

# ISSMGE BULLETIN

VOL. 20 - ISSUE 1 - MARCH TO JUNE 2026



## INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL WINNERS

*Celebrating distinguished recipients from 2023 to 2026*

### 2023



**Michele Jamiolkowski**  
*(Italy)*



**Harry Poulos**  
*(Australia)*



**Neil Taylor**  
*(UK)*

### 2024



**Suzanne Lacasse**  
*(Norway)*



**Norbert Morgenstern**  
*(Canada)*

### 2025



**Willy Lacerda**  
*(Brazil)*



**Kenji Ishihara**  
*(Japan)*

### 2026



**Samuel Ejezie**  
*(Nigeria)*



**Heinz Brandl**  
*(Austria)*



**Chun Fai Leung**  
*(Singapore)*

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## Message from the Editor

**Prof. Mona Badr**  
Editor-in-Chief  
PI Committee Chairperson



Dear Members and Friends of the ISSMGE,  
It is my privilege to welcome you to the first issue of Volume 20 of the ISSMGE Bulletin – a special edition that brings the 2022–2026 presidential term to a close. The pages that follow are a collective record of all that our community has achieved together over these four years.

At its heart are the Vice-Presidents’ regional reports, offering a panoramic view of our Society’s reach across North America, Europe, Asia, and South America and the Caribbean. Alongside them, we celebrate key milestones: the new Geo-Engineers without Borders Committee, the Heritage Time Capsule Call to Action, and the highlights of the Technical Oversight Committee’s term.

As always, the issue is enriched by news from our Member Societies and Technical Committees worldwide – from Chile’s ICSMGE candidacy to conference reports spanning Lagos, Moscow, Nancy, Paris, and Goa – together with our Corporate Associates Corner, the Young Members’ Arena, upcoming events, and a tribute to a colleague we have lost.

My sincere thanks go to all contributors and to the Editorial Board. The Bulletin remains a publication created by the community and for the community, and I warmly invite you to keep it vibrant by sharing your geotechnical stories. I wish you an inspiring read.



# From the PRESIDENT`s desk

## Report #9 From January 2026 to May 2026 by the President



Dear Colleagues,

I hope you all are heading to Vienna !

This issue is up to that conference that will have a special bulletin edition by itself.

I will start by what I did during 2026 with this table as usual:

Jan-26	1	Happy 2026 Greetings Everyone	(Virtual / Online)
	7	Meeting HTC Team	(Virtual / Online)
	13	<b>18th ISSMGE Board Level Committees Meeting</b>	(Virtual / Online)
	14	<b>18th ISSMGE Board members Meeting</b>	(Virtual / Online)
	16	Meet Kenya Geotechnical group to form a Geotech Society	(Virtual / Online)
	20	<b>Keynote Lecture at KISR seminar</b>	<b>Kuwait</b>
	20	Meeting Officine Macaferri for PMGEC Sponsorship	(Virtual / Online)
	23	Meeting ACTS for PMGEC Sponsorship	(Virtual / Online)
	28	Meet CAPG Committee of ISSMGE	(Virtual / Online)
	28	Meeting LAU President for Student Sponsorship	LAU Beirut
	29	Meeting CMA-CGM for PMGEC Sponsorship	Beirut, Lebanon
	30	PMGEC Board Meeting for Postponing Event?	Beirut, Lebanon
Feb-26	4	Meeting TOC Chair and TC 208 Chair	(Virtual / Online)
	6	Meeting TOC Chair and TC 207 Chair	(Virtual / Online)
	11	<b>ICSMGE Steering Committee Meeting with Board</b>	(Virtual / Online)
	12	CFMS & PMGEC meeting	(Virtual / Online)
	18	Meeting LOEA Branch 1 Chair	Beirut, Lebanon
	24	Meeting Murr TV for conference coverage	Beirut, Lebanon
	26	<b>Recording the 30th IITT Ground Improvement -TC211</b>	(Virtual / Video)
Mar-26	3	Meeting HTC Chair and Design Team	(Virtual / Online)
	5	<b>Recording the 31st IITT Safety and Serviceability -TC205</b>	(Virtual / Video)
	11	Urgent PMGEC meeting Assessment due to War	(Virtual / Online)
	25	<b>19th ISSMGE Board Level Committees Meeting</b>	(Virtual / Online)
	26	<b>19th ISSMGE Board members Meeting</b>	(Virtual / Online)
	31	Meeting HTC Chair and Design Team	(Virtual / Online)
	31	Meeting the AYGEC Steering Committee	(Virtual / Online)
Apr-26	24	Meeting for Launching TC 310 & TC 223	(Virtual / Online)
	25	Meeting Board Members at AYGEC	(Virtual / Online)
	27	<b>Opening address for AYGEC conference</b>	<b>Lagos, Nigeria</b>
	27	<b>Keynote Lecture AYGEC conference</b>	<b>Lagos, Nigeria</b>
	27	<b>ILAM 2026 ceremony Prof. Samuel Ejezie</b>	<b>Lagos, Nigeria</b>
	28	Meeting HTC Chair and Design Team - Physical Time Capsule	(Virtual / Online)
May-26	4	TC 208 Online Kick off meeting	(Virtual / Online)
	5	Meeting the Benin Geotechnical society to become member	(Virtual / Online)
	12	<b>Recording the 32nd IITT Underground Construction -TC204</b>	(Virtual / Video)
	12	Meeting HTC Chair and Design Team prepare for Vienna	(Virtual / Online)
	15	<b>Recording the 33rd IITT Frost Geotechnics -TC216</b>	(Virtual / Video)
	19	TC 223 Online Kick off meeting	(Virtual / Online)
	20	<b>Recording the 34th IITT System Performance -TC219</b>	(Virtual / Video)
	21	<b>AdHoc ISSMGE Board Meeting for New African Members</b>	(Virtual / Online)
	25	Meeting the Kana & Shahien about Cameroon Membership	(Virtual / Online)
	26	Meeting HTC Chair and Design Team	(Virtual / Online)
	27	Meeting the Cameroon Geotechnical society to become member	(Virtual / Online)
28	Meeting HTC Chair and Design Team - Physical Time Capsule	(Virtual / Online)	

# From the PRESIDENT`s desk

## Report #9

From January 2026 to May 2026

by the President

In terms of travel, I had the opportunity to give a keynote lecture in Kuwait, and present ISSMGE. This beautiful country in the Arab Gulf is establishing a National Geotechnical society and I predict that they will soon adhere to the international family, probably in early 2027.

The second trip this year was Nigeria. The Nigerian geotechnical society organized with a very limited budget the 10th African Young Geotechnical Engineer`s conference. I cannot tell you the vibes during that conference:

a moment that stays with you – the kind of trip where the energy in the room becomes the real story, not the budget, not the logistics, but the people themselves.



The 10th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference in Nigeria clearly had that spark: young engineers showing up with passion, curiosity, and pride in the profession.

I have to thank the ISSMGE board members, for accepting for the first time to support financially this conference and allow all the geotechnical engineering students, about 200 of them, to join this conference for free ! Particularly, my colleagues on the board, Prof. Marawan Shahien and Dr. Yuli Dulala Rigby for being there at the conference and showing what truly the geotechnical family is about.

The highlight at this conference, besides the excellent keynotes and presentations, was delivering the prestigious ILAM medal for 2026 to the Geo-Legend of Africa, Prof. Samuel Ejezie ! This siconsidered the most valuable yearly award given to a geotechnical engineer worldwide.

Well deserved dear Samuel; the work you have done throughout your career was exemplary, and inspiring, especially to our colleagues in Africa



# From the PRESIDENT`s desk

## Report #9

From January 2026 to May 2026

by the President



It was such a pleasure to take the attendees on the last day on a technical tour to visit the EkoAtlantic development project; one of the largest land reclamation project worldwide.



# From the PRESIDENT` s desk

## Report #9 From January 2026 to May 2026 by the President

In the last year of my term as president, we concentrated on bringing more national societies to become members of ISSMGE. To me this was very important.

We succeeded on adding 4 new members !

- **United Arab Emirates,**
- **Kenya,**
- **Uganda, and**
- **Cameroon.**

We also succeeded in preparing the grounds for the following nations to join the international geotech family:

- **Bahrain,**
- **Kuwait, and**
- **Benin**

I have to mention that this great achievement couldn't have been possible without the hard work of Prof. Marawan Shahien, the ISSMGE Vice President for Africa. Marawan visited physically and spent hours preparing and organizing meetings with the representatives of these nations to reach this outcome. Thank You Professor!



As the editor mentioned, it's time to give you a summary of what we, the board, achieved in 4 years as a coherent group. This summary will be presented at the conference in Vienna during my opening speech and at different ISSMGE sessions; but why not give you a peak preview in this issue of the bulletin:

# From the PRESIDENT` s desk

## Summary of ISSMGE Term 2022-2026 Main Achievements

### The Board :

- Establishing ISSMGE as corporation and smooth transitioning
- Electing a new Secretary General , an awesome person :)
- Organizing the budget and improving the financial flow
- Donations to the ISSMGE Foundation of 170,000 GBP in support to young engineers attending international conferences
- Creating two new promotional videos for national societies and corporate associates
- Awarding 10 ILAM medals to Geo-Legends from around the world
- Approving 82 BSL (Bright Spark Lecture) awards to young engineers and researchers
- Recording and publishing 36 IITT episodes covering almost all Technical Committees (subspecialties) of ISSMGE
- Participating in 7 FedIGS board meeting and launching the 2030 MegaConference
- Each VP did an amazing job in attending events and supporting member societies in his region
- Establishing a new Regional conference, The Pan-Mediterranean Geotechnical Engineering Conference (PMGEC), gathering all nations around the Mediterranean Basin
- Creating a new project, Geo-Engineers Without Borders, in solidarity to colleagues facing Geo-Disasters around the world
- Separating and Launching the Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) with a new website representing our e-museum
- The Physical Time capsule, my dream came true, with a cabinet, holding key geotech items and documents that will be locked to be opened after 100 years
- As Board we met, 22 times: 6 times in person (UK, Egypt, Kazakhstan, China, Chile, India), 13 times online, 3 ad hoc online; during which more than 45 major decisions taken, guiding and supporting member societies, all 7 Board Level Committees (BLC), the Bulletin and 2 Projects (GeoWB, HTC)
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## Summary of ISSMGE Term 2022-2026 Main Achievements

### Board Level Committes:

- **AWAC-** All procedures for the awards have been revised- Creating and Launching ILAM- Organizing the outstanding awards with great results for Vienna- Establish new procedure for BSL awards
- **HTC-** Launching the new Website - Organizing all contents and publications- Many HTC sessions delivered at regional and international conferences.- Launching the physical Time capsule - Discoverer s competition
- **TOC-** Evaluation of all TCs- Fine tuning the guidelines for TC chairs and members- Relaunching of 2 dormant TCs - Creating two new TCs (Bio & Space geotechnics)- Supporting and organizing 36 episodes of IITT (> 27,000 views)
- **CAPG-** Introducing new categories - Electing a new Chair- establishing a new CAPG logo- Organizing regular meetings - Creating new webpage - Introducing Pay page- Upgrading the benefits with free commercial adds within the bulletin/ dedicated webpage on [issmge.org](http://issmge.org)- CAPG activities exposure on social media and sister websites- CAPG sessions at key conferences: GeoAsia and Vienna
- **IDC-** Creating a new App that can be downloaded NOW. Adding more that 40 lectures to the Virtual University (>10,000 Views)
- **POC** - Organizing a new BLC for Publications- Creating the New journal for Research, the IJGER - Open access online library content increased from 16,387 papers to 22,381- Conference Paper Review Platform was used by 23 additional conferences compared to 3 in the past- Future plans for the Virtual University and others
- **YMPG-** Active worldwide - Supporting IITT with young speakers- Expanding MS liaisons members- Launching a New Video
- **PIC.** - New Pins for Board members - Commemorative ties and scarfs for Vienna – Recognition Plaques for TC Chairs
- **Bulletin-** Revamping the Bulletin like an e-magazine- Structuring the format - Publishing 9 new issues
- **GeoWB-** Creating and organizing this amazing project- Joining the UNDRR-Launching the questionnaire to all MS- Organizing the mechanism- Publishing the missions at many geo-disasters

# From the PRESIDENT`s desk

## Summary of ISSMGE Term 2022-2026 Main Achievements

Yes, over the past four years, we achieved so much — and we did it all while staying fully within budget. But beyond the numbers and the milestones, what truly defined this journey was the spirit behind it:

We worked as one coherent team, driven by joy, enthusiasm, and a shared commitment to our profession.

