# ISSMGE FOUNDATION
## REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Name:</th>
<th>Brobbey Daniel Ackah</th>
<th>Your Organization:</th>
<th>Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology/Admir Technologies, Ghana.</th>
<th>Date of report:</th>
<th>15th October 2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Title:</td>
<td>Innovation and Sustainability in Geotechnics for Developing Africa</td>
<td>Location of Conference:</td>
<td>Century City Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa</td>
<td>Dates of Conference:</td>
<td>6th - 9th October 2019</td>
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### What you learned:
The conference gave me the opportunity to interact with and listened to presentation from seasoned geotechnical engineers. I learned various application of geosynthetics in solving geotechnical and geo-environmental problems. I learned how to interact with people from different parts of the world. This conference thought me to work hand in hand with people from other disciplines such as physics, computer Science, mathematics since they could be of help in solving geotechnical problem. Alone we can do nothing but together we can do something.

### People you met:
- Prof Neil Taylor (ISSMGE secretary)
- Prof Buddhima Indraratna (University of Wollongong, Australia)
- Dr. Denis Kalumba: University of Cape Town, South Africa
- Timothy Ddanulira Bijugo, Tech Lab Africa, Uganda
- Kate Purchase, Jones & Wagener, South Africa
- Anant Kanoi, TechFab, India
- Gerard Dirks, Huesker Synthetic GmbH, Germany
- Prof Dipanjan Basu, (University of Waterloo, Canada)

### Main features of conference:
The conference was two in one as the 7th African Young geotechnical engineering conference preceded the 17th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The main features of the conference include:
- Welcome Reception
- Young African Geotechnical Engineering presentation
- Courses on barrier system, unsaturated soils, column-supported embarkment, sustainability in geotechnical engineering
- Jennings Lectures
- Parallel technical sessions
- Keynote lectures
- Gala Dinner
- Snack and Lunch Breaks
- Franki book launch
- ISSMGE Board meeting
- ISSMGE council meeting
- African member countries meeting
Your comments on the conference:
Century City is one of the beautiful cities in South Africa and the venue for the conference (Century City Hotel) was awesome. It has spacious conference halls. The organization of the conference was perfectly executed. The course, keynote, Jennings lectures as well as the parallel sessions presentations were of technical quality. However, I fell in love with all the presentation made by Prof Kerry Rowe of Queen’s University, Canada
What fascinated me was the event app where anything relating to the conference proceeding could easily be accessed from this app, this made the flow information at the conference easy. Another interesting thing was the compilation of all the conference proceedings into a hard copy book and also a soft copy on an external storage device (pen drive) and made available to each participant.

Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:
The 7th African Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference and the 17th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering were organised and hosted by the south Africa Geotechnical society under the auspices of ISSMGE. The conferences were held in Century City Hotel in Cape Town, South Africa. The African Young geotechnical engineers conference took place on 6th of October 2019 while the African Regional conference on soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering was held on the 7th to 9th of October 2019. These two conferences are the most important in Africa for geotechnical engineers. The African Young geotechnical engineering conference started on Saturday 5th October with a joyous party in a bus from 6pm to 10pm. On the 6th October, young geotechnical engineers were given the international platform to present their researches and case studies. Before the presentations, DR. Graham Howell motivated us through sharing with us his life experience (various projects he has handled and the challenges involved). I had the opportunity to present my research titled “A laboratory study on swell reduction of expansive soil treated with lime”
The African Regional Conference on soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering started with an open declaration by Prof. Denis Kalumba (chairman of the organising committee), opening address by Solly Phalanndwa, welcome address from ISSMG president (prof Charles Ng), congratulatory address from IGs president (Prof Chungsik Yoo), the Chairman of the conference. The three-day conference comprised of courses, keynote, Jennings and Mercer lectures in the morning, technical and parallel sessions. Introduction of coffee breaks made it easier to interact with presenters for better understanding.
After all the joyous moments the conference was ended on the 9th of October 2019.The closing ceremony came to an end with Tunisia mentioned as the country to host the next African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. I believe that the knowledge I have acquired from this conference will lead me to pursue my geotechnical carrier better.
I would like to use this opportunity to thank the ISSMGE foundation for their support which made it possible to participate in this most prestigious geotechnical conference.
Photographs from Conference:

During my presentation

After my presentation

With Prof Ampadu and Jojo from Ghana.
After Barrier system Technical sessions

With Timothy Bijugo of Tech Lab, Uganda

At Admir Technologies Africa booth

AYGE Night party in the bus