



ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name : Sampurna Datta	Your Organisation : Indian Institute of Science	Date of Report : 21 st November, 2014
Conference Title : 7 th International Congress on Environmental Geotechnics	Location of Conference : Melbourne, Australia	Date of Conference : 10 th – 14 th November, 2014
<p>What you learned: Attending 7ICEG at Melbourne provided an excellent opportunity for enhancing my knowledge in various areas of Environmental Geotechnics. As a young researcher it was an excellent opportunity for me to listen to eminent people, to interact with them and to develop contacts. I presented my paper on 13th November, 2014, in the session titled “Reliability Analysis of Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Settlements” under the theme “Containment and Management of Waste” in the congress. Through my presentation, I got a chance to display my research work to the experts from all over the world and receive their feedback. The discussions with the experts helped me to broaden my knowledge and deepen my understanding into the subject. The presentation gave me more confidence in presenting my work in an International level audience. The keynote and theme lectures by Kerry Rowe, Craig Benson, Kenichi Soga, William Powrie and Ed Kavazanjian gave an insight into the area of Geoenvironmental Engineering. A fresh concept that I got acquainted with in this congress is geo-thermal energy pile and its application. The session breaks gave me opportunities to interact with researchers and students from different parts of the world and share our ideas on research. The papers presented in the panel sessions were also of high quality and the discussions were very creative. Finally the poster presentations were also very interactive. Apart from the technical gains, I have also got a chance to experience and enjoy the uniqueness of the culture in Australia.</p>		
<p>People you met: The conference gave a platform to meet and interact with many professional leaders from industry and academia. Few of them are listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Kerry Rowe (Queen’s University, Canada) 2. Prof. William Powrie (University of SouthHampton, UK) 3. Prof. Jeffrey Evans (Bucknell University, USA) 4. Dr. Ed Kavazanjian (Arizona State University, USA) 5. Prof. Manoj Datta (Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, India) 6. Prof. Malek Bouazza (Monash University, Australia) 		
<p>Main features of Conference : 7ICEG was conducted to provide a showcase of developments and advances and offer an international forum to discuss and debate on the future directions for environmental geotechnics. The five days of the conference from 10th – 14th November 2014 was very well organized and started with R.K. Rowe Lecture by Charles Shackelford and welcome notes by Malek Bouazza on 11th November. The 5-days of the conference consisted of 2 short courses, 6 keynote lectures, 15 theme lectures, 135 oral</p>		

presentations and a large exhibition. There were also poster sessions which gave nice opportunity to interact with other researchers to discuss on their work and to learn new things. The exhibitions in which a large number of companies participated were open all throughout the conference and it was very interesting to interact with professionals and know the kind of projects they handle and the kind of solutions they provide for various geotechnical engineering problems.

Your comments on the conference: My appreciations and heartfelt gratitude to the organizing committee of 7ICEG 2014 for organising such a wonderful event. The technical quality of the conference was excellent. The organization of the conference is admirable. Especially the variety of themes in the keynote lectures and technical sessions were excellent. There were many pioneer personalities, delegates, researchers, and industrial engineers from the different places of the world with whom I got to interact and exchange ideas. I encourage my friends and juniors to attend the next ICEG.

Short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

7th International Congress on Environmental Geotechnics, 2014
 10th – 14th November, Melbourne, Australia

7ICEG is the seventh in a series that started in Edmonton, Canada 1994. It is being organised by Engineers Australia and supported by the Melbourne Convention Bureau (MCB), City of Melbourne and the Australian Geomechanics Society. This Congress aims to bring together practitioners and researchers in Environmental Geotechnics and related disciplines to discuss the advances which have been achieved in the past 20 years or so. This year the congress dealt with a wide variety of themes such as containment and management of waste, contaminant fate and transport assessment, energy related geoenvironmental technology, and biogeotechnical engineering to name a few.

On 10th November, prior to the main congress session, two very informative short courses were held. The congress commenced on 11th November 2014 with welcome notes by Malek Bouazza, chairperson 7ICEG and was followed by R.K. Rowe lecture, by Prof. Charles Shackelford. It was an excellent lecture on the “The role of diffusion in environmental geotechnics”. It was followed by two keynote lectures and theme lectures by Kenichi Soga, Marcelo Sanchez, and Lyesse Laloui. After lunch, various concurrent sessions were arranged which were followed by thought-provoking discussions. The exhibit hall hours were really crowded to see the new methodologies adopted in geotechnical engineering.

On 12th November, the morning session consisted of 1 distinguished keynote lecture by Prof. Kerry Rowe on “Field and laboratory observations of down-slope bentonite migration in exposed composite liners”, which was followed by five informative theme lectures. After lunch, various interesting poster presentations and concurrent sessions were held.

The third day of the conference (13th November) commenced with two keynote lectures by Paul Brown and Craig Benson and three theme lectures. Ed Kavazanjian made an interesting talk on the applications of biogeotechnics to geoenvironmental problems. Concurrent sessions followed in the afternoon. I presented my paper on this very day in the session titled “Containment and Management of waste”.

The final day of the conference started with a keynote lecture by Mike Summersgill followed by theme lectures, parallel technical sessions and a closing ceremony in the afternoon. The participation in this conference has enabled me learn from the leaders of the profession. The contacts gained and the discussions I had with professionals have improved my vision and understanding. I would like to express my sincere thanks to ISSMGE foundation for providing financial support for participating and presenting in the conference.

Photographs from the conference :



With Prof. Kerry Rowe



During my oral presentation



With Prof. Manoj Datta (left) and Prof. Jeffrey Evans (Center)



The team from India