I am deeply grateful to my colleagues on the board — my dear friends.

**Friends are forever, and this experience proved it.**



**ISSMGE 2026**

# Meet our Leading Corporate Associates



## International Centre for Geohazards 2.0

Strengthening global knowledge on landslides, tsunamis, and multihazards

NGI has relaunched the International Centre for Geohazards (ICG 2.0) as a research hub dedicated to advancing the understanding, modelling, and management of natural hazards worldwide. Building on the legacy of the original ICG, the new centre connects NGI's geohazard expertise with international partners, visiting researchers, and large-scale collaborative projects.

ICG 2.0 operates across three key areas: coordinating scientific collaboration, hosting and supervising graduated students and visiting researchers, and driving interdisciplinary research projects. Current activities include:

- Regional landslide hazard assessments combining physics-based and machine-learning approaches
- Contributions to emerging multi-risk frameworks through GeoHazNet and EPOS
- The development of the Global Tsunami Model as a permanent scientific network

Through ICG 2.0, NGI aims to enhance global geohazard knowledge, strengthen early warning and hazard mapping methods, and support the next generation of researchers working to reduce risk from climate-driven natural hazards. We warmly invite researchers and institutions to collaborate with us – whether through joint projects, knowledge exchange, or visiting research opportunities – and welcome you to reach out to explore how we can work together.



**ICG**<sup>2.0</sup>

**NGI**



# Vice President Report

## ISSMGE North America Region. Report of activities 2022-2026

Dr. Walter I. Paniagua – Immediate VP - North America

The ISSMGE North America region comprises three countries – Canada, the United States of America, and Mexico – and the 2022–2026 term was a period of intense activity across all three. This report summarizes the principal initiatives and events of the region’s member societies, the Pan-American Conference, and the development of membership over the period. A common thread throughout was the successful return to large in-person gatherings following the pandemic, alongside a growing regional emphasis on climate resilience, sustainability, mining geotechnics, and the application of artificial intelligence and advanced data analytics to geotechnical practice.



### **Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS)**

The CGS consolidated its role as Canada’s leading professional organization for geotechnical engineering and the related geosciences, serving approximately 1,400 members across geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, hydrogeology, permafrost engineering, and geosynthetics. The Society maintained one of the world’s longest-running annual geotechnical conference series, with editions in Calgary (2022, “Reflection on Resources”), Saskatoon (2023, “Bridging Infrastructure and Resources”, delivered with the IGS–North America and the Canadian Chapter of the IAHR), Montréal (2024, “Resilient Geosciences for Future Generations”, with over 1,000 attendees), and Winnipeg (2025, “Stronger Together”). Beyond its conferences and the Legget Lecture, the Society’s activities spanned peer-reviewed proceedings, short courses and continuing education, student paper competitions, trade exhibitions, and research advancement in groundwater engineering, geohazards, permafrost, climate resilience, and sustainable infrastructure, reinforcing the CGS as a national platform connecting academia, government, consulting, and industry.

### **Geo-Institute of ASCE (G-I)**

The Geo-Institute continued to serve as the premier organization for geotechnical, geoenvironmental, and related geo-engineering disciplines in the United States, supporting its members through conferences, technical committees, journals – including the Journal of Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering and Geo-Strata – continuing education, and student programs. Geo-Congress, the Institute’s flagship event and one of the largest geotechnical conferences in the world, featured the Terzaghi and Peck Lectures, extensive technical sessions, equipment and technology exhibitions, and student competitions. Editions were held in Charlotte (2022), Los Angeles (2023), Vancouver (2024), Louisville (2025), and Salt Lake City (2026), with themes evolving from the state of the art and practice toward sustainability, resilient communities, and emerging geo-technologies. A wide network of technical committees remained active across deep and shallow foundations, dams, geosynthetics, underground engineering, unsaturated soils, geoenvironmental engineering, risk assessment, computational geomechanics, earthquake engineering, and transportation geotechnics.

### **Mexican Society for Geotechnical Engineering (SMIG)**

SMIG strengthened its position as one of the most active geotechnical organizations in Latin America, fully restoring in-person technical meetings while retaining virtual and hybrid formats. Its flagship biennial National Geotechnical Engineering Conference (RNIG) was held in Guadalajara (2022) and Mexico City (2024, "Synergy between Theory and Practice"), each attracting 600–800 participants and featuring the N. Carrillo, L. Zeevaert, R. J. Marsal, and E. Juárez Badillo keynote lectures, alongside the National Meeting of Geotechnical Engineering Professors. Internationally, SMIG co-organized the International Symposium on Deep Foundations and Soil Improvement with DFI and the Geo-Institute (Mexico City, 2022 and 2024) and the International Symposium on Tailings Dams with ISSMGE technical committees (Chihuahua, 2024; Hermosillo, 2026). A rich continuing-education calendar – from numerical modeling of geotechnical structures to foundation design under the 2023 Mexico City Building Code – was complemented by vigorous student programs, including the Geotechnical Olympiad, the Geotechnical Challenge, and a new Numerical Modeling Competition introduced for the 2026 national meeting.

### **XVII Pan-American Conference (PANAMGEO Chile 2024)**

The Pan-American Conference, originally suggested by Prof. Arthur Casagrande, is the only ISSMGE conference that brings together two regions: North and South America. The XVII Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held in La Serena, Chile, on 12–16 November 2024, organized by the Sociedad Chilena de Geotecnia under the auspices of ISSMGE. With approximately 1,000 registered participants from more than 35 countries, over 700 technical papers, more than 100 technical sessions, and 20+ keynote and invited lectures, it stood as the premier geotechnical event in the Americas during the period. The technical program spanned seismic soil–structure interaction, performance-based design, deep foundations, ground improvement, liquefaction mitigation, and AI applications in geotechnics, with a notably strong emphasis on mining geotechnics – tailings storage facilities, mine slope stability, and the seismic safety of mining infrastructure – reflecting Chile's standing as a global mining leader. The 10th Casagrande Lecture, "Soil Properties: Casagrande's Prologue to the Future", was brilliantly delivered by Prof. Carlos Santamarina. Extensive student and young-professional activities, including the Bright Spark Awards, strengthened collaboration among universities throughout the Americas.

# Vice President Report

## ISSMGE North America Region. Report of activities 2022-2026

### Major Regional Conferences at a Glance

Event	Location & Date	Theme
CGS GeoCalgary	Calgary, Oct 2022	Reflection on Resources (~600 attendees)
CGS GeoSaskatoon	Saskatoon, Oct 2023	Bridging Infrastructure and Resources (~800)
CGS GeoMontréal	Montréal, Sep 2024	Resilient Geosciences for Future Generations (1,000+)
CGS GeoManitoba	Winnipeg, Sep 2025	Stronger Together (~600)
Geo-Congress 2022	Charlotte, Mar 2022	State of the Art and Practice in Geotechnical Engineering
Geo-Congress 2023	Los Angeles, Mar 2023	Sustainable Infrastructure Solutions from the Ground Up
Geo-Congress 2024	Vancouver, Feb 2024	Bridging Government, Industry, and Academia for Resilient Mega-Communities
Geo-Congress 2025	Louisville, Mar 2025	Racing Towards a Resilient Future
Geo-Congress 2026	Salt Lake City, Mar 2026	Geo Tools, Technologies, and Techniques in an Environment of Change
SMIG RNIG 2022	Guadalajara, Nov 2022	Biennial national conference (~600)
SMIG RNIG 2024	Mexico City, 2024	Synergy between Theory and Practice (~800)
XVII PCSMGE	La Serena, Nov 2024	PANAMGEO Chile — ~1,000 participants, 700+ papers, 35+ countries



Clockwise from top left: CGS GeoManitoba 2025 (Winnipeg); Geo-Congress 2024 (Vancouver); XVII PCSMGE — PANAMGEO Chile 2024 (La Serena); SMIG RNIG 2022 (Guadalajara).

### Membership Development

Country	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Canada*	624	624	697	782	N/A
USA**	~11,500	~12,000	~13,000	13,000+	N/A
Mexico*	404	460	506	566	580

\* Data provided by the national society. \*\* Data inferred from web sources.

Taken together, the 2022–2026 period saw the North America region emerge from the pandemic with renewed strength: well-attended conferences in all three countries, growing membership, and a clear regional commitment to resilience, sustainability, and the digital transformation of geotechnical engineering.

# Vice President Report

## Our Journey Together: ISSMGE Europe, 2022–2026

### Prof. Lyesse Laloui - VP for Europe

When I took up the European Vice Presidency in 2022, our geotechnical community was still finding its footing after a period of enforced distance. Conferences had been cancelled or compressed, travel had stopped, and some of the informal connections that hold a professional community together had quietly frayed. What the four years that followed asked of us, above all, was the work of reconnection. Our European community responded with energy and generosity



ISSMGE Europe's 4th National Assembly, London

One of the first decisions of my term was to establish a new series of European Regional Assemblies, bringing together national society representatives from across the continent around a substantive programme of workshops and thematic sessions. Five assemblies were held across the cycle, travelling to Lausanne, London, Lisbon, and Skopje, and hosted with tremendous commitment by the societies and institutions that received us. The themes that ran through these gatherings reflected the questions our community most needed to confront: how to move innovation from the laboratory into practice; how to attract and retain the next generation of members; how to strengthen collaboration between our national societies; and how geotechnical engineering should position itself as a discipline with an essential role in addressing the challenges facing modern society. What was consistently striking was the quality of engagement from host countries and participants alike.



# Vice President Report

## Our Journey Together: ISSMGE Europe, 2022–2026



EYGEC, 2025 Rijeka, Croatia

Across the cycle, ISSMGE Europe also worked to strengthen its regional communications, with expanded newsletters and more consistent coverage of activities taking place across the continent. The aim was to ensure that achievements in one part of Europe could be seen and acknowledged by our wider community — a small ambition, perhaps, but one that contributes to the sense that our region functions as a connected network.

Four years pass quickly, and the measure of my term is not in any single event or initiative. It is in the conversations that continued after the assemblies ended, the collaborations that grew from Lisbon, the young engineers from Rijeka and Skopje who are now a little more connected to the wider world of our profession. Beyond Europe, it has been a privilege to represent our region on the ISSMGE Board, to contribute to the collective work of a Society that spans every continent and tradition in our discipline, and to be part of a team of colleagues whose commitment to geotechnical engineering never wavers. Our European geotechnical community built this together, and we arrive in Vienna proud of what was achieved.

# Vice President Report

## Asian Activity Report of ISSMGE of 2022-2026

**Keh-Jian Shou, VP for Asia**

This report presents the development and major activities of the ISSMGE in Asian region during 2022 to 2026. Although we experienced the impacts of the pandemic, regional conflicts, and tariff war, the development of geotechnical engineering during this period is extremely prosperous in Asia. Activities in national, regional, and international levels were held in different countries, and cooperation between Asian societies and technical committees was also pretty much strengthened.

