

First of all I would like to thank the ISSMGE Foundation for this great opportunity and initiative in helping those who cannot afford the registration fee to attend these types of events, the ISSMGE President Professor Jean-Louis Briaud, whom I had the chance to meet a day before the 5ICEGE, and Professor Harry Poulos, Chair of the ISSMGE Membership, Practitioners, and Academicians Committee (MPAC) for approving my application.

For me, as a civil engineering student in the last years of an undergraduate degree, I had only the chance to go to national students congresses, so the opportunity to attend a conference with the magnitude of the 5ICEGE was something out of this world, because I could know a new world within the engineering that corresponds to the research area. The opportunity to meet geotechnical engineers, master degree students, geotechnical engineers with master's degrees, doctoral students, doctors in the area, people who pursue their studies of the post-doctoral degree, and faculty reviewers of those researches was exceptional because I meet geotechnical engineers "in different stages", and the opportunity to know them in a instance of a conference which is more relaxed because everyone was disposed to talk with anybody, which is different of a classroom, instance where you go to learn something and no to socialize.

The fact that I talked with them in that opportunity, helped me to know more about the geotechnical engineering work and also let me approach to the research area, an activity that previously I only imagined for my teachers, and now I see it as an attainable goal, that is why I have decided to start a masters degree program in geotechnical engineering in my university this year.

After meeting the researchers, within which I really liked those that used FEM, I also met a huge amount of different job opportunities that I didn't know and I really like them.

I think having taken full advantage of this conference because I really learned a lot about geotechnical engineering and where are going the studies. I really enjoy the presentations, because it's very different to read a paper then have the author explaining you his work, and that's an excellent opportunity from my point of view. I guess the only thing I'm sorry about the conference is that wasn't possible to attend the three workshops, I particularly went to the seismic design and stability analysis of tailings disposals which I found very interesting, but I wish I could go to the three of them.

I also really like the closure ceremony when this group of geotechnical engineers with many years of experience talk about the conference in general, and how their experience let them see things that for me are more hard to see, like the one I remember in particular about taking care about center the investigation almost only in FEM when we actually work with the reality, we use this mathematical methods to approximate the real behavior of our soils, but we have to be careful about other behaviors that we assume are constant.

There are many more things that I remember from the conference but I'm not going to boring you with all the details that I remember from each one, but I just like to finish telling you that for me was a really great opportunity to grow has an engineer and as a professional. It's amazing to know that societies like the ISSMGE that through its Foundation supports people like me that cannot afford things like this conference and help has directly with money in a world where almost only love and smiles are still free, Thank you.

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