



Draft Minutes of TC Chairs -TOC meeting

A TC Chairs - TOC meeting was held on March 5th 2024 [Option I: between 3:00am and 4:30am GMT and Option II: between 3:00pm and 4:30pm 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 3:00am and 4:30am GMT

- Dr Marc Ballouz, PRESIDENT ISSMGE
 - Dr Marcelo Sanchez, TOC- Chair
 - Dr Susmita Sharma, TOC-ViceChair
 - Dr. Mabel Chedid, TOC-Secretary
 - Dr Helmut Schweiger- Vice Chair 103 (Chair Vienna Conference 2026).
1. Dr Jason DeJong, Chair 102
 2. Dr Kenichi Soga, Chair 105
 3. Dr Cor Zwanenburg, Chair 201
 4. Dr Misko Cubrinovski, Chair 203
 5. Dr Richard Bathurst, Chair 205
 6. Dr Andy Take, Chair 208
 7. Dr Phil Watson, Chair 209
 8. Dr Babak Hamidi, Chair 211
 9. Dr Shinji Sassa, Chair 213
 10. Dr Yoichi Watabe, Chair 214
 11. Dr Takashi Ono, Chair 216
 12. Dr Jian Chu, Chair 217
 13. Dr Gang Zheng, Chair 219
 14. Dr Wei Guo, Secretary 219
 15. Dr David Frost, Chair 302
 16. Dr Askar Zhussupbekov, Chair 305
 17. Dr Hoe I Ling, Vice Chair, 305
 18. Dr Anand J. Puppala, Chair 307
 19. Dr Guillermo Narsilio, Chair 308

Attendees of TC-TOC meeting between 3:00pm and 4:30pm GMT

- Dr Marc Ballouz, PRESIDENT ISSMGE
- Dr Marcelo Sanchez, TOC- Chair

- Dr Andrew Mc Namara, Secretary General of ISSMGE
 - Dr Susmita Sharma, TOC-ViceChair
 - Dr. Mabel Chedid, TOC-Secretary
 - Dr Helmut Schweiger- Vice Chair 103 (Chair Vienna Conference 2026)
1. Dr Matthew Coop, Chair 101
 2. Dr Franseca Ceccato Secretary,103
 3. Dr Ioannis Anastasopoulos, Chair 104
 4. Dr Enrique Romero, Chair 106
 5. Dr Ahmed Chraibi, Chair 107
 6. Dr Mike Winter, Chair 202
 7. Dr Duncan Nicholson, Chair 206
 8. Dr Limin Zhang, Chair 210
 9. Dr Alessandro Mandolini, Chair 212
 10. Dr Raffaele Di Laora, Secretary 212
 11. Dr Andrea Dominijanni, Chair 215
 12. Dr Giulia Lugli, Chair 218
 13. Dr Andrew Ridley, Chair 220
 14. Dr Alessandro Flora, Chair 301
 15. Dr Cormac Reale, Secretary 304
 16. Dr Marina Pantazidou, Chair 306
 17. Dr Zhongqiang Liu, Chair 309
 18. Dr Dongming Zhang, Secretary, 309
 19. Dr Mats Kahlstrom, Secretary, 222

At the outset, the TOC-Chair, Dr Marcelo Sanchez welcomed all the different members representing the TCs of ISSMGE in the 2nd Meeting of the TC Chairs and TOC. Thereafter a brief introduction of the representative member attending the meeting took place. ISSMGE President, Dr Marc Ballouz, too addressed the gathering of the members and expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the TCs for their enthusiasm in organizing the different event under the TC's effective leadership and for their eagerness for participating for the IITT. The agenda items of the meeting were taken up accordingly.

Organization of Pre-Conference TCs Workshops, Courses, and TCs Meetings

The TOC Chair introduced Dr Schweiger, the vice Chair of TC103, who presented the details of planning for the 21st ICSMGE International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering from 14th – 19th June 2026 in Vienna, Austria. Dr Schweiger informed that the Conference would be an in-person [hybrid mode not considered]and green event, with English as the prime communication language. However, a presentation in French will also be acceptable. The general topics of the presentation will be Insitu Laboratory testing, Monitoring Geohazard, Environmental Geotechniques, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Geotechnical aspects of energy production, Quality control, Sustainability, CO₂ footprints are the main content of the presentation will be Geoenvironmental Engineering but not limited to that mentioned above. The paper will be allowed for a maximum of 6 pages in a

2-column format [template is ready]. The allocation of papers will be as per ISSMGE rules and will depend on the number of contributions from the national society; additional paper slots will be provided if the member society requests for it. A proposal for special lectures corresponding to a paper length of 20 pages may also be included, but this will not be strictly enforced by the Organizers. The submitted papers are to be reviewed by national societies, and the authors need to give the necessary information to the relevant TC where it fits best. Thereafter the relevant TC will select the papers for oral presentation and session's chairperson. The selected paper will be accepted for proceeding in a digital form only with a DOI and will be available in the ISSMGE online library immediately after the Conference [open access].

