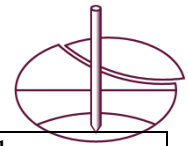




ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Albert Ampadu	Your organization: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology	Date of report: 20/10/2024
Conference Title: 18 th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	Location of Conference: Algiers, Algeria	Dates of Conference: 6-9 October 2024
What you learned: <p>The 18 ARC was an incredible opportunity to witness and learn from industry professionals and academic researchers, showcasing the innovative and sustainable solutions relevant to our African Region. I was given the platform to present my research paper at the conference, which being my first time presenting at an international platform was a huge confidence booster and I received invaluable feedback that provides me with a lot of ideas for my future research direction.</p> <p>The numerous presentations under diverse geotechnical themes during the technical sessions were insightful and the interesting discussions I had with fellow researchers, facilitated connection and networking opportunities.</p> <p>In general, the conference experience was an eye-opener to engage with highly esteemed African engineers and researchers, built valuable connections, share my research and becoming abreast with novel technology and research findings in the geotechnical profession.</p>		
People you met: <p>I met many people including the following key ones:</p> <p>Prof. Peter Day: - Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, University of Stellenbosch and Jones & Wagener, Johannesburg, South Africa.</p> <p>Prof. Marawam Shahien: - Professor, Tanta University, Egypt and ISSMGE Vice President for Africa.</p> <p>Prof. Mounir Bouassida: - Professor, Universite de Tunis El Manar, ENIT (Tunisia).</p> <p>Prof. Ramdane Bahar: - Professor, University of Sciences and Technology Houari Boumediene, USTHB, Algeria</p> <p>Mr. Adel Hassan Yahya Habal: - PhD Candidate, University of Science and Technology, Houari Boumediene, Algeria</p>		
Main features of conference: <p>The 18th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering is a quadrennial event that brings together researchers, academics, students and professionals from around the globe to facilitate the dissemination of current research and studies aimed at solving challenges in the soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering field. The main theme for the conference was “Geotechnical engineering for Africa’s sustainable development”.</p>		



There were four key features: The first feature was the 12 keynote lectures which were delivered by prominent geo-professionals and researchers in the field of geotechnical sustainable development. The topics including design methods in geotechnical practice, novel laboratory shear strength testing equipment and case studies on very challenging but successful geotechnical projects.

The second feature was the parallel technical sessions where presentations were made by various researchers and professionals during which they showcased some of the innovative and sustainable solutions for the industry under topics such as Soil Characterization, geotechnical case studies and seismic analysis.

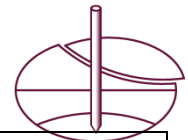
The Bright Spark Lectures was an interesting session for promising young professionals to present their state-of-the-art research ideas and insights to the broader and diverse community. The Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) project raised awareness among member societies and individual members around the world about the importance of geotechnical engineering heritage and communicating to future engineers, researchers and the general public the summary of the content of the first 100 years of the geotechnical engineering practice from the 1920's to the present.

The fourth key feature was the exhibitions, where companies mounted stands to showcase their products and designs. After the conference we toured some parts of Algeria.

In essence, the conference played a pivotal role in merging advanced research with practical solutions and providing a platform for positive strategies for Africa's sustainable development.

Your comments on the conference:

The conference was a total success from the location of the beautiful city of Algiers with the diverse and remarkable culture of its people. The organizers did an exceptional job with the timely nature of the schedule, fostering an atmosphere conducive for productive conversations between participants and creating an all-engrossing conference. A very impressive lineup of some of the industry's world-renowned practitioners and researchers to deliver their excellent keynote lectures was another highlight for me. Provision of translators for non-French speaking participants as myself was a very warm and personal touch by the organizers. Overall, the conference was an enriching experience and huge eye-opener for a young researcher as myself about the trajectory of research in the practice and also creating profound connections within the global community.



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

A little over a year ago, our Professors informed all PhD candidates in our postgraduate programme that there was going to be the 18th African Regional Conference in Algeria and that candidates who provided good abstracts would be supported to apply for financial support to attend. I, alongside two other colleagues worked very hard and submitted abstracts and the main papers. I was thrilled when I received the acceptance of my paper. In May 2024, I completed the ISSMGE foundation application for financial support to attend the conference and later received approval for part funding.

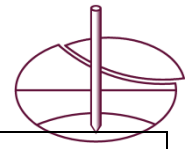
On 5th October 2024, we arrived in Algiers. The following morning, we went to the Conference venue at the Marriott Hotel, Bab Ezzouar and registered. The conference theme was “Geotechnical Engineering for Africa’s Sustainable Development”. On the first day, after the opening ceremony, there were three key note lectures. After lunch I was the first presenter in the first parallel session out of 116 papers presented at the conference. I was a little anxious, being my first presentation at an international conference. However, thanks to the regular presentations our professors make us do at home, I was able to go through the presentation successfully. This boosted my confidence even further.

A total of 12 highly enlightening key note lectures were delivered by distinguished geotechnical practitioners and researchers. I attended all the sessions during the conference, and in my desire to learn, I asked questions. The coffee break provided me with the opportunity to strike conversations with other participants. I made acquaintances with a local PhD candidate, Adel Yahya Habal whose research interests in application of machine learning to geotechnical engineering coincidentally matched mine.

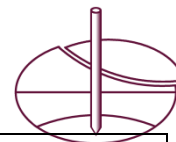
The Bright Spark lectures gave the opportunity for some researchers to deliver their research ideas and some upcoming researchers were awarded for their endeavours. There was a presentation of the Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) project.

In summary, for me personally the 18 ARC 2024 was an eye-opening event providing a platform for fruitful discussions. The next international geotechnical conferences were announced to be held in Vienna, Austria in 2026 and Egypt 2028 which I am eager to travel and participate in. I express my sincere appreciation to the ISSMGE Foundation for providing the financial support to participate in this conference.

Photographs from Conference:



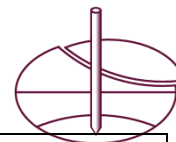
At the Marriott hotel for the 18ARC, Algiers, Algeria



Presenting technical paper at the conference



The KNUST delegates with Prof. Peter Day



At the Conference Dinner and Gala Night