

Technical Oversight Committee

Final Report, March 2026

Marcelo Sanchez

1. INTRODUCTION

The 38 Technical Committees (TCs) of the ISSMGE constitute the foundation of the Society's technical and scientific activities. Each TC is managed by a Chair and a Secretary and, if deemed necessary, a Vice-Chair. The committees are composed of four members appointed by the Chair (with voting rights), members nominated by Member Societies (two members per Member Society, with voting rights), and corresponding members (with no voting rights and no limitation in number). Nominated and corresponding members are nominated through their Member Societies, which are also responsible for updating their names on the TC website. The functioning of the TCs, which operate on a voluntary basis, is supervised by the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) and defined in the *Guidelines for ISSMGE Technical Committees and ISSMGE Honour Lectures* (revised in January 2024, hereafter referred to as the "Guidelines"). The Guidelines state that TCs are a "forum for discussing, developing and applying specialist geotechnical knowledge related to the behaviour of geo-materials, geotechnical engineering and engineering for society", with the following objectives:

1. Develop and disseminate knowledge and practice within the topic of the TC to the membership of the ISSMGE.
2. Establish guidelines and technical recommendations within the topic of the TC.
3. Assist with the technical programs of international and regional conferences organised by the ISSMGE.
4. Interact with industry and with other groups working in areas related to the specialist domain of the TC.

Figure 1 presents the TCs grouped according to the ISSMGE TC categories (i.e., Fundamentals, Applications, and Impact to Society). The size of the circles representing each TC is proportional to the number of members listed on the ISSMGE website. In total, around 2,200 members participate across all TCs.

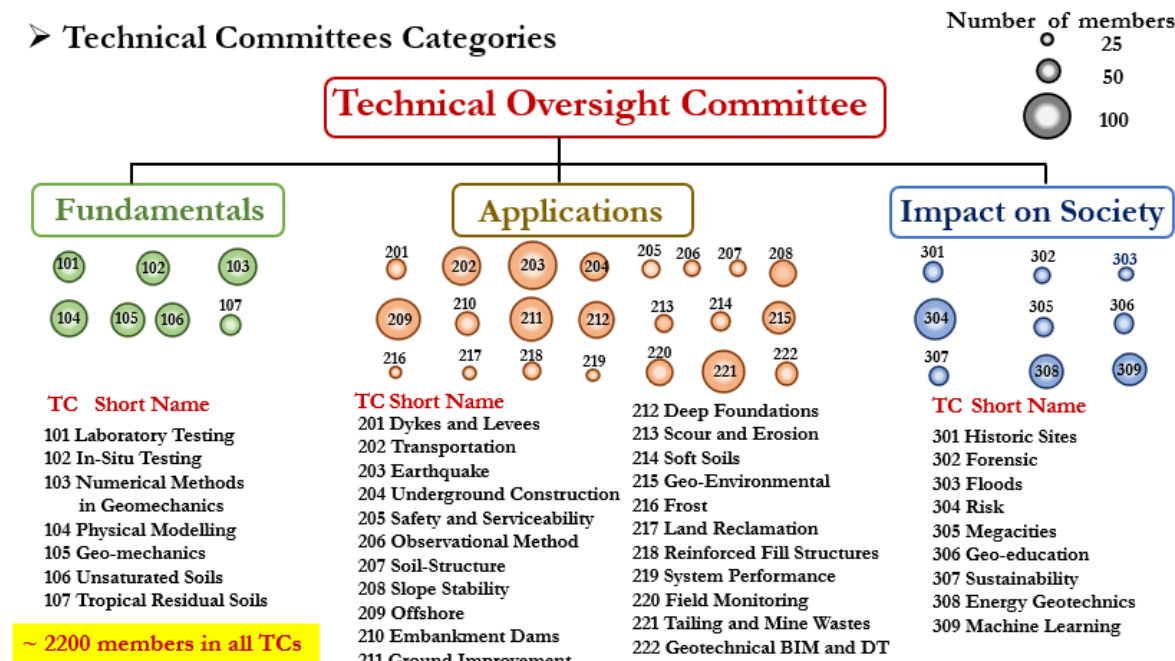


Figure 1. Technical Committees grouped according to the ISSMGE TC categories.

The Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) is responsible for supervising and coordinating the activities of the Technical Committees (TCs) of the ISSMGE. During the 20th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (20th ICSMGE), held in Sydney in May 2022, the ISSMGE President, Dr. Marc Ballouz, appointed Dr. Marcelo Sanchez as Chair of the TOC for the 2022–2026 term. Dr. Susmita Sharma was appointed as TOC Vice-Chair and Dr. Mabel Chedid as TOC Secretary. During the reporting period, the activities of the TOC were supported by the former TOC Chair, Dr. Pierre Delage; the appointed Board member, Dr. Dimitrios Zekkos; the Chair of the Professional Image Committee, Dr. Mona El-Din Anwar; and the six ISSMGE Vice Presidents: Dr. Walter Paniagua (North America), Dr. Lyesse Laloui (Europe), Dr. Marawan Shahien (Africa), Dr. Keh-Jian Shou (Asia), Mr. Graham Scholey (Australasia), and Dr. André P. Assis (South America). They are presented in Figure 2.

➤ 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. Marwan Shahien
Africa



Dr. Keh-Jian Shou
Asia



Mr. Graham Scholey
Australasia



Dr. Lyesse Laloui
Europe



Dr. Walter Paniagua
North America



Dr. Andre F. Assis
South America

Figure 2. Leadership and support structure of the TOC.

This report describes the TCs and TOC activities carried out during the period May 2023 to March 2026. The document is organized as follows, first the changes in the “Guidelines for ISSMGE Technical Committees and ISSMGE Honour Lectures” are discussed, second the changes in the TC Chairs are informed, third the TCs activities are reported, fourth the TOC–TCs meeting is discussed, fifth the ISSMGE Interactive Technical Talks (IITTs) are introduced, sixth the coordination of TCs involvement in regional and international conferences are reported, seven the main outcomes of TCs midterm reports are summarized, eight the creation of new and the revival of inactive TCs are briefly discussed, and finally the reports closes with the concluding remarks.