Dr Schweiger informed that the TC workshops, parallel sessions, and discussion sessions will be conducted in parallel, for which the time and length should be notified to him by the respective TC chairs so that the slots can be adjusted in advance [like the format of the recent Conference held in Paris]. Dr Schweiger said the website will be ready by Aug-Sept 24 for abstract submission of ICSMGE 2026. Provisionally, he informed that some reserved slots exist for 4 Honour lectures [can accommodate five nos of lectures]. Honour lecture information must be made available to Dr Schweiger by Dec 2024 with the presentation's name and topic. The morning sessions are all plenary lectures with one special session dedicated to Contractors who will discuss Sustainability in Geotechnical engineering. In the afternoon, there will be a parallel session on the papers submitted to the Conference, and later, in the parallel room, the discussion sessions will take place. He further stated that the website will be ready by Aug-Sept 24 ICSMGE 2026. Dr Schweiger concluded his presentation with an invitation to participate in the 21st ICSMGE 2026 and mentioned that Karl von Terzaghi will be honoured on this 100th years anniversary, and the special guest of Honour, will be Sergei Terzaghi 'his grandson'. There will be a stage event with the heritage time capsule and museum of Terzaghi will be inaugurated/displayed.

President ISSMGE, Dr Ballouz also presented his views on the 21st ICSMGE 2026 and highlighted its significance in celebrating Terzaghi's 100th anniversary. He also requested everyone to join hands and make this Conference a grand success. He suggested the selection procedure of the Honor lecture criteria on a first-come-first basis.

Dr Narsilio asked about the selection of oral presentations by TCs in parallel sessions. Dr Schweiger clarified that the workshops would run in parallel to the Conference TC session for which the duration and the size of the allocation room need to be confirmed by the TCs. One session is usually 1.5hrs which is negotiable so that 3 sessions of shorter duration can be accommodated in the same space [shorter sessions are on request of TCs]. In answering to Dr Narsilio, Dr Schweiger mentioned that an internal arrangement of shifting the papers from one TC to another can be initiated if any sessions have fewer documents.

Dr Winter expressed his ideas on the selection of papers criteria and the role of member society for selecting of the papers was clarified to him by TOC- Chair. The poster sessions will be updated in the gallery and the discussions and easy access may be made during the lunch time in the allocated venue.

Dr Hamidi confirmed that presently, primary contact person of 21st ICSMGE 2026 is Dr Schweiger himself. Information related to the desire to participate in the parallel session

may also be communicated to him, but later, information related to papers will be addressed to the committee.

The TOC Chair confirmed that previously, a form with the necessary details of TC requesting title, type of session [typical session with papers, panel, workshop, etc.], time needed etc was circulated by the organizers. ICSMGE 2026 will also prepare the form, which was submitted to TOC- Chair, and the filled-up form, as received from TC, will be returned to the organiser. The deadline is not crucial now, but somewhere next year, 2025, this information may be received [this is open for discussion].

Dr Puppala raised a query related to Honour lectures; with 30+ TCs, it may be challenging to accommodate the honour lecture as projected in the presentation. He proposed that the TCs could conduct the Honour lecture within the parallel session [20 min presentation, 5 min with Q&A format]. Dr Schweiger is open to this suggestion. Dr Mandolini clarified on the Honour lecture criteria, if the speaker has not presented in the previous conference [at Sydney], he may be considered for an Honour lecture in this conference [in Vienna]. Dr Hamidi was clarified on the role of TCs. As an expert, the TC chair will choose the paper for presentation after the national society screens the abstracts, as not all papers can be accommodated.

Later Dr Sanchez, briefed about the Pan-American Congress on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering at La Serena, Chile to be conducted later this year in November. To date, the conference has received around 760 abstracts from 32 different countries [mainly USA, Australia, Spain, etc]. The final submission of the entire paper is due in July 2024. 2 honour lectures are scheduled in this conference one from TC 212 and other from TC106. He further informed that if TCs are interested in organizing a technical session or meeting at this conference, they may submit their proposal by mid-March 2024. He briefed about the collaboration happening in XVIII ECSMGE 2024, European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in Lisbon, Portugal, from Aug. 26th to 30th, 2024. The updates will be notified shortly after the meeting is held at Lisbon.

TOC New Initiatives

Dr Sanchez pointed out to the two new initiatives of TOC.

- The TC Chair[outgoing] will be asked to prepare a document about the starting of the TC, the activities related to knowledge propagation in its specialist subject area, and the challenges and experiences of the TC Chair during their tenure. This document may be published in our bulletin/magazine or paper. The Technical Committee Chairs will be given recognition in the form of a plate for their relentless service to the ISSMGE society. Here, the TOC Chair requested that nominations be sent from the past TC Chairs before May 2024 so that due recognition can be given. Dr Romero and Dr Dominijanni expressed their views on the first initiative.
- The small funding to support initiatives that will promote TCs' interactions or enhance/expand TC activities will be initiated shortly. The collaborative work is appreciated, and TOC are open to more discussion related to it.

