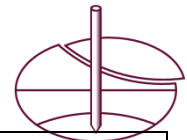


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: Calvert Barclay	Your Organization: FAMU-FSU College of Engineering	Date of report: 7-3-23
Conference Title: 9 th International Congress on Environmental Geotechnics (9 th ICEG)	Location of Conference: Chania, Greece	Dates of Conference: June 25 to June 28, 2023
What you learned: This was my first international conference in a long time. I have learned not only things specifically relating to academics but also things that can be used in your everyday life. From an academic view point this conference has given me a wider scope of my area of study, which is using geosynthetic clay liners (GCLs) as harrier barriers. Attending technical sessions in Engineered Barriers gave me a lot more research ideas and cleared up some of the uncertainties I had. The advances in testing and material characterization sessions were also very educating. These sessions provided a wholistic view of how to confirm observed results using simple and sophisticated material characterization techniques. I can incorporate gained knowledge to my current research. From a social viewpoint, this conference showed me that smart people can also live a normal and sociable life outside of work. Science and Engineering is often thought of as something to fear and provides you with no time for family and friends. This was an eye opener to see how very successful engineering can tone it down and be so called normal human beings.		
People you met: I met Professor Kerry Rowe and Professor Abdelmalek Bouazza. I read a lot of their work and was elated to meet them in person. I also met other Professor who are doing great work but these two were the standout for me. I also met and interacted with many students from all over the world at this conference. Somehow, I found a natural bond with Bilal Taskesti, a student of Professor Bouazza, Yu Tan, a student of Professor Craig Benson and Maliki Otieboame who is a Togolese native studying in Japan.		
Main features of conference: The main features of the conference in my opinion were the Lectures given by the Bright Sparks Awardees. I feel good to know that hard work is rewarded. This is inspiring to young and upcoming researchers like myself.		
Your comments on the conference: Overall, the 9 th ICEG conference was a good showing. The conference was well organized with also a lot of fun stuff like the beach party and excursions throughout the proceedings. At times the sessions were a bit late yet still it seemed as if the schedule was seamless due to the exciting technical sessions.		



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

I am Calvert Barclay, a PhD candidate in Civil Engineering at FAMU-FSU College of Engineering. I was delighted at the opportunity to attend the 9th ICEG conference held in Chania, Greece. I was elated to give an oral presentation among smart young researchers and experts in the field of soil mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. I would like to acknowledge the ISSMGE for providing support to make this conference a possibility for me.

Conferences like these are very important to the advancement of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The diversity of the presentations speaks volume to the nature of inclusiveness in which the ISSMGE approaches worldwide engineering challenges. A diverse group of researchers give a wholistic view on worldwide issues and not just concentration on specific countries like major world powers. Being apart of such a very helped me to understand some challenges that were the further from my mind and gave me a different perspective.

The technical papers presented at the conference were of high quality and provided updated insight on the state of the field of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The sessions were not just lectures, they were also interactive which gave the audience opportunities to ask questions and make recommendations that are good for the presenters and the entire audience as a collective.

Overall, the 9th ICEG conference was huge success in my opinion. The grand opening ceremony with exciting keynote speakers set the stage for the upcoming days of the conference. The Opening day reception was awesome, with good food and a relaxed time to network and meet new people. The technical sessions from Monday June 26, 2023, to Wednesday June 28, 2023, were vibrant and I observed the secretariat working nonstop to make the proceedings as seamless as possible. All the signages were strategically placed therefore it was easy to find the individual technical sessions of your choice. I enjoyed my time in Chania. Thank you for hosting such a well needed and very informative conference.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email

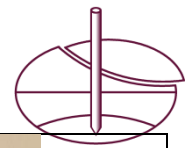


Figure 1: Myself alongside Bilal Taskesti



Figure 2: Myself alongside Maliki Otieboame

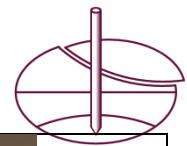


Figure 3: Beginning of my oral presentation

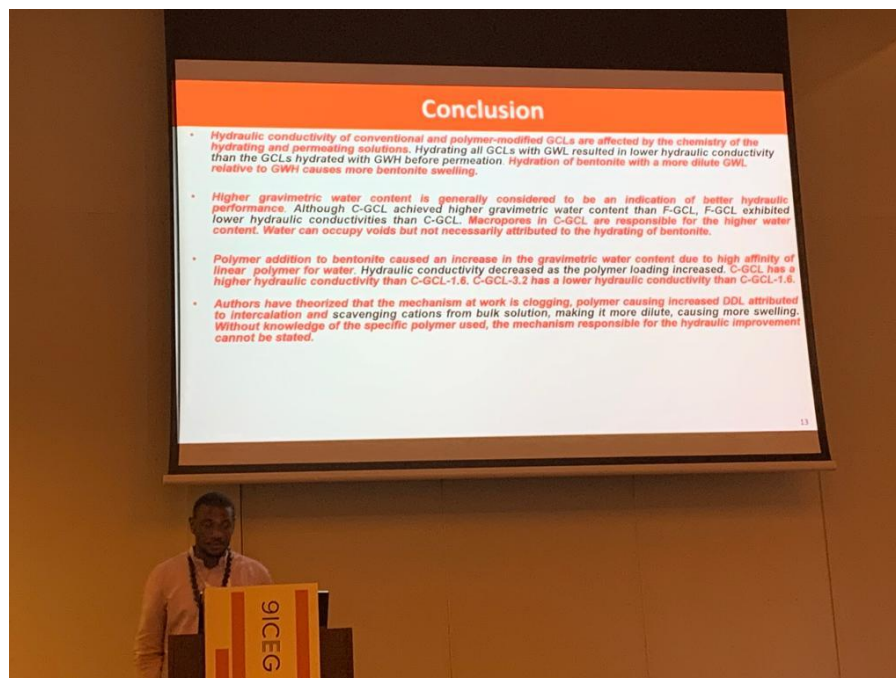


Figure 4: Concluding my oral presentation

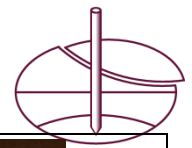


Figure 5: Professor Tarek Abichou giving his opinion on the state of enhanced bentonite



Figure 6: Networking at the reception of the opening ceremony

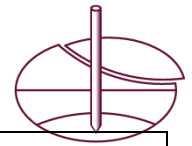


Figure 7: Myself and Professor Malek Bouazza at the reception of the opening ceremony



Figure 8: Myself and Professor Kerry Rowe at the reception of the opening ceremony