2. CHANGES IN ISSMGE TCs GUIDELINES

In January 2024, the “TCs and ISSMGE Honour Lectures Guidelines” were revised. The Guidelines were well elaborated. However, the section dedicated to the election of the new TC Chairs needed some improvement and was revisited to include relevant information that was missing. The previous guideline established: “The term of office of a Chair is 4 years and can be renewed, normally for just one additional term. At the end of their term, a Chair in conjunction with their TC members may nominate to the TOC and the ISSMGE President one or more candidates to assume the post. In addition, the TOC may propose other candidates.” This text does not specifically state that the new TC Chair needs to be elected by the TC members with right to vote. This aspect is a critical component in the selection process of a new Chair. The guidelines do not provide either clear instructions about the election protocol that the TCs need

to follow to select a new TC Chair. These aspects have generally been a matter of long discussions during the elections of TC Chairs. To clarify this aspect, a new protocol to elect TC Chair was proposed. The suggested protocol is included in Annex 1.

Also, the previous Guidelines contemplate an (almost) automatic renewal of TC Chairs after their first term in office. In the new Guidelines, TC Chairs are required to pass a motion of confidence after completing the first four years of their term. This additional step is intended to help prevent situations in which inactive TC Chairs remain in their position for extended periods. Only TC members with voting rights are allowed to participate in the motion of confidence. The corresponding protocol was included in the Guidelines. Furthermore, the election process for the Honour Lectures has also been incorporated into the new Guidelines, following an approach similar to the one adopted for the selection of TC Chairs.

3. REVITALIZATION AND ESTABLISHMENT OF TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

At the beginning of the 2022–2026 term, 36 of the 38 existing Technical Committees were active, while TC207 “Soil Structure Interaction” and TC208 “Slope Stability” had remained inactive for an extended period. An important objective of the TOC during the term was to revitalize these committees. New leadership teams were established for both TCs, enabling them to resume their activities and become fully active members of the ISSMGE Technical Committee community (Figure 3).

In addition to revitalizing the two inactive committees, the scope of the ISSMGE Technical Committees was expanded through the establishment of two new TCs: TC223 “Bio-Geotechnics” and TC310 “Space Geotechnics”. These new committees address emerging areas of geotechnical engineering and broaden the range of technical and scientific topics represented within the ISSMGE.

Consequently, by the end of the 2022–2026 term, the number of Technical Committees had increased from 38 to 40, with all committees active.

Technical Committees		
Category	Number	Short Name
Fundamentals	TC101	Laboratory Testing
Fundamentals	TC102	Site Characterization
Fundamentals	TC103	Numerical Methods
Fundamentals	TC104	Physical Modelling
Fundamentals	TC105	Geomechanics from Micro to Macro
Fundamentals	TC106	Unsaturated Soils
Fundamentals	TC107	Tropical Residual Soils
Impact on Society	TC301	Historic Sites
Impact on Society	TC302	Forensic
Impact on Society	TC303	Floods
Impact on Society	TC304	Risk
Impact on Society	TC305	Megacities
Impact on Society	TC306	Geo-education
Impact on Society	TC307	Sustainability
Impact on Society	TC308	Energy Geotechnics
Impact on Society	TC309	Machine Learning
Impact on Society	TC310	Space Geotechnics
Applications	TC201	Dykes and Levees
Applications	TC202	Transportation
Applications	TC203	Earthquake
Applications	TC204	Underground Construction
Applications	TC205	Safety and Serviceability
Applications	TC206	Observational Method
Applications	TC207	Soil structure - Retaining Walls
Applications	TC208	Slope Stability
Applications	TC209	Offshore
Applications	TC210	Embankment Dams
Applications	TC211	Ground Improvement
Applications	TC212	Deep Foundations
Applications	TC213	Scour Erosion
Applications	TC214	Soft soils
Applications	TC215	Geo-environmental
Applications	TC216	Frost
Applications	TC217	Land Reclamation
Applications	TC218	Reinforced Fill Structures
Applications	TC219	System Performance
Applications	TC220	Field Monitoring
Applications	TC221	Tailings and Mine Wastes
Applications	TC222	Geotechnical BIM and DT
Applications	TC223	Bio-Geotechnics

Figure 3. ISSMGE Technical Committees during the 2022–2026 term, highlighting the revitalization of TC207 and TC208 and the establishment of the new TC223 and TC310.

4. TC CHAIR ELECTIONS

As specified in the Guidelines, elections of TC Chairs have been organized to ensure that Chairs' mandates do not exceed two terms of four years each. Nineteen of the 38 TCs have selected new TC Chairs during this period. During the 2022–2026 term, 33 Technical Committees successfully completed leadership transition processes, either through the election of a new Chair or the renewal of the incumbent Chair for a second term (Figure 4). These processes were conducted in accordance with the revised procedures described in Section 2, which were introduced to enhance transparency, participation, and consistency across the TCs. The TOC will continue to oversee the renewal of TC leadership in accordance with the procedures established in the Guidelines.

Technical Committee	IC Chair		Start Year	End Year
Number and Short Name	Name	Surname		
TC101 – Laboratory Testing	Erdin	Ibrahim	2025	2029
TC102 – Site Characterization	Jason	Dejong	2022	2026
TC103 – Numerical Methods	Jidong	Zhao	2025	2029
TC104 – Physical Modelling	Ioannis	Anastasopoulos	2022	2026
TC105 – Geomechanics	Itai	Einav	2024	2028
TC106 – Unsaturated Soils	Enrique	Romero	2025	2029
TC107 – Tropical Residual Soils	Ahmed	Chraibi	2022	2026
TC201 – Dykes and Levees	Alessandro	Tarantino	2026	2030
TC202 – Transportation	Tatsuya	Ishikara	2023	2027
TC203 – Earthquake	Jonathan D	Bray	2024	2028
TC204 – Underground Construction	Giulia	Viggiani	2023	2027
TC205 – Safety and Serviceability	Richard	Bathurst	2022	2026
TC206 – Observational Method	Duncan	Nicholson	2024	2028
TC207 – Soil-Structure	Victor	Ong	2026	2030
TC208 – Slope Stability	Federica	Cotecchia	2026	2030
TC209 – Offshore	Federico	Pisano	2026	2030
TC210 – Embankment Dams	Limin	Zhang	2022	2026
TC211 – Ground Improvement	Babak	Hamidi	2022	2026
TC212 – Deep Foundations	Alessandro	Mandolini	2020	2025
TC213 – Scour and Erosion	Shinji	Sassa	2023	2027
TC214 – Soft Soils	Yoichi	Watabe	2022	2026
TC215 – Geo-Environmental	Andrea	Dominijanni	2022	2026
TC216 – Frost	Daichao	Sheng	2025	2029
TC217 – Land Reclamation	Chu	Jian	2023	2027
TC218 – Reinforced Fill Structures	Giulia	Lugli	2024	2028
TC219 – System Performance	Gang	Zheng	2023	2027
TC220 – Field Monitoring	Andrew	Ridley	2023	2027
TC221 – Tailings and Mine Wastes	Jorge	Macedo	2026	2030
TC222 – Geotechnical BIM and DT	Zefeng	Zhou	2026	2030
TC223 – Bio-Geotechnics	Grainne	El Mountassir	2026	2030
TC301 – Historic Sites	Alessandro	Flora	2026	2030
TC302 – Forensic	David	Frost	2023	2027
TC303 – Floods	Koji	Ichii	2026	2030
TC304 – Risk	Michael	Hicks	2023	2027
TC305 – Megacities	Louis	Ge	2026	2030
TC306 – Geo-education	Michele	Calvello	2025	2029
TC307 – Sustainability	Anand	Puppala	2024	2028
TC308 – Energy Geotechnics	Guillermo	Narsilio	2026	2030
TC309 – Machine Learning	Yu	Wang	2026	2030
TC310 – Space Geotechnics	Zili	Li	2026	2030

