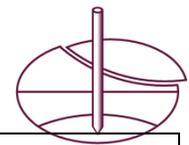


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<b>Your Name:</b> Mandeep Pandey	<b>Your Organization:</b> University of Calgary, Alberta, Canada	<b>Date of report:</b> October 5, 2021
<b>Conference Title:</b> GeoNiagara 2021 – 74 <sup>th</sup> Canadian Geotechnical Conference and 14 <sup>th</sup> Joint CGS/IAH-CNC Groundwater Conference	<b>Location of Conference:</b> Scotiabank Convention Centre, Niagara Falls, ON, Canada	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> September 26-29, 2021
<b>What you learned:</b>  <p>GeoNiagara 2021 was a collaboration between the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) and the Canadian National Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-CNC). It was the 74<sup>th</sup> Canadian Geotechnical Conference and the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint CGS/IAN-CNC Groundwater Conference. Thus, GeoNiagara 2021 covered a wide variety of topics in geotechnical engineering and water resource engineering. We had a range of short courses and technical tours prior to the conference, and I was an attendee for the Hydrogeological Tour of Niagara Escarpment. The keynote lectures, presentations and professional networking sessions covered a wide area of research in the field of geotechnical and hydrogeological engineering, with the focus towards sustainability.</p> <p>More importantly, it was first hybrid conference for CGS and was conducted exceptionally well. I believe that the success of this conference has raised the bar high for conducting future conferences elsewhere by following proper health protocols, while accommodating needs of virtual audience. I am delighted to have got a chance to talk to professionals about my research and have some meaningful discussions.</p> <p>I am extremely grateful to ISSMGE Foundation for funding my travel to attend the event in-person.</p>		
<b>People you met:</b> <p>Despite challenges due to COVID-19, there was a good turnout of the delegates for this conference. I got to meet the delegates from all over Canada who are at different stages of their careers, some of whom are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Garry McFarlane, Product Development Manager (TITAN), Manitoba</li><li>- Dr. Rajib Dey, Senior Geotechnical Engineer (KIEWIT), Ontario</li><li>- Dr. Paul Dittrich, Principal Senior Geotechnical Engineer (GOLDER) – Session chair for Laboratory Testing 2, Ontario</li><li>- Jayme Campbell, Senior Water Resource Engineer (Terra-Dynamics Consulting), Ontario</li><li>- Dr. Magdalena Krol, Associate Professor (York University), Ontario</li><li>- Dr. Abouzar Sadrekarimi, Associate Professor (University of Western Ontario)</li><li>- Dr. Sanat Pokharel, Principal Engineer (Stratum Logics Inc.), Alberta</li></ul>		



- Sujan Adhikari, PhD Candidate (University of Western Ontario)
- Chao Liu, PhD Student (University of Alberta)
- Robert Praeg, Geotechnical Instrumentation Specialist (Measurand), New Brunswick

***Main features of conference:***

The main theme for GeoNiagara 2021 was Creating a Sustainable and Smart Future and featured technical sessions on subjects of broad in the geotechnical and hydrogeological fields. It was also the first “Hybrid” conference for CGS after having previous one as a virtual event (GeoVirtual 2020). There was a good participation of delegates at the venue.

This being a joint CGS/IAN-CNC Groundwater conference, the Plenary session on 27<sup>th</sup> consisted of talks from expert in geotechnical field Dr. Mark Diederichs (RM Hardy Keynote Lecture) and 2020 Stockholm Water Prize Winner Dr. John Cherry. In the afternoon of 27<sup>th</sup> September during the Luncheon, R.F. Legget Award, which is the most senior and prestigious award of the Canadian Geotechnical Society was awarded to Doug VanDine. The evening of 27<sup>th</sup> constituted of 2020 Award Winners Reception followed by CGS/IAH-CNC Awards Banquet.

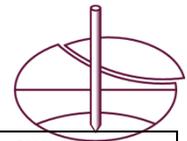
One of the important features of the conference, which I admire, was Speakers’ breakfast where the delegates presenting their research/work that day would come and meet their Session chairs for a friendly breakfast.

