



**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

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| <p><b>Your Name:</b><br/>Gilberto Quevedo Sotolongo</p>   | <p><b>Your Organization:</b><br/><i>Universidad Central "Marta Abreu" de las Villas. Cuba.<br/>CTNMSIG member.</i></p> | <p><b>Date of report:</b><br/>October 26<sup>th</sup>, 2011</p>                        |
| <p><b>Conference Title:</b><br/>XIV Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering</p>   | <p><b>Location of Conference:</b><br/>Toronto. Canada.</p>   | <p><b>Dates of Conference:</b><br/>October 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup>, 2011.</p> |
| <p><b>What you learned:</b></p> <p>Given my research interests, I focused on sessions dealing with Deep Foundations, Shallow Foundations, Probability and Reliability-Based Design and the Behavior of Unsaturated Soils. I was able to attend almost all the presentations of these sessions. Besides learning about recent research being carried out by our American colleagues, I also made useful contacts which will allow us to exchange information and plan joint research in the future. Specifically, we identified possible collaboration with colleagues from UNAM in Mexico, the University of Brasilia in Brazil and the University of Ottawa in Canada among others.</p> <p>Both the information received directly from the presentations as well as the material that is held in the Conference CD are already being used by our Master and Doctorate students as well as in our research. There is no doubt that to be able to attend the Conference was a great opportunity and I am grateful for the support given by the ISSMGE.</p> |  |  |
| <p><b>People you met:</b></p> <p>I met many colleagues in Toronto, some of whom I had met before: Dr. Gabriel Auvinet from UNAM, Dr. Renato Paints from the University of Brasilia, Dr. Jorge Alva from UNI in Peru, Eng. Roberto Terzariol from the University of Cordoba in Argentina, Dr. Eulalio Juárez Badillo from the UNAM in Mexico, to name a few. Likewise, I met new colleagues: Dr. Roberto Quental from the Federal University of Pernambuco in Brazil, Dr. Raúl Vicente Orozco from Peru, Dr. Julio Ángel Infante from the University of Ottawa in Canada and Dr. Rodrigo Salgado from the University of Purdue in United States. I also made contact with several colleagues from the firms taking part in the Trade Exhibition fair at Conference.</p>  |  |  |

**Main features of conference:**

In addition to the technical sessions the social activities included in the conference program were excellent: they introduced conference participants to different aspects of Canada, while also encouraging friendly exchange between the attendees. I would like to congratulate the Conference Organizing Committee: I have been personally involved in the organization of several international events and am aware of the possible difficulties, so I much appreciate the great effort in producing such an excellent conference.

**Your comments on the conference:**

I was also able to attend the ISSMGE Council Meeting and the Pan-American Committee Meeting, two excellent opportunities for receiving updated information about the ISSMGE and its projects for the coming years, as well as on the work of the Pan-American Societies. These were excellent complements to the Conference and a good opportunity for us to represent our country.

I think that the benefits of having attended this Conference are not restricted to the time actually spent in Toronto, but more importantly will be those that to be felt in the future, from the relationships formed with colleagues during the Conference, and the plentiful and valuable information held in the Conference CD.

**Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:**

The Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was an excellent experience. From the original call for papers, the launch of the website, the paper selection process and referee system to the actual conference itself, all were organized with meticulous attention to detail. As far as the technical content is concerned, the presentations were organized according to themes, and within each session the four presentations were even more closely linked, enabling meaningful discussion, and allowing better networking opportunities between researchers with similar interests. I should also highlight the keynote lectures: these were on cutting edge topics delivered by world class experts

The ISSMGE Council Meeting and the Pan-American Committee Meeting were also held at the time of the Conference. These are two important events for member societies to exchange news and information, and enabling planning for future projects.

The conference was very well complemented by a selection of social activities which encouraged interaction between participating colleagues in a less academic environment.

**Photographs from Conference:** Insert here or attach to email



