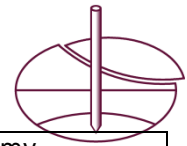


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> <i>Dr. Dhanya JS</i>	<b>Your Organization:</b> Onlilo Technologies LLP, Kochi, India	<b>Date of report:</b> <i>26/9/2023</i>
<b>Conference Title:</b> <i>17th Asian Regional Conference</i>	<b>Location of Conference:</b> <i>Astana, Kazakhstan</i>	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> <i>14-18<sup>th</sup> August 2023</i>
<b>What you learned:</b>  <p>The 17th Asian Regional Conference presented an exceptional opportunity to engage with captivating lectures that encompassed a wide spectrum of geotechnical design and engineering topics. Under the theme "Smart Geotechnical Solutions for Smart Societies," the conference underscored the importance of aligning geotechnical advancements with the evolving needs of modern society. These lectures spanned diverse subjects, ranging from geotechnical investigation to environmental geotechnics, significantly enriching both my academic pursuits and professional endeavours.</p> <p>Distinguished professors from renowned universities worldwide delivered outstanding keynote lectures on recent construction practices, field monitoring, advanced laboratory techniques, model tests, energy geotechnology, and more. Interactions with fellow participants proved equally enlightening, serving as a platform for exchanging perspectives and expertise. This exchange of knowledge augmented our understanding of the field, adding depth to our insights. Furthermore, the technical exhibition showcased cutting-edge products, innovative equipment, and transformative technologies from eminent manufacturing entities. This exhibition provided valuable insights into the latest developments in the industry.</p> <p>I had the honour of presenting the "Bright Spark" lecture to the international diaspora, further contributing to the knowledge exchange at the conference. In summary, the conference provided an unparalleled confluence of ideas and expertise, significantly enhancing my comprehension of cutting-edge technologies and highlighting the profound impact of geotechnical engineering on intelligent and sustainable societies.</p>		
<b>People you met:</b>  <p>During the conference, I had the privilege of engaging with esteemed members of the ISSMGE board and accomplished scientists from various countries. Among them, I had the opportunity to converse with:</p> <p>Dr. Marc Ballouz, The President of ISSMGE Dr. Graham Scholey, Vice President Australasia Dr. Daniela Pollak Aguiló, Appointed Board Member Dr. Sukumar Pathmanandavel; Corporate Associates Member Dr. Ashe Cooper (Chair), YMPG, ISSMGE</p> <p>Additionally, I had the pleasure of interacting with renowned academics and professionals from around the world, including:</p> <p>Prof. Buddhima Indraratna from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia Prof. Jong-Sub Lee from Korea University, South Korea Prof. E C Shin from Incheon National University, South Korea Dr. Anil Joseph, President of the Indian Geotechnical Society Prof. Mahndi Karkush, President of the Iraq Geotechnical Society Prof. Cholochat Rujikiatkamjorn from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia Dr. Thano Doan, the Bright Spark Lecturer, University of Technology Sydney, Australia</p>		



These interactions with such distinguished professionals and scholars greatly enriched my experience at the conference, fostering a vibrant exchange of knowledge and ideas within the geotechnical engineering community.

***Main features of the conference:***

The conference boasted a rich program, featuring eight keynote lectures, six special lectures, invited talks, thematic presentations, and three enlightening Bright Spark lectures delivered by distinguished professionals from around the globe. Held at the centrally located Hilton Hotel in Astana city, the conference was impeccably organized, facilitating interactions with nearly 600 delegates.

Notably, the conference placed a significant focus on addressing recent geotechnical failure mitigation strategies and measures within the realm of geotechnical infrastructure. An innovative session centred on the heritage time capsule was a commendable initiative, while the exhibition program provided a platform for engaging with various geotechnical equipment companies, offering insights into the latest laboratory and field equipment. Moreover, a comprehensive technical tour of Astana and Almaty showcased both the major geotechnical challenges and remarkable achievements in Kazakhstan, contributing to a well-rounded conference experience.

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

The conference featured a well-coordinated program of parallel sessions showcasing the latest advancements in geotechnical engineering, providing attendees with valuable insights. Meeting the ISSMGE board members, including the ISSMGE President, was a highlight of the event, allowing for meaningful interactions. The event was held at the Hilton Hotel in the heart of Astana city, offering excellent connectivity to the airport, transportation systems, and various amenities.

