



**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<p>Your Name: Ghassan Akrouh</p>	<p>Your Organization: Texas A&M University</p>	<p>Date of report: 19 September 2013</p>
<p>Conference Title: 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) and 5th International Young Geotechnical Engineer's conference (iYGEC)</p>	<p>Location of Conference: Paris, France</p>	<p>Dates of Conference: From 30 August to 6 September</p>
<p>What you learned: I presented my work at the iYGEC on Geothermal Energy and I attended all the plenary sessions of the ICSMGE. I increased my knowledge in the different topics presented in the sessions and I learned more about the different fields of Geotechnical Engineering. Namely, I learned more about Slope Stability from Terzaghi Orientation by Prof. Suzane Lacasse, Soil Dynamics from Ishihara Lecture by Prof. George Gazetas, Pressuremeter and its wide application from Menard Lecture by Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud, Laboratory testing from Bishop Lecture by Richard Jardine, and all the others plenary sessions.</p>		
<p>People you met: I met many professors from all around the world as well as Ph.D. students. I met the new elected president of ISSMGE, Prof. Roger Frank. I met some of the ISSMGE board members: Prof. Charles W.W. Ng, Dr. Ikuo Towhata, Prof. Neil Taylor, Prof. Gabriel Auvinet, Prof. Samuel Ejezie. I also met the PRC chair Dr. Marc Ballouz and the IDC committee Dr. Dimitrios Zekkos.</p>		
<p>Main features of conference: The presentations at the two conferences covered most of the topics and problems faced by geotechnical engineers around the world. The conference has great keynote lectures delivered by senior geotechnical professionals from all around the world. The technical committee's workshops were very informative, intense, and fruitful. Another interesting feature was the various technical visits to interesting and huge projects, namely: Tramway T6, the underground station in Viroflay; Hugh-Speed railway Bretagne Pays de Loire; Underground storm water limestone quarries under Paris, etc. I should note here that the conferences were perfectly organized. The exhibition hall was a great place to meet professionals, contractors, consultants from different countries with different backgrounds.</p>		
<p>Your comments on the conference: the conferences was attended by a large number of professionals from all around the world with different academic backgrounds. The two conferences were very well organized and I am glad I had the chance to attend these conferences. I will transmit this experience to my colleagues and encourage them to attend future conferences organized by the ISSMGE. The quality of the work presented in these conferences was very high.</p>		

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

18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE), 2-6 September, Paris, France.

5th International Young Geotechnical Engineer's conference (iYGEC), 30 August-1 September, Paris, France.

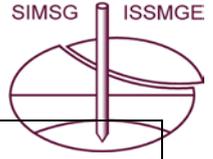
The two conferences were organized by the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The conferences took place in Paris, France from 30 August to 6 September. The conferences covered most of the topics related to soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering through plenary sessions and workshops organized by the different technical committees.

I presented my work and the on-going research at Texas A&M University regarding my research topic during the iYGEC. I attended most of the sessions and presentation given by my colleagues on the different topics of geotechnical engineering. During the sessions breaks, I had the chance to meet Ph.D. students from different areas of this world, communicate with them, and share my research interest and work. During this conference too, I had the chance to meet the organizers and the chair, Prof. Yu-Jun Cui. The conference ended on the 1st of September with a closing ceremony and a summary. In addition, two participants were nominated as the most outstanding presentation and they presented their work at the ICSMGE

The ICSMGE started on the 2nd of September with an opening ceremony at 9:00 A.M with more than 1500 participantn. The program included two days of plenary sessions given by senior professor from different universities covering different topics in the honour of great geotechnical engineers that made great contribution to our field. The 3rd and 4th day were allocated for workshops and technical sessions organized by the different technical committees covering all aspect of geotechnical engineering.

This conference gave me the opportunity to increase my knowledge in the different fields of geotechnical engineering as a Ph.D. student. It gave me the opportunity to meet leaders of academia and industry in this field. I had the chance to talk to many future researched about potential future work and collaboration in the academia and industry fields. One of the important things is that I participated in the first meeting of the new technical committee on energy geotechnics chaired by Professor Marcelo Sanchez.

At the end, I would like to thank ISSMGE foundation for funding my trip



Photographs from Conference:



Attendees of the 5th iYGEC



My presentation at the 5th International Young Geotechnical Engineer's Conference



Below: Picture from the Opening Ceremony of the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering



Opening Ceremony of the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering



Dinner in Paris with President Jean-Louis, his family, and colleague (I am in the middle to the right)