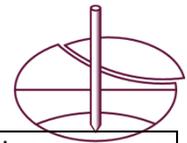


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> Louis King	<b>Your Organization:</b> Monash University	<b>Date of report:</b> 26/9/2017
<b>Conference Title:</b> 19 <sup>th</sup> ICSMGE	<b>Location of Conference:</b> Seoul, Korea	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> 17 – 22 September, 2017
<p><b>What you learned:</b></p> <p>The 19<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE gave me an opportunity to listen to and learn from the best and brightest in the field of geotechnical engineering. It was an honour to see the likes of Professor David Muir Wood presenting the Bishop Lecture, where David illustrated the deficiencies in soil models, and how this inherently impacts our interpretation of laboratory test results. The Schofield Lecture, presented by Professor Mark Randolph, was an excellent example of advanced physical modelling, undertaken using the UWA beam centrifuge, which has significantly advanced the design of sliding mudmats and lead to practical outcomes for the offshore oil and gas industry. Having not worked in areas prone to soil liquefaction, I found the Ishihara Lecture, presented by Professor Jonathan Bray, to be very informative. Professor Bray demonstrated the mechanisms that lead to liquefaction induced settlements, which include shear-, volumetric- and ejecta-induced settlements, and proposed a simplified procedure which considers all three mechanisms.</p> <p>Of the discussion sessions and workshops I mostly attended sessions run by TC104 – Physical modelling and TC202 – Transportation geotechnics, as I found these most relevant to my field of research. Andrew Lees from Tensar provided a method for modelling the stabilisation that is achieved by geogrid, where an apparent cohesion is applied to the soil surrounding the geogrid, rather than simply modelling the geogrid as membrane.</p>		
<p><b>People you met:</b></p> <p>Professor Gioacchino Viggiani, Université Grenoble Alpes          Professor Delwyn Fredlund, Golder Associates and University of Saskatchewan          Dr Burt Look, Foundation Specialists Group          Colleagues from the Young Members Presidential Group (YMPG) – Daniel Avutia, Lucy Wu, Jennifer Nicks, Mario Terceros and Alexandra Chepurnova.</p>		
<p><b>Main features of conference:</b></p> <p>The conference opened with a traditional Korean drumming performance. An inspiring opening address was then given by Ban Ki-Moon, the former Secretary General for the United Nations. After the organizing committee and Professor Roger Frank welcomed attendees, honours and special lectures were given for the remainder of the first and entirety of the second day. The third and fourth days were dedicated to discussion sessions and workshops organised primarily by the technical committees. Posters were also on display for the duration of the conference.</p>		
<p><b>Your comments on the conference:</b></p> <p>Given that it included 431 oral presentations, the conference covered an extremely broad</p>		



range of topics. The conference gave young engineers the opportunity to learn about a range of topics and gain a deeper understanding about some fields of research from the leaders in those areas.

While some of the presentations in the discussion sessions were short, they were still able to provide the audience with the key ideas and concepts. When necessary, the presenters directed the attendees towards their full-length paper for further clarification and details. I found that a number of presentations, such as that by Dr Burt Look regarding QC testing of embankment earthworks, motivated me to read the paper to gain more knowledge.

One of the most valuable aspects of the conference was to catch up with old colleagues and make new connections. With almost 2000 delegates, 4 days was not nearly enough time to meet everyone, which motivates me to continue attending ICSMGE conferences.

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

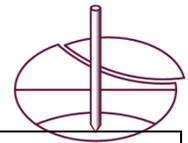
The 19<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE was an exciting, inspiring and insightful conference. From the opening address by Ban Ki-Moon, where he acknowledged the role geotechnical engineers must play in combatting the devastating effects of climate change, it was clear the conference theme “Unearth the Future, Connect Beyond [ ]” prompts delegates to consider the limitless roles geotechnical engineers will play in years to come.

