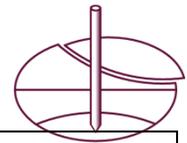


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<p><b>Your Name:</b> Augustine Korli Lawer</p>	<p><b>Your Organization:</b> Civil Engineering Department, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science Kumasi-Ghana</p>	<p><b>Date of report:</b> 24.10.2017</p>
<p><b>Conference Title:</b> 6th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC6) &amp; 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (19th ICSMGE)</p>	<p><b>Location of Conference:</b> Seoul, South Korea</p>	<p><b>Dates of Conference:</b> iYGEC6 (16-17 September 2017)  &amp; 19th ICSMGE (17-22 September 2017)</p>
<p><b>What you learned:</b></p> <p>I particularly learnt a lot from the key note speakers as most of the key note presentation linked both the geotechnical theories I have learnt to practical applications in real life in solving geotechnical engineering problems. One of the presentations which come in mind easily is Terzaghi Oration by Dr Peter Day (Former Vice President of the ICSMGE Africa Chapter) entitled “<i>Challenges and shortcomings in geotechnical engineering practice in the context of a developing country</i>”. I liked the way in which simple laboratory geotechnical tests such as atterberg limit and grading analysis could be applied in solving geotechnical engineering problems.</p> <p>With regards to the various presentations made at the conference (iYGEC6 and 19th ICSMGE), it offered me the opportunity to learn new ideas and approaches of conducting effective and efficient research works. One area of the several Technical Committees which caught my attention was Technical Committee 106 (TC106) which deals mainly with Unsaturated Soils particularly on “<i>Interpretation of SWRC (soil water retention characteristics)</i>”. A paper authored by Bicalho &amp; Gonçalves from Brazil entitled “<i>Important factors in the prediction of the soil-water retention curves of different unsaturated soils</i>” is one of the several papers I enjoyed listening to and learning from.</p> <p>Finally, the speech delivered by the immediate past UN Secretary General, Prof. Ban Ki-moon encouraging all members present to cause a positive change in our profession as geotechnical engineers. In paraphrasing his speech, one should not be limited by physical boundaries and passport but move beyond that to bring about change to the world and the human beings living on this planet. I found this useful as it fit the main conference theme of the 19th ICSMGE which is “<i>Unearth the Future, Connect Beyond [ ].</i>”</p>		

**People you met:**

I met young engineers like myself, geotechnical engineers in academia and the industrial professionals. Below is a list of some of them but in no particular order.

1. Dr. Delwyn G. Fredlund – He encouraged me with the background of life and how gradual he has been in achieving his success.
2. Professor F. E. Baligh - The immediate past vice president of the African chapter.
3. Professor Sang Seom Jeong – President of the Korean geotechnical society who made sure he listened to my presentation at iYGEC6.
4. Professor Roger Frank – The immediate past president of ICSSMGE during a meeting with the Africa chapter.
5. Professor Charles Ng – Hong Kong University of Science and Technology who was present at our Africa chapter meeting.
6. I met and interacted with members of the YMPG from other countries

**Main features of conference:**

Both the 6th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC6) and 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (19th ICSMGE) had almost the same main features. The main features of the conference include:

1. Opening session
2. Special and Keynote Lectures
3. Presentations and questions
4. Workshops organised by the various technical committees
5. Gala Dinner
6. Award presentation to deserving persons

**Your comments on the conference:**

The conference offered me the platform to share and discuss the current research trends with regards to geotechnical engineering practice. Joining the 19th ICSMGE conference was even more of an eye opener as I met senior engineers who discussed their experience acquired from different aspects of geotechnical engineering particularly problems encountered in real life practices and how they were solved. There was also personal communication between myself and other practitioners in the field of geotechnical engineering as ideas were exchanged. This connection did not just end with the closing of the conference but still in touch with most of them.

The lectures, presentations, workshops and technical committee information were very innovative with respect to the modern practice. Finally, the organisers of both iYGEC6 and 19th ICSMGE conferences did a very good work in the choice of conference venues and hotel. All planned activities were on time especially with the transportation of participants to conference venues. Also Korean tradition was also not left out particularly Korean food and Costume.

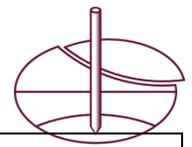


***Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:***

The 6th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC6) and the 19th ICSMGE conference were held in Seoul from 16-22 September, 2017. Both conferences were very exciting and very insightful in all aspects. The main conference theme was "Unearth the Future, Connect Beyond [ ]". Solidarity messages delivered by invested guest were well in line with the chosen theme.

The quality of the speakers for the Plenary sessions, Honours lectures and Oration sessions were amazing. This offered me the opportunity for the first time to listen to a presentation by Professor David Muir Wood as I have used his textbooks during my postgraduate studies. Beyond these presentations, the conference offered a unique opportunity of meeting professors, senior colleague engineers, engineers in academia, industry and consultancy as well as numerous young engineers from all the continents. On a non technical basis but which is very crucial to our development as young engineers was the presentation delivered by Dr. Za-Chieh Moh on the final day of 6th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference. The focus of the lecture was centered mainly on Ethic and Leadership. I find this more useful as the responsibility of the engineers, professional ethics and human morality, the role of the leader in a team among others were discussed. The presentation was very educative as young engineers were made to understand engineering goes beyond just designing for safe and reliable structures but morality is a major in succeeding. During the main conference, an exhibition stands which was set up by the invited companies and organizers introduced participants to the modern technologies industry is developing.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to ISSMGE Foundation and my academic supervisor Prof. SIK Ampadu for the opportunity to attend this conference. In conclusion, both conferences were well organized and the organizers were very helpful.



**Photographs from Conference:**



Dr. Delwyn G. Fredlund and the Ghanaian delegation with me on the far left.



During a meeting of the African chapter of ISSMGE



Photo by Danilo

An experience of Korean Tradition