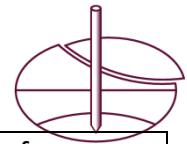




**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: GRACE ABOU-JAOUDE	Your Organization: LEBANESE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY	Date of report: MAY 27, 2022
Conference Title: 20th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	Location of Conference: SYDNEY, Australia	Dates of Conference: May 1-May 5, 2022
What you learned: The theme of the ICSMGE 2022 was discovery and particularly discovery of the innovations that lie where “practical problems meet leading theoretical developments”. The lectures in this conference focused very well on the gap between practical problems and theoretical developments and highlighted how it is widening as more knowledge is accumulated. The conclusion drawn from the CAPG Session – <i>Are we overdesigning</i> was important. It reinforced the need to pay more attention to the application of knowledge by involving practitioners in the technical committees of the ISSMGE with the aim to improve the state of practice. The talk by Professor Harry Poulos during the ISSMGE Time Capsule Session was also quite enlightening on this matter. The Terzaghi Oration lecture delivered by Professor Antoino Gens on the failures that occurred during the recent constructions in the Barcelona Harbour was intriguing especially that he discussed how the observation method was not performing as expected and how the designers had to rely solely on numerical modelling to lead the project to a successful completion. The state of the art lecture on Energy Geotechnics delivered by Professors Santamarina and Sanchez was about cutting-edge work that they are doing and it showed the importance of geotechnical engineering in reducing the carbon footprint. Professor Santamarina also delivered the Bishop Lecture and his talk on the assessment of geotechnical properties in the information age was captivating. The keywords he uses are simple yet impactful. He highlighted the importance of knowing what we are measuring and not just seeking to collect more measurements. The powerful informative talks (PITs) brought a nice summary of the limits that geotechnical engineering can reach with respect to problem solving, reliability based design, and remote sensing and AI-based machine learning. Overall, the conference was very informative. There was plenty of networking opportunities that allowed me to meet new people and reconnect with some that I had met in 19 th ICSMGE that was held Seoul in 2017.		
People you met: I had the opportunity to meet many people during this conference particularly during the morning tea and networking breaks. To name a few:		



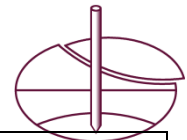
Professor Antonio Gens, Professor Marcelo Sanchez, Professor Harry Poulos, Professor Peter Day, Professor Pierre Delage, Dr. Chaido Yuli Dulala Rigby, Mr. Sukumar Pathmanandavel, Mr. Walter Paniagua

Main features of conference:

The conference emphasized how application of theory is necessary as geotechnical engineers are making new discoveries to solve the problems that the world is facing with respect to energy, transportation, and the environment. The conference had parallel sessions which includes several keynote lectures, oral presentation and poster presentation. As the conference was held in hybrid mode, all pre-recorded presentations as well as in-person presentations were made available on the website. The conference also hosted an exhibition where a large diversity of companies presented their expertise and products.

Your comments on the conference:

The conference was very well organized. The location was nice at Darling Harbour. The ICC building is new and large. The organisers responded to my questions promptly and were very welcoming. Researchers and practitioners met from various parts of the world and the keynote lectures in particular were very informative and captivating.



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

The theme of the ICSMGE 2022 was discovery and particularly discovery of the innovations that lie where “practical problems meet leading theoretical developments”. The goal of this conference on highlighting how application of theory is necessary as geotechnical engineers are making new discoveries to solve the problems that the world is facing with respect to energy, transportation, and the environment was successfully met.

The conference was held in hybrid mode. It had parallel sessions of oral presentations and poster presentations. All pre-recorded presentations as well as in-person presentations were made available on the conference website. My recorded presentation was posted in the Gallery of the Virtual Attendee Portal. The exhibition hosted a large diversity of companies that presented their expertise and products.

The keynote lectures in this conference focused on the gap between practical problems and theoretical developments and highlighted how it is widening as more knowledge is accumulated.

The Terzaghi Oration lecture delivered by Professor Antoino Gens on the failures that occurred during the recent constructions in the Barcelona Harbour was intriguing especially that he discussed how the observation method was not performing as expected and how the designers had to rely solely on numerical modelling to lead the project to a successful completion.

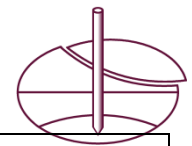
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The conclusion drawn from the CAPG Session – Are we overdesigning was important. It reinforced the need to pay more attention to the application of knowledge by involving practitioners in the technical committees of the ISSMGE with the aim to improve the state of practice. The talk by Professor Harry Poulos during the ISSMGE Time Capsule Session was also quite enlightening on this matter.

The powerful informative talks (PITs) brought a nice summary of the limits that geotechnical engineering can reach with respect to problem solving, reliability based design, and remote sensing and AI-based machine learning.

Overall, the conference was very informative and well-organized. There was plenty of networking opportunities that allowed me to meet new people and reconnect with many who I have not seen for a long time.



Photographs from Conference:

