ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Mladen Kapor	***Your Organization:*** University of Sarajevo – Faculty of Civil engineering, Bosnia and Herzegovina	***Date of report:*** 15.09.2023.
Conference Title: 17th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering 2023	***Location of Conference:*** Astana, Kazakhstan	***Dates of Conference:*** Monday 14th August - Friday 18th August 2023

What you learned:

I attended the 17th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2023, with the overarching theme of 'Smart Geotechnics for Smart Societies.'

Throughout the conference, there were numerous sessions covering a diverse range of topics. Of particular interest to me were sessions related to Shallow and Deep Foundations, Soil Improvement, Geosynthetics and Geoproducts, as well as Numerical Analysis of Soil-Structure Interaction. These topics strongly resonate with my research interests and align closely with the past and ongoing research conducted at the Institute of Geotechnics and Engineering Geology, Faculty of Civil Engineering in Sarajevo. This alignment makes these sessions highly relevant and valuable for my current and future studies.

During the conference, I also had the opportunity to present my paper titled 'Physical and Numerical Modeling of Strip Footing on Geotextile Reinforced Foundation Beds.' My presentation took place on the second day of the conference, during which I shared insights from my research. Following the presentation, I had the pleasure of connecting with young researchers from India and China who are also engaged in similar research areas, particularly focusing on the use of geotextiles in soil improvement. We exchanged contact information and shared valuable experiences, which undoubtedly will contribute to the advancement of my future research works.

The conference served as an excellent platform for networking and collaboration with geotechnical professionals from various countries. Equally inspiring were the Bright Spark lectures. I was especially intrigued by Dr. J.S. Dhanya's presentation titled 'Innovative Geotechnical Solutions for Base Isolation,' which provided invaluable insights into numerical modeling and small-scale models of foundation soil reinforced with geosynthetics, which closely aligns with my research.

In summary, my participation in this conference significantly enriched my professional development, and I eagerly anticipate applying the knowledge and insights gained to enhance my ongoing projects.

People you met:

People I met: I had the opportunity to attend presentations and discussions by Dr. Marc Ballouz, the President of the ISSMGE, and Prof. Buddhima Indraratna, whose work is well-known at our faculty. Their lectures and discussions were particularly interesting, and I would like to highlight their contributions among the various presentations I attended.

Additionally, I had the opportunity to meet with the session chairs, specifically Dr. Andrew McNamara from City University of London and Dr. Sukumar Pathmanandavel, Chair of the Time Capsule Project at ISSMGE (Australia).

I also had the chance to meet and spend time at the conference with:

Dr. Elena Angelova from Geohydroconsulting Ltd, Skopje, North Macedonia, enabling regional networking.
Dr. Artem Konnov from the Scientific-Research Institute of Building Physics, Moscow, Russia.
Chongxi Zhao, PhD student, Tongji University, Shanghai, China

It was a pleasure to meet and listen to the always interesting lectures by Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov from Eurasian National University and the President of the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society.

I also had productive interactions with representatives from various companies who expressed interest in participating in the construction of several highway sections and challenging geotechnical structures currently under construction in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Main features of conference:

The conference, held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from August 14 to 18, 2023, at the Hilton Astana Hotel, was exceptionally well-organized. It adhered to the schedule without delays and provided excellent services. The Hilton Astana Hotel, with its elegant interiors, served as an ideal venue for presentations and networking.

The 17th Asian Regional Conference on Geotechnical Engineering was organized by the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society and International Society on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering under the theme 'Smart Geotechnics for Smart Societies.' The program included keynote lectures, special talks, thematic sessions, and technical presentations, offering valuable insights from industry leaders and academics.

An outstanding feature was the publication of conference papers by Taylor and Francis, ensuring broad accessibility and citations with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier) of https://doi.org/10.1201/9781003299127.

Your comments on the conference:
The conference was a valuable experience, impressively covering a diverse range of topics and featuring high-quality presentations. As a first-time attendee of a conference of this

magnitude, I was particularly inspired by the keynote lectures, which provided fresh perspectives on geotechnical engineering.

