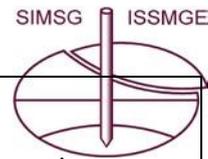




**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<p>Your Name: Charles C. MAGBO</p>	<p>Your Organization: Texas A&M University</p>	<p>Date of report: 22 September 2014</p>
<p>Conference Title: XVII Brazilian Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering</p>	<p>Location of Conference: Goiania, Brazil</p>	<p>Dates of Conference: 9th September to 13th September 2014</p>
<p>What you learned:</p> <p>I witnessed a lot of presentations on key Geotechnical engineering topics like “<i>Comparative study of Constitutive Models for Reservoir Compaction and Subsurface Subsidence</i>” by Pedro A.L.P Firme,” <i>Mechanically Coupled Behavior of Shales and Claystones</i>” by Russ Ewy and a host of many selected topics. I learned a great deal particularly in the area of slide preparation, time management skills, presentation styles and mannerisms. Being my first participation at a National Conference I was afforded with the opportunity of making a presentation on “<i>The Design of Stiffened Slabs on Grade on Shrink-Swell Soils</i>”. It was a pleasant experience. I also learned how to speak a bit of Portuguese and how to interact with people of different cultural background. I appreciated the kind and hospitable culture of the Brazilians.</p>		
<p>People you met:</p> <p>I met distinguished Professors and board members of ISSMGE. The list includes the newly elected president of ISSMGE, Prof. Roger Frank, the immediate past president ISSMGE Prof. Jean Louis Briaud, ISSMGE board members like: Prof. Charles W. W. Ng (Chair of AC), Dr. Etienne Marcelin Kana, Prof. R. N. Taylor (Secretary General), Prof. Fatma Elzahraa Aly Baligh (Vice President for Africa) and Dr. Marc Ballouz. I also met the president and member of the organizing committee (COBRAMSEG 2014) Prof. Mauricio Sales, Ph.D. and master’s degree student from Brazil, three young African Geotechnical Engineering scholars and a host of many other distinguished guests too numerous to mention.</p>		
<p>Main features of conference:</p> <p>The main feature of the conference included: Day 1&2; Conference registration and distribution of conference materials, short and mini courses on selected topics like: “<i>Design of structures for containment of soil reinforced with Geosynthetic</i>”. The conference also featured mini lectures, workshops and presentations by participants in a number of halls. An opening lecture on “<i>lessons on the lives of two dams</i>” by James K. Mitchell and a cocktail at the green pavilion. Other events on Day 3&4 include key note lectures, round table discussions, coffee breaks, lunch breaks, meeting with the industry and a diner night outing at event center UFG (campus fern). Day 5 events include parallel discussions on laboratory testing, environmental geotechnics, foundations, dams, tropical soils, rock slope stability, rock mechanics and underground excavation and petroleum geomechanics. Other events on the final day include coffee breaks, lunch breaks, meeting with the industry a special presentation at the blue lake auditorium on “<i>New Development for Control and Prediction of Movement induced on Soft Soils</i>” by Prof. Manuel de Matos Fernandes. The conference was brought to an end by awards and honors at a closing ceremony held at the Blue lake auditorium.</p>		



Your comments on the conference:

The XVII Brazilian Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was a successful event. Very well organized in terms of accommodation of guests. Transportation to conference venue was prompt and efficient, the conference attendance was remarkable, the quality of the presentations on key Geotechnical Engineering topics was unparalleled, the auditoriums were well equipped with state-of-the-art information & communication facilities and the meals served at lunch break were delicious. Capped with a colorful opening/closing ceremony and a diner night, it was a very remarkable event indeed. I leave with good memories as I look forward to attending more conferences in future.

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

XVII Brazilian Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering COBRAMSEG 2014

The XVII Brazilian Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held in the state of Goias in the lovely city of Goiania, Brazil from the 9th September to 13th September 2014. The highlights of the event include short courses, workshops, mini lectures, parallel lectures and keynote lectures at the main auditorium. Other events featured coffee breaks, lunch breaks, diner night, honor and award presentation at an elaborate colorful closing ceremony.

The conference provided me with the opportunity of making a presentation on the “*Design of Stiffened Slabs on Grade on Shrink-Swell Soils*”. I also had the opportunity of meeting some board members of the ISSMGE, Ph.D. and master’s degree students from a host of Brazilian Institutions as well as the opportunity of meeting and sharing ideas with top practitioners in the industry.

I witnessed a number of presentations on selected Geotechnical Engineering topics like: “*In-situ Stress Field Estimation for Underground Structures*” by Luis Lamas, “*Failure Modes in Road Tunnels of Sierra Valle Fertil*” by Paula Aceituno, “*Model and Computational Processing applied to reservoir in Geomechanics*” by Nelson Inoue, “*Green Foundation Piles*” by Charles W. W. Ng, “*Geomechanical Classification of Conglomerates for the Terraba and limon sur basins, Costa Rica*” by Damilo A Jimenez and a whole lot of related topic which were immensely beneficial in helping to expand my understanding of the concepts and practices of Geotechnical Engineering.

I had the opportunity of visiting the beautiful city of Brasilia, the Brasilia National stadium, the center for art and culture Brasilia and a host of many other beautiful cities. The conference provided me with a platform for learning a bit Portuguese and getting a firsthand experience of the warm, kind and hospitable culture of the Brazilian community.

I would like to express my profound gratitude to the ISSMGE Foundation for sponsoring my trip. I also wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the president Brazilian Conference on Soil mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering Prof. Mauricio Sales and to the Brazilian Association of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering for their warm display of generosity and hospitality.

Indeed it was a remarkable event one I’d cherish forever. I look forward to attending more conferences in future and broadening my scope and knowledge in the concepts and practices of Geotechnical Engineering.

Thanks.

Charles C. MAGBO
Graduate Assistant Research
Texas A&M University.



Photographs from Conference:



Young African Geotechnical Engineers with Prof. Fatma Baligh



My presentation at the XVII Brazilian Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering



Dinner night at event Centre UFG (Campus fern)



L-R: Prof. Jean Louis Briaud Immediate past President ISSMGE, Charles Magbo, Prof. Roger Frank President ISSMGE.