(Recent Development of ISSMGE Asian Regional Activities by E.C. Shin and K.J. Shou, 2025, DOI: 10.1201/9781003645917-3)



### **Asian Council**

Until 2026/6, there are 28 Asian societies in Asia and 9 Asian technical committees, including the new UAE society and the new AsRTC 22. We have held and will hold 10 Asian Region council meeting on 2022/6/20, 2022/12/20, 2023/4/3, 2023/8/15, 2024/8/8, 2025/1/27, 2025/5/31, 2025/10/8, 2026/1/30, 2026/4/27.

As planned, we successfully held the 17th Asian Regional Conference (17ARC) in Astana, Kazakhstan during August 14-18, 2023. Asian Council decided on 17 ARC (Astana 2023) to establish the second Asian regional conference Geotech Asia, and the 1st Geotech Asia has been successfully held in Goa of India during Oct. 7-10, 2025. We also decided to hold 18th Asian Regional Conference (18ARC) in Bangkok, Thailand (2027) and 2nd Geotech Asia in Goa, Iran (2029).

For the Asian Technical Committee, according to the ISSMGE TC guidelines, Asian Council established and approved the guidelines for Asian Technical Committees. A new AsRTC 22 Bio Geotechnics was initiated by Kazakhstan Society and approved by the Asian Council to establish.

It is worth noting that VP has visited the geotechnical groups in Cambodia and Saudi Arabia. The former one is now temporarily join SEAGS to learn to establish their society, and the latter is about ready to host their inaugural national conference.

### **More Collaboration and Outreach**

The ISSMGE time capsule (now HTC) program was promoted in Asian region though there are language barrier and internet difficulties. The engagement of young engineers in Asian societies must be acknowledged.

For the young engineering activity, we held the 10th AYGEC in Jakarta, Indonesia, 2024/11/12-15. We also awarded BSLs during this important event. In addition to the conferences of TCs or AsRTCs themselves, the Asian conferences were encouraged to accommodate the sessions for AsRTCs and TCs.

# Vice President Report

## Asian Activity Report of ISSMGE of 2022-2026

During the last 4 years, the bi-lateral and multi-lateral cooperation between Asian societies are extremely successful, including the following 11 events: KGS-CTGS, CTGS-KGS, KGS-HKGES, HKGES-KGS, JGS-CTGS, CTGS-JGS, HKGES-GEOSS, GEOSS-HKGES, GEOSS-MGS, MGS-GEOSS, SEAGC. Through the function of internet, we also share more online keynote lectures and webinars.

### Asian Lifetime Service Award

Since we have so many senior geotechnical professionals are qualified and competing the ISSMGE ILAM, Asian Council decided to establish the Asian Lifetime Service Award(ALSA).

The ALSA awardees for 2025 and 2026 are listed as below

2025: Prof. Kenji Ishihara (JGS, Japan, ILAM, ISSMGE),

Prof. M R Madhav (IGS, India)

Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov (KGS, Kazakhstan),

Prof. Eun Chul Shin (KGS, Korea)

2026: Prof. J.M. Zhang (CISMGE, China),

Prof. C.F. Leung (GeoSS, Singapore, ILAM, ISSMGE)

The 2025 ALSA were presented in 1<sup>st</sup> Geotech Asia in Goa, the 2025 ILAM was delivered to Prof. Kenji Ishihara in JGS, Tokyo on Dec. 15, 2025.

And the 2026 ILAM will be delivered to Prof. C.F. Leung (GeoSS ) in 21th ICSMGE, Vienna.



• 17ARC, Astana, Kazakhstan// 2023/8/13-17



21th SEAGC, Bangkok, Thailand, 2023/10/25-27



2nd Int Conf CREST, Fukuoka, 2023/11/20-22.

# Vice President Report

## Asian Activity Report of ISSMGE of 2022-2026



2nd GeoSS-MGS Conf., Singapore, 2023/11/30~12/2.



5th GeoHanoi, Vietnam, 2023/12/14-15.



2024 GeoShanghai, Shanghai, 2024/5/26-29



IS-Macau Conf. (TC204), Macau, 2024/6/14-16



10<sup>th</sup> AYGEC, Jakarta, 2024/11/11-14



2nd GeoMandu, Kathmandu, Nepal, 2024/11/28-29



# Vice President Report

## Asian Activity Report of ISSMGE of 2022-2026



1st Geotech Asia, Goa, India, Oct. 7-10, 2025.

# Vice President Report

## ISSMGE Activities in South America and the Caribbeans 2022-2026

### Andre P. Assis - VP for South America and Caribbean

The ISSMGE region of South America and the Caribbean has eleven member societies (MS). This report contains a summary of the MS activities in the region, since the ISSMGE Council meeting held in Sidney, Australia, in 2022. Several actions have been implemented to increase the interaction among the MS in the region and their participation in the ISSMGE activities, especially in the congresses, Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) project and technical committees



### Introduction

The ISSMGE region of South America and the Caribbeans has eleven member societies (MS), namely: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela. Continuing the actions implemented by the previous Vice President (VP) for this region, Prof. Alejo Sfriso, MS have agreed to have regular meetings remotely and once a year a presential meeting, usually held during a MS national congress, to improve the interaction among them, and to aim a better and more efficient cooperation with the ISSMGE community. In addition to all events organised by MS, it is important to highlight the organisation of the 17th Pan American Geotechnical Conference (Panamgeo Chile 2024), held in La Serena, Chile, which was a great success and an opportunity to meet MS representatives, promoting and coordinating their actions towards to the conference itself and to the interaction among MS and geotechnical events in the region. The role of Ms. Daniela Pollak has to be acknowledged for her close collaboration, availability and facilitator among all MS representatives, which led her to be appointed unanimously as the next ISSMGE VP for South America and the Caribbeans.

### Activities of Member Societies

MS in the region present different levels of organisation and maturity, some of them organising consistently national congresses for a long time, and others promoting geotechnical events more sporadically. A great effort has been made to promote the participation of representatives and delegates of other MS in the national congresses within the region, which end up into two unwritten rules that are: i) In any national congress, the registration fees applied to delegates from other MS of the region are the same practiced to the national delegates of the MS promoting the congress; ii) In the national congress holding a presential meeting of the MS representatives, an exemption of one registration fee per MS of the region is applied. It is expected that these practices would be consolidated and fully applied by in the coming future to all national congresses, ensuring integration and knowledge exchange among all MS of South America and the Caribbeans. Table 1 presents a summary of the main geotechnical events held in the region and some data related to all MS, such as year of foundation, number of affiliates to ISSMGE in 2022 and 2026 and so on.

# Vice President Report

## ISSMGE Activities in South America and the Caribbeans 2022-2026

### Actions Implemented to Improve the Interaction among Member Societies

As mentioned before, there is a goal to promote a more effective interaction and integration among MS in the region, bringing more maturity and more consistent activities, including better participation in the ISSMGE activities, such as congresses, technical committees and so on. For that, a plan of actions has been put in place, including:

- Remote meetings, held at least quarterly, to exchange information among MS, promoting knowledge and interaction of actions and participation in events
- Presential meetings, held once a year, during a certain national congress
- Implementation of a policy aiming to facilitate representatives and delegates to participate in national events promoted by MS, including the presential meetings of representatives, as described in Item 2
- Creation a Social Midia platform of all MS of the region, to facilitate communication and exchange of information among them (Figure 1), which has been led and financed by the Chilean Society of Geotechnics (SOCHIGE) – our deepest acknowledgement for this paramount initiative
- Creation of a Tour Lecture in the region, held annually, which needs effort to be in place (it was held only once in 2023), maybe being presented remotely when resources are scarce

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR SOIL MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

**ISSMGE SOUTH AMERICA & CARIBE**



[issmge-sa.github.io](http://issmge-sa.github.io)

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**FOLLOW US AND STAY UP!!**

# Vice President Report

## ISSMGE Activities in South America and the Caribbeans 2022-2026

### **Future Member Societies**

In the South America and Caribbeans region, there is still space to grow the ISSMGE membership in terms of new Member Societies. Uruguay, Ecuador, Panama and Honduras seem to be the most likely, however it is a long journey before they meet the ISSMGE requirements. A positive meeting was held during the 1st Geotechnical Seminar of the South Cone, held in Maldonado, Uruguay, following an initiative of the Argentine Society (SAIG), with the presence of the president (Prof. Virginia Sosa) and the ISSMGE VP for the region. Other initial and preliminary talks have been done with Ecuador and Panama.

### **Final Considerations**

The ISSMGE region of South America and the Caribbeans encompasses eleven MS, with different levels of organisation and maturity. It is of paramount importance to keep insisting in a plan of actions to integrate the MS, improving interaction among them, in order to higher their standards and participation in the ISSMGE activities. It is worth to highlight the creation of the Social Midia platform in the region, as well the remote and presential meetings of MS representatives. Other very important action is to incentive the Young Professional activities, enlarging their participation in the national congresses and in MS boards. My sincere thanks to all MS for their support during this VP term and my best wishes to the coming ISSMGE VP for South America and the Caribbeans, Ms. Daniela Polak, who can count on me for any needs.

# Meet our Leading Corporate Associates

## Marchetti Dilatometer Technology for Geotechnical Site Investigation



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## From the Board

# The new Geo-Engineers without Borders Committee (GeoWB) Volunteer Missions in the Face of Geo-Disasters

### Team:

Pierre Delage (France),  
Marc Ballouz (Lebanon–USA),  
Bernardo Caicedo (Colombia),  
Ahmed Chraibi (Morocco),  
Hemanta Hazarika (Japan),  
Jan Kupec (New Zealand),  
Fernando Marinho (Brazil),  
Daniela Pollak (Chile),  
Neelima Satyam (India)



**Prof. Pierre Delage -  
Leader of GeoWB Project**

The Geo-Engineers Without Borders Committee (GeoWB) was launched in 2022 by ISSMGE President Marc Ballouz at the start of his term in Sydney, with Pierre Delage as Chair and Board member Daniela Pollak (Chile). It responds to the growing frequency of geo-disasters – earthquakes, and increasingly the floods, landslides and dam failures driven by climate change. GeoWB mobilises volunteer geo-engineers from the worldwide ISSMGE network (around 90 member societies and 38 Technical Committees) to areas struck by such disasters. Its 20 members span all ISSMGE regions and speak 13 languages, reinforced by liaison members from 12 Member Societies. It has made a voluntary commitment to the UN Disaster Risk Reduction office (UNDRR) and maintains close ties with ICOLD, GEER, RedR-UK and ISSMGE TC302 on Forensic Engineering. Missions – with travel supported by ISSMGE and great care devoted to safety – conclude with comprehensive reports for authorities covering causes and damages, diagnosis of failures, remedial measures and prevention, all available on the [GeoWB website](#). During the 2024–2026 term, GeoWB members were deployed to Libya, Papua New Guinea, Brazil, Bolivia, Myanmar and India.

### **Failure of the Derna Dams, Libya (September 2023)**

Storm Daniel caused catastrophic flooding in Derna, where 10–20% of the city's ~90,000 inhabitants were reported dead or missing following the collapse of the cascade Abu Mansur and Derna dams. UNESCO, supported by ICOLD, deployed experts including GeoWB member Ahmed Chraibi; as site access was unsafe, the assessment relied on design and monitoring documentation. Both 1970s embankment dams had overly thin clay cores founded on karstic limestone, with weaknesses (settlement, seepage) reported since the 1980s – the flood was effectively the trigger of an announced failure. Recommendations included conservative reassessment of design floods under climate change, careful appraisal of foundations before any rebuilding, and flood protection embedded in urban planning.

