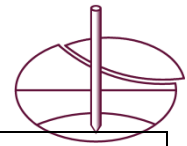


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

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| Your Name: Felix Jojo Ayeh | Your Organization: Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana | Date of report: 20 th October 2024 |
| Conference Title: 18 th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering | Location of Conference: Algiers, Algeria | Dates of Conference: 6 th – 9 th October 2024 |
| What you learned: The conference was focused on “Geotechnical Engineering for Africa’s Sustainable Development”. The various expert lectures and keynote addresses highlighted the potential of geotechnical engineering in developing the much-needed infrastructure for Africa. The conference underlined the need for collaborative work and the importance of research in sustaining the various geotechnical related infrastructure in Africa. As a young geotechnical engineer, I learnt the importance of the engineering philosophy in defining a problem well and the range of solutions. I have also learnt insights in geosynthetics and its applications to civil engineering infrastructure to solve problems are lower cost while maintaining integrity. | | |
| People you met: This conference offered me the great opportunity to meet with renowned personalities of the ISSMGE and in the Geotechnical Engineering practice. A few are mentioned below: Prof. Ramdane Bahar (Chair of Conference Organizing Committee) Prof. Peter (South Africa) Prof. Marcelin Kana (Immediate Past ISSMGE Vice President for Africa, Cameroun) Prof. Marawan Shahien (ISSMGE Vice President for Africa, Egypt) Prof. Fatima Baligh (Past ISSMGE Vice President for Africa, Egypt) Prof. Dennis Kalumba (South Africa) Prof. Mounir Bouassida (Tunisia) | | |



Main features of conference:

Main features of both conferences included the following;

1. Opening and Closing sessions
2. Keynote Addresses
3. Parallel technical sessions
4. Heritage Time Capsule
5. Gala Dinner
6. Snack and Lunch Breaks
7. Exhibitions

Your comments on the conference:

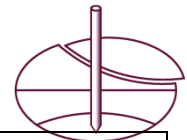
The conference was very well organised. The venues were perfect for the purpose with state-of-the-art conferencing facilities, and spacious enough for the numbers. As an English-speaking participant in a French country, the translation booth was a plus for me to understand what was being said during French speakers' presentations. The well-prepared lunch and snacks were delicious, and their timing was right. The effort of the ISSMGE and the Organising Committee in putting together the 18th African Regional Conference is commendable. I am very grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for providing the support to enable me attend both conferences.

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

The 18th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (18th ARCSMGE) was successfully organized and hosted by the Algerian Geotechnical Society (ALGEOS), under the auspices of the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). The event gathered researchers, academics, students, and professionals from across Africa and the globe, facilitating the exchange of ideas. Over 100 technical papers were presented by engineers from various African and Middle Eastern countries, providing an excellent platform for collaborative research.

The conference began with welcome addresses from the conference Chairman and President of ALGEOS, Prof. Ramdane Bahar, the ISSMGE Vice President for Africa, Prof. Marawan Shahien, and ISSMGE President Dr. Marc Balouz, whose address was delivered via recording due to the situation in Lebanon. Keynote lectures followed, with Prof. Marawan Shahien discussing challenges related to problematic ground conditions in arid desert regions, and Prof. Peter Day from South Africa presenting on appropriate design methods for geotechnical practice.

One notable session focused on the Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) project, with addresses by Prof. Marawan Shahien and Mrs. Akua Akosah-Yentumi. The HTC project, initiated by ISSMGE, aims to achieve three objectives: fostering mutual understanding, sharing knowledge about geotechnical practices, and building a future-oriented community.



Throughout the conference, participants attended technical presentations covering a wide range of topics, such as the application of geosynthetics in tunnels and dams, the rehabilitation of large earthfill dams, and the determination of soil shear strength using the cylindrical shear tool. Speakers had 8 minutes to present, followed by 3-5 minutes for questions and answers. All papers were reviewed by a scientific committee, ensuring a high standard of quality.

The conference concluded with an elegant gala dinner, featuring rich cultural performances that celebrated the successful event.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Ghana Geotechnical Society and the Ghana Chapter of the International Geosynthetics Society for their generous financial support, which enabled me to attend the 18th African Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in Algiers. I also deeply appreciate the foundational support provided by the ISSMGE, which played a key role in making my participation possible. The experience was invaluable, allowing me to present my research, network with global experts, and represent Ghana on such a significant platform. Your continued support for professional development is truly appreciated, and I am honored to have been part of this enriching event.

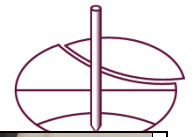
Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email



At the conference venue



Making my presentation during one of the parallel sessions



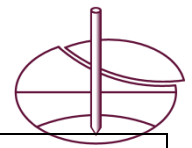
Sight-seeing in the city of Algiers



In Algeria ready to attend the day's session



With Delegates from Ghana



With Prof. Marawan Shahien (Egypt)



Marcelin Kana (Cameroun), Peter Day (South Africa), Dennis Kalumba (South Africa), Marawan Shahien (Egypt), Ramdane Bahar (Algeria), Andrew McNamara (Secretary General ISSMGE)