

Technical Advisory and Outcome Committee (TAOC) - Vision for 2026–2030

The Technical Advisory and Outcome Committee (TAOC) will support the continued advancement of ISSMGE's Technical Committees (TCs) by fostering collaboration, encouraging innovation, strengthening communication, and promoting technical excellence across the Society. Building on the achievements of the previous term, the Committee will evolve from a primarily oversight-oriented body towards a more strategic advisory role, helping TCs maximize their technical contributions while maintaining the flexibility needed to address the diversity of geotechnical disciplines represented within ISSMGE.

The Committee will continue supporting the excellent technical activities already undertaken by the TCs, including conferences, workshops, technical sessions, publications, webinars, educational initiatives, and international collaboration, while encouraging each Committee to identify and pursue meaningful technical outcomes that provide lasting value to the geotechnical profession and society. Rather than defining achievements centrally, the Committee will promote a bottom-up approach, inviting each Technical Committee to reflect on its field of expertise and identify where it can make the greatest international contribution. This process is intended to strengthen ownership, encourage innovation, and recognize that different TCs will naturally contribute in different ways to the advancement of geotechnical engineering.

One important initiative will be to encourage TCs to prepare concise technical summaries of the most significant conferences, workshops, and technical events that they organize or actively participate in. Rather than serving simply as event reports, these summaries would capture the principal technical developments, emerging trends, lessons learned, and future challenges discussed during these events, allowing valuable knowledge to be disseminated more broadly across the international geotechnical community. In this way, TC would not only organize technical activities but also help transfer and preserve the knowledge generated through them. The TAOC will also encourage the development of technical guidelines, recommendations, state-of-the-art and state-of-practice reports, benchmark studies, educational resources, and other initiatives that contribute to the continued advancement of geotechnical engineering. Particular emphasis will be placed on promoting collaboration among TCs, facilitating interdisciplinary initiatives, strengthening communication between the Board, Member Societies, and the Technical Committees, and increasing the visibility and impact of their collective achievements.

As Chair, my role will be to provide strategic leadership for the Committee while working closely with the President, the Board, the Vice-Chair, the Secretary, and the TC Chairs. The Committee should serve as a facilitator and catalyst, helping TCs collaborate more effectively, share successful practices, identify opportunities for joint initiatives, and translate the Board's strategic priorities into meaningful technical actions. My objective is to ensure that the TCs continue to be recognized not only for organizing outstanding technical activities but also for producing lasting contributions that advance geotechnical engineering worldwide.

Technical Advisory and Outcome Committee (TAOC): The proposed title reflects the Committee's evolution from a primarily oversight function towards a collaborative advisory role focused on advancing the work, visibility, and long-term impact of ISSMGE's Technical Committees.