I found it insightful and engaging, with great networking opportunities that allowed me to connect with professionals in my field.

The conference exceeded my expectations, boasting impeccable organization and providing me with valuable knowledge through the presentations.

In summary, it was a rewarding and well-structured conference that deepened my understanding of current trends in the field.

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

The 17th Asian Regional Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (17ARC) took place from August 14th to 18th, 2023, at the Hilton Astana Hotel in Astana, Kazakhstan, under the theme "Smart Geotechnics for Smart Societies."

Although it was an Asian regional conference, it attracted participants and guests from different parts of the world. It showcased a remarkable array of subjects within modern geotechnical technology, including Soil characteristics, Underground space, Soil dynamics, Geotechnical earthquake engineering, Soil improvement, and Geotechnical Infrastructures. Organized by the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society and International Society on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), the event brought together experts and researchers from across the globe. The carefully organized conference schedule made sure that presentations run smoothly and started on time. This allowed attendees to easily connect with others, share knowledge, and build professional relationships.

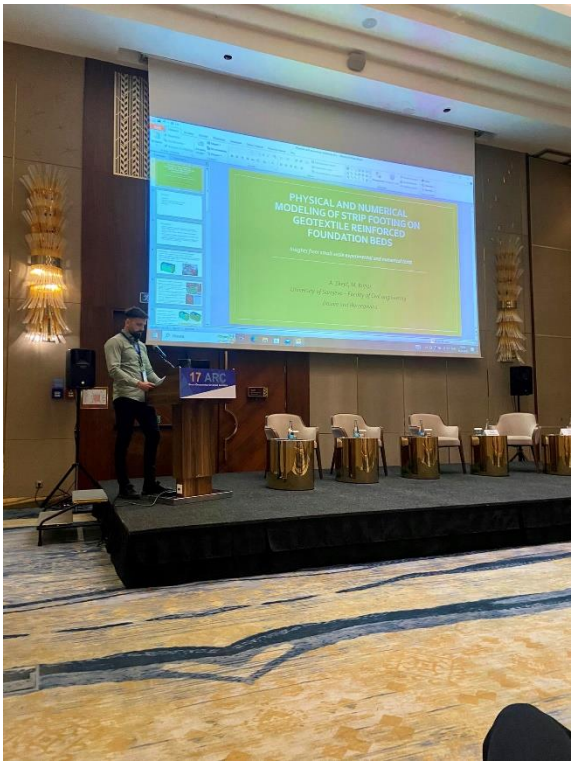
As a first-time this conference attendee, I was impressed by the diverse range of topics covered and the high-quality presentations. The sessions provided a comprehensive overview of the latest advancements and trends in geotechnics. Beyond the main lectures, concurrent sessions allowed us to delve deeper into contemporary topics and ongoing projects. This event offered a unique opportunity to connect with fellow attendees, exchange ideas, and establish valuable professional relationships.

