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Your Organization: Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee  
Date of report: October 23, 2019  

Conference Title: The 16th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (16ARC)  
Location of Conference: Taipei International Convention Center (TICC), Taipei, Taiwan  
Dates of Conference: October 14 - 18, 2019

What you learned:

The participation in 16ARC conference gave me an opportunity to get exposure to ongoing research activities in the field of soil mechanics and geotechnical earthquake engineering. It provided me with a great chance to interact with academicians and practicing engineers from various countries and leading researchers and stalwarts in the field of geotechnical engineering and gain an insight into their on-going research activities. The discussions with the experts were very fruitful and it helped me to broaden my knowledge and deepen my understandings of the subject. Moreover, I also received valuable research inputs from researchers working in the similar area of geotechnical earthquake engineering. The keynote and invited lectures delivered by the experts were very educative and highlighting the latest research in the field of geotechnical engineering. The technical papers presented in the parallel sessions of the conference were very informative and of the highest quality. I could expand my knowledge from the various keynotes, technical presentations and also learn new techniques from the exhibitors in this esteemed conference. In the conference, I have made many friends with researchers from different countries which will help me significantly in the near future in exchange of valuable ideas and thereby leading to possible research collaborations. In addition to the technical gains, I have also got a chance to experience and enjoy the uniqueness of the culture of Taiwan.

People you met:

The conference gave me a platform interact with academicians and practicing engineers from various countries and leading researchers and stalwarts in the field of geotechnical engineering. Some of them are given below:

- Prof. Der-Wen Chang, Tamkang University, Taiwan
- Prof John Carter, Emeritus Professor, The University of Newcastle, Australia
- Prof. Deepankar Choudhury, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, India
- Prof. G.L. Sivakumar Babu, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore, India
- Prof. Kenji Ishihara, Japan
- Prof. E.C. Shin, Incheon National University, South Korea
- Prof. Hemanta Hazarika, Kyushu University, Japan
- Prof. Ikuo Towhata, Japan
- Prof. Charles W.W. Ng, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Hong Kong

Main features of conference:
The 16th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (16ARC) was held on October 14-18 in 2019 in Taipei International Convention Center (TICC), Taipei, Taiwan. The main theme of the esteemed conference 16ARC was Geotechnique for Sustainable Development and Emerging Market Regions. A number of subjects on modern geotechnical technologies and activities were covered to match the theme of the conference. The conference covered all topics in geotechnical engineering, varying from theoretical and numerical analysis to practical and field problems, and from the traditional and conventional topics to the emerging upcoming topics. The conference hall for the inaugural session and subsequent keynotes and invited lectures were simply amazing where in the participants could simply see and hear the sessions without any obstacles. The pre-conference course on "State of the Art in Geomechanics and associated Numerical Simulations" and "Deep excavation and Ground Improvement in urban area" were simply outstanding and highly educative. The poster sessions also showed very interesting paper presentations. The conference also had the Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG) and Young Geotechnical Engineers Session (YGES) and two selected official members of YMPG delivered the ISSMGE Bright Spark Lecture at 16ARC. Finally, the organizing committee was very professional and did not cause any inconvenience to the delegates during the 16ARC.

Your comments on the conference:

The 16ARC was a well-organised conference. Prof. Chang-Yu Ou and the entire organising committee of 16ARC had efficiently put together a very promising conference. The conference brought together great minds and researchers from various parts of the world. The keynote and invited lectures were interesting and enlightening and at the same time very informative too. The technical sessions, comprising of high quality papers selected for presentation, were educative and interactive. The daily events of the conference, parallel technical sessions and exhibitions, were organised very well by the committee. I sincerely thank the organising committee for giving me an opportunity to present my work. I am also grateful to “ISSMGE Foundation” for providing me with the support and grant to attend such a memorable and grand conference.

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

The 16th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (16ARC) 14th-18th October, 2019, Taipei, Taiwan

The 16ARC was organized by the Chinese Taipei Geotechnical Society at Taipei International Convention Center (TICC) in Taipei. The theme of the conference was “Geotechnique for Sustainable Development and Emerging Market Regions”. The conference was aimed at covering the topics on modern geotechnical technologies and activities. The conference consisted of various programs which included the invited lectures, keynote lectures, theme lectures, technical parallel sessions, Young Geotechnical Engineers Session (YGES), exhibition, technical visits and The ISSMGE Bright Spark Lecture. Besides, a welcome reception was held on Monday 14th October and a banquet dinner was held on Wednesday 16th October.
The conference started on 14th October 2019 with a wonderful inaugural ceremony. It was followed by the first keynote lecture given by Prof. Charles W.W. Ng on "Fundamental framework to design multiple rigid barriers for resisting debris flows". The series of inspiring lectures on the other days comprised of keynotes given by Prof. Ikuo Towhata on "Construction engineer should play more major roles in sustainability of urban environment", Prof. Britta Bienen on "Geotechnical considerations associated with offshore renewable energy installations" and Prof. Jianye Ching on "Role of generic soil database in site-specific decision making". An interesting mentoring lecture on "Integrated solutions for geotechnical projects" was given by Dr. Za-Chieh Moh. The invited lectures comprised of "Stability analysis of soilbag retaining wall under seismic loading" by Prof. EC Shin, "Sustainable foundation solutions for industrial structures under earthquake conditions – theory to practice" by Prof. Deepankar Choudhury and "Muscale modelling of plant root-soil interaction" by Prof. Wei Wu. The other invited speakers were Prof. Harianto Rahardjo, Prof. Meei-Ling Lin, Prof. Chih-Ping Lin, Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov, Prof. Masyhur Irsyam and others.

The technical sessions included papers on TC103-Numerical methods in geomechanics, ATC6-Urban geoengineering, TC104P-physical modelling in geotechnics, TC202-Transportation geotechnics, TC209-Offshore geotechnics, TC302-Forensic geotechnical engineering, TC304-Risk assessment and management, TC305-Megacities, and others like ATC7, ATC10, ATC18. Each of the technical sessions consisted of around 8 technical papers and sufficient time were given to the presenters to present their work followed by a brief discussion. In between the sessions and during the breaks, I could also visit the exhibition stalls that had interesting in situ techniques for underground excavation, ground improvement, dynamic testing and others.

Another feature of the conference was the ISSMGE Bright Spark Lecture. The Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG) and Young Geotechnical Engineers Session (YGES) was to enable delegates of 36 years age to exchange research ideas and share work experiences in the geotechnical engineering profession. The aim of the program was to bring up young geotechnical engineers who will move forward to the aims and ideals of the ISSMGE. The participants of the YMPG/YGES from each member society were supposed to give oral presentations in the allotted sessions, which were evaluated by a screening committee. The two selected official members of YMPG would deliver the ISSMGE Bright Spark Lecture at 16ARC.

In overall, the 16ARC conference gave me a valuable platform to learn and understand the different aspects of geotechnical engineering and update myself with the latest technologies thereby giving me an opportunity to extend knowledge in my area of research. I am indebted to ISSMGE Foundation for providing me with financial support for participating in this esteemed conference.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email