Figure 4. Technical Committee Chair elections (light blue: new Chair; green: Chair renewed for a second term; pink: election planned; red: election to be conducted once candidates are identified; white: election to be conducted in due course).

5. TCS ACTIVITIES

Four new ISSMGE Honour Lectures were approved by the Board: the ‘Scott Sloan Honour Lecture’, proposed by TC103 Numerical Methods; the ‘M2M Honour Lecture’, proposed by TC105 Geo-Mechanics from Micro to Macro; the ‘Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering Honour Lecture’, proposed by TC307 Sustainability; and the ‘Intelligent Geotechnics Honour Lecture’, proposed by TC309 Machine Learning. These additions expanded the ISSMGE Honour Lecture program to 20 lectures, covering a broad range of geotechnical engineering disciplines.

The TCs hosting Honour Lectures have regularly selected Honour Lecturers following an open call for nominations and in accordance with the procedures established in the Guidelines. The Honour Lectures have typically been delivered at TC conferences or similar technical events.

TC209 on Offshore Geotechnics has proposed a new award for the best PhD dissertation, named the “Mark Randolph Award.” The first award will be presented at the Offshore Site Investigation and Geotechnics (OSIG) Conference in 2027, which is one of the two major international

conferences supported by TC209. The nomination and selection guidelines have been drafted and are currently under review by TC209 and the OSIG 2027 organizing committee.

Another excellent initiative has been implemented by TC105 on Geo-Mechanics from Micro to Macro, titled the TC105 Student Video Competition. The competition aims to encourage students to communicate geotechnical concepts and research through short videos. ISSMGE will provide the platform for receiving video submissions and will also sponsor an award of £500, aligned with similar ISSMGE awards. The initiative will be promoted through ISSMGE communication channels and during ICSMGE 2026. The competition is intended to become an annual event, beginning with a pilot round in Fall 2025–Winter 2026.

The day before the Rankine Lecture, TC206 will organize the Pre-Rankine Conference, which will include two technical sessions in the morning and a Real-Time Back-Analysis (RTBA) session in the afternoon. TC206 is collaborating with several Technical Committees in the organization of this event, including TC220 – Field Monitoring (Chair: Andrew Ridley), TC103 – Numerical Methods (Chair: Franz Tschuchnigg), and TC204 – Tunnels in Soft Ground (Chair: Giulia Viggiani). Additional TCs invited to participate in the panel discussions, although without formal presentations due to time constraints, include TC222 – BIM and TC309 – Machine Learning. A key role of the TOC is to ensure that the activities conducted by the TCs under their officers' leadership was satisfactory and in line with the Guidelines, to be useful and beneficial for the ISSMGE and for geotechnical engineering practice (TOC Report, 2017 – 2021). During the previous term, a spreadsheet was developed to monitor the TCs activities. The Table contemplates different aspects related to the TC activities. Points are associated with different activities. This score is used to establish an indicative, but imprecise ranking, which allows distinguishing between very good, good, and problematic TCs.

6. TOC - TC CHAIRS MEETINGS

The TOC plans to organize two videoconference (VC) meetings per year to enhance the interactions with the TCs. The main goals of these meetings are to solve possible doubts the TC Chairs may have about the guidelines and TCs' activities, to enrich the TCs-TOC communications, the interactions amongst the TCs, and to learn from the TCs about possible suggestions aimed at facilitating the TCs operation.

At least one TOC–TC Chairs meeting was organized each year. The meetings were moderated by the TOC Chair and conducted in two sessions (12 hours apart) to accommodate different time zones. The meetings were very well attended, with around 95% of the TCs represented by their delegates. The ISSMGE President and Secretary General also generally attended these meetings.

The two sessions shared a common agenda, which included, among other items: 1) welcome and introduction; 2) review of the main aspects of the Guidelines for ISSMGE Technical Committees and ISSMGE Honour Lectures; 3) reports on TC activities; monitoring of TC activities and performance; 4) preparation of forthcoming ISSMGE TC reports; 5) updates on changes to the ISSMGE TC Guidelines; 7) ISSMGE Interactive Technical Talks (IITTs); 9) TOC coordination of pre-conference TC workshops, courses, and TC meetings; 11) the Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) Project; and 12) other business. A key topic in these meetings was the coordination of activities associated with the 20th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026), under the leadership of Dr. Helmut Schweiger.

In these meetings TC delegates actively engaged in very interesting discussions. Doubts related to the TCs Guidelines were clarified by the TOC Chair. Also, the TC delegates shared their experiences as TCs leaders. A change in the TC Guidelines in relation to the duration of the nominated members position were proposed as well (see Section 2).

7. ISSMGE INTERACTIVE TECHNICAL TALK (IITT)

The ISSMGE President launched a new educational initiative titled “ISSMGE Interactive Technical Talks (IITTs).” This initiative consists of a series of technical talks bringing together young and renowned geotechnical engineers from around the world, representing both academia and industry. The TOC has played a leading role in coordinating and guiding these talks, while the TCs have been invited to actively participate.

