



**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your name : Sabrime BOUBAKER	Your Organisation : TERRASOL Tunisia	Date of report : October 31 st 2014
Conference Title : COBRAMSEG 2014	Location of conference : Goiania, Brazil	Date of conference : 9 th to 13 th of September 2014

What you learned :

Being present in the COBRAMSEG conference was for me a first experience oversea. It was an opportunity to know more about the Brazilian soil specifications and the main issues treated in the area. The participants in this conference were not only national students and researchers but also important international experts presenting very high quality lectures. As a young engineer, attending such presentations put me up-to-date with worldwide new techniques and different ways to proceed to treat geotechnical issues that I can face in my everyday work, especially in the field of soil mechanics, laboratory and in-situ testing, soil stability improvement and deep foundation design. It was also very interesting to know more about other topics even if it is not in my specialties as for rock mechanics, dams' conception and petroleum works.

I was also very pleased to attend the "Green foundation piles" lecture presented by Pr. Charles W. NG. in the last day of the conference. Actually, as I am particularly interested on research works in the field of thermopile, it was for me a very good opportunity to get in contact with Pr. Charles and his team. Such type of foundation will solve a lot of energy problems in my country.

I also took the opportunity of being in Brazil to expand my stay and discover other parts of the huge country. I was for one day in Brasilia with the African team to discover a new capital with a large-scale constructions and a modern architecture. I was also accompanied by Dr. Fatma BALIGH to Iguaçu to visit the most important dam of the world "Itaipu dam" providing 90% of the Paraguay electricity and 20% of the Brazilian energy (Proud to be one of the 403 Tunisian visitors among 18 million since 1977). Finishing the trip with two days stay to discover the emblematic Rio De Janeiro.

People you met :

In addition to the African team that I met and that I hope to see again in the next CRAMSG 2015 to be held in Tunisia, I had the chance to meet important persons and have interesting discussions with them, as :

- Pr. Roger FRANK (Ecole des Ponts Paris Tech and ISSMGE President)
- Pr. Fatma BALIGH (Helwan Univ. Egypt and ISSMGE vice president for Africa)
- Pr. Jean Louis BRIAUD (Texas A&M Univ. and immediate past President of ISSMEGE)
- Pr. Mauricio M. SALES (Federal Univ. of Goias, COBRAMSEG 2014 president)
- Pr. Charles W. NG (Hong Kong Univ. of Science and Technology).



- *Dr. Etienne M. KANA* (Univ. of Yaoundé and ISSMGE board level committee).

And as a young participant I tried also to make contact with some young Brazilian engineers speaking English hoping to keep in touch with them in the future.

Main features of the conference :

I was particularly surprised by the COBRAMSEG organization, especially while it includes four great events at the same time: XVII Brazilian Congress of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, VII Luso-Brazilian Congress of Geotechnics, VI Brazilian Symposium of Rock Mechanics and the VI Brazilian Symposium of Young Geotechnical Engineers. The crew was very helpful even if they are not all English speaking and information about the conference program could easily be downloaded using a phone application.

The number of participants was very important which makes the event a special occasion to meet other national and international professionals and researchers. The topics were various and the latest research were exposed. A number of articles were clearly exposed on large screens and where the writers can explain the specificity of their works. The only negative point was that they were not all English speaking.

A number of companies stands were installed presenting their up-to-date items and products.

Most of the presentations were in Portuguese but English translation was available for the most important ones. This details was very important to enable foreign participants to join the conferences and to participate in the discussions. And even for the non translated presentations, we tried to attend our Brazilian friends presentations, charts and figures can be easily understood and for the details, we tried to discuss it after the presentation with these speakers.

Your comment on the conference :

Personally, I found the conference very successful, youth organizers were very dynamic and were ready to help and answer all questions. Actually, I will keep good memories of the organization which gave me a lot of ideas to be applied in next events that we can organize in Tunisia.

Besides, we were well treated during all our stay in Goiânia, from the airport transfer to the accommodations provided and the transport facilities between the hotel and the conference (even if the distance was not so long). We, the African team, were really pleased by the generosity of the organization members which is not strange from the Brazilian population.

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

The COBRAMSEG 2014 is the most important event of the Brazilian geotechnical community taking place in Goiânia, Brazil from the 9th to the 13th of September 2014. It has host four great events at the same time : XVII Brazilian Congress of Soil Mechanics and



Geotechnical Engineering, VII Luso-Brazilian Congress of Geotechnics, VI Brazilian Symposium of Rock Mechanics and the VI Brazilian Symposium of Young Geotechnical Engineers. The organizing committee was chaired by Prof. Mauricio Martines Sales.

The five days event had included a number of technical sessions, keynote lectures, workshops, and social events. Various geotechnical subjects were treated dealing with most of the up-to-date issues and latest researchers in fields of soil mechanics, laboratory and in-situ testing, soil stability improvement, deep foundation, rock mechanics, dams' conception and petroleum works.

The first day, the event had started with eight one-day-long workshops, one English workshop was scheduled dealing with the flat dilatometer. The second day, started with the opening ceremony and several presentations of nationally awarded works. The other sessions and lectures had effectively started after lunch.

National and international experts were invited to present informative and educational keynote lectures in a big auditorium. Various other parallel sessions were organized in separated rooms so that everyone can have a large choice of topics to attend.

The number of participants was very important. Professional, researchers and students came from all cities of Brazil. A number of foreigners were also present even to attend or to expose their works.

A big exhibition hall was installed from the second day of the conference where companies can present their products and equipments as well as their innovation in fields of soil improvement, isolation, in-situ testing, pile loading...

An African team compound of four young engineers was enabled to attend the conference to present their works. I was member of that team and I take this opportunity to thank all the Brazilian organization members for their kindness and generosity. I also would like to thank the ISSMGE foundation that generously offers for us financial support to enable us travel to such far places and have contact with other professionals from the oversea world.



Presenting my work.



With Prof Fatma Baligh