



**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> Sanelisiwe Buthelezi	<b>Your Organization:</b> University of Cape Town	<b>Date of report:</b> 18 October 2016
<b>Conference Title:</b> 6 <sup>th</sup> European Geosynthetics Congress	<b>Location of Conference:</b> Ljubljana, Slovenia	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> 25-28 September 2016

***What you learned:***

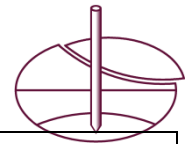
In my Masters research, I am investigating the effect of geomembrane formulation on interface friction values. Attending the conference has exposed me to current relevant information related to landfill designs using geosynthetics. The collaboration of information I attained will help me to produce thesis results that are both financially and technically advantageous to designers and contractors.

As part of my research at the University of Cape Town I conducted geosynthetic-geosynthetic interface tests using the large direct shear box. Researchers that attended the conference had a long history of testing using the same apparatus. Consequently, I could draw on their experience to help analyse my tested interfaces. I was able to present and share my Master's thesis findings on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016 during the session titled "Technical Session 12: Poster presentation". It was an interactive experience and I received very useful feedback. The presentation gave me more confidence in presenting my work to fellow colleges which will help improve my data presentation skills in future.

I thoroughly benefitted from lecture presentations made by other geotechnical researchers at the conference. Many presentations inspired me with new ideas and presented a platform to have interactions and technical discussions with many researchers like Professor Kerry Rowe and Professor Gokhan Baykal who are working on similar research as myself.

The first L.M.N.S lecture was presented by Dr Cazzuffi. The keynote speakers were Prof. Gourc, Prof. Demas, Prof Moraci, Prof. Ziegler and Prof. Yoo. These lectures gave useful insights into the challenges, history and recent progress in the analysis, design and modelling of geosynthetic reinforced structures. One of my personal highlights was the speciality sessions organised by Kent von Maubeuge and Dr. Nathalie Touze-Foltz in which experts demonstrated wrinkling, bridging and ballasting challenges on geomembranes during liner installation. This skill can help my university's soil laboratory team overcome current geomembrane placement challenges when testing using the large direct shear device.

My attendance at this conference has proved to be beneficial both to the University of Cape Town Geotechnical Engineering Group and to myself. The EuroGeo6 Conference has heightened my ability to close the knowledge gap that currently exists on the type of geomembrane formulation that is used in South African landfill lining systems. I am going to share this information with young researchers in our university which might help in the development of further scientific research.



The conference allowed the opportunity to meet and interact with professors, students, industry contacts, senior consultants, directors facing similar issues and be able to discuss solutions that I had not been aware of. The poster presentations and session breaks gave me opportunities to explore exhibitions on display and interact with students from different parts of the world and shared our ideas on research. The exhibitions showed the various types of geosynthetics and their various applications and also the new methodologies used for lab and field testing. On one of the evenings after the conference proceedings, the young members who attended the conference went for a lovely traditional Ljubljana dinner.

***People you met:***

Academics

- Dr. Kerry Rowe (Queen's university, Canada)
- Dr Nathalie Touze-Foltz (IRSTEA Geosynthetics ANTONY, France)
- Prof. Gokhan Baykal (Bogazici University, Turkey)

Student researchers

- Francis Tano (IRSTEA Geosynthetics ANTONY, France)
- Talia de Silva (University of Cambridge, England)
- David Marx (University of Pretoria, South Africa)
- Karolina Gradiski (University of Zagreb, Croatia)

Industry representatives

- Peter Legg (Peter Legg Consulting, South Africa)
- Irene Inan (GSE Environmental, South Africa)
- Kent von Maubeuge (NAUE Geotechnics with geosynthetics, Germany)
- Gregory Dode (KEO International Consultants, UAE)

***Main features of conference:***

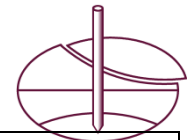
The main features of the conference include:

- Keynote lectures at the beginning of each day of the conference,
- Parallel speciality and technical sessions,
- Presentation by delegates (Papers on diverse topics),
- Poster presentation session,
- Exhibition displays and
- IGS Technical committee meetings

***Your comments on the conference:***

The conference was a success. The technical content and quality of presentations were very well organised, interesting and covered wide diverse topics. But I feel the poster presentation session could have been better organised and managed.

