



**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<i>Your Name:</i> Sherif S. AbdelSalam	<i>Your Organization:</i> British University in Egypt, Cairo, Egypt	<i>Date of Report:</i> 20 th of Sep., 2014
<i>Conference Title:</i> COBRAMSEG 2014	<i>Location of Conference:</i> Goiania, Brazil	<i>Date of Conference:</i> 9 th to 13 th of Sep., 2014

What you learned:

The participation in this conference provided me with the up-to-date knowledge about ongoing research works in the areas of rock and soil mechanics, in-situ testing techniques, repair of foundations, green pile foundations (i.e., thermopiles), and other areas. Most of the papers presented in the technical sessions of the conference were informative and of a high quality. A comprehensive softcopy of the technical papers was provided during the conference registration, accompanied with several brochures and technical leaflets. Additionally, the exhibition included booths for a large number of geotechnical companies varying from suppliers and contractors, to consultants and software companies. This exhibition was very helpful as I had the opportunity to interact with high-tech representatives from most of these companies such as Bauer Maschinen GmbH, Fugro in-situ geotecnia Ltda, and others.

The technical lecture delivered by Prof. Charles W. Ng, who is an international expert in his field, was very educational and useful. I had the opportunity to communicate with him and ask about his research in thermopiles. Moreover, I had the chance to attend the workshop delivered by Eng. Diego Marchetti, who is a partner at Studio Marchetti – the company that invented the famous Flat Dilatometer in-situ testing device. I also positively networked with many other professors, academics, researchers, and practicing engineers from various countries.

The experience gained through the conference will definitely direct my future research works, with new interesting and fresh research topics that are full of new ideas.

People you met:

The conference gave a platform to meet and interact with many professionals from academia and industry. Very few of them are listed below.

- 1) Prof. Charles W. Ng (Hong Kong Univ. of Science and Technology).
- 2) Prof. Mauricio M. Sales (Federal Univ. of Goias, COBRAMSEG 2014 president).
- 3) Prof. Fatma Baligh (Helwan Univ., Egypt; and ISSMGE vice president for Africa).
- 4) Dr. Mark Ballouz (CEO IGM; and ISSMGE PR committee).
- 5) Dr. Etienne M. Kana (Univ. of Yaoundé; and ISSMGE board level committee).
- 6) Dr. Russ Ewy (Research Consultant at Chevron Energy Technology Co., CA, USA).
- 7) Eng. Diego Marchetti (Partner at Studio Marchetti –inventor of Flat Dilatometer).



Main features of conference:

The COBRAMSEG 2014 conference was organized by the Brazilian geotechnical society, which comprised the XVII Brazilian congress of soil mechanics and geotechnical engineers, the VII Luso-Brazilian congress of geotechnics, the VII Brazilian symposium of rock mechanics, and the VI Brazilian symposium of young geotechnical engineers. In all the aforementioned, I attended several sessions, lectures, and workshops, visited the exhibition, and participated in social events.

The conference was full of young engineers and professionals from Brazil and all over the world, which is considered one of the main useful and interesting features of the event. A large number of recognized international experts were invited to conduct lectures and workshops to the attendees. The conference program and other information were available on a specially developed computer/mobile phone application, which facilitated attending as much sessions as possible. The parallel sections and interactive poster presentations were also out of the main features of the conference. Especially the interactive posters, which were presented on digital screens to allow for the maximum inclusion within the specified time. For a number of Portuguese language speaking participants, during presenting their papers in the technical sessions, English translation was available, which is also considered as a very good feature of the conference. In general, the interactive discussions were interesting and motivating, while most of the other participants shared their research methodologies and gave very qualitative presentations.

My main contribution was in the symposium of young geotechnical engineers, where I presented a technical paper entitled: *Static Analysis of Vibro Piles using Reliability-based Approach*. I received some questions after the presentation, which were all answered and clarified.

Your comment on the conference:

Generally, the overall technical quality of the conference was very good. Theme variation was noticed, keynote lectures, technical sessions, workshops, and other social events were all excellent. The organization of the conference was satisfactory and the Brazilian society was very generous with the group of African young geotechnical engineers. My appreciations and heartfelt thanks for the organizing committee for organizing such a wonderful event. My only comment would be to increase the number of available English translated sessions to cover all or most of the Portuguese language speaking sessions.

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

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VII Luso-Brazilian congress of geotechnics, the VII Brazilian symposium of rock mechanics, and the VI Brazilian symposium of young geotechnical engineers. The aforementioned events included several technical sessions, keynote lectures, workshops, large exhibition hall, and social events. The conference was full of young engineers and professionals from Brazil and all over the world, which is considered as one of the main features of the event. A large number of recognized international experts were invited to conduct lectures and workshops. For example, the technical lecture delivered by Prof. Charles W. Ng, who is an international expert in his field, was very educational. Also the workshop delivered by Eng. Diego Marchetti, who is a partner at Studio Marchetti – the company that invented the famous Flat Dilatometer in-situ testing device was very useful for practitioners.

