**ISSMGE FOUNDATION**

**REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

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<tr>
<th>Your Name:</th>
<th>András Mahler</th>
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<td>Your Organization:</td>
<td>Budapest University of Technology and Economics / ISSMGE Hungarian NC</td>
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<td>Date of report:</td>
<td>01/10/2017</td>
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<tr>
<th>Conference Title:</th>
<th>Location of Conference:</th>
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<tr>
<td>19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering</td>
<td>Seoul</td>
<td>September 17 to 22, 2017</td>
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**What you learned:**
The conference provided an excellent possibility to overview the progress over a broad range of geotechnical engineering. The recent works (especially in the field of numerical modelling and soil dynamics) inspired me to continue my research activities in this area. The plenary sessions – especially the Bishop, the Mitchell, the Schofield, the Blight the Schofield and the Ishihara lecture – impressed me, and were very informative. The lecture presented by John Powell gave a good update on my recent knowledge in in situ testing of soils, and Jonathan D. Bray’s lecture revealed a completely new area of geotechnics to me.

**People you met:**
I participated on the Council Meeting and met the Presidents of other National Committees (such as Slovenia, Iceland, Austria, Australia) and the Board of ISSMGE. I also visited the TC102 meeting and met had a discussion related to the organization of the following ISC6 conference in Budapest. The discussion with professor Mayne, Stokoe and Viana Da Fonseca were very useful. During the conference I had professional discussions with Charles Ng, Ikuo Towhata, Dimitrios Zekkos, Hugo E Acosta-Martinez, Mario Manassero, Dietmar Adam, Helmut Schweiger, Janko Logar, Ana Petkovsek, John Powell.

**Main features of conference:**
The most important thing about this conference was to me that I could meet with the presidents of almost all National Committees, and we can discuss the best practices that enable an efficient leading of the Hungarian National Committee. From the professional point of view the plenary lectures gave an excellent overview of recent developments and the workshops enabled a great possibility for in depth discussion related to the specific topics.

**Your comments on the conference:**
The conference has been a great experience to me. I enjoyed exploring Seoul and the Korean culture and in the same time participating on the biggest ISSMGE Conference. Regarding the professional part I found the workshops especially useful.
Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

The ICSMGE 2017, the biggest ISSMGE event every four year, had almost 2000 participants. During this 5 day event almost 1000 papers were presented to and by the participants from all over the world. The fifteen outstanding plenary lectures proved to be a good start and encouraged all the participants to spend the conference days as useful as possible.

During the following days I turned my attention toward the workshops, especially to the workshops on numerical modelling and in situ testing. Regarding this latter one I have to mention that it was not only fruitful from the professional point of view, but it also was an excellent occasion to commemorate Professor Silvano Marchetti and to introduce his work and achievements to the younger generation. The Prof Silvano Marchetti Memorial Session on In-Situ Testing made a great emotional impact on me, and proved that a researcher career can lead to strong international friendships and significant progress in the professional field at the same time.

The conference also provided a great opportunity to keep in touch with the leading geotechnical companies in the exhibition session. The large variety of exhibitors provided a good overview of a broad area of geotechnical engineering.

I think Seoul was a great host of the 19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The cultural and professional experiences I had in Korea were very interesting, and the words of Ban Ki-moon, the Former Secretary-General of the United Nations will accompany me in my professional for a very long time.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email
Discussion with an expert from COWI UK

With the Hungarian colleagues