# From the Board

## The new Geo-Engineers without Borders Committee (GeoWB) Volunteer Missions in the Face of Geo-Disasters

### The Mulitaka Landslide, Papua New Guinea (May 2024)

A landslide ~650 m long and 150–200 m wide struck Enga Province, inundating dwellings, causing several hundred fatalities and cutting the Highlands Highway lifeline of over 100,000 people. Jan Kupec and John Seward joined the New Zealand USAR deployment, working with Australian colleagues providing UAV capability. The failure is believed to be a rock topple with toe buckling on very steep bedding, triggering further rotational and translational slides. Field reconnaissance was coupled with “back-office” numerical modelling, hazard mapping and satellite support from New Zealand, informing safe relocation and a realignment of the road corridor away from susceptible ground.

### Heavy Rains in Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil (May–June 2024)

Rainfall exceeding 300 mm in under a week triggered widespread flooding and slope failures. With Porto Alegre’s airport flooded, Fernando Marinho covered a 430 km route through Muçum, Vale do Sol, Santa Cruz do Sul and Sinimbu, mapping cracks, landslides and erosion and assessing failure mechanisms. Jointly with the Geological Survey of Brazil, a school near the Salto dam reservoir was confirmed to lie outside the risk zone and could reopen. In Santa Cruz do Sul, the event intensified — and exposed — pre-existing, long-active instabilities, aggravated by unregulated occupation of slopes and insufficient drainage.



Top: Derna before and after the September 2023 floods (Google Earth); the destroyed Abu Mansur dam. Bottom: the Mulitaka landslide, PNG (photo J. Kupec); downslope movement towards the Salto dam reservoir and ground failure in Santa Cruz do Sul, Brazil.

# From the Board

## The new Geo-Engineers without Borders Committee (GeoWB) Volunteer Missions in the Face of Geo-Disasters

### **The Myanmar Earthquake (March 2025)**

On 28 March 2025, a Mw 7.7 earthquake struck near Mandalay on the Sagaing Fault at only 10 km depth, with shaking felt as far as Bangkok. A reconnaissance mission (13–16 June 2025) was organised by the Japanese Geotechnical Society under Hemanta Hazarika, with the Myanmar Geosciences Society, the Federation of Myanmar Engineering Societies and international partners. Liquefaction severely affected the Yangon–Mandalay Highway – settlement, lateral spreading at bridge abutments, and widespread sand boils. Soft-storey buildings with few shear walls collapsed at their lower floors (207 fatalities at the Sky Villa condominium), and surface fault rupture with right-lateral displacement crossed the Children’s Specialized Hospital in Naypyidaw, where damage correlated with ground deformation rather than shaking. Priorities identified include liquefaction countermeasures, retrofitting of soft-storey structures, expanded seismic monitoring and regional hazard assessment.

### **Slope Stability in La Paz, Bolivia (May 2025)**

Following a request made at the XVII Pan-American Conference, Fernando Marinho and Bernardo Caicedo visited La Paz (working in Spanish) at the invitation of the municipal government and its Resilience Secretariat. The city’s steep, densely occupied hillsides exhibit two dominant problems: near-vertical cuts in unsaturated soils whose stability depends on suction, and colluvial deposits mobilised by rising pore pressures – a risk that climate-driven rainfall intensification will aggravate. Stabilisation works (deep piles, drainage tunnels) follow the state of the art, but the mission recommended georeferenced records and post-construction monitoring of the tunnels, satellite interferometry (InSAR) for city-wide screening of unstable areas, and a stronger role for local universities and professional associations.

### **Rainfall-Induced Disaster in Mandi, Himachal Pradesh, India (July 2025)**

Extreme rainfall (up to 217 mm/day) and cloudbursts triggered flash floods and landslides across the Mandi district. Neelima Satyam, as part of the evaluation committee, investigated seven critical sites supported by drone surveys. The event was a textbook case of cascading hazards – debris slides, debris flows, avalanches and mudflows under the JTC1 classification – with river damming, bank erosion and flow–structure interactions destroying homes. Unlike comparable events elsewhere dominated by finer material, Western Himalayan debris carried large boulders with devastating impact forces, reinforcing the need for engineered barriers near settlements, regulated land-use planning and strict enforcement against construction on floodplains.

# From the Board

## The new Geo-Engineers without Borders Committee (GeoWB) Volunteer Missions in the Face of Geo-Disasters



Top: Myanmar 2025 — abutment damage on the Yangon–Mandalay highway; the Sky Villa condominium, Mandalay; fault rupture at the Children’s Specialized Hospital, Naypyidaw. Bottom: sand boils near Naypyidaw; unsaturated-soil slope in La Paz, Bolivia; cascading failures in the Thunga valley, Mandi, India.

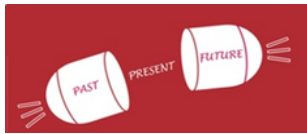
### Lessons and Outlook

Across these missions, GeoWB has demonstrated how structured, volunteer-based mobilisation of geo-engineers can, at reasonable cost, complement emergency response and support recovery: rapid and defensible risk screening for recovery decisions, integration of field and remote capabilities (UAVs, satellite data, back-office modelling) under constrained access, and forensic-style diagnosis translated into prevention-oriented recommendations. Building on its commitment to UNDRR, GeoWB is also developing in-person risk-assessment workshops with local stakeholders — held with the Municipality of Bogotá in May 2024 and under discussion with the Philippine Member Society and SEAGS following the September 2025 earthquake and landslides — with strong perspectives in South America, where sensitivity of tropical soils to heavy rainfall is a widespread concern.

# From the Board

## ISSMGE HERITAGE TIME CAPSULE (HTC) PROJECT, 2020 – 2026

### A Call to Action



**Sukumar Pathmanandavel,**  
**HTC Leader**



The ISSMGE Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) project was initiated in early 2020 by a dedicated committee to help the geotechnical community understand itself and its global trajectory. It evolved from an abstract concept into a coordinated effort to develop both a Virtual and Physical Time Capsule. This was designed to act as a mirror reflecting the profession's philosophical state-of-the-art. By documenting a century of development, from the explosive growth of classical soil mechanics to the current AI revolution, the HTC provides the vital context needed for geotechnical professionals to understand their current trajectory. Rather than being a static archive for nostalgia's sake, the project offers a practical means for engineers to refine their technical judgment through historical precedent.

### THE HTC JOURNEY, 2020 TO 2026

#### THE TIME CAPSULES

- 2022 - **Virtual Time Capsule**, launched at the 20<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE, Sydney
- 2024 – dedicated **HTC Website**, <https://htc.issmge.org/>, launched at Geoshanghai 2024
- 2026 - **Physical Time Capsule**, sealed at the 21<sup>st</sup> ICSMGE, Vienna

#### DISCOVERY

- Discoverer reports, 2022 - 2025
- HTC sessions in all regions, 2023 - 2025
- HTC Council report, April 2026
- A special paper at the 21<sup>st</sup> ICSMGE, Vienna

#### A CALL TO ACTION

- 2026 Council meeting, Vienna, Austria

The Virtual Time Capsule website (<https://htc.issmge.org/>) serves as a repository of technical guidelines, corporate documentaries, and regional podcasts. Geotechnical professionals are encouraged to move beyond simply admiring past pioneers and instead become active 'Discoverers' of this content. Engaging with these records allows designers to treat history as a laboratory, viewing past achievements as real-world experiments in design and construction. This process expands a professional's design vocabulary, offering alternative perspectives on contemporary problems.

Complementing this digital archive is the Physical Time Capsule, a sealed glass cabinet housed in the Terzaghi Archive at TU Wien, Vienna, Austria. This physical capsule contains artifacts such as significant pieces of laboratory and in situ testing equipment,

# From the Board

## ISSMGE HERITAGE TIME CAPSULE (HTC) PROJECT, 2020 – 2026

### A Call to Action



as well as authoritative textbooks, documents, and papers. It serves as a fixed datum point for the global collaboration captured online, connecting the tactile reality of the tools and materials used by pioneers to the digital records available today. While the virtual capsule can be a continuously repurposed tool for the utilitarian study of precedents, the physical capsule preserves the institutional milestones of our heritage in a visible, permanent form.

Actively exploring the HTC is a critical response to the burden of history, both to address required infrastructure needs and the legacy of aging infrastructure that modern engineers must now create, refurbish or replace. By developing a historically informed critical perspective, geotechnical professionals can transition from being followers of existing theory to becoming instigators who define the future of the industry. Ultimately, this engagement supports a 'Call to Action' for the profession contained in the HTC Report dated 26<sup>th</sup> April 2026[[SP1](#)], and presented at the ISSMGE Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> June 2026, in Vienna, Austria.

# ILAM

INTERNATIONAL LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT MEDAL

## 2026 WINNERS



**Samuel Ejezie**

(Nigeria)



**Heinz Brandl**

(Austria)



**Chun Fai Leung**

(Singapore)

*Honouring distinguished global contributions  
to geotechnical engineering.*

# Global News from Member Societies

## Chile's Candidacy to Host the 22nd ICSMGE

**Santiago, Chile | 3–7 December 2029**  
**“Geotechnics at the Edge of the World”**

**Rafael Iglesias**

**President of the Chilean Geotechnical Society**

The Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) is proud to announce the formal submission of Chile's candidacy to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in Santiago, from 3 to 7 December 2029, under the theme “Geotechnics at the Edge of the World”.

### **Venue and Organisation**

The bid proposes the Metropolitan Santiago Convention & Event Center (Vitacura) as the conference venue, with capacity for over 4,800 delegates and more than 7,500 m<sup>2</sup> of flexible indoor space. The proposed conference chair is Dr. Christian Ledezma (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), with Dr. Ramón Verdugo and Dr. César Pastén as co-chairs, and Luis Valenzuela as Chief Advisor.

### **Scientific Programme**

The scientific programme covers five themes: Geotechnics for the Energy Transition; Earthquake Geotechnics and Seismic Risk; Geotechnics for Large-Scale Mining; Data Analytics and AI in Geotechnical Engineering; and Sustainable and Resilient Geotechnical Infrastructure. A special symposium will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the 1960 Valdivia Earthquake – the largest ever instrumentally recorded.

### **Regional and International Support**

The bid has received formal letters of support from 9 Latin American geotechnical societies – representing 10 of the 11 societies in the region – as well as from leading Chilean universities, the Government of Chile, the Governor of the Metropolitan Region, Santiago MICE, SERNATUR, and multiple Chilean government ministries. Distinguished international geotechnical figures from Argentina, Colombia, Peru, Bolivia, Spain, Japan, and the United States have also expressed their **personal endorsement**.

The ICSMGE has never been held in Chile, and has not returned to Latin America since Rio de Janeiro in 1989. Hosting the 22nd edition in Santiago would mark a historic milestone for the region.

### **Learn More**

Short video on Chile's bid: [Chile's Bid – ICSMGE 2029 \(YouTube\)](#).

Full proposal (e-book): [Chile Proposal – ISSMGE \(Issuu\)](#).

# Global News from Member Societies

## GEOMOS26 — 2nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics, Geotechnics and Foundation Engineering

Russian Society of Soil Mechanics, Geotechnics and Foundation Engineering (RSSMGFE) •  
Moscow, 17–20 March 2026



The Russian Society for Soil Mechanics, Geotechnics and Foundation Engineering (RSSMGFE) co-organised the 2nd International Scientific and Practical Conference GEOMOS26, reviving the tradition of major geotechnical conferences in Moscow first established in 2010. Held at the Gersevanov Research Institute of Bases and Underground Structures (NIIOSP) from 17–20 March 2026, the event was organised with the Research Center of Construction JSC and the ISSMGE Technical Committee TC305 “Geotechnical Infrastructure for Megacities and New Capitals.” It drew specialists from 13 countries — including ISSMGE Vice President for Asia Prof. Keh-Jian (Albert) Shou and former Vice Presidents Prof. Eun Chul Shin and Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov.