The calibre of the keynote speakers was amazing. During my undergraduate years I learnt so much from the textbooks by the Professor David Muir Wood and Professor Mark Randolph, and to be given the opportunity to witness them presenting a large body of their life’s work was an incredible experience. My colleague, Dr Chris Haberfield, was also given the honour of presenting the Gregory Tschebotarioff on the practical application of soil structure interaction analysis. I thoroughly enjoyed Chris’ lecture and it was great to see his achievements acknowledged with being awarded such a prestigious lecture.

Having been on the Young Geotechnical Presidential Group for the last 2 years, the conference allowed me to finally meet a number of the other members. As we have only ever spoken over skype and emails, it was nice to finally talk face to face. The workshop run by the YMPG was a valuable session, where a panel of academics and industry professionals answered questions by the predominantly younger audience. Some valuable insight into the direction of the ISSMGE and their engagement with younger geotechnical practitioners was given by both Professor Roger Frank (outgoing ISSMGE president) and Professor Charles Ng (incoming ISSMGE president).

The conference was also an opportunity to catch up with colleagues and make new connections. As I am currently working on my PhD, I find it rewarding to discuss preliminary results with other researchers in related fields, and 19ICSMGE was great for this.

Seoul is an incredible city, and the conference did a wonderful job showcasing the city and Korean culture. I am extremely grateful to the ISSMGE foundation for giving me the opportunity to travel to Korea to attend the 19<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE and visit a part of the world I had seen.



## Photographs from Conference:



Figure 1: Schofield Lecture delivered by Professor Mark Randolph

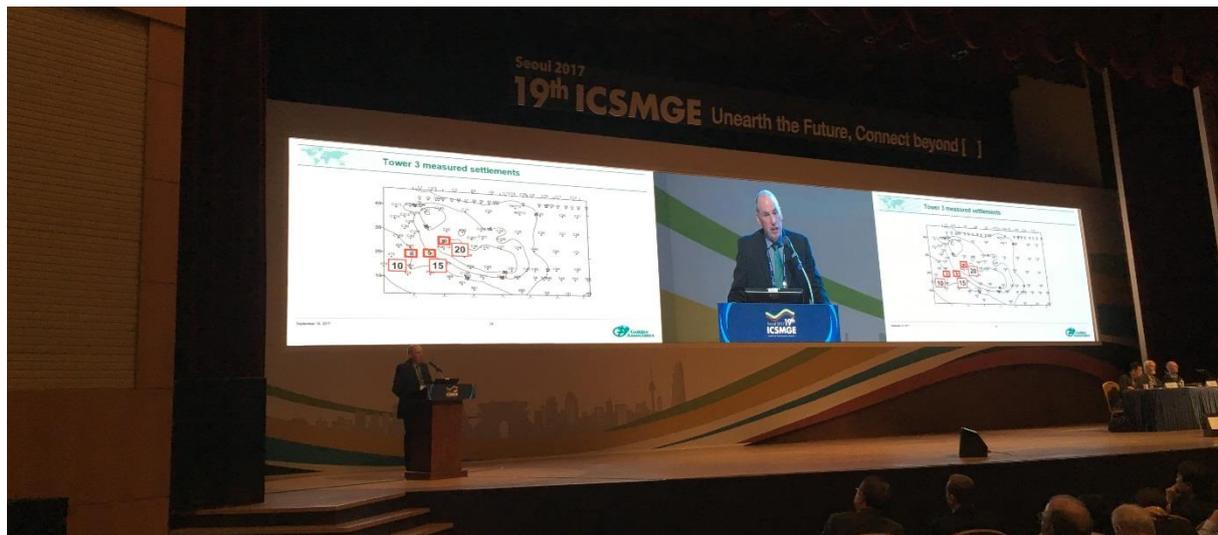


Figure 2: Gregory Tschebotarioff Lecture delivered by Dr Chris Haberfield



Figure 3: Representatives of the Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG) present at the 19<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE