



Minutes of TC Chairs -TOC meeting

A TC Chairs - TOC meeting was held on 30th October 2025 (Option I: between 2:00am and 3:30am GMT; and Option II: between 2:00pm and 3:30pm GMT) over virtual platform and following members of TCs (ideally the TC Chair, Vice-Chair or Secretary) attended the meeting.

Attendees of TC-TOC meeting between 2:00am and 3:30am GMT

- Marcelo Sanchez, TOC- Chair
- Susmita Sharma, TOC-Vice Chair
- Helmut Schweiger- Vice Chair 103 (Chair Vienna Conference 2026)
- Sukumar Pathmanandavel, Heritage Time Capsule (HTC)
- Itai Einav, Chair TC105
- Jonathan Bray, Chair TC203
- Richard Bathurst, Chair 205
- Duncan Nicholson, Chair 206
- Phil Watson, Chair 209
- Babak Hamidi, Chair 211
- Shinji Sassa, Chair TC213
- Wei Guo, Secretary of TC219
- David Frost, Chair 302
- Michael Hicks, Chair 304
- Askar Zhussupbekov, Chair 305
- Anand J Puppala, Chair, TC 307
- Md Mizanur Rahman, TC 307

Attendees of TC-TOC meeting between 2:00pm and 3:30pm GMT

- Marcelo Sanchez, TOC- Chair
- Susmita Sharma, TOC-Vice Chair
- Mabel Chedid, TOC-Secretary
- Helmut Schweiger- Vice Chair 103 (Chair Vienna Conference 2026)
- Sukumar Pathmanandavel, Heritage Time Capsule (HTC)
- Erdin Ibraim, on behalf of TC 101
- Jason DeJong, Chair TC102
- Francesca Ceccato on behalf of TC103
- Ioannis Anastasopoulos, Chair 104
- Enrique Romero, Chair 106
- Ahmed Chraibi, Chair 107

- Cor Zwanenburg, Chair 201
- Tatsuya Ishikawa, Chair 202
- Andrea Franza, on behalf of TC204
- Limin Zhang, Chair TC210
- Raffaele Di Laora, on behalf of TC 212
- Yoichi Watabe TC 214 Chair
- Andrea Dominijanni, Chair 215
- Takashi Ono, Chair TC216
- Giulia Lugli, Chair 218
- Andrew Ridley, Chair 220
- Ramon Verdugo, Chair 221
- Magnus Rømoen, Chair 222
- Alessandro Flora, Chair 301
- Michele Calvello, on behalf of TC 306
- Alessio Ferrari, on behalf of TC 308
- Dongming Zhang, on behalf of TC 309

At the outset, the TOC-Chair, Dr Marcelo Sanchez welcomed all the different members representing the TCs of ISSMGE in the Meeting of the TC Chairs and TOC. Thereafter a brief introduction of the representative member attending the meeting took place. The agenda items of the meeting were taken up accordingly.

1. Welcome & Introduction

Sánchez introduced the TOC leadership and support teams and then provided a general overview of all TC categories. At this point, he kindly asked for suggestions to help activate the inactive TCs (i.e., TC207, TC208, and TC303). In particular, he requested that potential members and Chairs for these TCs be identified. He mentioned that, if participants identify any potential member or Chair candidate, they may either contact them directly to inform them about this opportunity or inform him so that he can follow up with the potential candidates. Sánchez then invited each participant to briefly introduce themselves, indicating their name, the TC they represent, and any other relevant responsibilities.

2. Updates on Recent Conferences

Puppala congratulated the successful conduction of the Geotech Asia Conference, which took place on 7–10 October 2025 at the Taj Cidade De Goa Horizon, Goa. The event was hosted by the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, the Indian Geotechnical Society, and the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. Puppala noted that the conference covered various technical themes, including deep foundations, earth-retaining structures, and earthquake engineering, and that it had around 650 attendees. He also informed the participants that the FedIGS (Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies) meeting was held in Goa in conjunction with the conference.

3. Updates on Upcoming Conferences

3.1. [21st ICSMGE 2026](#). International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. Vienna, Austria. Jun. 14th to 19th. 2026: The TOC Chair then introduced Dr. Helmut Schweiger, who presented details of the 21st ICSMGE. Schweiger reported that more than 1,400 papers had been uploaded, that the review process is ongoing, and that notifications to authors will be sent by the first

week of November 2025. He explained that issues related to the final paper submission format are being addressed, and that the deadline for uploading the full papers is the end of November 2025.

Schweiger noted that the best-ranked papers from the review process will be presented orally at the conference, while the remaining accepted papers will be forwarded to the appropriate TC Chairs for consideration as poster presentations in the parallel afternoon sessions. In response to a question from Ridley regarding moderation, Schweiger added that each author will be given approximately 2 minutes to present the highlights of their paper, within a 40-minute time slot per room. Presenters will receive instructions and clear rules to submit one presentation slide, and session Chairs will be asked to ensure strict adherence to the 2-minute time limit. In response to a Romero's question, he further clarified that papers will only be published if the presenter attends and presents their paper at the conference (no hybrid mode will be considered). This requirement is also intended to help ensure attendance at the conference. He also mentioned that each participant can carry responsibility of 2 papers max.

Schweiger informed the participants that eight Honour Lectures will be delivered in semi-plenary mode; these have already been announced (with presenter names and topics) and are displayed on the conference website. He added that TC workshops, parallel sessions, and discussion sessions will run in parallel, and that the respective TC Chairs should inform him of their preferred time slots and session lengths by the end of December 2025, so that the programme can be organized in advance (each TC session will be 90 minutes). Both Sánchez and Schweiger emphasized that TCs are welcome to organize joint/combined sessions at the conference, if they so choose.

Hamidi expressed his appreciation for the idea of poster presentations and, at the same time, highlighted the possibility of improving the process for uploading review comments in PDF format, suggesting that this could be considered in future editions.

3.2. Heritage Time Capsule (HTC): The TOC Chair then introduced Dr. Pathmanandavel, who provided an update on the ISSMGE Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) project. He explained that the HTC is a strategic framework for the second 100 years of geotechnical engineering, for which a large number of contributions have already been uploaded to the HTC website by members of various ISSMGE cohorts. He also described the planned sealing of a physical time capsule in 2026, to be opened in one hundred years, in 2126. The time capsule will be a transparent glass container (1.7 m (H) × 1.1 m (W) × 0.65 m (D)), resembling a bookcase with four shelves. The first compartment will contain books, geographical maps, etc.; the second compartment will contain samples of manufactured products, models of equipment and construction materials; the third compartment will contain laboratory testing apparatus and monitoring devices; and the fourth compartment will contain soil and rock samples. An open area will be reserved for the display of in-situ testing equipment. In total, the time capsule is expected to contain around 20–30 items. Pathmanandavel requested suggestions and physical model contributions from the TCs for both the ISSMGE HTC website update and the physical capsule, by December 2025. It was suggested that sharing a leaflet with a brief description of the project would help TCs to better understand the concept and identify suitable items for inclusion in the time capsule.

4. ISSMGE Bulletin

Sanchez discussed the new ISSMGE Bulletin format, a flip-book e-magazine with zoom capability, pop-ups and hotlinks (indicated by a white flash), and embedded video. The Bulletin highlights recent advances, technological achievements, and activities of Member Societies across the global geotechnical community. The Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Mona Badr, oversees publication of this new edition. Frost and Ridley asked about the deadline for the next issue; Badr will confirm the date soon. Puppala noted that the Geotech Asia Conference paper will be shared for publication consideration and invited. Frost to do the same.

5. ISSMGE Technical Publications – New Journal

Sánchez introduced the new ISSMGE Journal on Geotechnical Engineering Research, whose launch has been led by Dr. John McCartney. As an initial strategy, the journal will consider the finest papers submitted to ISSMGE conferences, showcasing the most recent research. The publishing model will be Diamond Open Access (free for authors to publish and for readers to download). The journal will publish four issues per year, with approximately 10 papers per issue, and ISSMGE will fund the publication costs. The Editors-in-Chief representing the Americas, Europe/Africa, and Asia/Pacific regions will be Dr. Adda Athanasopoulos-Zekkos, Dr. Helmut F. Schweiger, and Dr. Anthony Leung, respectively. An MOU with Argo/E to serve as publisher is under discussion. Bathurst asked whether submissions beyond conference selections could also be considered, how the journal would manage a high submission volume, and what guidelines or formatting rules would apply. Sánchez noted that the journal will initially publish conference proceedings and special issues only to control submission volume; unsolicited papers may be accepted in the future. Frost and Zhussupbekov suggested using the Journal of Case Histories as a reference. Romero expressed appreciation for the initiative, and Sánchez added that the journal will be fully online, with ongoing discussions about editorial software, indexing, selection of guest editors, and adherence to ISSMGE guidelines.

6. Guidelines ISSMGE Technical Committees

Sánchez encouraged all TCs to review the ISSMGE TC Guidelines and submit suggestions for enhancements. He requested the (re)activation of TCs 207, 208, and 303 and invited nominations for new Chairs. Babak proposed recognizing Corresponding Members who are more active than some Nominated Members. Bathurst asked about the selection process for Corresponding Members. Sánchez clarified that Member Societies nominate both Nominated and Corresponding Members, while TC Chairs may initiate a process—per the Guidelines—to select or remove inactive members. He added that TC Chairs may currently nominate up to four Corresponding Members and suggested allowing TC Chairs to enroll Nominated Members as well, following a clear protocol that respects Member Societies' prerogatives. Dominijanni endorsed permitting Chairs to nominate Corresponding Members (without affecting voting procedures) so they can contribute to TC initiatives. Chair terms are four years, renewable once for four additional years. The TOC Chair stressed the need to update the ISSMGE TC website with current member names and details. Babak also asked whether the number of Corresponding Members could be increased; Sánchez confirmed yes. Ibrahim and Babak emphasized engaging young and student members through workshops, technical presentations, and other technical activities/documents.