The IITTs are moderated by the ISSMGE President and typically last around 50 minutes, during which a particular field of expertise is discussed. The IITTs have become a very useful educational tool for the geotechnical community. They provide speakers with greater exposure and offer an opportunity to engage younger audiences in an educational and interactive manner, helping to bridge generational and professional gaps within the field. To stimulate participation, points are awarded to TCs that organize IITTs. The objective of covering topics across nearly all TC areas during this period has been successfully achieved.

A total of 37 IITTs were delivered, covering nearly all geotechnical engineering disciplines. The IITT videos generated 27,531 views and more than 2,500 hours of viewing time, while attracting 2,810 new subscribers through IITT content.

8. TCs - ISSMGE EVENTS COORDINATION

The TOC has played an active role in the coordination of TCs Workshops, Courses, and TC meetings to be organized before or during International and Regional ISSMGE Conferences. The

first event during this term corresponds to the “XVIII European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, [XVIII ECSMGE 2024](#),” organized in Lisbon, Portugal, from August 26th to August 30th 2024. The ECSMGE 2024 organizing committee contacted the TOC to assist in the coordination of preconference TC workshops and TC meetings. The response from the TCs was exceptional. All the available rooms have been booked with preconference workshops organized by 12 TCs. Also, around 14 TCs hosted their administrative meetings during this conference.

The TOC also assisted the organizers of the “XVII Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, [XVII PANAMGEO 2024](#),” La Serena, Chile, between 12th and 15th November 2024. The TOC Chair has also met with Prof. Helmut Schweiger to coordinate the TCs involvement during the “21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, [21st ICSMGE 2026](#),” held in Vienna, Austria, between 14th and 19th June 2026. TCs were informed about opportunities to organize TC sessions, workshops and meetings in combination with this event. The TCs actively participated in the conference through the organization of technical sessions, workshops, meetings, and the management of papers assigned to the respective technical areas.

9. TC REPORTS SUMMARY

A survey, based on previous versions prepared by the former TOC Chair, Pierre Delage, was sent to the TCs to evaluate their performance. The questionnaire was completed by the TC Officers directly on the ISSMGE website. A summary of the main outcomes of the questionnaire is presented below.

Question 1: are you happy with the terms of reference of your TC in the ISSMGE website?

Most of the TCs (i.e., 33 of 38) answered positively this question. **Figure 5** presents the results in terms of the number of TCs (Figure 4a), and associated percentages (Figure 4b).

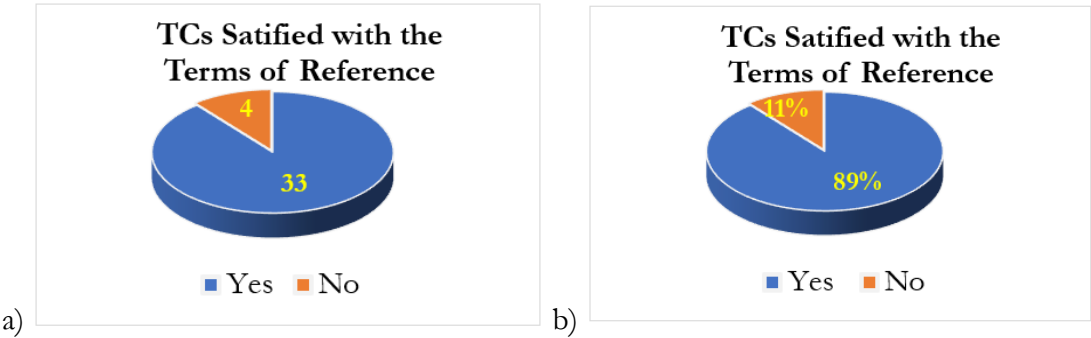


Figure 5. a) Number of TCs that are satisfied with their terms of references, b) percentage of TCs that are satisfied with their terms of references.

Question 2: is your list of members satisfactory?

Most of the TCs (i.e., 29 of 38) answered positively this question. Figure 6 presents the results in terms of the number of TCs (Figure 5a), and associated percentages (Figure 5b).

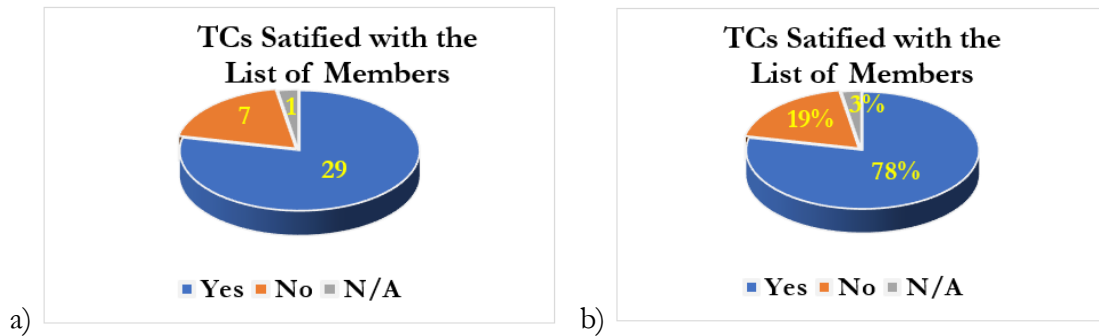


Figure 6. a) Number of TCs that are satisfied with the list of members, b) percentage of TCs that are satisfied with their list of members.

Question 3: do you have an Honour Lecture? If yes, where and when was it last delivered?

Twenty TCs host Honour Lectures. Figure 6 presents the results in terms of the number of TCs (Figure 7a), and associated percentages (Figure 7b).