### A Four-Day Programme

The opening day featured the RSSMGFE annual meeting, where Yakov A. Pronozin and Anatoly I. Osokin received Gersevanov Medals and Ukhov Diplomas, followed by three youth sessions in which 22 young specialists presented across topics from low-strain pile testing to the modelling of thawing soils. The second day centred on the Plenary Session and the Gersevanov Oration, “Geotechnical engineering as a basis for preserving historical heritage,” opened by Prof. Albert Shou, who underscored the value of collaboration between Asia and Europe. The TC305 section, led by Louis Ge and Igor Bokov, addressed soil dynamics and ground improvement for seismic-safe construction in dense urban areas.



Fig. 2 — Gersevanov Medal and Ukhov Diploma presentations.



Fig. 3 — A full hall for the plenary sessions.

# Global News from Member Societies

## GEOMOS26 – 2nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics, Geotechnics and Foundation Engineering

The third day opened with a session on high-rise construction featuring invited speakers from leading Russian and Chinese research institutes, followed by a second Plenary Session on TC305 results. This main working day comprised 80 presentations across seven thematic sessions – from deep foundations and ground improvement to geotechnics for Arctic and cold regions, underground construction, and soil investigation – complemented by a workshop on the regulatory aspects of geotechnical engineering.



Fig. 4 – Technical tours of the JSC Research Center facilities.



Fig. 5 – Excursion to the Vorobyovy Hills slope reconstruction.

The closing day offered technical tours of the NIIOSP laboratories, the NIIZHB concrete-structure testing benches, and the TSNIISK shake table demonstrating the Kamchatka earthquake, plus an excursion to the Vorobyovy Hills slope being reconstructed by NIIOSP specialists.

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**GEOMOS26 in numbers:** 601 registered participants • 302 on-site • 111 oral presentations • 38 posters • 171 papers in the Proceedings.

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A four-day event filled with activity, GEOMOS26 was a true point of attraction for the geotechnical community and a platform for young scientists. See you at the next GEOMOS! [geomos.rssmgfe.ru/en](http://geomos.rssmgfe.ru/en)

# Young Member`s Arena

## 10th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference – AYGEC`26

University of Lagos, Nigeria • 26–29 April 2026 • “Innovations and Best Practices in Geotechnical Engineering for Africa’s Development”

Report prepared by  
Engr. Precious Osagie,  
MNSE, MNIGE – General Secretary, NIGE



Hosted by the Nigerian Institution of Geotechnical Engineers (NIGE) in collaboration with the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the 10th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference brought together more than 160 in-person participants and 20 virtual attendees at the Engineering Resource Centre, University of Lagos. Delegates travelled from across Africa, Europe, the United Kingdom, and the United States, uniting academics, researchers, regulators, students, and industry professionals around a shared commitment to advancing geotechnical practice on the continent.

Opened on 27 April by Engr. Sebastian Ozoamalu, Chairman of the Local Organizing Committee and ISSMGE Vice President Africa-Elect, the conference served as a strategic platform for technical exchange, mentorship, and international collaboration. In his opening address, the representative of the Nigerian Society of Engineers described the theme as timely and highly relevant to Africa’s infrastructure realities, urging delegates to develop practical engineering solutions suited to the continent’s unique ground conditions.

# Young Member`s Arena

## 10th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference – AYGEC’26

University of Lagos, Nigeria • 26–29 April 2026 • “Innovations and Best Practices in Geotechnical Engineering for Africa’s Development”

### A Society in Service of Africa

ISSMGE President Dr. Marc Ballouz delivered a wide-ranging address tracing the Society from its 1936 founding by pioneers such as Karl Terzaghi and Arthur Casagrande to its present global membership of 94 nations. He spotlighted flagship initiatives – the ISSMGE Foundation, the Heritage Time Capsule, GeoWorld, the Virtual University, and the Young Members Presidential Group – and called for stronger geotechnical engagement across Africa. A highlight of his remarks was the announcement that the 2026 International Lifetime Achievement Medal would be conferred on Engr. Prof. Samuel Uchechukwu Ejezie. Capturing the spirit of the gathering, he reminded young engineers that “to understand soil better, you have to dig deep.”



ISSMGE President Dr. Marc Ballouz with award recipients and committee members.



ISSMGE leadership and organisers in traditional Nigerian attire.

### Keynote Lectures

Five keynote lectures anchored the technical programme. Dr. Marc Ballouz examined the marriage of theory and practice, introducing his “C-SOLGeH” philosophy of sound geotechnical decision-making. Prof. Marawan Shahien, ISSMGE Vice President for Africa, traced the evolution of apparent earth pressure theories for supported deep excavations. Dr. Chris Menkiti drew lessons from major projects including the Gautrain Rail Project and Nigeria’s Kainji Dam, while Engr. Chaido (Yuli) Rigby-Douglala explored polymer geogrid geostructures. Prof. Samuel Uchechukwu Ejezie closed the series with best practices for ground stability in the challenging soils of the Niger Delta.

### Technical Sessions and Bright Sparks

Moderated by Technical Chair Engr. Dr. Akeem Amuda, the technical sessions featured 24 papers from young researchers in Nigeria, Egypt, Ghana, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom. Topics ranged across soil stabilisation, biogeotechnics, machine learning, offshore foundations, liquefaction, and landslide forecasting – reflecting the growing integration of sustainability, artificial intelligence, and bio-mediated solutions into modern practice. Two outstanding presenters, Soha Emad Said (Egypt) and Favour Oluwadare (Nigeria), were selected for the prestigious ISSMGE Bright Spark Lecture Award

# Young Member`s Arena

## 10th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference – AYGEC’26

University of Lagos, Nigeria • 26–29 April 2026 • “Innovations and Best Practices in Geotechnical Engineering for Africa’s Development”



Panel Session 1: Advancing geotechnical engineering excellence.



Virtual participation extended the conference’s reach across continents.

### Engaging the Big Questions

Two lively panel sessions tackled pressing national issues. The first, on building collapse and ground stability, concluded that inadequate site investigation and weak enforcement of standards remain leading causes of structural failure – with delegates calling for African-specific geotechnical codes that reflect local soils and climate. The second examined the geotechnical challenges of the Lagos–Calabar Coastal Highway, emphasising long-term monitoring, multi-season investigation, and the importance of engineering independence in major infrastructure delivery.

### Honouring Excellence

A defining moment of AYGEC’26 was the presentation of the 2026 International Lifetime Achievement Medal (ILAM) to Engr. Prof. Samuel Uchechukwu Ejezie, recognising his exceptional contributions to geotechnical practice, education, and mentorship in Africa. Bright Spark Lecture Awards were presented to Soha Emad and Favour Mobolaji Oluwadare, and awards of honour were extended to keynote speakers, panellists, and the organising committees. Engr. Garba Aliyu was formally inducted as a Fellow of the Institution.



legates gather between sessions.



Young engineers — the future of African geotechnics.



Networking and friendship across borders.

# Young Member`s Arena

## 10th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference – AYGEC’26

University of Lagos, Nigeria • 26–29 April 2026 • “Innovations and Best Practices in Geotechnical Engineering for Africa’s Development”

### Engineering in Action: Eko Atlantic City

The conference concluded on 29 April with a technical visit to Eko Atlantic City, where delegates toured large-scale coastal reclamation and deep foundation works under the guidance of the ISSMGE President and senior professionals. The tour showcased ocean reclamation techniques, geotextile and Acropod shoreline protection systems, slope stabilisation measures, and pile load testing using the Kentledge I-beam method – offering a vivid demonstration of geotechnical engineering at work on one of Africa’s most ambitious developments.



*The Eko Atlantic City master plan.*



*Delegates tour reclamation and foundation works on site.*

### Outcomes and the Road Ahead

AYGEC’26 closed with a clear set of resolutions: Africa needs stronger investment in geotechnical research and education; African-specific codes and standards should be progressively developed; governments must prioritise quality site investigations to reduce failures; and emerging technologies such as AI, geospatial analysis, and biogeotechnics should be embedded in everyday practice. Above all, delegates affirmed that collaboration between academia, industry, regulators, and international bodies – and the active engagement of young engineers with ISSMGE platforms – is essential to delivering sustainable infrastructure across the continent.

In his vote of thanks, NIGE Chairman Engr. Fadeyi Lawrence Olaniyi described AYGEC’26 as a landmark event that advanced collaboration, knowledge sharing, and Africa’s visibility in the global geotechnical community. The successful hosting of this milestone tenth edition reaffirmed Nigeria’s leadership role in advancing geotechnical engineering across Africa – and the rising technical capacity of a new generation of engineers ready to shape the continent’s future.

# Corporate Associates Corner

## Corporate Associates Presidential Group (CAPG) Activities



**Dr. Roger Estephan**  
Corporate Associate Presidential Group

### Join the Corporate Associates Presidential Group (CAPG) Panel Session

📍 ICSMGE 2026 – Vienna

📅 17 June 2026 | 10:45–11:20 AM | Room A

As part of the ICSMGE 2026 Programme, this session provides a valuable opportunity to hear from leading geotechnical professionals, industry experts, and researchers from around the world.

CAPG Panelists will share insights on current challenges, emerging trends, and innovative, sustainable solutions that are shaping the future of geotechnical engineering.

Through the exchange of practical experience, pioneering project contributions, and forward-looking perspectives, the CAPG panel will explore:

- 🌐 Opportunities to connect with colleagues and expand your global professional network
- 💡 Insights from internationally recognized geotechnical experts
- 🌱 Innovative and sustainable geotechnical solutions
- 👉 Meaningful discussions on the future of the profession
- 🌐 Collaboration opportunities within the global geotechnical engineering community

We look forward to welcoming you and making the **CAPG Panel Session** a vibrant forum for knowledge sharing and collaboration.

# Corporate Associates Corner

## Corporate Associates Presidential Group (CAPG) Activities

Know more about ISSMGE's Corporate Associates Presidential Group (CAPG) and Meet our CAPG Panelists

### CAPG's Presentation



Presenter: Roger Estephan  
Email: capg@issmge.org

### GDS



Presenter: Ang Koh An  
Email: angkohan@gmail.com

### Huesker



Presenter: Oliver Detert  
Email: detert@huesker.de

### Menard / SRK



Presenter: Alexandre Hubaut  
Email: ahubaut@menard.com.au

### UTS Transport Research Centre



Presenter: Prof. Buddhima Indraratna  
Email: buddhima.indraratna@uts.edu.au

### Tensar



Presenter: Jacek Kawalec  
Email: jacek.kawalec@cmc.com



# Corporate Associates Corner

## Corporate Associates Presidential Group (CAPG) Activities

### GDS Instruments

*Instrumented Bi-Directional Static Load Testing (BDSLT) on Large Diameter Hand-dug Caisson via Distributed Fiber Optic Sensor (DFOS)*

### HUESKER

*Second River Niger Bridge In Onitsha, Nigeria – Use Of Geosynthetic Encased Granular Columns for Soil Improvement*

### Menard / SRK Consulting

*Tailing Storage Facilities (TSFs) Ground Stabilisation*

### UTS Transport Research Centre

*Recycled-Rubber Energy Absorbing Layer (2REAL) for Heavy Haul Railways*

### Tensar

*Sustainable Solutions backed by industry leading R & D*

Looking forward to an inspiring exchange with the ISSMGE's Corporate Associates in Vienna!

