



## ISSMGE FOUNDATION REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

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<p><b>Conference Title:</b> 5<sup>th</sup> International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference (iYGEC)</p>	<p><b>Location of Conference:</b> Paris, France</p>	<p><b>Dates of Conference:</b> 31. Aug – 1. Sep, 2013.</p>
<p><b>What you learned:</b> Benefits for my professional career have been multiple. On one hand, a broad range of topics ensured that many new interesting issues have been addressed and the fact that almost half of the participants came from the industry and the other half from the academia ensured different points of views (practical vs. scientific) and useful constructive discussions. On the other hand, my interests have been broaden, from rock slope stability that is my current preoccupation, to slope stability in general and FEM modelling, even stabilization measures and site monitoring, because these are all related fields and have to be taken into consideration simultaneously in practice. It is also important to mention that all of us have learned a lot from the inspiring keynote lectures about new paradigms in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering during the first two days of the 18<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE conference. I have learned (or better to say reconfirmed what I already knew) that geotechnical engineering problems are not to be solved by some pattern, because each project and each scenario is unique, and although there are certified standards and codes, engineers should pay more attention to the authenticity of each of their problems in practice and research.</p>		
<p><b>People you met:</b> I have made many acquaintances and contacts during the conferences (5<sup>th</sup> iYGEC and 18<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE), but I will mention a few colleagues that have left the biggest impression on me. These are my young colleagues from industry and academia that have been interested in my work or whose work had attracted my attention, so that we had fruitful discussions after our sessions, while some of them I already knew from other conferences and seminars.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sara Amoroso, from Studio Prof. Marchetti s.r.l. (Italy)</li> <li>• Kevin Brigs, from University of Bath (UK)</li> <li>• Bojan Susinov, from Ss. Cyril and Methodius University in Skopje (Macedonia)</li> <li>• Igor Tomovski, from GeoHydroConsulting (Macedonia)</li> <li>• Huina Yuan, from Tsinghua University (China)</li> <li>• Marek Zalesky from ARCADIS (Czech Republic)</li> <li>• Remon Pot, from FUGRO GeoServices (Austria)</li> </ul> <p>I would also like to mention that I have made contacts with the promoters of 18<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE Exposition (while discussing on technical details for the project that I am planning and that should include in-situ slope monitoring), such as people from MeasuredGeotechnical, Dr. Romano Lamperti from SISGEO, Mr. Rick Monroe from DurhamGeoSlopeIndicator and Mr. Tony Simmonds from GEOKON.</p>		
<p><b>Main features of conference:</b> All respective fields of geotechnical engineering have been encouraged for the 5<sup>th</sup> iYGEC and papers with many different topics were accepted. These included the following fields: slope stability, laboratory testing, ground improvement, foundations, modelling, earthworks, tunnel and underground structure, in-situ testing, soil behaviour, earthquake and geodynamics, retaining structures and monitoring. The conference lasted for two days and has been organized in three parallel sessions. There were 164 participants. Each presenter had his 10 minutes to present and 5 minutes to answer the questions of the audience, but after-session discussions have been very common too (in cases that there was some extra time left, due to the absence of some presenters). The papers have been published in conference proceedings in their entirety. Two awards for outstanding presentations have</p>		



been delivered to the colleagues: Francesca Ceccato for her *Effect of wood degradation and soil creep on the behaviour of wooden pile foundation in Venice*, and Antonio Correia for his topic on *An innovative deep foundation macro-element model for seismic analysis of pile/column supports*. Several selected participants were also assigned for the reporting task.

As for the 18<sup>th</sup> ICSMGE, during the first two days there were several honorary lessons held by the world-leading experts such as: Dr Lacasse (Norway), Dr Gazetas (Greece), Dr. Briaud (USA), Dr Sim (Singapore), Dr Jardine (UK), Dr Schlosser (France), Dr Calabresi (Italy), Dr Randolph (Australia), Dr Shakelford (USA), Dr Fluteaux (France), Dr Bolton (UK) and Dr Cui (France).

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

If I am not mistaking this was the first YGEC that has not been concentrated solely on soil mechanics, but various geotechnical disciplines have been equally desirable. For the first time, nominees from the ISSMGE national branches as well as non-nominees were allowed to participate, so the accent was not anymore on affiliation to the ISSMGE society but on youth and our first engineering and researching experiences. It is also interesting that this was the first time that the participants from the industry showed great interest to take part in this YGEC conference, as their number equalled that of academia participants. I think that it was very stimulating to give awards for outstanding presentations and to give the young nominees the opportunity to present their work at the main conference. It was also very useful that a detailed report has been made by the selected participants and also presented at the main event. The organisation was good, the correspondence with the organising committee was helpful and maybe the only lapse was that there were three parallel sessions and the conference was compressed in two days, so that it was less likely to get the opportunity to hear all presenters one is interested in.

Many thanks to the organisers for providing us all those opportunities and a great time in Paris!



**Group photograph – 5iYGEC**



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

The 5<sup>th</sup> International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference has been organized by the ISSMGE in cooperation with French Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (CFMS) and École des Ponts ParisTech which has hosted the conference. The conference was routinely handled by Dr Cui and his team, and the organisation was on a high level covering all details from welcoming, respecting the time-schedule, equipping the participants, technical support during the presentations, catering and organizing social events...

As a continuation of a good tradition, 5<sup>th</sup> iYGEC invited young engineers from all over the world, and for the first time non-nominees (that have not been recommended by their national ISSMGE society branches) were also welcomed. The turn-out was therefore bigger than the organizers had expected. There were 164 participants and 143 research papers have been presented and published in the conference proceedings. The conference lasted for two days (31.8–1.9.2013) and it was structured in three parallel sessions. Each session lasted for about an hour and a half, during which at least five presentations have been introduced and discussed (10 minutes for presenting and 5 for discussing). The session topics covered practically all geotechnical engineering aspects.

The daily program included several breaks, but those were all actually constructive after-session discussions interrupted by occasional sips of coffee and bites of French delicacies. The venue (École des Ponts) was therefore wisely chosen, because it was isolated and remote enough to keep all participants away from the temptations of Paris and concentrated on the conference. The social event (in the evening of the first conference day) was a different story, since the organisers made an effort to host a great social dinner in the heart of Paris in a wonderful atmosphere of a local restaurant. From my angle, the conference was a great success: many topics have been discussed, contacts have been established, the awards, reports, and the opportunity to participate at the main ICSSMGE event was highly motivating for all of us. It was only a little bit difficult to follow all interesting topics in three parallel sessions. I have personally learned a lot from my colleagues and particularly fruitful was a discussion with Huina Yuan about modern trends of computer science, machine learning in particular, and their application in FEM modelling and simulation. It will surely bring new ideas in my practice that had already been related to machine learning, and perhaps new collaboration.



Group photo of the participants of the 5th iYGEC