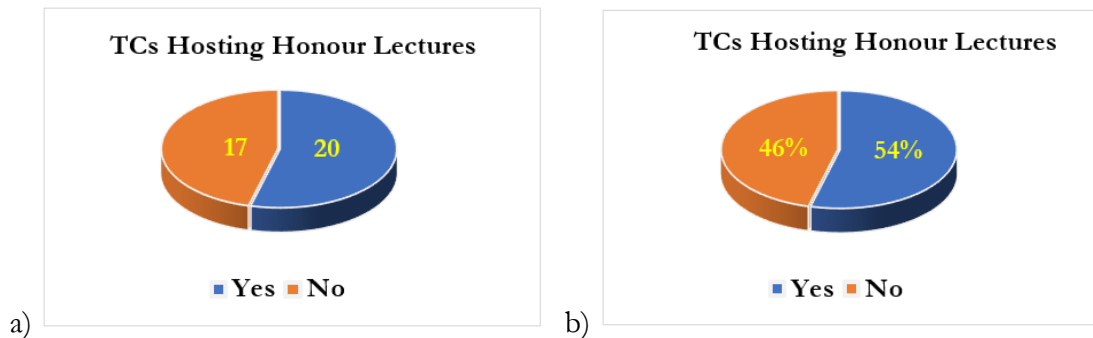


Figure 7. a) Number of TCs that host Honour Lectures, b) percentage of TCs that host Honour Lectures.

Question 4: did you or do you plan to select Bright Spark Lecturers during your TC Conferences?

Twenty-one TCs have awarded Bright Spark Lecturers during their conferences. Figure 8a presents the number of TCs that have awarded Bright Spark Lecturers and Figure 8b the associated percentages.

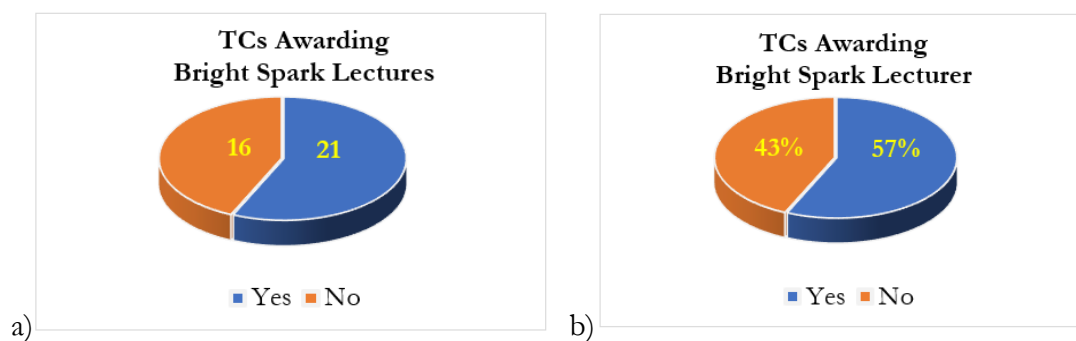


Figure 8. a) Number of TCs awarding Bright Spark Lecturer, b) percentage of TCs awarding Bright Spark Lecturer.

Question 5: did you hold TC administrative meetings during the period (either in person or on-line)? If yes, please give details (date, participation...)?

A total of 17 TCs organized only 1 meeting per year during this period, 7 TCs held 2 meetings per year, and 7 TCs organized more than 2 meetings per year, whereas six TCs did not organize any meeting during this term. Figure 9 presents the numbers of meetings per year in terms of both the number and percentages of TCs organizing administrative meetings per year, Figures 6a and 6b, respectively.

The TCs shall organize at least two administrative meetings per year. The TOC will contact the TC Chairs to ensure this recommendation is implemented in the second term.

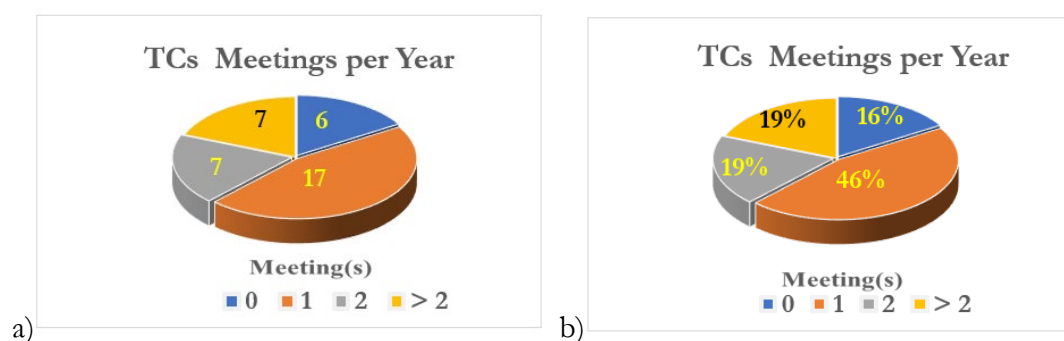


Figure 9. a) Number of TCs holding 0, 1, 2, and more than 2 meeting(s) per year, b) percentage of TCs holding 0, 1, 2, and more than 2 meeting(s) per year.

Question 6: did you organize any event (including conference, workshop, short course) during the period? If yes, please give details (date, location, participation).

A total of 34 TCs organized at least one technical event during this period. Collectively, the TCs organized approximately 25 major technical events, including international and regional conferences and workshops, as well as approximately 40 smaller technical events, such as conference sessions, one-day meetings, and webinars. Figure 9 presents the results related to this

question in terms of both number and percentages of TCs organizing technical events, Figures 9a and 9b, respectively.

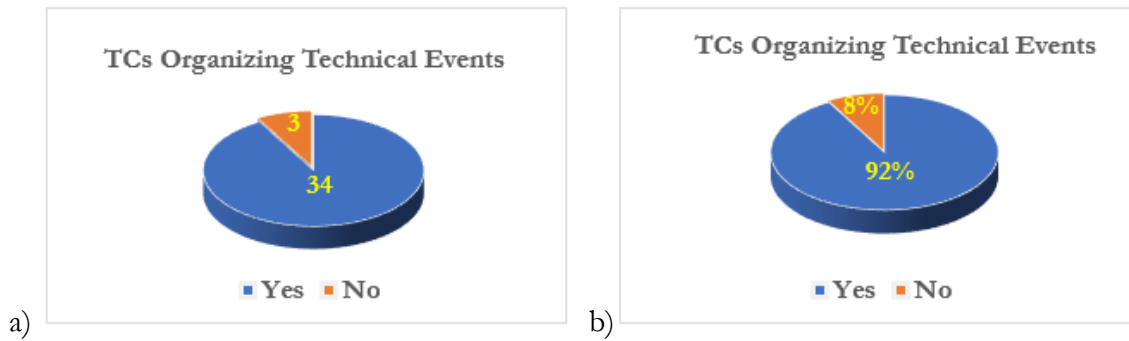


Figure 10. a) Number of TCs that organized one or more technical events, b) percentage of TCs that organized one or more technical event.

