania from 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November 2015, organized by the Albanian Geotechnical Society (AGS) and Polis University.

This conference was the fourth international activity that has been organized by AGS, starting from 2004, after that in 2007 and 2011, but this was the first one with the support of ISSMGE.

For Albania and AGS was a great honour that in this conference were present the president of ISSMGE Prof. Roger Frank, vice president for Europe and Africa, Prof. Antonio Gens and Prof. Fatma Baligh.

A special thanks to the professors and lecturers, Prof. Heinz Brandl, Prof. Andreas Anagnostopoulos, Prof. Ivan Vanicek, Prof. Janko Logar, Prof. Lida Miraj, Prof. Lindita Kellezi, Prof. Antonio Gomes Correia and Prof. Dietmar Adam for their participation and very good lectures.

Two days full of lectures and discussions have passed. 135 authors from Europe, Asia and Africa presented their research and scientific works in the important fields of environment and construction.

This conference treated topics about geo-environment, road infrastructure, industrial and mining objects, and protection of environment from different pollutions and dangerous phenomena.

Other topics treated in this conference were soil mechanics, foundation design, underground constructions, deep excavations, behaviour of structures under seismic loads etc.

The special part of the conference were the themes related with the influence of historical and cultural objects with the geotechnical problems and the applications of new technologies for protection of the environment.

Very important is the fact that Albanian authors were about 40% of the presentations made during the conference.

Another encouraging situation was the fact that from 54 presentations, 20 of them were made by women that work in the field of geotechnical engineering, environmental engineering, architecture, urban design, archaeology, three of them were keynote lectures, from which two were Albanians.

This conference was a very good opportunity to create new collaborations, to establish new relations and to exchange experience between one - another.

One other success was the expose of new materials and technologies in the geotechnical field with intention to protect the environment from geo-hazards.

This conference was a new window to new horizons for future projects and research between countries. Also it has been shown that in Albania, even a small country, with a lot of problems, can produce good research work in the geotechnical, geo-environmental and construction fields.

With respect,

*Prof. Dr. Luljeta Bozo*  
*President of Albanian Geotechnical Society*

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### Geo-Environment and Construction European Conference, Albania (Con't)



Photo 1. Panel discussion



Photo 2. Delegate presenting in the conference