ISSMGE Technical Committee Report

The TOC- Chair justified the need for more than two administrative meetings in TC [either video or in-person meetings with properly minuted meetings], collaboration amongst different TCs in recent research and field developments through more activities like technical presentations, technical events, or workshops. The need to conduct ISSMGE Honor Lectures [50% of TCs have already conducted] and Bright Spark lectures [50% of TCs have already conducted] to share the knowledge of the renowned and promote the young members ISSMGE was highlighted. Dr Romero discussed on the process of selecting of Bright Spark lectures and role of TCs and member societies and more clarity is sought in this regard.

The TOC- Chair informed that as per a previous suggestion, all proceedings should be open access, mandatory as per guidelines of ISSMGE. Dr Hamidi expressed his views on open access and was clarified by the President that ISSMGE is mainly a nonprofit society catering to the development of knowledge, so it will be considered open access. Dr Watson shared if the TCs co-organised events with another organiser, and the other organiser is not willing to allow open access, should ISSMGE continue with such events or withdraw the support as they are not purely open access? This is open for discussion in the board meeting as a special case, as suggested by both the TOC Chair and President ISSMGE. Dr Watson further highlighted a journal that publishes all processing in open access one or two years from the date of the conference. This approach may be considered as a suggestion in the Board Meeting in GeoShanghai 2024 and a report to be presented by Dr Hamidi and Dr Watson.

President ISSMGE informed about the virtual university and its reorganization in a formal manner. The new bulletin [like an electronic magazine] to be launched on March 20, 2024, will be a good platform for projecting the TC activities; interested TCs can always submit their achievement in proper format [word doc or PDF] and the same will be included in a dedicated section for TC activities in the E magazine. Presently, 1st issue will be a launching issue with stories from the board including the Midterm report by the President ISSMGE.

Monitoring of TCs Activities and Performance

The TOC- Chair congratulated each TCs for filling up the questionnaire (survey online with 10-15 question) circulated on the ISSMGE website for noting their contribution to the ISSMGE's technical activities and objectives. The synthesis of all TC reports was presented and discussed in the form of contribution and collaboration amongst the different committees. The TOC- Chair emphasized that the monitoring of TC activity is made using a spreadsheet, with various activities such as Term of Reference, Website, Honour lecture, Regular administrative meeting, Telecommunication, virtual university, Task force, IITT, Interaction TCs, Proceedings etc. which are very significant. The score is used to establish an indicative ranking, which allows distinguishing between very good TCs, good ones and underperforming TCs. The scores respective to the individual TCs can be obtained by directly emailing TOC- Chair. Also if any changes are decided in the TCs, that may be forwarded to TOC.

New Guidelines ISSMGE Technical Committees. Revised March. 2024

The TOC-Chair shared the new guidelines with the TCs and informed them that the previous guidelines were not clear about the Chair and Vice Chair's right to vote. In addition to the Secretary and Vice-Chair, the TC Chair may nominate up to four (4) members from various countries to reflect the international nature of the TC. The new criteria and process for creating and naming ISSMGE Honour Lectures are proposed. The voting and scrutiny process will be conducted online with a minimum 2 weeks election period. Dr Watson pointed out that since these three nominations are people with the highest reputation in the geotechnical engineering field, how do we proceed with the disqualification? Here, the TC should prepare a list of three alternative nominees for the Honour Lecture and select the lecture by the democratic election process. Discussion on the support of 50% of the TC members voting for the chosen candidate will be done again in future, as indicated by both Dr Ballouz and Dr Sanchez.

New election system

The new election body system provides flexibility in the voting system. Although there is a payment charge of \$29 [via ElectionBuddy platform] TOC, will support this payment. ARGO-E GROUP will produce a detailed video guide to TC officers so that they can work and set up the election process on the ElectionBuddy platform. The latest election system will help the committee in fruitful electoral system. The TOC-Vice Chair will assist the TC officers in this process.

International Interactive Technical Talks (IITT)

Under the leadership of President ISSMGE, International Interactive Technical Talks (IITT) represents a series of technical talks to bring together young and renowned geo professionals from around the world, from academia to the industry. Here, the president of ISSMGE is the moderator, and the main speaker would be a renowned geotechnical engineer, usually a leader from the corresponding TC. So far, 15 TCs have developed IITTs with the objective that each TC will organize at least one IITT in coordination with the TOC- Chair in the coming months. The TOC- Chair congratulated different TCs for successfully conducting the IITTs and requested a proposal if any TCs want more than one IITT to be conducted. TOC has 2 IITTs scheduled for March 24 and discussion with additional 5 are ongoing.

Communication/ Interaction with member societies

The TOC- Chair requested all TCs to develop (together with the professional image committee) TC informative manual to share with the member societies to help to engage more colleagues in the TCs.

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