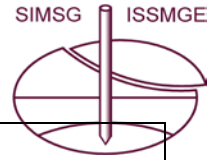


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<p>Your Name: Menzer Pehlivan</p>	<p>Your Organization: Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers</p>	<p>Date of report: 09/21/2013</p>
<p>Conference Title: 18th International Conference in Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering</p>	<p>Location of Conference: Paris, France</p>	<p>Dates of Conference: September 02 – 06 2013</p>
<p>What you learned:</p> <p>I have attended to number of lectures given by the distinguished professionals of geotechnical engineering field. Geotechnical engineering, being a broad topic by itself some lectures helped me to enhance my knowledge on particular topics; such as Ishihara lecture given by Prof. George Gazetas on soil-structure interaction. Whereas some helped me to learn key points of a topic that I was not quite familiar with; such as the Kerry Rowe lecture given by Prof. Charles D. Shakelford. Moreover, I had the opportunity to attend to the workshops, where I have gained an insight and knowledge about the projects and research advances on particular topics of geotechnical engineering. The workshops and discussion sessions were very valuable since it allowed professionals to discuss the projects and researches in deeper extent. I am specialized in geotechnical earthquake engineering therefore attending to the discussion session of TC-203 helped me learn the recent advances, projects and research that have been performed in geotechnical earthquake engineering. In additional to the technical knowledge, I have attended to the meetings of Turkish National Committee for ISSMGE meeting and learned about short and long term goals of my national committee and learned the ways to contribute and involved with ISSMGE.</p>		
<p>People you met:</p> <p>18th ICSMGE conference was a great opportunity for me to meet and make new valuable connections with distinguished professionals of geotechnical engineering field from all around the world. Following list presents some of the many professionals I have met during 18th ICSMGE:</p> <p>Prof. George Gazetas (Technical University of Athens, Greece) Prof. Juan Pestanat (Univesity of California Berkeley, USA) Prof. Ergun Togrol (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey) Prof. Erol Guler (Bogazici University, Turkey) Prof. Feyza Cinicioglu (Istanbul Technical University, Turkey) Prof. H. Turan Durgunoglu (Bogazici University, Zetas Inc., Turkey) Prof. Braja M. Das (Dean Emeritus, California State University, Sacramento, USA) Prof. John Burland (Emeritus, Imperial College, UK) Prof. Richard Jardine (Imperial College, UK) Prof. Pedro e Seco Pinto (University of New Lisbon, Portugal) Prof. Mick Pender (The University of Auckland, New Zealand)</p>		

***Main features of conference:***

Main features of this conference for me were the opportunity to learn from key people of our field through distinguished lectures and being exposed to the international geotechnical engineering field. Conference gave an invaluable networking opportunity in international level where I had the chance to meet and interact with engineers from other countries and learn exciting on-going projects, the-state-of-art, and the-state-of-practice at different countries. Another feature that was in particular very beneficial was the booths of significant number sponsoring companies, which gave me a chance to learn more about the structures and the projects of European companies. Finally, I believe it would be unfair to not to list magical city Paris as one of the main features of 18th ICSMGE

Your comments on the conference:

18th ICSMGE conference committee have done a great work in organization. The lectures covered the key topics of geotechnical engineering profession given by the top names of the field. The discussion sessions gave the opportunity to learn about the research and projects going on around the world and helped to increase the collaboration between different countries. The company booths were located very strategically, the coffee breaks gave great opportunity to interact with the companies represented in these booths and also with other professionals.



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

Bulletin:

I have recently obtained my doctoral degree in geotechnical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin in May 2013 and I am currently working as a Geotechnical Engineer at Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, New York. I have taken numerous leadership positions in national level with the student chapter of the Geo-Institute of ASCE during my graduate studies, thus I believe the value of getting involved with the professional organizations. This year, I have elected as the national nominee for the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in Paris by The Turkish National Society for ISSMGE. I have been honoured and, at the same time, flattered with this opportunity to represent my country in international level. However, being a graduate student I have needed financial support to attend to the 18th ICSMGE, therefore I have applied to ISSMGE Foundation Award.

Receiving this award enabled me not only to attend to the 18th ICSMGE conference in Paris with the honour of representing my country but also it helped me to develop connections and make presence in international field of geotechnical engineering. I have participated to my first committee meeting with Turkish National Committee where I have met and mingled with the other members and discuss our involvement in international geotechnical engineering arena. At the same time, I have had the chance to interact with professionals from different countries and the famous professional of geotechnical engineering. Moreover, attending to the lectures of distinguished professionals, I have learned the recent advances in broad scale of geotechnical engineering practice. As a young engineer in geotechnical field, the value and benefits of attendance to a conference like ICSMGE which exposes you to inspiring professional is invaluable. Therefore I am grateful to receive the ISSMGE Foundation Award.

The ISSMGE Foundation Award gives a chance to young professionals or any professional, with insufficient funds, who are willing to contribute to the geotechnical field and society. For a young professional like me, attending to an international conference is nothing but inspiring to do more and to carry our profession to the next level. ISSMGE increases the professional involvement and appreciation for the importance of professional organization not only in academia but also in practice within the young generations with this award. The importance of attending and being involved in an international professional organization also helps engineers to be aware of the advances in other countries and help to increase the collaboration, which I believe to be the one of the goals of ISSMGE.

Finally, I would like too take this chance to once again express my sincere gratitude to the ISSMGE Foundation for giving me the award, which enabled me to attend to 18th ICSMGE.

Menzer Pehlivan, Ph.D.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email

