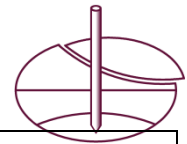


**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

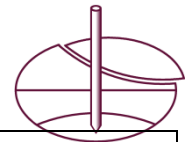
<b>Your Name:</b> Muhammad Bilal Mumtaz	<b>Your Organization:</b> Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University	<b>Date of report:</b> 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2018
<b>Conference Title:</b> 4 <sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Cone Penetration Testing	<b>Location of Conference:</b> Delft, Netherlands	<b>Dates of Conference:</b> 21 and 22 June, 2018
<b>What you learned:</b> <p>I attended most of the presentations made by students, academics, and industry professionals which included both research studies and case studies, which greatly added to my knowledge. Presentations made by people from different countries and companies gave me an idea of how local practice varies throughout the world. For the first time, I realized the significance of the difficulties involved with the interpretation of thin layers from CPT data from Dr. Ross Boulanger's keynote lecture and Dr. Peter Robertson's discussion. Additionally, I was able to discuss my own research work with Dr. Peter Robertson and he had some invaluable ideas, which I'll use further. Overall, I learned a lot from professionals with experience in cone penetration testing.</p>		
<b>People you met:</b> <p>I had the opportunity to meet several acclaimed academics and industry professionals. Throughout my graduate studies and research, I had highly admired Dr. Peter Robertson's work and I learned a lot from his articles. During this conference, I finally had the chance to meet him. I also met Joek Puechen from Fugro Netherlands, who will soon become a colleague of mine. His experiences with in-situ testing, working with Fugro and the difficulties and uncertainties involved with CPT were great to hear. I also met Dr. Stefan Kreiter, Dr. Shiahuey Chow, and Dr. David White and got to hear about the research work in their respective universities. Additionally, I met several graduate students studying geotechnical engineering and was able to make new connections.</p>		
<b>Main features of conference:</b> <p>For me, the highlight was the presentation of my research work. The International symposium on cone penetration testing is a widely acknowledged specialist conference about cone penetration testing. It also has a unique format with regard to the programme, where in only a select few top papers are allowed to be orally presented. I was lucky enough to be chosen among the top 40 papers out of all the 103 papers and was invited to make a presentation. Additionally, I was the youngest person and the only one that was a Masters student that made a presentation, which was a proud moment for me and the highlight of the conference.</p>		



In addition, Dr. Mark Randolph's keynote lecture about penetrometers, Dr. Ross Boulanger's keynote lecture about thin layer interpretation during CPT, Dr. Kenneth Gavin's keynote lecture about design of piles, and Dr. Peter Robertson's and Dr. Paul Mayne's discussions were the main features of the conference.

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

The conference was very well organized and the programme was set up such that there was only one presentation at a time, and this allowed us to attend each and every one of the presentation. The technical committee of the conference included experts from all around the world, and the topics of the presentation covered all aspects of cone penetration testing. The articles that weren't orally presented were presented in a poster format. Overall, the conference was very well-organized and the programme was thoughtfully set up.



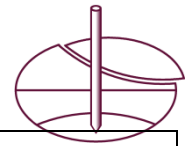
***Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:***

The International symposium on Cone Penetration Testing is a conference solely focused on CPT testing, and thus attracts the most well-renowned CPT experts; academics and industry professionals alike. Having a very focused theme, the articles and presentations are of extraordinary quality, and the opportunities to network are great. The 4<sup>th</sup> conference of this series was held in Delft on the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of June.

There were three different keynote lectures: the first by Dr. Mark Randolph on the use of penetrometers, the second by Dr. Ross Boulanger on the interpretation of thin layers from CPT data and their consequences for liquefaction potential, and the third by Dr. Kenneth Gavin on the design of shallow and deep foundations using CPT data. There were two discussion sessions: the first led by Dr. Peter Robertson which mostly revolved around strain rate effects and interpretation of thin layers, and the second led by Dr. Paul Mayne which mostly focused on interpretation of soil profiles. There were eight different sessions with presentations made on published articles. Additionally, the indoor exhibition by many leading companies in the Europe had different kinds of cones, sensors, sampling and testing equipment etc on exhibit and the outdoor exhibit had a couple of cone rigs on exhibit, which I saw for the first time.

I was lucky enough to have an article published in the conference. Only a select top few of all the published articles are presented, and I was also one of the selected people. On the first day of the conference, I got to present my work, and was introduced by Dr. Peter Robertson who was the session chair. It was the highlight of the conference for me to be introduced by Dr. Peter Robertson, whose work I really admire.

In summary, considering my passion for in-situ testing, especially cone penetration testing, there couldn't have been a better conference for me to attend. World renowned academics and industry professionals attended the event, and the opportunities to network were invaluable. I was able to learn a lot from these experts about topics ranging from interpretation of CPT data and design methods to equipment and procedures. I am looking forward to the next symposium in this series of conferences on cone penetration testing.



## Photographs from Conference:



Making my oral presentation



Joek Peuchen, Nina Stark and myself