7. TOC New Initiatives

7.1 To recognize the hard work of immediate past TC Chairs, a plaque will be awarded. Outgoing Chairs should also submit a brief report describing the starting context of their tenure, the TC's knowledge-propagation activities, and the principal challenges and lessons learned.

7.2 A pilot small-funding scheme (up to £1,500) will support projects that increase or improve TC activity and foster inter-TC collaboration. The 2024 grant was awarded to TC306 (with TC103 and TC106). For 2025, applications are now open, with a deadline of 24 November 2025.

8. International Interactive Technical Talks, IITT (Sanchez).

The IITT, led by the ISSMGE President, are a series of technical sessions designed to bring together prominent and early-career geotechnical professionals from academia and industry worldwide. In each session, the President serves as moderator and the main speaker is a renowned geotechnical engineer typically a leader from the corresponding TC. The TOC Chair commended the TCs for successfully organizing recent IITTs and noted that five additional IITTs are scheduled for this month. Addressing

Babak, Sanchez added that these technical lectures are intended to stimulate debate, or build consensus, between the moderator and the speaker while engaging a broad, international audience.

9. Monitoring of TCs Activities and Performance

Sanchez emphasized that TC activity is monitored with a tracking spreadsheet covering key items such as Terms of Reference, website status, Honour Lecture, regular administrative meetings, teleconferences, Virtual University contributions, the Time Capsule Project, IITs, inter-TC interactions, proceedings, and more. An indicative score generates a rating/ranking to distinguish very good, good, and underperforming TCs. Einav requested that the monitoring questionnaire be completed at the beginning of next year. Babak, Verdugo, and DeJong suggested adding webinars, inter-TC collaborations, and cases where TCs serve as primary supporters as additional monitoring parameters. Ferrari proposed including state-of-the-art papers and technical reports. Romero added that due credit should be given for organizing regional conferences. Sanchez mentioned that he will circulate a draft with the items to be considered in the TCs' evaluations.

10. Other Business (all)

Sanchez opened the section by highlighting outstanding initiatives from three TCs:

- TC 209 (Offshore Geotechnics) has introduced a new award, the “Mark Randolph Award – Best PhD Dissertation Award.” Watson reported that the first award will be presented at the OSIG Conference in 2027. Nomination and selection guidelines have been drafted and are under review by TC 209 and the OSIG 2027 organizers. The winner will be honored with an invited presentation, and their paper will be published in the conference proceedings. Sánchez noted that the ISSMGE Board welcomed this initiative and agreed to add an ISSMGE certificate signed by the President as part of the recognition package.
- TC 105 (Geo-Mechanics from Micro to Macro) proposed an annual student competition award. Interested students will prepare a video highlighting their PhD research (theoretical, experimental, or computational). Sánchez informed that ISSMGE will support this initiative with an award of £500, provided there are at least three competing videos. The winner will also prepare an article for the ISSMGE Bulletin explaining the video, behind-the-scenes context, and related research aspects.
- TC 206 (Observational Methods) will organize a Pre-Rankine Conference on 17 March 2026. The program will include two morning sessions and a Real-Time Back-Analysis (RTBA) session in the afternoon. TC 206 is collaborating with: TC220 (Field Monitoring), TC103 (Numerical Methods), TC204 (Tunnels in Soft Ground). Other TCs are invited to panel discussions only (no presentations due to time constraints): TC222 (BIM), TC309 (Machine Learning), and TC304 (Risk). The Board commended the initiative and emphasized the value of collaboration and interaction among

Sanchez encouraged other TCs to implement similar activities. Franza requested a copy of the PhD dissertation award guidelines. The establishment of TC-level awards was discussed as an excellent initiative for broader adoption. Sánchez mentioned that TC 206 has developed strong guidelines for such activities, and Romero added that these will soon be shared so other TCs can consider award implementation (including best paper and innovation awards, in addition to a distinguished lecture).

DeJong asked whether a TC could host two Honour Lectures, HL (i.e., in addition to the Mitchell HL) to recognize other leading researchers in the field. Sanchez responded that this is the first request of its kind and that he will raise it with the Board. He also noted that, under current guidelines, the lifespan of an ISSMGE HL is normally a minimum of eight years; thereafter, a TC may start a new HL series with a new name, providing another way to recognize different researchers over time.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from the TOC Chair.