The overall organization of the conference was commendable, affording attendees the opportunity to engage with esteemed professors, students, and industry delegates. The prompt publication of conference proceedings facilitated in-depth exploration of the details presented in the keynote lectures. Additionally, the Bright Spark lecture provided a valuable platform to present my work, engage in discussions, and connect with fellow researchers in the same field, enhancing the overall conference experience.

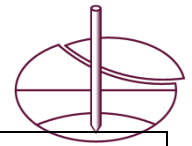
***Please attach a short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:***

The 17th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, held from August 14-18, 2023, in Astana, Kazakhstan, under the auspices of ISSMGE (International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering) and KGS (Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society), was a resounding success. With the overarching theme of "Smart Geotechnics for Smart Societies," the conference attracted over 600 participants from around the world, fostering a dynamic exchange of knowledge and ideas.

The conference program featured a stellar lineup of keynote and theme lectures, with leading pioneers and practitioners in the field addressing a wide spectrum of theoretical and practical topics in geotechnical engineering. Specialized sessions delved into critical areas such as Geotechnical Mitigation and Adaptation to Climate Change-induced Geodisasters in Asia-Pacific Regions, Geo-engineering for the Conservation of Heritage Monuments and Historical Sites, and an insightful session on the Turkey-Syria Earthquakes, which explored interdisciplinary aspects of this disaster. The event unveiled the ISSMGE Heritage Time Capsule project, showcasing contributions from individuals and groups within the ISSMGE.

The conference presented a remarkable opportunity for a young geotechnical researcher like me. Delivering the Bright Spark Lecture allowed me to share my research findings on Geotechnical Seismic Isolation Systems—an innovative and sustainable approach to seismic protection for buildings. Presenting before esteemed geotechnical professors and practitioners recognised my contributions and inspired further dedication to my research endeavours.

The technical trip to Almaty, the former capital of Kazakhstan, was an invaluable experience that allowed exploration of the city's scientific, cultural, economic, and industrial facets. The measures taken in seismic protection in the area were notably impressive, highlighting significant advancements in safeguarding critical infrastructure against seismic hazards.



The interaction with leading figures in geotechnical engineering during the conference was invaluable. It provided a platform for receiving constructive feedback and gaining insights that will undoubtedly shape the future of my research. Overall, the 17th Asian Regional Conference was a pivotal event, bringing together experts, academics, and emerging talents in geotechnical engineering, and fostering collaboration and innovation in our field.

**Photographs from Conference:**



Fig. 1: Photo with Dr Marc Ballouz, President of ISSMGE

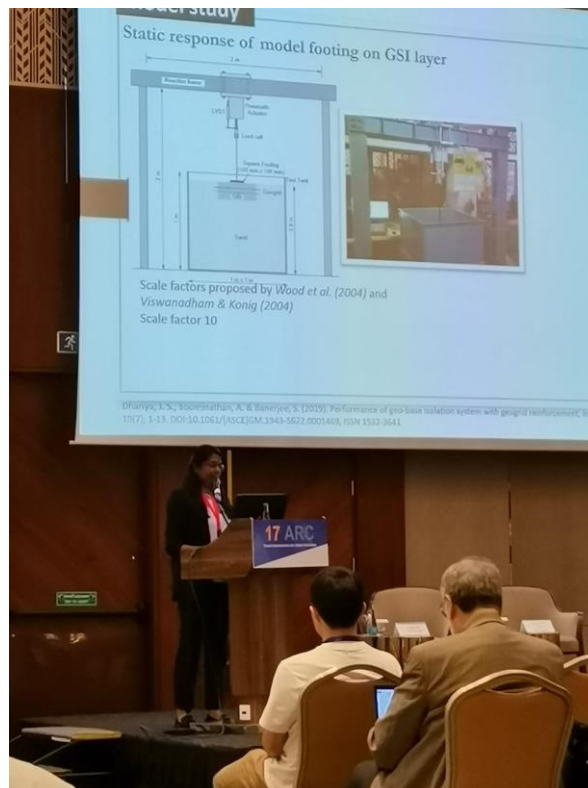


Fig 2. Photo during the Bright Spark Lecture presentation

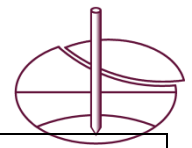


Fig.4. With the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society during the closing ceremony



Fig. 3. Photos with the Indian Geotechnical Society delegation on 15th August, Independence Day of India



Fig. 5. Technical tour- Almaty