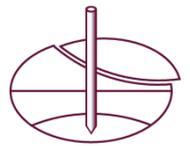


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: Ahmad Kahiel	Your Organization: American University of Beirut Lebanese Geotechnical Engineering Society	Date of report: 26 Sept. 2017
Conference Title: 6 th iYGEC & 19 th ICSMGE	Location of Conference: Seoul, Republic of Korea	Dates of Conference: 16-22 Sept. 2017
What you learned: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Initiation of landslide failure.• Modelling mechanically stabilized-earth-wall through finite element analysis.• Incorporating bender elements in triaxial machine.• Laminar box advantages.• Centrifuge machine testing.• Transparent soil and its applications.• Use of bender elements to estimate soil permeability.• Including Hambly's paradox analogy in reliability-based design.• Soil improvement by coconut fibers.		
People you met: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• President of ISSMGE, Professor Roger Frank.• Secretary General, Professor Neil Taylor.• Appointed Board member, Dr. Marc Ballouz.• Professor Ross Boulanger.• Professor Jonathan Bray.• Chair of 6th iYGEC, Professor Moonkyung Chung.• President of LGES, Professor Salah Sadek.• Luis Alberto Torres-Cruz, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa.• Daniel Ribeiro, CERIS, Portugal.• Jean Potgieter, University of Pretoria, South Africa.• Cihan Cengiz, Bogaziçi University, Turkey.• Ching Hung, National Cheng Kung University, Taiwan.• Erick Lino, SRK Consulting, Peru.• Emil Soból, Warsaw University of Life Sciences – SGGW, Poland.• Jeong-Gon Ha, KAIST, Korea.• Karlygash Borgekova, Gumilyov Eurasian National University, Kazakhstan.• Mariola Wasil, Bialystok University, Poland.• And others...		



Main features of conference:

- Multi-disciplined themes and topics.
- People from all over the world.
- All generations.
- Giants in geotechnical engineering.
- People from research and practice.

Your comments on the conference:

- Prestigiously organized conferences.
- Events followed assigned schedule.
- All keynote lecture were performed by men and not women.

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

The two conferences (sixth international Young(er) Geotechnical Engineering Conference (6th iYGEC) and nineteenth International Conference of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (19th ICSMGE)) were prestigiously organized. Their diversified themes covered almost all domains of the profession. Engineers, professors, researchers, and students from all over the world attended the conference. Having the 6th iYGEC held just before the 19th ICSMGE offered a precious opportunity for young geotechnical engineers to attend both conferences given the low-priced registration fees. It should be noted that the majority of the young attendees were nominated by their corresponding local geotechnical societies. The choice of Seoul, which is an extremely developed city with an outstanding transportation system, as the location of the conference made attending the conference events and having touristic visits inside the city an easy mission.

The 6th iYGEC was a worthwhile opportunity to:

- Meet colleagues with comparable professional backgrounds and expertise.
- Interact and express common concerns, experience, and visions.
- And discuss on-going research and practice advancements in the domain.

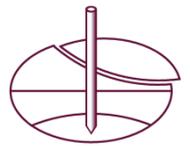
Keynote lecture 1 by professor Choong-Ki Chung from Seoul National University, Korea included a work related to spatial variability and spatial interpolation. This lecture provided a wider and more detailed view to this domain and it was an opportunity to compare the approach I used in one of my works. Keynote lecture 2 related to the ethics and leadership given by Professor Za-Chieh Moh, MAA Group, Taiwan was extremely important particularly with the presence of huge challenges in the profession nowadays.

The conference allowed me/us to get a deeper insight about the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering specifically its role, structure, objectives and technical committees. As a result, I decided to join as a young member in the society.

In the two conferences, I got in contact with geotechnical engineers within leading geotechnical engineering companies and testing-machines manufacturers. This could be a window for new job offers and to a wider range of alternatives.

In the 19th ICSMGE, all keynote lectures were heavily informative, however, the lecture Professor **Peter Day** from the university of Stellenbosch, South Africa was inspiring and stated realistically the current limits of research and practice in the profession.

I believe that attending the 6th iYGEC and 19th ICSMGE was a thrilling experience for me and all other attendees in all aspects. The conferences were ultimately fruitful and endlessly beneficial. They were a valuable chance to create relationships with people from all regions covering almost the totality of world map. The ISSMGE and the Korean Geotechnical Society (KGS) are highly accredited for their tremendous efforts in organizing these undoubtedly successful geotechnical conferences and achieving



the main objective:

“Unearth the Future, Connect beyond []”.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thankfulness for the **ISSMGE Foundation** for providing financial support without which I wouldn't be able to attend both conferences that I recommend for every young(er) geotechnical engineer.

Photographs from Conference:



Figure 1. Colleagues and friends at the 6th iYGE and 19th ICSMGE



Figure 2. President Roger Frank

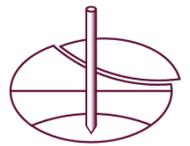


Figure 3. Appointed Board Member Dr. Marc Ballouz



Figure 4. 6th iYGE6 Chair Prof. Moonkyung Chung

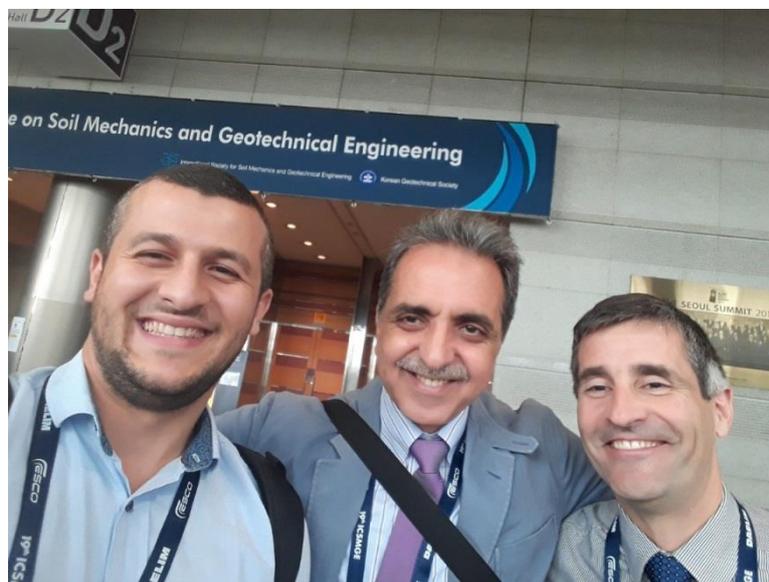


Figure 5. LGES President Prof. Salah Sadek and Prof. Ross Boulanger