

NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE

22nd European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference in Gothenburg, Sweden

Reported by

The Swedish delegates Ms. Fanny Deckner, Ms. Sara Johansson and Mr. Jorge Yannic

The 22nd European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference was held on 27th and 28th of August 2012 at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg on the west coast of Sweden. In addition to the program, the conference contained a reception in the evening of the 26th and an exciting technical excursion to the debated tunnel project Hallandsås on 29th. The conference was organized by the Swedish Geotechnical Society with Ms. Victoria Svahn doing a great job as the chairman. A great acknowledgement should be given to the whole organizing committee for their effort in organizing this conference.

The EYGEC is a great place for young geotechnical engineers to learn more about geotechnics and to create contacts with fellow geotechnicians around Europe. Each European country can send two delegates and it was gladly observed that among the 52 delegates 26 different countries were represented. Apart from the 52 delegates the conference was attended by the leaders of eight different sessions as well as by prominent keynote speakers.

All submitted papers were reviewed by a scientific committee and each delegate got the opportunity to present their paper during one of the eight sessions concerning Site investigation and laboratory testing, Design parameters and modeling, Shallow and deep foundations, Deep excavations and retaining structures, Tunnelling and underground structures, Slope stability and landslides, Infrastructure projects, and Ground improvement. The delegates saw a large variety in the presentations and many interesting remarks and questions were put forward during the short discussion following each presentation. It was delightful to see that many of the discussions were continued after the end of the sessions. The conference also offered three keynote lectures presented by Professor Ivan Vaniček (Vice President of ISSMGE Europe, Czech Technical University), Professor Stefan Larsson (Royal Institute of Technology) and Professor Minna Karstunen (Chalmers University of Technology).

Apart from the very interesting presentations and lectures, the delegates also joined together in appreciated social activities in the Gothenburg area. Good food was mixed with entertainment, games and beautiful scenery. During the first night the group went on a sightseeing tour by boat through the channels and harbor of Gothenburg, which was followed by a dinner. The final evening of the conference was held at a beautiful restaurant in the Gothenburg archipelago.

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In summary, along with learning a lot of new things within geotechnical engineering, the delegates also got to know a whole bunch of new friends giving great contacts for the future. The atmosphere in the group was open, social and friendly, and all delegates seemed to enjoy themselves at the conference. The conference papers have been published in the proceedings which, for example, can be found through the website of the Swedish Geotechnical Society www.sgf.net.



Group photograph of the conference participants