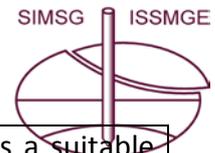


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> Layal Maddah	<b>Your Organization:</b> Texas A&M University	<b>Date of report:</b> 30 September 2013
<b>Conference Title:</b> 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) and 5 <sup>th</sup> International Young Geotechnical Engineer's conference (iYGEC)	<b>Location of Conference:</b> Paris, France	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> From 30 August to 6 September
<b>What you learned:</b> <p>I participated in the conference as a nominee of the Lebanese Geotechnical Engineering Society and I attended iYGEC and the first two days of ICSMGE. I presented my work on site investigation requirements for number and depth of boreholes. The latter was a new experience to me in terms of both researching a topic and writing an article on one hand and presenting my work to a group of international professionals on the other hand. Relevant to ICSMGE, through attending the various presentations, I expanded my awareness of the current research topics presented in the sessions and remarkably the trend towards researching new technologies such as energy piles. As for the ICSMGE, through attending the plenary sessions, I expanded my knowledge in different topics among which are pressure meter (Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud), slope stability (Prof. Suzane Lacasse) and soil dynamic (Prof. George Gazetas). I also learned that the geotechnical community enjoys what is being done, which drives me further to enjoy what I'm doing. I was also fascinated by Prof. Lacasse's lectures as a female engineer, which to me was inspiring. Lastly, I got to go to France, which is a wonderful country.</p>		
<b>People you met:</b> <p>I met Dr. Ikuo Towhata (ISSMGE board member) and Dr. Harry Poulos who contributed in my paper through providing essential references. I also got the chance to meet Dr. Yu-Jun Cui, Dr. Samuel Ejezie ((ISSMGE board member) and Dr. Marc Ballouz the PRC chair. I also met Dr. Sherif Wissa Agaiby my director at Dar Al Handasah where I used to work (<a href="http://www.dargroup.com">www.dargroup.com</a>), and Dr. Salah Sadek the president of LGES (Lebanese Geotechnical Engineering Society). I also met Dr. Jennifer Nicks, SYMPG members and corresponding members in addition to contractors, consultants and professionals from around the world.</p>		
<b>Main features of conference:</b> <p>The two conferences united the international geotechnical family composed of professors, doctors, consultants, contractors and young student and engineers. The key note lectures and the presentations covered addressed a large number of technical issues faced by geotechnical engineers worldwide; that is not to mention future plans and challenges. The interaction between the iYGEC and ICSMGE would promote for further collaboration between different geotechnical generations through mutual exchange of experience and</p>		



enthusiasm. The exhibition hall was well organized and the exhibition hall was a suitable place to meet geotechnical professionals from different backgrounds. The discussion about the future challenges of geotechnical engineering and innovation left everyone feeling responsible to do his/ her own contribution in the geotechnical field.

**Your comments on the conference:** The conferences were successful in their number of attendees, their technical content and their organization. I would definitely encourage anyone to participate and I will hopefully participate in such conferences in the future.

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

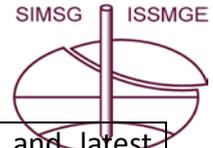
*18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE), 2-6 September, Paris, France.*

*5<sup>th</sup> International Young Geotechnical Engineer's conference (iYGEC), 30 August-1 September, Paris, France.*

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of August, I found myself on a plane to Paris, France from Houston, USA to attend two conferences ICSMGE and iYGEC. The conferences took place between the 30<sup>th</sup> of August and the 6<sup>th</sup> of September of 2013. I was privileged to attend the conferences as a nominee of the Lebanese Geotechnical Engineering Society. This experience enabled me of presenting my work on site investigation requirements, made me realize the technical and human contribution in the geotechnical profession, and gave me the chance to meet members of the international geotechnical family.

I presented the article that I have been preparing while working at Dar Al Handasah Shair and Partners ([www.dargroup.com](http://www.dargroup.com)) at the iYGEC conference. The article, co-authored by Prof. Jean-Louis BRIAUD, is titled: "Site Investigation Requirements, an International Study", and included a comparison between different country code requirements for borehole number and depth of investigation points and the number and depth from a probabilistic approach. Aside from presenting this work at the iYGEC, I got the chance to attend other young geotechnical engineers' work presented in the sessions. The work presented made me enthusiastic about developing my research in the future, and more aware about different geotechnical problems and the suggested solutions. I guess this conference gave me a glimpse of what to expect from the ICSMGE conference that turned out to be more than I expected.

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September, the ICSMGE commenced at 9:00 A.M. The program included plenary sessions related to soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering, organized by the technical committees. The sessions were given by outstanding professors of our days on various topics in the honour of geotechnical engineers with huge contribution to our profession (namely Terzaghi, Ishihara, Menard, Bishop, Kerisel, McClelland, Kerry Rowe, and Schofield). In parallel, an exhibition was taking place including display material for various geotechnical contractors, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, and others from different parts of the world. The ISSMGE also had a booth in the exhibition in which ISSMGE members displayed items of interest to the broad membership. The conference did not only make me

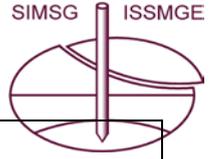


aware of the various geotechnical topics, challenges, need for innovation, and latest software and techniques employed in the field; it also gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with geotechnical professors and engineers from around the world.

Through the two conferences, I got the chance to meet the conference organizers, professors, professionals, contractors, consultants from different parts of the world. This made me aware of the huge potential we have to develop and promote for our profession especially that the greatest contribution in any project is the human contribution. The conferences made me realize that it is my responsibility to be an active geotechnical engineer, and support my profession through my participation and contribution in ISSMGE events.

I can't thank the ISSMGE President Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud enough for encouraging and supporting me to participate in this event. As he believes in us as his students and as young geotechnical engineers, he inspires us to work harder every day. I would also love to thank the ISSMGE foundation and Texas A&M university for funding me to get to Paris; I couldn't have done this without their support. My special thanks also go to Dar al-Handasah that made me a geotechnical engineer. I am definitely encouraging my colleagues to attend upcoming conferences, and I hope that someday I get to help young people like myself to achieve their professional dreams as an individual and through organizations like ISSMGE Foundation.

***Photographs from Conference:***



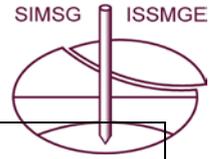
Attendees of the 5<sup>th</sup> iYGEC back from the conference (from left to right: me, Ph.D. student Eng. Ahmed Elhashimy Elmaleky, Dr. Jennifer Nicks)



**Opening Ceremony of the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering**



**Cultural Event at the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering**



**ISSMGE Booth at the 18<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (Professor Jean-Louis Briaud signing his book)**



**Of Course...Paris...**