Question 7: were the proceedings of your events published and are they available in Open Access?

Most of the TCs (i.e., 22 of 37) answered positively this question. Figure 11 presents the results in terms of the number of TCs (Figure 10a) and associated percentages (Figure 8b).

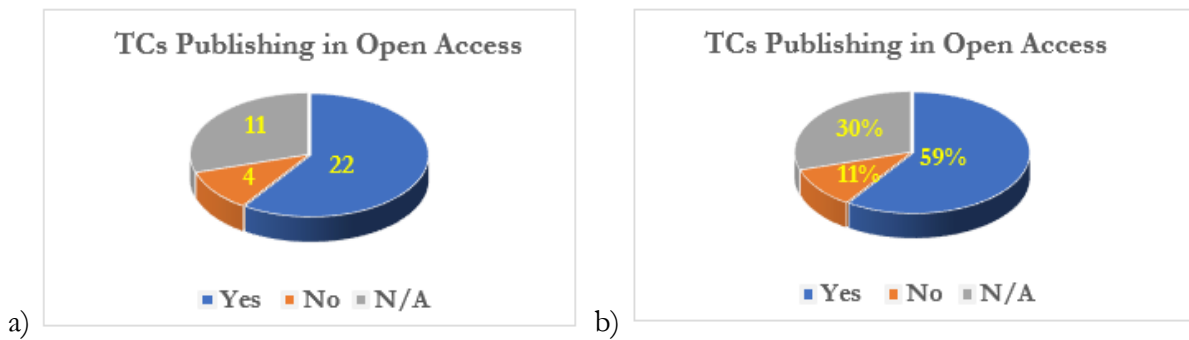


Figure 11. a) Number of TCs that have published their events in proceedings that are available in Open Access, b) percentage of TCs that have published their events in proceedings that are available in Open Access.

Question 8: did you have any interactions with other TCs? If yes, which TC?

Figure 12 corresponds to the connection graph that was prepared based on the TCs' answers to this question.

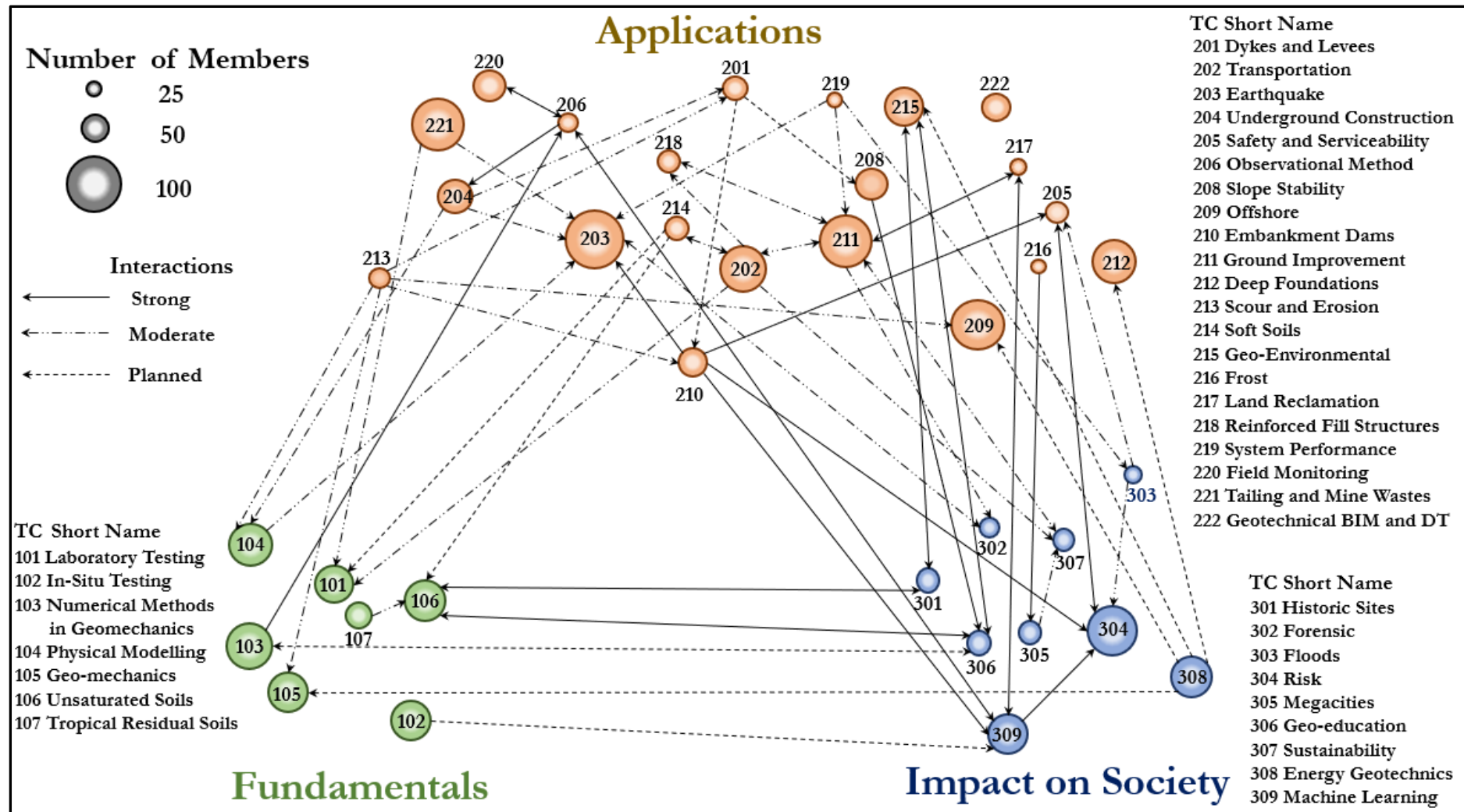


Figure 12. Connection graph indicating with arrows the interactions among the TCs grouped according to the ISSMGE TC categories (i.e., Fundamentals, Applications, and Impact to the Society). TCs are represented by circles of radii proportional to the number of TC members.

