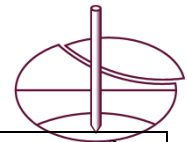




**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: Suaiba Ali Mufti	Your Organization: Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, India	Date of report: May 2023
Conference Title: 8th International Conference on Unsaturated Soils “Towards Unsaturated Soils Engineering”	Location of Conference: Milos Island, Greece	Dates of Conference: 2-5 May 2023
What you learned: UNSAT 2023 conference offered an ideal environment for sharing knowledge and networking with leading experts in the field of unsaturated soil mechanics. The special lectures, delivered by distinguished professors, emphasized the significance of unsaturated soil mechanics in civil engineering. Particularly, Prof. Sandra Houston's lecture shed light on the need to measure the soil's volume change behavior for diverse practical uses, which piqued my interest as it aligns with my research pursuits. I gained knowledge on several crucial topics during the conference, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Quantifying the pore space of granular soils using various advanced imaging techniques.• The obstacles and advancements in unsaturated soil mechanics testing.• Effects of microstructure on the behavior of geomaterials.• The influence of climate change on unsaturated soil behavior.• Valuable insights from a range of case studies.		
People you met: I was honoured to meet: - Prof. Micheal Bardanis (President of the Hellenic Geotechnical Society HSSMGE - Conference Chair, Greece) Prof. Sandra Houston (Arizona State University, AZ, USA) Prof. David Mašín (Charles University in Prague) Prof. Nasser Khalili (University of New South Wales) Prof. John S. McCartney (University of California San Diego) Prof. Claudia Zapata (Arizona State University, AZ, USA) Prof. Cristina Jommi (TUDelf) Prof. Jean-Michel Pereira (Ecole des Ponts ParisTech) ...and many more...		
Main features of conference: The UNSAT 2023 conference spanned three days and provided a platform for researchers worldwide to showcase the latest advancements in unsaturated soil mechanics. The conference was well planned, with special lectures from eminent professors in the field of unsaturated soil mechanics, followed by sessions structured in a logical sequence, progressing from theoretical to applied aspects, case studies, and historical lessons,		



culminating in field visits. The presentations at the conference covered diverse aspects of unsaturated soil research, ranging from fundamental soil behavior to novel equipment and testing techniques, physical and numerical modeling of various unsaturated soil phenomena, geotechnical engineering challenges, and energy and environmental concerns. The presenters at the conference comprised a mix of promising young researchers and well-established ones with decades of experience to share.

Your comments on the conference:

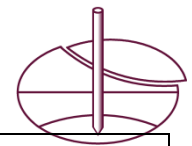
Attending UNSAT 2023 was a valuable experience for me in terms of advancing my research career. It provided me with a vast platform to meet and engage with experts and researchers in my research field from around the globe. Presenting my research at the conference and engaging in discussions with young researchers was a valuable learning experience. The keynote lectures by eminent speakers and the parallel sessions led by various researchers were immensely informative. I want to express my gratitude to the ISSMGE Foundation for their support, which enabled me to attend the conference.

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

The conference UNSAT 2023 was organized by ISSMGE Technical Committee TC106. It was chaired by **Michael Bardanis**, President of HSSMGE. The conference began on 2nd May 2023 with one day of short courses. The conference had participants from diverse regions of the world and addressed a broad range of theoretical and practical topics on unsaturated soils, including fundamentals of soil behavior, cyclic & dynamic behavior of unsaturated soils, advances in testing techniques, methods, and equipment for measuring unsaturated soil constitutive relations, unsaturated soil mechanics in the preservation and pathology of historical monuments, microstructural characterization of unsaturated soil system, physical, numerical and constitutive modeling of unsaturated soils, unsaturated soil mechanics in slope stability, landslides, and foundations, etc.

The keynote speeches were exceptional, and the panel discussion delved into critical and contentious topics related to applying unsaturated soil mechanics to engineering practice. The parallel sessions were conducted with the utmost professionalism, and most presenters offered in-depth insights and information on their research and discoveries. The sessions were well-attended by a diverse audience who exchanged novel ideas and posed questions to the presenters as constructive feedback. The breaks provided ample time to explore the posters and exhibitions each day. The conference adhered to the scheduled time, and participation was widespread among both academic scholars and practicing engineers.

UNSAT 2023 gave me a remarkable opportunity to gain insights into cutting-edge research on unsaturated soils. Engaging with leading researchers in the field and exchanging ideas was invaluable and inspiring. This experience will undoubtedly enhance the quality of my doctoral thesis and future research endeavors. I express my heartfelt gratitude to the ISSMGE Foundation for their financial support, without which attending this conference would not have been feasible.



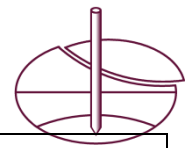
Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email



Prof. Michael Bardanis: Conference Opening Speech
Opening Session Chairs: Michael Bardanis, George Belokas



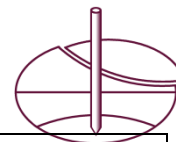
Prof. Sandra Houston Delivering the First Keynote Lecture at the Conference
(Special Themed Lecture: A Unified Two Independent Stress Variable Approach to Moisture-Change-Induced Unsaturated Soil Volume Change, Sandra Houston, Xiong Zhang)



With Prof. Sandra Houston



With Prof. Arghya Das and fellow PhD scholar from IIT Kanpur



During my presentation