The Plenary session on 28<sup>th</sup> had keynote presentations from Renato Macciotta Pulisci (2021 Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium) and CGS Graduate Student Presentation. There was a student competition in the afternoon of 28<sup>th</sup>, ‘GEOpardy!’, sponsored by Golders. The evening of 28<sup>th</sup> was marked by a beautiful Local Colour Nights where delegates visited Niagara Parks Power Station.

On the final day, CGS Heritage Luncheon remembered and honoured the champions of Geotechnical professions. The conference ended amazingly well after the closing ceremony on 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

The conference was extremely well organized amidst so many challenges and uncertainties due to global pandemic. Every attempt was made to enhance the experience of the delegates, with proper screening protocol and a nice choice of location which could accommodate enough delegates with adequate physical distancing in place. The dining area was clean, and chairs were adequately spaced. Sessions were well planned and scheduled, with appropriate breaks. The presentations were categorized into variety of themes and the technical sessions consisted of relevant research/presentations. I felt that the presentations in a particular session were well grouped, and I am sure that the delegates learned a lot from the session they attended. There was a good participation of friendly exhibitors and sponsors. Well planned and scheduled sessions and breaks kept all the delegates involved and engaged throughout. I thank the organizers of GeoNiagara 2021 for the wonderful experience.



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

GeoNiagara 2021  
*Creating a Sustainable and Smart Future*  
Niagara Falls, ON, Canada | September 26-29, 2021

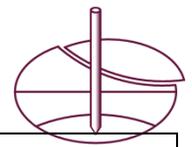
74<sup>th</sup> Canadian Geotechnical Conference and the 14<sup>th</sup> Joint CGS/IAH-CNC Groundwater Conference

The Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS) Annual Conference is one of the best geotechnical conferences in the world and attracts large number of delegates, which includes researchers and practitioners at different stages of their careers. This year, it was hybrid and held jointly with the Canadian National Chapter of the International Association of Hydrogeologists (IAH-CNC) with two main themes, Geotechnical and Hydrogeological. It included a wide range of distinguished keynote speakers, high calibre short courses, technical tours, technical programs, plenary sessions and social events. The sessions were divided into relevant themes (and sub-themes) which made the entire conference very engaging. The Hydrogeological Tour of Niagara Escarpment on 26<sup>th</sup> September was well organized and followed all the required health protocols, making the event safe, informative and enjoyable for all attendees. Young Professionals Networking event in the evening included the likes of Dr. Suzanne Lacasse, who attended the session virtually, and Icebreaker and Exhibitor reception ended the day well.

The conference officially opened on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> September with opening addresses from CGS President Dr. Ian Moore, and the Conference Chair Dr. Masoud Manzari. The opening remarks were followed by two Plenary Keynote lectures. The first speaker was Dr. Mark Diederichs (Queen's University) who delivered this year's RM Hardy Keynote Lecture. Dr. John Cherry, recipient of 2020 Stockholm Water Prize winner delivered the second keynote lecture. Doug VanDine was awarded this year's R.F. Legget Medal during the Legget Award Luncheon for his exceptional service to the geotechnical society. I presented my research during the technical session – Laboratory Testing 2 (chaired by Dr. Paul Dittrich) from 2:15 pm to 2:30 pm. This year's award winners were recognized at the CGS/IAH-CNC Awards Banquet Reception in the evening.

Dr. Renato Macciotta Pulisci (University of Alberta) delivered 2021 Canadian Geotechnical Colloquium during Tuesday's Plenary session which was followed by CGS Graduate Student Presentation. The coffee break in the afternoon was marked by the student competition, 'GEOparady!' sponsored and hosted by WSP and Golder Associates. Delegates visited Niagara Park Power Station for Local Colour Night in the evening.

On the final day, technical sessions resumed at 8:30 am and went as smooth as previous days. The CGS Heritage luncheon in the afternoon honoured the champions of geotechnical engineering who have made immense contributions to the community. The conference ended by appreciating the volunteers and organizers, and after a closing remark from CGS president at 4:00 pm on 29<sup>th</sup> September.



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



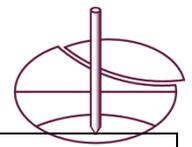
Hydrogeological Tour of Niagara Escarpment



At the highest point between Lake Erie and Lake Ontario



During my presentation in Laboratory testing 2



With the session chair of Laboratory testing 2, Dr. Paul Dittrich



With other delegates