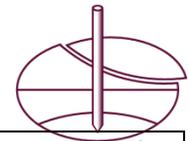


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> KUNJARI MOG	<b>Your Organization:</b> Indian Institute of Science Bangalore (IISc)	<b>Date of report:</b> 07 <sup>th</sup> January 2019
<b>Conference Title:</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> GeoMeast2018: International Congress and Exhibition	<b>Location of Conference:</b> Cairo, Egypt (at Marriott Mena House Hotel)	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> November 24 - 28, 2018
<b>What you learned:</b> <p>The GeoMeast 2018 conference was the first international conference that I attended. I got to learn about the presentation and communication skills, and attending this conference also helped me strengthening the technical knowledge in Geotechnical field as there were lectures on wide variety of topics such as liquefaction, geosynthetics, structural health monitoring, seismic micro-zonation, ground improvement techniques etc. I had attended short courses on Computer Methods and Constitutive Modelling in Geomechanics which gave me an insight knowledge about the modelling skills. The discussions with Professor I.M. Idriss concerning dynamic properties and liquefaction of sands, interaction with eminent researchers and professionals helped me gaining valuable inputs towards my current research interest.</p> <p>Apart from the technical aspects, visiting to the Great Pyramids (which perhaps one of the most sustainable structures on the planet earth), Egyptian Museum, exploring the Alexandria City was wonderful experience, I had. Hence, I am grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for the support and grant without which I would not have been able to attend this conference.</p>		
<b>People you met:</b> <p>I am glad to be able to meet several eminent professors, working professional, young researchers around the globe. A few of them are listed below:</p> <p>Professor, I.M. Idriss, Professor Emeritus of Geotechnical Engineering, UC Davis, USA Professor Buddhima Indraranta, University of Wollongong, Australia Mr. David Nepomuceno, Researcher, University of Bristol UK. Dr. Norma Jean Mattei, President, ASCE Professor Deepankar Choudhury, IITBombay, India Mr. Adedeji Jacob, Researcher, South Africa</p>		
<b>Main features of conference:</b> <p>The 2<sup>nd</sup> GeoMEats2018 international congress and exhibition was held from November 24<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at Marriott Mena House Hotel, in Cairo, Egypt. It is claimed that over 900 experts from 71 countries have participated in the conference including 30 companies from 20 countries. The conference was officially launched by the speeches of the Egyptian Minister of Transport and the Vice-minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research. It</p>		



had a total of 5 official lectures, 40 main lectures and 12 workshops/short courses. The official lectures delivered by the current presidents of ASCE, CSCE and ISSMGE, and the General Manager of GMA-IFAI. About 250 oral presentations in different technical themes were delivered. I feel that the introduction of the Bright spark lectures for young researchers is probably one of the good features in the GeoMEast2018 conference.

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

The second GeoMEast2018 conference had covered a wide variety of topics in the field of Geotechnical Engineering or Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering. The theme lectures range from the laboratory characterizations to the in-situ applications including the state-of-the-art technology in the ground improvement techniques. Overall, the conference was well-organized and hospitality was also excellent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the organizing committee of GeoMEast2018 for giving me an opportunity to present my paper. I am very much grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for providing me financial support for attending such an excellent and informative conference.

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

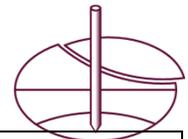
***The GeoMEast 2018 International Congress and Exhibition: Sustainable Civil Infrastructures, 24 - 28 November 2018, Cairo, Egypt***

The conference was organized by the Soil-Structure Interaction Group in Egypt (SSIGE), hosted by the Egyptian Government and supported by the TRB, ASCE, ICE, CSCE, ISSMGE, IAEG, IGS, DFI, ARMA, GMA of IFAI, ASTM, IABSE, ACI, ISHMII, ICC, Springer and other leading international professional organizations. The topics covered are Geosynthetics, Geotechnical, Geo-environmental, Geomechanics, Geosciences, Geophysics, Tunnel, Water Structures, Bridge, Pavement, Railway and emerging techniques for safety inspections. The conference was held between 24 – 28 November 2018.

The conference starts with an Opening Ceremony followed by the Official Remarks. The first day first official lecture begins with the American Society of Civil Engineers' 2017 Infrastructure report card: Findings and recommendations for the future by Robin A. Kemper. The second lecture was delivered by Glenn W. Hewus from Canadian Society for Civil Engineers (CSCE) followed by the 3rd official lecture delivered by Charles W.W. Ng, President of International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and 4th lecture by J.P. Ground, the former President of IGS. The first day ends with four (4) official lectures and six (6) main lectures. On each day in the evening there was an arrangement of buses/transport facilities for social tour to visit in an around Cairo.

The second day starts with an official lecture on Geosynthetic Materials Association: North American Market Update and Industry Advocacy Efforts by Jonathan Curry, the General Manager of GMA-IFAI. After which the main lectures start and continue up to the lunch hour followed by the parallel sessions for presentations. The exhibitors from different companies/industries were also seen attending the lectures.

For rest of the conference days, the first half was dedicated to the main lectures and bright



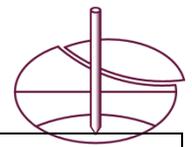
spark lectures, and second half was dedicated for the parallel (oral) presentation sessions and short courses/workshops. There were 5 official lectures, 40 Main Lectures and 12 Workshops/Courses in the conference. The GeoMEast2018 had over 900 experts from 71 countries representing the globe, and the exhibition was held with the participation of 30 company from 20 countries. About 300 papers were selected for the oral presentations on different themes which had been managed through parallel (oral) presentation sessions. It was seen that mostly, all the parallel sessions were filled with a good number of audiences where question and answer sessions, exchange of ideas, and feedback were given to the presenters.

Overall, the GeoMEast2018 conference gave me the wonderful insight about the technical as well as social aspects. Therefore, once again, I would like to thank the ISSMGE Foundation for providing me such an excellent opportunity to explore the International conference.

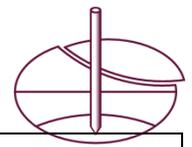
***Photographs from Conference:***



**With Professor I.M. Idriss**



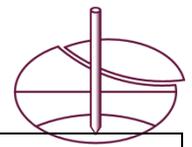
**Meeting Researchers from South Africa and Bulgaria**



**Meeting Indian Professors and friend**



**Meeting researcher from UK**



**Attending Lectures with Professor P. Anbazhagan**



**With Professor Buddhima Indraratna**