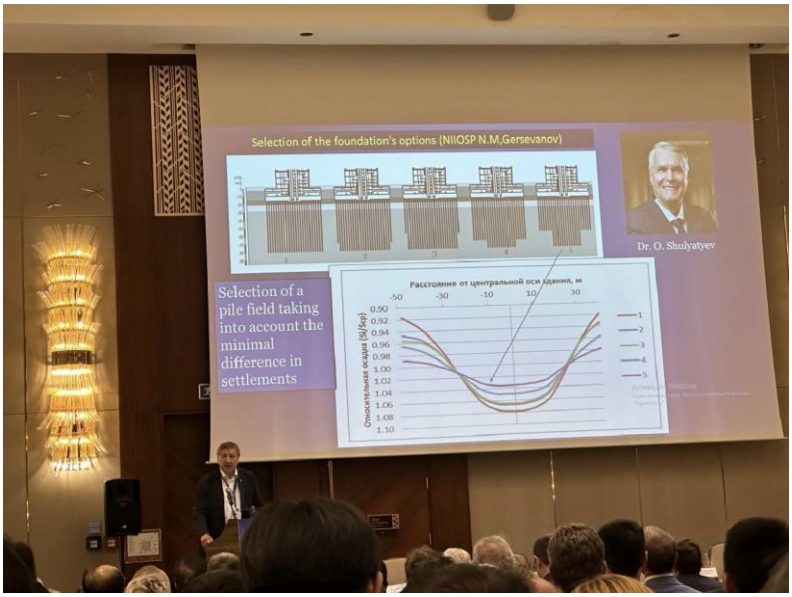
In addition to attending presentations, I had the honor of presenting my research paper titled 'Physical and Numerical Modeling of Strip Footing on Geotextile Reinforced Foundation Beds.'. This experience not only contributed to the dissemination of my research findings but also provided a recognition platform within the geotechnical community. Furthermore, the conference proceedings were published with a DOI (Digital Object Identifier), ensuring wide accessibility.

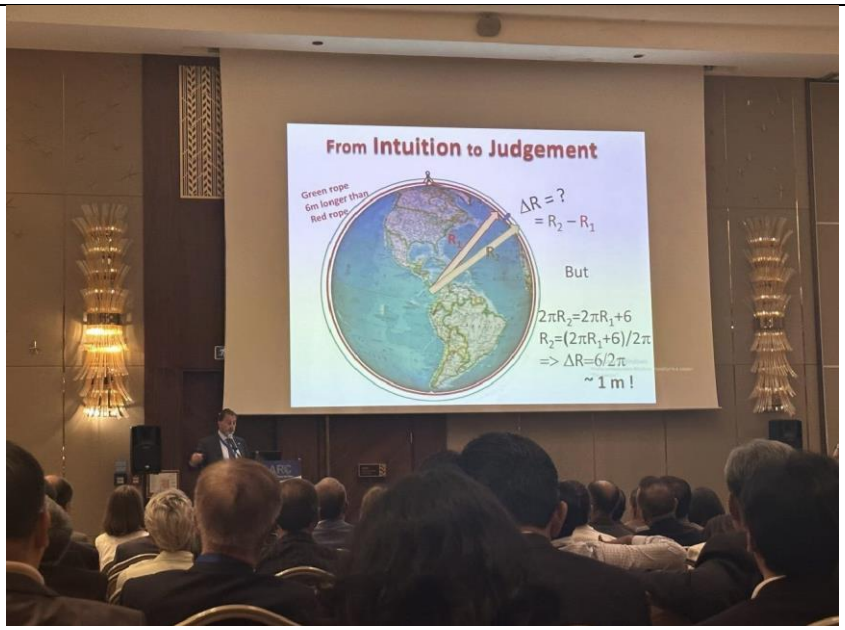
The conference featured exhibitors from around the world, including leading geotechnical companies like GDS Instruments from UK, Sisgeo Srl from Italy, Sensors ONE LLP form Germany, Keller global leader in geotechnical solutions and foundation engineering, with offices and operations worldwide and Bauer Maschinen GmbH from Germany. Many other firms from Central Asia and beyond also showcased their products and services, highlighting the latest geotechnical advancements. These exhibitors offered valuable insights into cutting-edge geotechnical technologies and solutions, promoting collaboration and knowledge sharing within the geotechnical community.

In conclusion, the 17th ARC in 2023 was a captivating and enlightening event that showcased advancements in geotechnical engineering. I would like to express my gratitude to Professor Askar Zhussupbekov, the President of the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society, and the entire organizing committee for their warm welcome and excellent organization of the conference.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email






From Intuition to Judgement
Green rope 6m longer than Red rope
$\Delta R = ?$
$= R_2 - R_1$
But
$2\pi R_2 = 2\pi R_1 + 6$
$R_2 = (2\pi R_1 + 6)/2\pi$
$\Rightarrow \Delta R = 6/2\pi$
~1 m !