I would like to congratulate the Eurogeo6 organising committee for the wonderful work they did in organising the conference within a short period of time. I would also like to express my gratitude to ISSMGE Foundation for allowing me the opportunity to attend the conference. This opportunity will definitely improve the quality of my Masters thesis work



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

**6<sup>th</sup> European Geosynthetics Congress (Eurogeo6)**  
25-28 September 2016, Ljubjana, Slovenia

Eurogeo6 was organised by the International Geosynthetics Society (IGS) Turkish Chapter. This Congress aimed to bring together academics, manufacturers, practitioners and designers in the geosynthetic field. The congress dealt with themes such as embankments on soft soils, properties and testing, seismic applications, reinforced slopes and landfills to name a few.

On the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> September 2016, the welcome reception commenced. The conference officially started on the 26<sup>th</sup> September 2016 with an opening session by Prof. E. Guler, the IGS Turkish Chapter president, to welcome all attendees. This was followed by the presentation of the first L.M.N.S Lecture by Dr. Daniele Cazzuffi. It was an excellent lecture on the "Evolution in design of geotextile filters". Then the first keynote lecture was presented by Prof. Gourc and Prof. Delmas on "The behaviour of 'alive' earthworks with geosynthetics after several decades". After lunch, this was followed by four parallel sessions that were divided into technical and speciality sessions. The day ended with another parallel session that provided immense opportunity to the participants to widen their knowledge in their research areas by interacting with geotechnical experts. Every day, during coffee and lunch breaks, we were able to explore the various exhibition stands.

On the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2016, keynote lectures were presented by Prof. N. Moraci and Prof. M. Ziegler who looked at "Geosynthetic interface properties under static and dynamic loads" and "Geosynthetic reinforcement applications" respectively. Prof. Ziegler's presentation was personally my favourite. He used modern imagery to lecture about the evolution of geosynthetic reinforcement which made it very interesting and relatable. The rest of the day was divided into three sittings and each had four parallel sessions that looked into speciality and technical skills. During the last session titled "Technical Session 12", I presented my poster and received very useful feedback from attendees.

On the last day of the conference (28<sup>th</sup> September 2016), Prof. Yoo presented the keynote lecture on the use of geosynthetics in underground constructions. It was followed by IGS Awards which were awarded to members who had made significant contributions to the organisation. Three sittings of parallel sessions then followed. Speciality sessions consisted of invited lectures and presented information that reflected the scientific level the industry has reached in different areas where geosynthetics are used. The different technical sessions introduced the various research being conducted worldwide. After finishing all the parallel sessions, the closing ceremony was held.

Eurogeo6 was an amazing opportunity to learn from leaders of the profession and extend my knowledge on the different areas of geotechnical engineering. I would like to sincerely thank the ISSMGE Foundation for providing financial support to enable me to participate in this conference.

