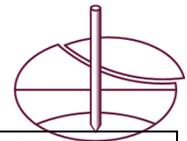


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> Ardita Malaj	<b>Your Organization:</b> AGS	<b>Date of report:</b> 01/10/2017
<b>Conference Title:</b> <i>19th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering</i>	<b>Location of Conference:</b> <i>COEX, Seoul, Republic of Korea</i>	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> September 17 to 22, 2017.
<b>What you learned:</b> I am a young geotechnical engineer and normally I am focused on attending conferences or workshops related to my field of study. I found the comments of Peter Day during Terzaghi oration on shifting the focus from the creation of knowledge to facilitating its implementation very accurate on our profession. As part of a developing country I found common problematics ( <i>research-practise gap</i> ) in our daily practise with the professionals in Africa. He inspired me to be more collaborative with colleagues in Albania to face the challenges in our profession. David Muir Wood (Bishop lecture), I had never heard of him before this conference and his comments on methods of testing and modelling the soils really made me re-think of my general concept on modelling. The lecture about urban geohazards of Myoung Mo Kim was also of a great interest. I had the chance to meet several interesting people, who have significantly contributed to increase my general knowledge about geotechnics.		
<b>People you met:</b>  John Powell-Technical director of GEOLABS, UK Sara Amoroso-Researcher at INGV, Rome-Italy Mario Manassero-Polytechnico di Torino, Italy Buddhima Indraratna- Centre for Geomechanics and Railway Engineering, University of Wollongong, Australia And many other young researchers from all around the world, like UK, Spain, Malaysia, Slovakia etc .		
<b>Main features of conference:</b> The conference was held in Seoul, Korea and the main features were, ISSMGE Honour Lectures, Plenary Session, Parallel Sessions, Discussion sessions, iYGEC, Technical visits, and posters exhibitions. The conference was held from the 17th until 22th_September 2017.		
<b>Your comments on the conference:</b> The organizing committee of 19-ICSMGE did a great job organizing one of the best conferences I have attended till now. The programme was professionally scheduled and the technical content was exceptional. I like to mention the website provided during conference days. I would like to thank the ISSMGE Foundation Awards Committee for supporting my attendance.		



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

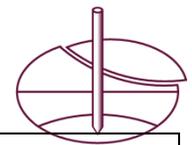
19th ICSMGE conference “Unearth the Future, Connect Beyond”, was held in Seoul, Korea from 17th until 22th September 2017. The aim of this conference was about bridging the gaps between past and future, between young and senior engineers, and between developing and developed nations among others.

Participating at the 19 ICSMGE was really an exciting experience from personal and professional point of view. Meeting personalities in the field and other young geotechnical engineers was really like a dream. What I noticed was that one doesn't need to speak the same language to unite to the same problems and challenges in our profession. It was a good feeling to know that there were no borders and if you can manage to be one of the top leaders in geotechnical engineering in your country, you can be comparable and your knowledges can be valuable all over the world. At this point I think that the aim of the conference was accomplished.

The main features were Honour Lectures, Plenary Session, Parallel Sessions, Discussion sessions, iYGEC, Technical visits, and posters exhibitions. The topics of the Honours Lectures were: unsaturated soils, soil-structure interaction, earthquake geotechnics, soft ground stabilization, laboratory testing, historical heritage and environmental geotechnical and risk management. The Special Lectures were about municipal solid waste, historical heritage, geophysical characterization, and landslides. The last two day comprised a variety of discussion sessions, with the papers of invited presenters, and special workshops. There were provided also two technical tours.

The discussion season was a platform where participants, researchers, authors and presenters from all the national societies and technical comities had the chance to meet, present and discuss their works on practical and scientific aspect.

Finally, I would like to thank the ISSMGE Foundation Awards Committee for supporting my attendance and all the participants for their excellent effort and work in engineering field.



**Photographs from Conference:** Insert here or attach to email



Photo no.1 Albanian Geotechnical engineers, (left-Mr.Skender Allkja the first author of our presentation)

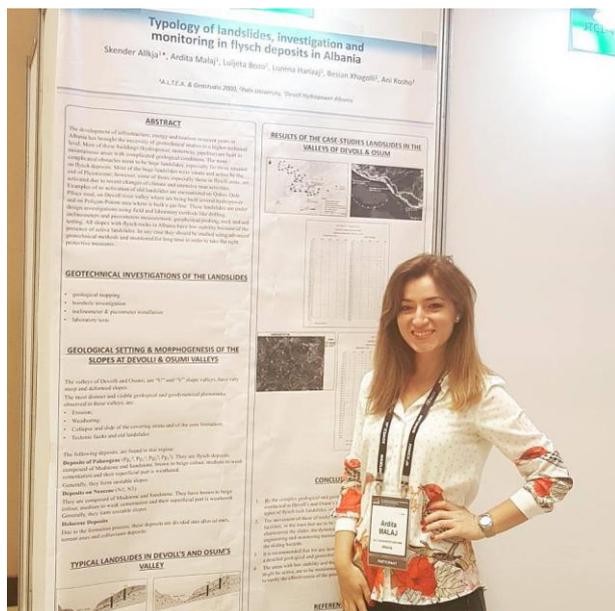


Photo.2 Me during poster presentation

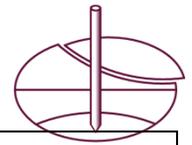


Photo no.3 COEX main hall during Terzaghi oration lecture



Photo no.4 During the first technical visit at Sihwa Lake Tidal Power station (with the general manager)