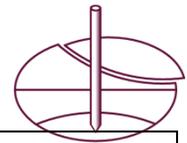


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> Tiago Dias	<b>Your Organization:</b> Independent	<b>Date of report:</b> 24 / 09 / 2017
<b>Conference Title:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	<b>Location of Conference:</b> Seoul, Republic of Korea	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> 17 to 22 September 2017
<b>What you learned:</b> I normally attend conferences that are focused on underground constructions, so I was particularly interested to see the lectures and discussions about fundamental aspects and other applications of geotechnical engineering. From the plenary speakers, I thought the remarks from Peter Day (Terzaghi Oration) on the cycle of knowledge development and implementation were particularly relevant in the current scenario of our profession, where new journal publications are valued much more than attempts to transfer academic knowledge to practice. I also recall the comments from David Wood on inevitable and inadvertent heterogeneity, and how they can guide our conceptual understanding on the size of test samples, variability of test results and our general concepts of continuum mechanics. Just a few words from this lecture made me think for hours about our methods of testing and modelling soils. From the discussion sessions I was particularly interested in the Geo-Education Workshop (TC306). Leading professors from some of the best universities in the world were arguing about educational methods for geotechnical engineering. For me this was a very unique experience, where I could see the other side of the equation – the opinion of professors on their students, how they react to modern/traditional teaching methodologies, and what should stay or what can be removed from the syllabus of basic courses. Overall, I think what you learn during these events can only truly be assessed with time. I think some lessons learned during this event will stay with me for years to come.		
<b>People you met:</b> Roger Frank – President ISSMGE Neil Taylor – Secretary ISSMGE Giulia Viggiani – Cambridge University Dimitrios Zekkos – University of Michigan Kenichi Soga – University of California, Berkeley Jorge Zornberg – University of Texas at Austin Joana Fonseca – City University London Murray Fredlund – Soilvision Systems Marcos Futai – University of Sao Paulo		



***Main features of conference:***

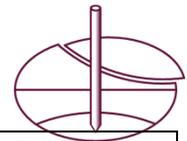
The ICSMGE offers its participants a very broad spectrum of geotechnical themes to learn from. During the first two days, all the participants watched about 15 plenary lectures from several of the society's technical committees, and the host society. The topics of the Honours Lectures were: laboratory testing, unsaturated soils, soil-structure interaction, earthquake geotechnics, historical heritage, soft ground stabilization, environmental geotechnical and risk management. The Special Lectures were about municipal solid waste, historical heritage, geophysical characterization, and landslides. The third and fourth day comprised a variety of discussion sessions, with the papers submitted by the national societies, and special workshops with invited presenters.

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

The plenary lectures of the conference were, in my opinion, a sort of first-class display of modern geotechnical engineering knowledge – what our profession can achieve with the best of our knowledge. There were insights into fundamental mechanism as well as practical design approaches for real applications. However, I do feel that there should have been more space for discussion within the lectures. The room was full of experts who could have built an insightful discussion on each topic.

The discussion and workshops of the second half of the conference offered a view of the larger research community involved in the ISSMGE. The discussion sessions were a platform for authors from around the world to present the work they submitted, through their national societies, within the scope of each technical committee. The workshops offered a more objective view of the inner workings and objectives of each committee, as they were more focused on a specific topic that the committee was trying to discuss or publicize.

Overall I left the conference with a much better understanding of the activities and groups that form the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.



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

The 19<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) took place in Seoul, Republic of Korea between 17 and 22 September 2017. The ICSMGE offers its participants a very broad spectrum of geotechnical themes to learn from. During the first two days, all the participants watched about 15 plenary lectures from several of the society's technical committees, and the host society. For me these lectures were a first-class display of modern geotechnical engineering knowledge – what our profession can achieve to the best of our knowledge. I particularly recall the remarks from Peter Day (Terzaghi Oration) on the cycle of knowledge development and implementation, which I thought were particularly relevant in the current scenario of our profession, where new journal publications are valued much more than attempts to transfer academic knowledge to practice. I also recall the comments from David Wood on inevitable and inadvertent heterogeneity, and how they can guide our conceptual understanding on the size of test samples, variability of test results and our general concepts of continuum mechanics. Just a few words from this lecture made me think for hours about our methods of testing and modelling soils.

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I left the conference with a much better understanding of the activities and groups that form the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and I think some lessons learned during this event will stay with me for years to come.

**Photographs from Conference:** Insert here or attach to email