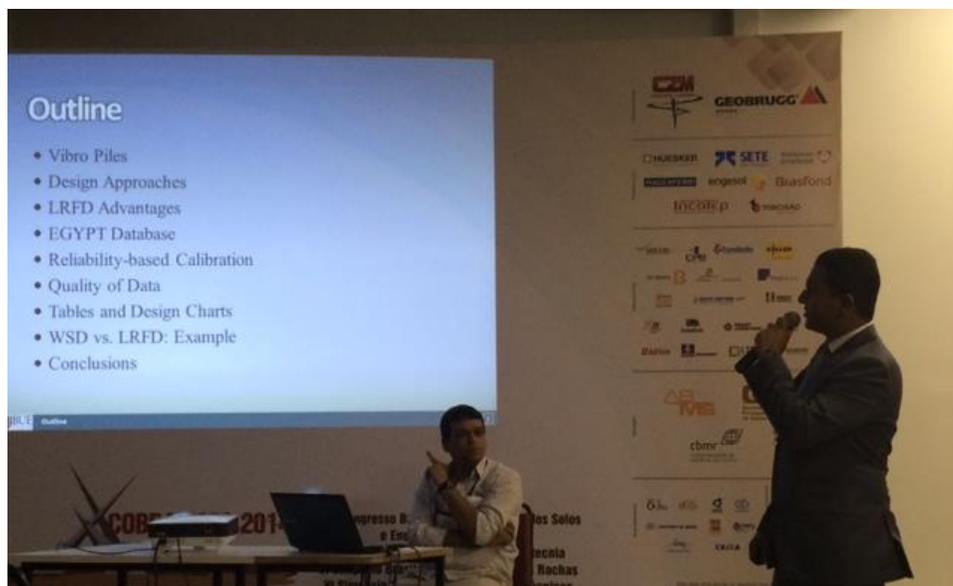
The parallel sections and interactive poster presentations were also among the main features of the conference. Especially the interactive posters, which were presented on digital screens to allow for the maximum inclusion within the limited time frame. The exhibition hall included booths for a large number of geotechnical companies varying from suppliers and contractors, to consultants and software companies. This exhibition was very helpful and provided the full opportunity for direct interaction with high-tech representatives from most of these companies such as Bauer Maschinen GmbH, Fugro in-situ geotecnia Ltda, and others. In general, the participation in this conference provided the required up-to-date knowledge about ongoing research works in the areas of rock and soil mechanics, in-situ testing techniques, repair of foundations, green pile foundations (i.e., thermopiles), and other areas. Most of the papers presented in the technical sessions of the conference were informative and of a high quality.

Finally, it is worth acknowledging the Brazilian geotechnical society for the professional and generous organization of the event. Also special thanks are due to the ISSMGE Foundation that provided essential support and financial assistance to the group of young geotechnical engineers from Africa, which made the attendance and the participation in this event possible.

Photographs from conference:



Team of African young engineers with Prof. Fatma Baligh



My presentation during the technical session number GJ6



Interaction of our team with other international young colleagues



Photo during the opening of the conference including keynote professors

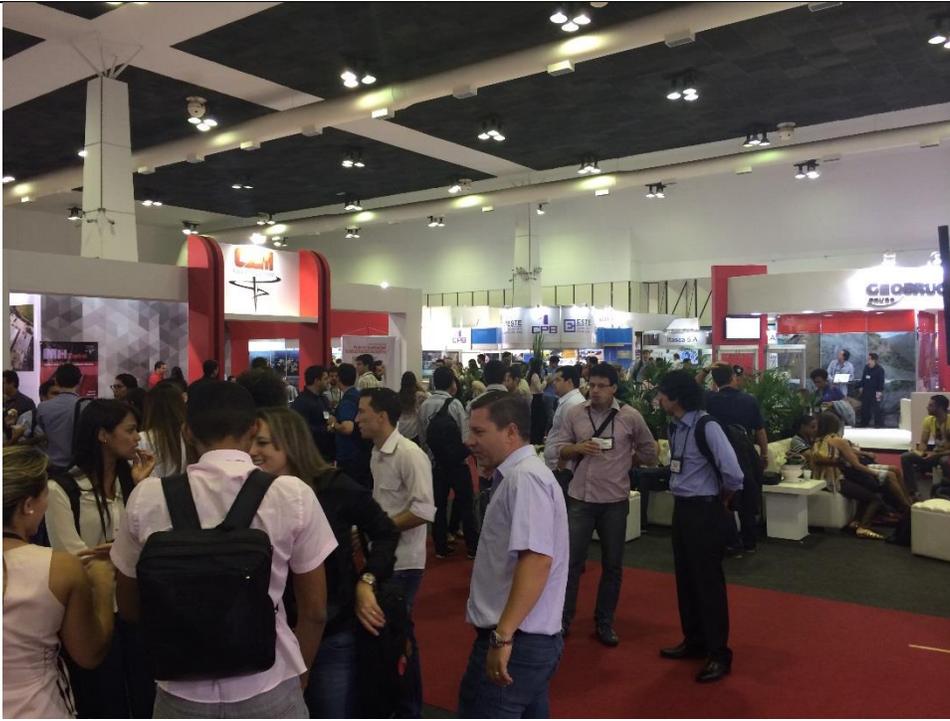


Photo for the exhibition hall



Photo for the interactive poster session



Lecture conducted by Prof. Charles W. Ng on thermopiles



Photo from one of the social events with Dr. Etienne M. Kana