# Corporate Associates Corner

## PLATINUM MEMBER



## GOLD MEMBER



## SILVER MEMBER



# Technical Committees Activities

## Technical Oversight Committee (TOC): Highlights from the 2022–2026 Term

The ISSMGE Technical Committees (TCs) form the backbone of the Society's technical and scientific activities. Through conferences, webinars, educational initiatives, technical guidance, and collaborative projects, they bring together thousands of geotechnical professionals worldwide to advance knowledge and engineering practice. During this term, the TOC worked closely with the TCs, the ISSMGE Board, and Member Societies to strengthen TC activities, foster collaboration, support innovation, and enhance engagement across the global geotechnical community.

### ➤ TOC LEADERSHIP TEAM



**Chair:** Dr Marcelo Sanchez  
Prof. Civil and Environmental Engineering,  
Texas A&M University, USA.



**Vice-Chair:** Dr Susmita Sharma  
Assistant Prof. National Institute  
of Technology Meghalaya, India.



**Secretary:** Dr. Mabel Chedid  
Senior Geotechnical and Tunnel  
Engineer at WSP. Technical Principal.



### ➤ TOC SUPPORT TEAM



**Dr. Pierre Delage**  
Former TOC Chair



**Dr. Dimitrios Zekkos**  
Appointed Board Member



**Dr. Mona El-Din Anwar**  
Professional Image Committee

### Vice Presidents



**Dr. Marawan Shabien**  
Africa



**Dr. Keh-Jian Shou**  
Asia



**Mr. Graham Scholey**  
Australasia



**Dr. Lyesse Laloui**  
Europe



**Dr. Walter Paniagua**  
North America



**Dr. Andre P. Assis**  
South America

### Growth and Renewal of the Technical Committees

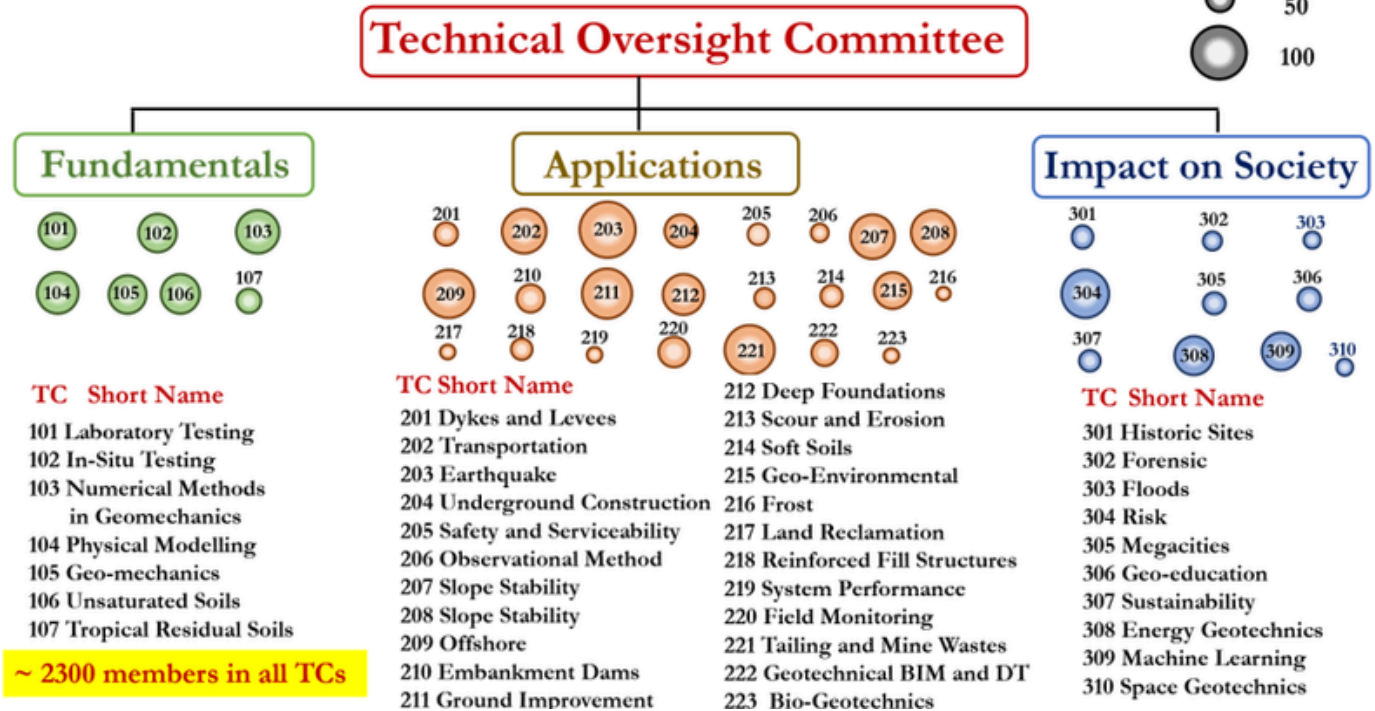
At the beginning of the term, ISSMGE had 38 Technical Committees, two of which were dormant. Through the efforts of their leadership teams and support from the TOC, both committees were successfully reactivated and are now fully operational: TC207 on Soil Structure Interaction and Retaining Walls and TC208 on Slope Stability in Engineering Practice. The period also saw the creation of two new TCs addressing emerging areas of geotechnical engineering: TC223 on Biogeotechnical Engineering and TC310 on Space Geotechnics. These developments demonstrate the ability of ISSMGE to adapt to new challenges while continuing to expand its technical reach.

# Technical Committees Activities

## Technical Oversight Committee (TOC): Highlights from the 2022–2026 Term

### ➤ Technical Committees Categories

Number of members  
 ○ 25  
 ● 50  
 ● 100



### International Interactive Technical Talks (IITTs)

One of the most successful initiatives during the term was the IITTs, a President’s Initiative coordinated by the TOC. A total of 37 talks were organized, bringing together practitioners, researchers, and young professionals from different countries, sectors, and career stages to discuss topics spanning almost the entire spectrum of geotechnical engineering. The IITTs have become an important platform for technical exchange, education, and networking within ISSMGE.

### Monitoring and Supporting Technical Committees

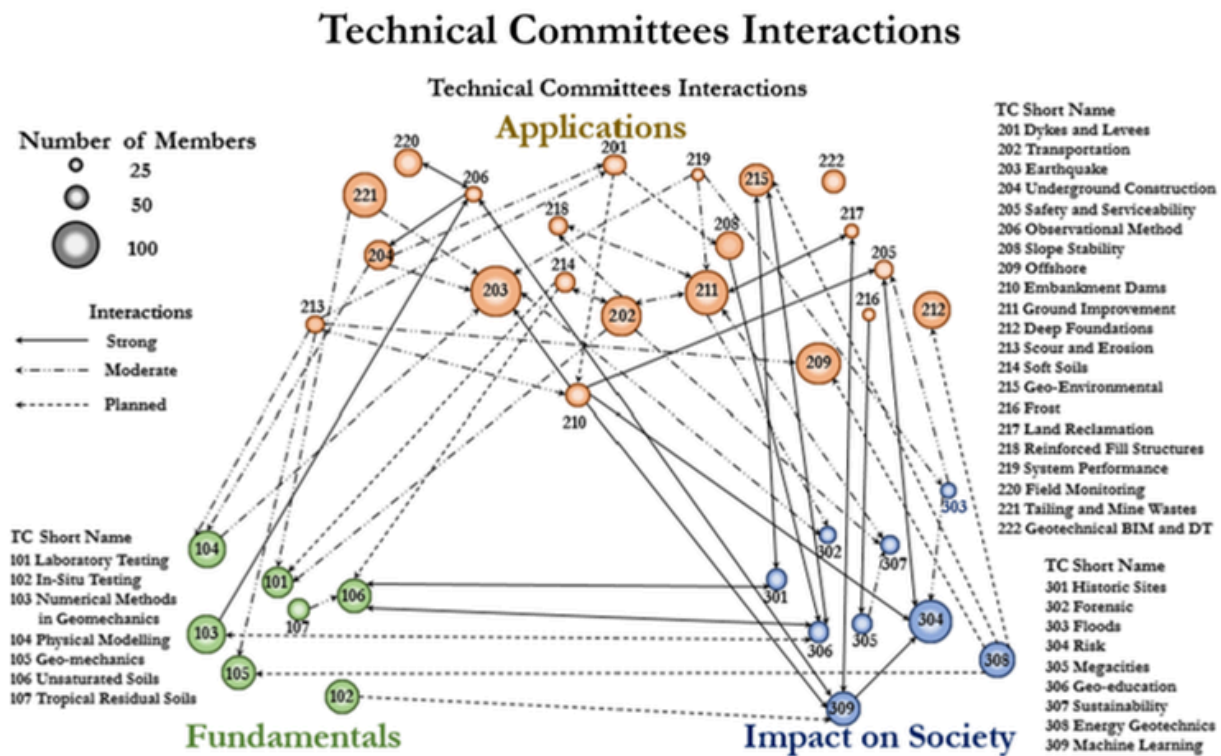
The TOC continued its regular monitoring and support of TCs through comprehensive mid-term and end-of-term surveys. These assessments provided valuable information on TC activities, including conferences, webinars, educational initiatives, publications, website maintenance, and member engagement. The results helped identify successful initiatives, provide guidance where needed, and ensure that TC activities remained aligned with ISSMGE objectives and guidelines.

# Technical Committees Activities

## Technical Oversight Committee (TOC): Highlights from the 2022–2026 Term

### Strengthening Communication and Collaboration

A significant development during this term was the establishment of regular meetings between the TOC and the Chairs of the TCs. Held at least once per year, these meetings created an effective forum for communication, coordination, and exchange of ideas across the ISSMGE technical community. The meetings were generally attended by TC Chairs, although in some cases another member of the leadership team participated on their behalf. These meetings provided opportunities to discuss updates to ISSMGE guidelines, coordinate activities associated with international and regional conferences, share information on TOC initiatives, and identify opportunities for collaboration among committees. Promoting stronger interactions between TCs was one of the key objectives of the TOC during this term. Many of today's engineering challenges require multidisciplinary solutions that extend beyond the traditional boundaries of individual technical areas. As a result, increasing numbers of joint conferences, technical sessions, webinars, publications, and guideline-development activities were undertaken across the Fundamentals, Applications, and Impact on Society categories.



**A primary goal of the TOC has been to promote the interaction among the TCs**

### Supporting Innovation Through Special Projects

To encourage innovation and new initiatives within the TCs, the TOC secured a dedicated budget of around £2,000 per year to support special projects. Three projects have been funded so far. TC306 (Geo-Education), in collaboration with TC103 and TC106, supported an educational initiative involving Professor Jennifer Case of Virginia Tech. TC211 (Ground Improvement) launched a global photography competition entitled Ground Improvement Through the Lens, showcasing the diversity and human dimension of ground improvement practice worldwide. TC308 (Energy Geotechnics) developed

# Technical Committees Activities

## Technical Oversight Committee (TOC): Highlights from the 2022–2026 Term

an open-access GIS platform to map geo-energy and CO<sub>2</sub> storage projects globally. Together, these projects demonstrate how modest investments can generate significant benefits in education, outreach, collaboration, and innovation.

### Recognizing Leadership and Preserving Institutional Memory

The TOC also introduced a new recognition program for outgoing TC Chairs. In addition to a commemorative plaque acknowledging their service, outgoing Chairs will be invited to prepare short reflections on the evolution of their technical areas during their mandates. These contributions will help preserve valuable institutional knowledge and create a historical record of the development of geotechnical engineering within ISSMGE.



### Noteworthy Technical Committee Initiatives

Several Technical Committees introduced particularly innovative activities during the term. TC206 (Observational Method) organized a highly successful Pre-Rankine 2026 Conference that brought together multiple TCs working in monitoring, numerical methods, tunnelling, digital twins, risk, and machine learning, providing an excellent example of multidisciplinary collaboration.