**Photographs from Conference:**

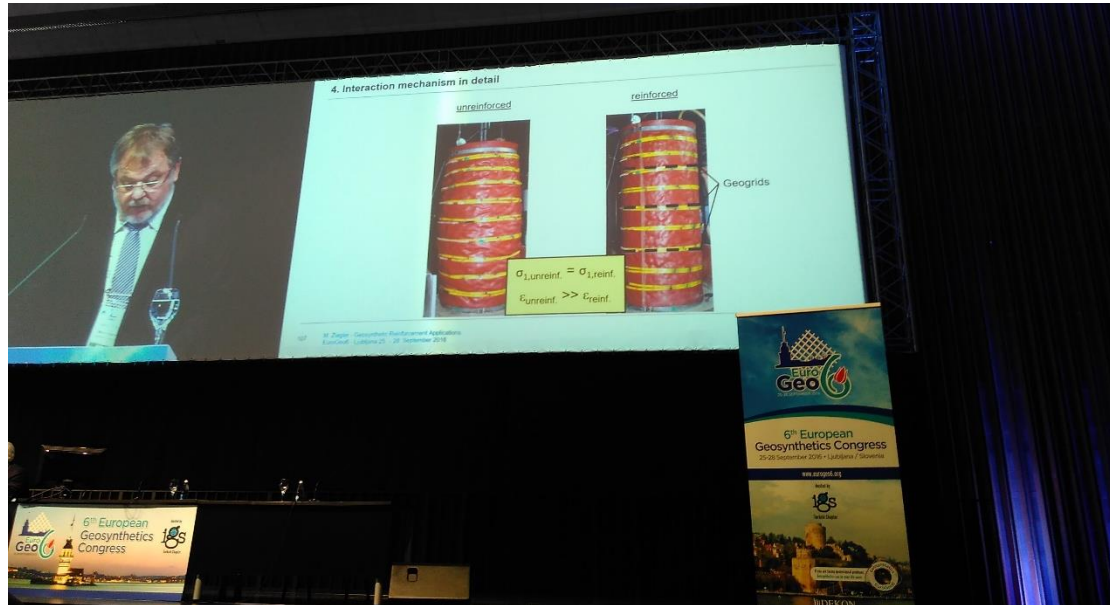
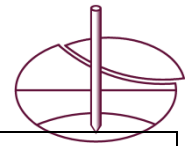


Figure 1: Keynote lecture by Professor Martin Ziegler on “Geosynthetic reinforcement applications”



Figure 2: I had to take a photo next to the Eurogeo6 poster 😊



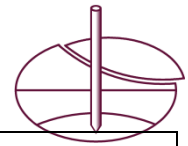


Figure 3: Discussion during my poster presentation with Karolina Gradiski

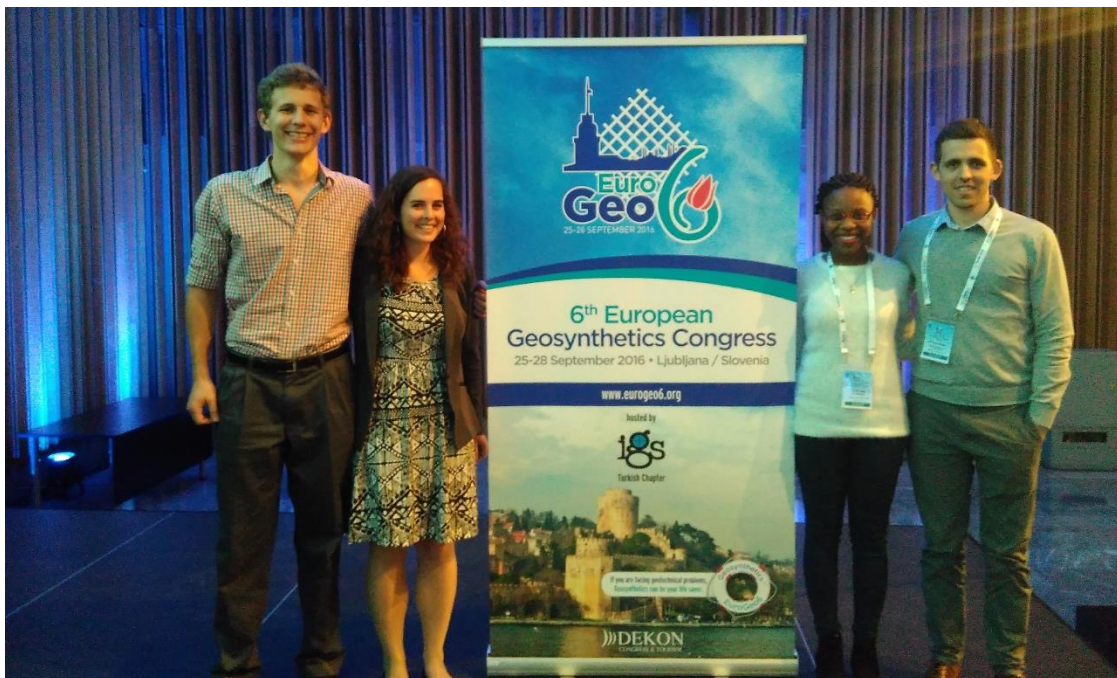


Figure 4: Some of the amazing people I met during the conference



Figure 5: Dinner with IGS young members