

## ISSMGE FOUNDATION REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name:	Your Organization:	Date of report:
Nkem Ehujuo	University of Cape Town	14 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
Conference Title:	Location of Conference:	Dates of Conference:
A Geotechnical Discovery Downunder – Geotechnical Discovery Awaits You	International Conference Centre, Sydney, Australia	29 <sup>th</sup> & 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2022 1 <sup>st</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> May 2022
What you learned:		

The conference gave me the opportunity to discover the works of recent innovations and research that addresses the practical problems faced in the geotechnical world. Particularly, I got familiar with the use of numerical modelling to understand, interpret, and predict soil behaviour under different conditions. I also got acquainted with the latest tools and techniques in the vast and diverse areas of geotechnical engineering. Additionally, the conference gave me the opportunity to interact and network with professionals, practicing engineers, academicians, researchers, consultants, students, developers of software applications and even manufacturers of laboratory and field equipment used in site investigations. Although not been able to attend in-person, the virtual platforms gave me a synonymous experience of the conference through the virtual exhibition, meeting hub, lobby, and gallery. I was able to raise questions as they captured my interests. Through discussions with experts in the online comment section and live sessions, I received valuable insights in construction in deltaic environments which broadened my thought on the need for sustainability and resilience in geotechnical works. Lessons, and not just failures should be shared with the broader community for learning purposes. Furthermore, networking with people from different countries but similar interest will assist me explore possible research collaborations and working opportunities in the nearest future.

## People you met:

The conference afforded me to meet notable academicians, practicing geotechnical engineers and start-ups (young businesses) from different countries all over the world. Some of these people are:

- Pooria Ghadir: Founder of MatSoil and Senior Researcher, University of Exeter
- Hugo Acosta-Martinez: Technical Director Ground & Underground Engineering, Aurecon
- Alexandre Lopes: Geotechnical Engineer, Terrasol
- Professor Abdelmalek Bouazza, Monash University
- Christoph Kraus, Engineering Geologist, Beca Ltd
- Fiona Hughes, Geotechnical Engineer, Arup
- Adrian Brunner, Research Associate, Vienna University of Technology
- Professor Ha Bui, Monash University



## Main features of conference:

The main features of the conference include:

- Lectures on transportation geotechnics, tailing dams, artificial intelligence, energy geotechnics, unsaturated soils, environmental geotechnics, earthquake geotechnical engineering, engineering geology, biomediated-bioinspired geotechnics, rock mechanics,
- Keynote presentations
- Terzaghi Oration
- Concurrent paper presentations and parallel sessions
- CAPG Session: Are we overdesigning?
- Special lecture on planetary geotechnics
- Bright Spark Lecture
- Powerful Informative Talks (PITs)
- Technical Committee Meeting (honour lectures and paper sessions)
- ISSMGE Awards Ceremony
- ISSMGE Time Capsule Session

## Your comments on the conference:

The 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (including the 7<sup>th</sup> International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference) was remarkable. The entire lectures and program schedule matched significantly with the theme of the conference, A Geotechnical Discovery Downunder. I heard about planetary geotechnics for the first time, it was a huge discovery as I never knew such field of geotechnics existed. The quality of lectures and papers presented were excellently delivered and detailed in nature. The speakers were experienced in their respective fields and possessed a tremendous knowledge. Also, the virtual platform was user friendly with a smooth interface, there was a helpdesk available for technical support, a gallery to view all posters, and the networking hub such great features like video calls, discussion forum, do not disturb (DND), note taking (during live sessions) and exportation of notes to device, and most importantly, contact details of conference participants. Virtual presenters were made to join their call thirty minutes before their live session. Finally, the organizing committee was very professional and humane. I am very much 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:* 

7<sup>th</sup> International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference 20<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

Theme: A Geotechnical Discovery Downunder – Geotechnical Discovery Awaits You

The International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE)is a reputable and prominent conference in the field of geotechnical engineering. The conference was originally planned to hold in 2021 but was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The 20<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE was held in a hybrid mode with an in-person conference for those who were able to visit Australia. The 7iYGEC which preceded the 20<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE was held between 29 and 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 with an in-person geotechnical day on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2022.

The conference was organised by the Australian Geomechanics Society. Activities for the (7iYGEC) began with a virtual exhibition followed by an Official Opening and keynote presentation on *Geotechnical Foundation Design: Some Lessons Learned* which was delivered by Professor Emeritus Harry Poulos of Tetra Tech Coffey. Thereafter paper presentations ranging from numerical modelling, geosynthetics to site investigations ensued. The author's paper on "A Comparative Analysis on the Performance of Polypropylene and Polyester Non-woven Geotextiles in Landfills" was presented on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2022 with Professor Abdelmalek Bouazza being the chair of the session. The closing remarks were presented by the event manager and the local organising committee.

The major conference kickstarted on May 2<sup>nd</sup> (after the in-person geotechnical day) with a Terzaghi Oration by Professor Antonio Gens. This was followed by State-of-the-Art lectures and CAPG session on "Are we overdesigning?" The opening ceremony started with performances and opening addresses from the conference chair, Emeritus Professor John Carter, an honorary member of Australian Geomechanics Society, Professor Emeritus Harry Poulos, and the president of the ISSMGE, Professor Charles Ng. Subsequently, paper presentations were made by prestigious researchers and scholars. There were significant breaks between the lectures and sessions to ensure participants had adequate time to network and relax.

Distinguished geotechnical engineers were recognised during the awards ceremony. Professor Fumio Tatsuoka was awarded with the 2021 Kevin Nash Gold Medal, the Outstanding Geotechnical Project was awarded to Shanghai 500KV World Expo Underground Station in China, and the Outstanding Innovator was Plaxis. The conference came to an end with conference summary and closure discussion on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022. I am grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for providing me with financial support to participate in this world-renowned conference which made a long-lasting impact in my life.