In Figure 12 the TCs are grouped according to the ISSMGE TC categories (i.e., Fundamentals, Applications, and Impact to the Society) and the size of the circles representing them is related to the number of the TC members listed in the ISSMGE website. The interactions among TCs were identified by arrows. Three type of connections were recognized, namely, ‘strong’, ‘moderate’, and ‘planned’. Strong interactions (identified with solid lines) refer to those collaborations that involve TCs organizing events together (e.g., a technical session, or a conference), or activities (e.g., edition of a special issue in a journal, or preparing/revising a guideline). A moderate interaction (identified with dash-dotted lines) between TCs generally take place when two TCs share common members, who serve as a liaison between both TCs, but there are no common activities or joint events organized by these TCs. Some TCs envision to collaborate with other TCs in the future, these interactions are called planned (identified with dotted lines).

The direction of arrows identifies the interactions reported by the TCs. For example, the direction of the one-way arrow from TC210 to TC309 is because TC210 reported a strong interaction with TC309 (i.e., the organization of a special session in a conference), however TC309 did not report this collaboration. On the other hand, the two-way arrows denote that two TCs reported the same collaboration, for example the two-way arrow connecting TC106 and TC310 is because both TCs reported a strong interaction (i.e., a joint technical session in a conference).

This graph is a very useful tool for the TCs and TOC to evaluate and reinforce ongoing interactions and plan for future collaborations. It could also help to strategize meaningful interactions between fundamentals in geoengineering, geotechnical engineering applications, and the corresponding impact on society.

Question 9: did you provide a contribution to the ISSMGE Virtual University?

Most of the TCs (i.e., 22 of 37) did not contribute to the ISSMGE Virtual University yet. **Figure 12** presents the answers to this question in terms of the number of TCs (Figure 13a), and associated percentages (Figure 13b).

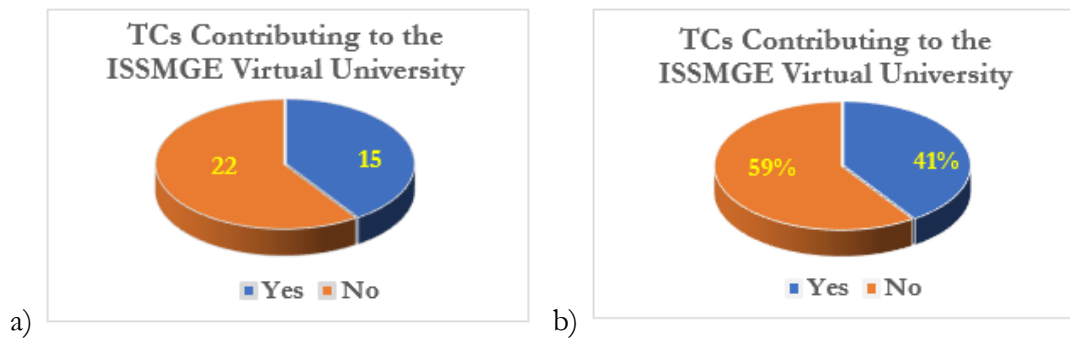


Figure 13. a) Number of TCs that have contributed to the ISSMGE Virtual University, b) percentage of TCs that have contributed to the ISSMGE Virtual University.

Question 10: what is the nature of your contribution to the Time Capsule Project?

A total of 20 TCs have contributed to the Time Capsule Project (TCP). Figure 14 presents the results in terms of the number of TCs (Figure 11a), and associated percentages (Figure 13b).

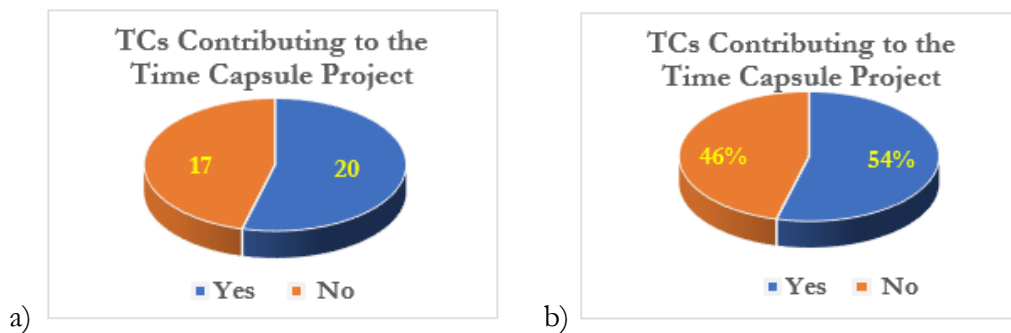


Figure 14. a) Number of TCs that have contributed to the Time Capsule Project, b) percentage of TCs that have contributed to the Time Capsule Project.

The contributions of the TCs to the TCP have had different formats, some of them are briefly discussed here. For example, some TCs opted to prepare a report where the main TCs contributions were briefly discussed, whereas other TCs preferred a presentation, and others TCs a video. Some of the TCs contributions to the TCP consisted in the organization of past-keynote lectures related to the TC subject of interest. Others TCs decided to prepare a survey that was distributed among the TC members and then, based on these replies, the TC contribution to the TCP was prepared. The following link provides access to the folder where the TCs contributions to the TCP are stored <https://www.issmge.org/the-society/time-capsule>

A total of 17 TCs did not contribute to the TCP yet. Some of them mentioned that they are interested in preparing their TCP contributions soon, whereas others TCs decided not to participate in this activity, mainly because of the lack of interest of the TCs members in this initiative.

Question 11: which are the future activities being considered?

Several TCs plan to organize conferences, workshops, or technical sessions in the coming months. Therefore, they will focus on the organization of these events, with the associated selection of speakers, definition of the tentative technical programs, and review of the corresponding technical publications. Other TCs reported the following activities under consideration: develop instructional material to train colleagues in the TC areas of interest, prepare webinars, work on guidelines, develop/upgrade the TC websites, and promote the exchange of knowledge between the academia and practicing engineers. Some TC officials reported that they are interested in establishing a TC award program and TC newsletters.

Question 12: do you have any further comment?

Several TC officers reported that the COVID-19 affected significantly the TC activities.