TC209 (Offshore Geotechnics) established the **Mark Randolph Award** to recognize outstanding PhD research in offshore geotechnics. The first award will be presented during the Offshore Site Investigation and Geotechnics (OSIG) Conference in 2027.

TC105 (Geomechanics from Micro to Macro) launched a **Student Video Competition** that attracted 19 submissions from around the world. Supported by ISSMGE, the competition recognized excellence in both experimental and numerical/theoretical research while promoting technical communication among students and young researchers.

### Looking Forward

The achievements of the 2022–2026 term would not have been possible without the dedication of TC Chairs, Secretaries, Vice-Chairs, appointed members, Member Society representatives, corresponding members, and countless volunteers who contribute their time and expertise to ISSMGE activities.

The continued growth of TC activities, the successful launch of new technical committees, the development of innovative projects, and the increasing collaboration among committees demonstrate the vitality of the ISSMGE technical community. The TOC would like to thank all Technical Committees for their commitment and service throughout this period and looks forward to supporting further excellence, innovation, and global engagement in the years ahead.

# Technical Committees Activities

## Launch of ISSMGE Technical Committee TC223 Bio-Geotechnical Engineering



We are delighted to announce the launch of ISSMGE Technical Committee TC223 in Bio-Geotechnical Engineering. The overall goal of the Bio-Geotechnical Engineering Technical Committee is to support the global geotechnical community in translating sustainable and innovative biologically based approaches towards practically deployable industrial technologies and engineering design solutions.

This TC is intended to bring together a global community of geotechnical engineers working on all aspects of bio-geotechnical engineering (e.g. harnessing biology in the form of vegetation, fungi, biofilms, biocemented soils, bioinspired geotechnics, deployment of biological products) to share knowledge, disseminate best-practice, develop guidelines, initiate and strengthen collaborations and promote innovation.

You can find the TC objectives and task forces [here](#).

### How to Participate

If you are interested in participating in and contributing to TC223 activities, please contact your member society and ask them to propose you as a member. Please note that each member society can propose up to two members as nominated members (with voting rights). Additional members can be proposed as corresponding members.

### Upcoming Events

Hybrid meeting during the 21st ICSMGE 2026, Vienna – Tuesday 16 June 2026, 13:00–13:45 (UTC+2), Meeting Room 1.16, Level 1 (capacity 50).

If you are attending ICSMGE 2026, we hope you will join us for our first in-person meeting. Details to join this meeting online will be circulated at a later date.

### Propose an Activity

To support planning, if you have ideas for activities you would like to propose for this TC – in particular upcoming conferences or workshops where we could hold dedicated biogeotechnics-focused sessions – please indicate them via the [TC223 Committee Activity Proposal Form](#).

# Technical Committees Activities

## TC306 GEO-ENGINEERING EDUCATION

### Geotechnical Engineering Education 2025 (GEE 2025)

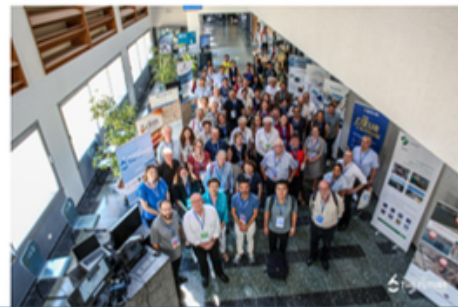
“Charting the Path Toward the Future” - Nancy, France - 2–4 July 2025

by Marina Pantazidou, TC306 Chair 2017–2025

“Geotechnical Engineering Education 2025 (GEE 2025): Charting the path toward the future” took place on 2–4 July in Nancy, France, chaired by Prof. Farimah Masroufi of Université de Lorraine. The conference was organised under the auspices of the French Soil Mechanics Committee (CFMS) and the University of Lorraine, with support from academic and professional French organisations and major French geotechnical engineering companies. The ISSMGE provided additional funding, in response to a TC306 proposal to the Technical Oversight Committee, for the invited Engineering Education Expert Speaker.



GEE 2025 Chair, Farimah Masroufi



GEE 2025 — first day of the conference

With 46 papers and 119 authors, the 6th GEE began to look like a full-fledged technical conference – double the papers and two-and-a-half times the authors of GEE 2020, with more than 20% of GEE 2020 authors returning. Papers were made available through the [ISSMGE Online Library](#) a week before the conference and indexed in Scopus soon after. Videos of the plenary lectures are available through the ISSMGE Virtual University with their slides, and all presentation videos via the TC306 YouTube Channel.

#### A Programme Balancing Tradition and Innovation

The Scopus-indexed GEE series, organised by TC306, balances the perennial themes of curricula and coursework with forward-looking topics such as open educational resources, ICT tools, and links to research on learning. For GEE 2025, the priority themes were “Teaching of Unsaturated Soils” (with TC106) and “Use of Numerical Modelling to Support Teaching” (with TC103), complemented by four invited lectures from Alessandro Tarantino and Alessia Amabile, Francesca Ceccato, Jean Sulem, and Nicolas Utter.



Tarantino & Calvello



Francesca Ceccato



Jean Sulem



Nicolas Utter

# Technical Committees Activities

## TC306 GEO-ENGINEERING EDUCATION Geotechnical Engineering Education 2025 (GEE 2025)

### Keynotes and the Burland Honour Lecture

Two keynote lectures anchored the programme. GEE 2025 opened with Jennifer Case on “Urgent questions for engineering education in the age of genAI,” followed by Jorge Zornberg’s geotechnical keynote, “Geosynthetics in the classroom.” The conference is also home to the ISSMGE-TC306 John Burland Honour Lecture; the 3rd Burland Lecture was delivered by Marina Pantazidou on “Changing attitudes, organization and scale in engineering education: The teacher as a go-between and TC306 as a knowledge broker.”

#### Keynote & Honour Lecturers



Jennifer Case



Jorge Zornberg



M. Pantazidou & D. Airey

All this unfolded within just two full days, fostering a camaraderie that energised the event – though some participants admitted they would have welcomed a more relaxed pace, and even a third day. Many attendees expressed their delight at the luxury of devoting two days to geotechnical engineering education amid exceptional hospitality. Notably, two practising consultants found in the conference a place where their educational questions could finally be explored.

### Nancy: A Charming Host City

The University of Lorraine provided an excellent venue, and the city of Nancy charmed every visitor. Its central square, Place Stanislas – a paradigmatic example of 18th-century French neoclassical urban design, rich with ornate ironwork – is a sight to behold. The conference banquet was held at the City Hall on the square, followed by a dazzling light show on the surrounding buildings, and the organisers offered a walking tour of Nancy’s architectural gems on 4 July.

This record of GEE 2025’s many elements gives genuine optimism for GEE 2029. TC306 plans to announce the GEE 2029 location within 2026, so that colleagues can start thinking early about their papers and make plans to attend.



# Technical Committees Activities

## TC308 ICEGT 2025: the 3rd International Conference on Energy Geotechnics in Paris



From 17 to 20 June 2025, École nationale des ponts et chaussées (ENPC) hosted the 3rd International Conference on Energy Geotechnics (ICEGT 2025), a pivotal event dedicated to advancing geotechnical solutions for the energy transition. This edition brought together 220 participants from 30 countries, featuring 155 presentations across 6 major scientific themes.

Organized under the auspices of the ISSMGE Technical Committee 308 on Energy Geotechnics, ICEGT 2025 marked its first edition in France, following successful conferences in Lausanne, Switzerland (2016) and La Jolla, CA, USA (2020). The event underscored the critical role of geotechnical engineering in supporting renewable energy infrastructure, deep geothermal systems, and sustainable waste disposal.



# Technical Committees Activities

## TC308 ICEGT 2025: the 3rd International Conference on Energy Geotechnics in Paris

The conference was supported by the French Societies for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (CFMS) and for Rock Mechanics and Rock Engineering (CFMR), with local organization by École nationale des ponts et chaussées (ENPC). Special emphasis was placed on fostering intergenerational exchange, with 40% of participants being research students, a testament to the conference's commitment to nurturing young talents. This was facilitated by a preferential pricing policy for students and the preceding W(H)YDOC25 workshop for young geomechanics doctors, the sixth edition in the series.

### Opening Ceremony

The welcome ceremony on 24 June 2025 featured addresses from Jean-Michel Pereira, ICEGT-2025 Chair and Professor at ENPC, and Guillermo Narsilio, ISSMGE TC308 Chair and Professor at the University of Melbourne.

The ceremony officially commenced with the award ceremony of the pre-conference event, with the W(H)YDOC25 PhD Prize awarded to Dr. Sofia Roucan for her PhD on the use of earth material in construction, carried out at the Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Addour in collaboration with ENTPE, Lyon, France.



*J.M.Pereira delivering the welcome address (top left), the W(H)YDOC25 PhD Prize Award Ceremony (top right), and G. Narsilio introducing the TC308 (bottom).*

# Technical Committees Activities

## TC308 ICEGT 2025: the 3rd International Conference on Energy Geotechnics in Paris

### Scientific Program

The conference highlighted three keynote lectures (by Prof. Fleur Loveridge, Prof. Enrique Romero and Prof. Jean Schmittbuhl) and the TC308 Energy Geotechnics Honour Lecturer (Prof. Marcelo Sanchez). The two plenary lectures delivered by the winners of the prestigious Bright Spark Award, Dr Merita Tafili and Dr Anne-Catherine Dieudonné, were also featured highlights.



*Prof. F. Loveridge (top left), Prof. M. Sanchez (top right) and Prof. J. Schmittbuhl delivering their respective keynote lectures.*



*Plenary lecture by Dr. Merita Tafili (left) and Dr. Anne-Catherine Dieudonné receiving her Bright Spark Lecture Award (right).*

# Technical Committees Activities

## TC308 ICEGT 2025: the 3rd International Conference on Energy Geotechnics in Paris

Six thematic sessions have been covered, with three to four sessions running in parallel to allow comfortable slots of 15 minutes per presentation:

- Thermal Energy Geostructures,
- Fundamentals of geo-energy and low-carbon engineering,
- Underground storage of carbon dioxide and energy,
- Unconventional hydrocarbon and hydraulic fracturing,
- High level radioactive waste disposal,
- Other geotechnical activities related to the energy sector.

In total, 155 extended abstracts were presented. The proceedings have been published in open access on the [HAL repository](#).

### Social Highlights

Participants engaged in vibrant discussions during the ice-breaker event, sessions, networking breaks, and a conference dinner held during a cruise on the iconic Seine river.

### Closing Remarks

ICEGT 2025 reaffirmed the role that geotechnical engineering can and has to play in the energy transition, bridging academia and industry. The conference's success was made possible by the support of sponsors, the dedication of the organizing committee, and the enthusiasm of participants.

The next edition of ICEGT will be announced in due course, continuing the legacy of innovation in energy geotechnics.



# Technical Committees Activities

## TC308

### Mapping Energy Geotechnics Around the World



**Prof Alice di Donna**  
**Task Force Leader**  
**Energy Geostructures**



**Prof Guillermo A. Narsilio**  
**(Chair)**

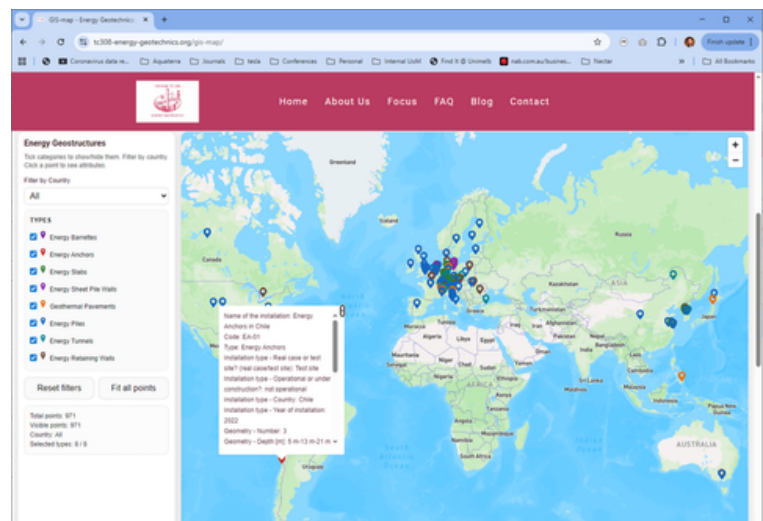
The ISSMGE Technical Committee 308 – Energy Geotechnics (TC308) is pleased to share the launch of its new Energy Geotechnics Global Map, an interactive GIS platform that brings together examples of energy geotechnics projects from around the world.

The platform starts with energy geostructures, those structures with a dual purpose: provision of structural stability and thermal energy exchange with the ground with the use of a ground source heat pump. These include energy piles, energy tunnels and energy retaining walls, showing where these systems have been implemented and how they are being used to support low-carbon heating, cooling and energy infrastructure.

The map has been designed as a practical, open resource for the community. Users can explore projects by location, filter by category, and access key information about each case. In doing so, the platform aims to make existing knowledge more visible, support collaboration between researchers and practitioners, and help asset owners, designers and policymakers better appreciate the growing role of geotechnics in the energy transition.

This is only the first stage. Future layers are planned to include CO<sub>2</sub> geological storage, hydrogen, geological nuclear waste repositories, deep geothermal systems, and other emerging geo-energy applications. In time, other technical committees can use the GIS platform for their own geospatial information dissemination as well.

The TC308 warmly invites members, colleagues and industry partners to explore the platform and contribute additional project data. By building this map together, we can better document the progress of our field and inspire the next generation of energy geotechnics applications.



Explore the platform:

<https://tc308-energy-geotechnics.org/gis-map/>

# Technical Committees Activities

## TC307 Meeting and Mini Workshop on Sustainability Practices for Smart Geotechnics Held at Geotech Asia 2025 • Goa, India • 9 October 2025

The Technical Committee TC307 of the ISSMGE successfully conducted its Meeting and Mini Workshop on “Sustainability Practices for Smart Geotechnics” on 9 October 2025, the third day of the 1st Geotech Asia International Conference held in Goa, India. The workshop opened with a welcome address by Prof. Anand Puppala, Chairman of TC307, followed by inaugural remarks from Dr. Marc Ballouz, President of ISSMGE, and Dr. Anil Joseph, Organising Chairperson of Geotech Asia 2025. Prof. Keh-Jian Shou, ISSMGE Vice President for Asia, also attended and expressed his support for TC307’s activities.



Prof. Anand Puppala, Chairman of TC307, delivering the welcome address.



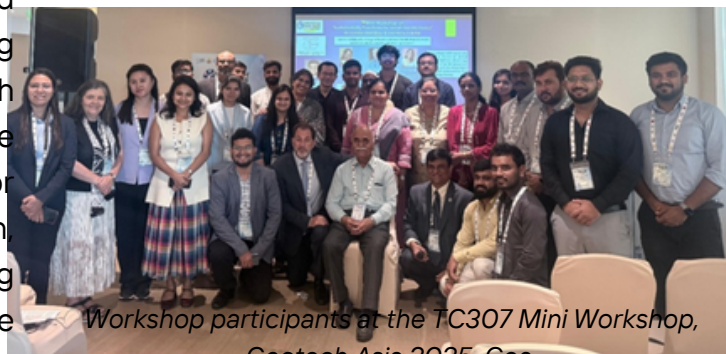
ISSMGE President Dr. Marc Ballouz with Dr. Anil Joseph.

The workshop featured seven technical presentations by distinguished professionals from academia and industry, alongside young geotechnical researchers: Prof. Madhavi Latha (IISc Bangalore), Ms. Dola Roychowdhury (G-Cube Consulting Engineers), Prof. Sireesh Saride (IIT Hyderabad), Dr. Akanksha Tyagi (IIT Roorkee), Dr. Ramu Baadiga (IIT Indore), Dr. Surya Congress (Michigan State University, USA), and Dr. Sayantan Chakraborty (BITS Pilani).

Presentations spanned a wide range of cutting-edge topics, including 3D printing applications in geotechnical engineering, the development and use of sustainability indicators, the innovative reuse of waste materials for in-situ ground improvement and road construction, and sustainable approaches to geohazard management.

Attracting a diverse audience of more than 30 academicians, industry professionals, and young researchers, the session fostered lively discussion and knowledge exchange. It successfully highlighted the latest trends in integrating sustainability with geotechnical engineering, aligning with the global vision of smart and resilient infrastructure development.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Akanksha Tyagi and Dr. Ramu Baadiga, with valued support from TC307 members including Prof. Madhavi Latha and Prof. Sireesh Saride. TC307 extends its sincere gratitude to all speakers and attendees for contributing to the success of this session, which reinforces the committee’s ongoing commitment to promoting sustainable geotechnical practices worldwide.



Workshop participants at the TC307 Mini Workshop, Geotech Asia 2025, Goa.

# Technical Committees Activities

## TC 304 and TC 309

### TBM Motion Prediction Challenge

## TBM Motion Prediction Challenge

Student Competition – 4th Future of Machine Learning in Geotechnics (4FOMLIG) Workshop

Seoul, South Korea | 26–28 August 2026

Organised by the FOMLIG Council in collaboration with ISSMGE TC304 and TC309

Student teams are invited to compete in a predictive modelling challenge focused on the yaw and pitch motion of tunnel boring machines (TBMs). The competition advances research toward unmanned TBM operation and more streamlined tunnel construction.

### The Task

Develop predictive models for future TBM machine movement and orientation, with emphasis on yawing and pitching behaviour. Teams train on competition datasets and are evaluated on an organiser-managed hidden test set. All training and evaluation data consist of simulation-based TBM movement data generated by Shimizu Corporation, ensuring a controlled and reproducible environment for fair evaluation.

### Award

Cash award of USD 2,000, generously sponsored by Shimizu Corporation, Japan, intended to support the winning team with the registration fee and travel expenses for the workshop. Winning teams will present their work at the 4FOMLIG workshop in Seoul (subject to final event rules).

### Key Requirements

Submissions must include model code, training scripts, documentation, and a brief explanation of the approach. Models must be executable using open-source tools (no paid commercial inference services). Teams are responsible for a clear, complete, and reproducible submission package, with explanation material understandable to judges not involved in development. Models are evaluated on prediction accuracy on the hidden test set.

### Timeline

Milestone	Date	Description
Call Opens	1 May 2026	Competition opens for team registrations
Training Data Release	15 May 2026	Training dataset becomes available
Registration Deadline	15 June 2026	Final deadline for team registration
Metrics & Rules Release	15 June 2026	Evaluation metrics and rules released
Submission Deadline	15 July 2026	Teams submit final models and documentation
Evaluation Period	16–31 July 2026	Organisers evaluate all submissions
Winner Announcement	1 August 2026	Winners announced publicly
Workshop Presentation	26–28 Aug 2026	Winning teams present at 4FOMLIG, Seoul

Competition website: <https://tbmchallenge-btq5crbu.manus.space/>

Workshop website: <https://fomlig2026.com/>

Register your team and start developing your model today.

# In Memory

## Prof. Dr. Carlos Quadros

It is with profound sadness that the geotechnical community marks the passing of Prof. Dr. Carlos Quadros on 7 June 2026. A founding member and President of the Mozambican Society for Geotechnics (2007–2026) – the ISSMGE African Region member society – Prof. Quadros was one of the most distinguished figures in the history of engineering in Mozambique. Born in Goa in 1955, he earned his doctorate in geotechnics at Weimar, Germany, and served for decades at Eduardo Mondlane University, where he mentored generations of engineers and held senior roles including Head of Civil Engineering and Vice-Rector. In 1989 he co-founded TÉCNICA – Engenheiros Consultores Lda., through which he contributed to hundreds of projects spanning dams, coastal protection, roads, and foundations across Mozambique. A member of the Portuguese and German geotechnical societies and a respected scholar of seismic embankment behaviour and coastal engineering, he leaves a lasting legacy of technical excellence, integrity, and service. The ISSMGE community extends its deepest condolences to his family, colleagues, and former students.



# Upcoming Events

## 1st International Conference on Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering (ICSGE 2027) Geodiversity & Resilience – 28 June to 1 July 2027 – LNEC, Lisbon, Portugal

The 1st International Conference on Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering (ICSGE 2027), under the theme Geodiversity & Resilience, will take place from 28 June to 1 July 2027 at the Campus of the National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC) in Lisbon, Portugal. Organised by LNEC under the auspices of the ISSMGE Technical Committee TC307 – Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering and the Portuguese Environmental Geotechnics Commission of the Portuguese Geotechnical Society, the conference will bring together renowned experts from around the world to foster discussion on the application of sustainable practices, risk and impact mitigation, and the promotion of geodiversity and resilience in geotechnical engineering and related fields, while also offering a unique platform for high-level international visibility for sponsors and exhibitors. The geotechnical community and related fields are warmly invited to participate through the submission of abstracts, institutional support, sponsorship, and technical exhibition. More information is available at <https://icsge.lnec.pt>, and enquiries may be directed to [cursos@lnec.pt](mailto:cursos@lnec.pt).



The banner features the ICSGE logo on the left, which consists of three curved lines in dark blue, orange, and white. To the right of the logo, the text reads: "1st International Conference on Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering" in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by "Geodiversity & Resilience" in a smaller font. The website "icsge.lnec.pt" is displayed in the top right corner, and the dates "28 June > 01 July" and location "Lisbon 2027" are in the bottom right. Below the main text, there are two sections: "ORGANIZED BY:" and "UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:". The "ORGANIZED BY:" section includes the LNEC logo and the text "LABORATÓRIO NACIONAL DE ENGENHARIA CIVIL". The "UNDER THE AUSPICES OF:" section includes logos for CPGA (Comissão Portuguesa de Geotecnia Ambiental), Sociedade Portuguesa de Geotecnia (PORTUGUESE GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY), and ISSMGE TC 307.

# Upcoming Events

## International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Soft Soil Engineering 2026 Delft University of Technology, Delft, Netherlands • 24–26 August 2026 • Language: English



Organized under the auspices of the ISSMGE Technical Committee TC214 – Foundation Engineering for Difficult Soft Soil Conditions and the Royal Netherlands Institute of Engineers (KIVI), this conference will showcase the latest developments in testing, modelling, monitoring, construction, and improvement of soft soils. As development expands into coastal regions, reclamation areas, and wetlands, it offers researchers, engineers, and industry professionals a platform to exchange expertise and address modern construction challenges in soft soil environments.

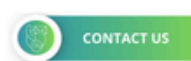
### Conference Themes

- Design, construction, performance and monitoring on soft soils
- Developments in laboratory and in situ testing
- Behaviour of soft soils, including Bio-Chemo-Thermo-Hydro-Mechanical coupling
- Constitutive and numerical modelling of soft soils
- On-shore, near-shore and off-shore soft soils engineering
- Climate impact and resilience, including vegetation
- Machine learning and data analysis
- Soft soils in geo-engineering education

Website: [softsoils2026.dryfta.com](https://softsoils2026.dryfta.com) Contact: Stefano Muraro – [s.muraro@tudelft.nl](mailto:s.muraro@tudelft.nl)

General enquiries: [softsoils2026@tudelft.nl](mailto:softsoils2026@tudelft.nl)

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our international family!**



**Keep the Bulletin vibrant  
Send us your Geotech stories**

**ISSMGE Bulletin Team  
Bulletin@ISSMGE.org**

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