10. TOC NEW INITIATIVES

Funding for special projects was requested to stimulate TC activities and to recognize the good work carried out by TC Chairs when they leave their position. In the latter case, the objective is to recognize outgoing Technical Committee Chairs. The pilot funding program was established to enhance and expand TC activities, support collaborative initiatives involving two or more TCs, facilitate the participation of interdisciplinary keynote and invited speakers, and encourage innovative ideas and new TC activities

The goal is to acknowledge TC Chairs' dedication and hard work with a commemorative plaque. Outgoing Chairs will also be invited to write a short note describing their experience as TC Chairs. The document could include, for example, a reflection on the state of the TC subject area at the beginning of their mandate and at its completion, as well as any other aspects the author may consider of interest. The document will be published in the ISSMGE Bulletin, helping to document the evolution of the corresponding geotechnical disciplines and preserve institutional knowledge for future TC leaders. This initiative was developed with the support of Dr. Mona Anwar, Chair of the Professional Image Committee.

Another special project in 2024 was awarded to TC306 on Geo-Education, which is collaborating with TC103 on Numerical Methods and TC106 on Unsaturated Soils. The grant covered expenses related to the participation of a renowned researcher in student learning in higher education at the conference Geotechnical Engineering Education 2025, TC306's flagship event. The invited speaker was Professor Jennifer Case, Head of the Department of Engineering Education in the College of Engineering at Virginia Tech, USA. The ISSMGE grant of £1,500 enabled Prof. Case

to participate as a keynote speaker at GEE 2025 in Nancy, France. Her contribution was subsequently made available globally through the ISSMGE Virtual University and disseminated through the ISSMGE Bulletin in March 2026.

In 2025, two initiatives were funded: one proposed by TC211 on Ground Improvement and the other by TC308 on Energy Geotechnics.

TC211 Initiative “Ground Improvement Through the Lens”: TC211 proposed a global photography competition titled “Ground Improvement Through the Lens” to showcase the diversity, innovation, and human dimension of ground improvement practices worldwide. The six-month competition will engage researchers, engineers, and field personnel such as technicians, plant operators, and site supervisors, groups typically underrepresented in technical committees. The initiative will be promoted through ISSMGE communication channels, TC networks, and social media. Submissions will be categorized (e.g., fieldwork, innovation, community impact) and evaluated by a diverse judging panel including representatives from other TCs. Selected images will be displayed online and at ISSMGE events, creating a lasting visual resource for outreach and education while promoting broader global engagement and inter-TC collaboration. The funding from ISSMGE is £1,000, and all TCs are invited to participate. The initiative is intended to expand TC211 engagement, reach new audiences, encourage broader participation and inclusiveness, and provide resources for ISSMGE global outreach and dissemination.

TC308 Initiative “GIS Platform for Energy Geotechnics”: TC308 proposed the development of an open-access GIS platform to map global projects related to energy geostructures and CO₂ geological storage, with potential expansion to other geo-energy applications. The platform provides interactive tools for mapping, filtering, visualization, and data export, integrating project metadata and serving as a shared international resource. Contributions are invited from several TCs, including TC209, TC106, TC304, TC211, TC305, and TC308, consolidating global knowledge on geo-energy projects. TC308 acts as platform custodian, with moderated update rights granted to representatives from collaborating TCs. The platform aims to strengthen inter-TC collaboration, improve global visibility of energy geotechnics, and provide a long-term digital resource for education, conferences, and outreach. The total project cost is estimated at £2,000, including £1,200 for development and £800 for hosting and maintenance for two years. ISSMGE support requested amounts to £999, with the remaining funding expected from FOLIAGE and the Australian Geotechnical Society (AGS). The project received an ISSMGE grant of £1,000. The platform initially focuses on energy geostructures, with expansion to CO₂ storage, hydrogen, deep geothermal energy, and methane hydrates. It provides an open-access, community-driven

database intended to increase the global visibility of energy geotechnics, strengthen academia–industry–practice collaboration, and support education, outreach, and conferences.

11. CONCLUDING REMARKS

During the period May 2022 – March 2026, the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) has actively worked to support, coordinate, and monitor the activities of the ISSMGE Technical Committees (TCs). Particular attention has been given to ensuring a smooth transition between leadership teams, strengthening the governance framework of the TCs, and enhancing communication and collaboration within the TC community.

A key effort during this period was the revision of the “Guidelines for ISSMGE Technical Committees and ISSMGE Honour Lectures.” The revised Guidelines clarify the procedures for the election of TC Chairs and introduce new governance mechanisms, including a motion of confidence after the first term, to ensure active and effective TC leadership. The election procedures for Honour Lectures were also incorporated into the Guidelines.

Significant progress was made in the renewal of TC leadership, with nineteen of the thirty-eight TCs electing new Chairs during this term. In addition, previously inactive committees such as TC207 (Soil Structures and Retaining Walls) and TC208 (Slope Stability) have been successfully reactivated with new leadership teams.

The TOC–TC Chairs meetings, organized regularly during this term, proved to be an effective mechanism for strengthening communication between the TOC and the TCs, clarifying guidelines, and sharing experiences among TC leaders. Participation in these meetings was consistently very high, with approximately 95% of the TCs represented.

The launch of the ISSMGE Interactive Technical Talks (IITTs) represented an important educational initiative during this term. Coordinated with the support of the TOC and the TCs, these talks have provided a dynamic platform for interaction between leading experts and younger professionals, contributing to knowledge dissemination and engagement within the geotechnical community.

The TOC also played an important role in coordinating TC involvement in major ISSMGE conferences, including ECSMGE 2024, PANAMGEO 2024, and the forthcoming 21st ICSMGE 2026 in Vienna. The response of the TCs has been excellent, with numerous workshops, meetings, and technical activities organized in conjunction with these events.

The analysis of the TC midterm reports and survey results provided valuable insights into the composition, activities, and interactions of the TCs. In particular, the connection graph illustrating

interactions among TCs has proven to be a useful tool for identifying existing collaborations and encouraging new interdisciplinary activities.

During this period, the TOC also promoted new initiatives aimed at strengthening TC engagement and visibility, including funding support for special projects and activities proposed by the TCs. Examples include initiatives on geo-education, community engagement through visual outreach, and the development of digital resources such as a GIS platform for energy geotechnics. These initiatives have helped to foster innovation, broaden participation, and enhance collaboration across TCs.

Overall, the results of the survey and the review of TC activities indicate that most TCs are performing actively and contributing significantly to the mission of ISSMGE, which is to advance geotechnical engineering knowledge and practice worldwide. The TOC and ISSMGE express their sincere appreciation to the TC Chairs, officers, and members for their dedication and voluntary efforts in supporting the Society's technical activities.