

**ISSMGE FOUNDATION  
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<p><b>Your Name:</b> Erdi Myftaraga</p>	<p><b>Your Organization:</b> Polis University</p>	<p><b>Date of report:</b> 02 October 2012</p>
<p><b>Conference Title:</b> 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Young Geotechnical Engineering Conference</p>	<p><b>Location of Conference:</b> Tokushima, Japan</p>	<p><b>Dates of Conference:</b> 12 to 14 September 2012</p>
<p><b>What you learned:</b></p> <p>The conference helped me a lot to understand what are the main geotechnical concerns in other countries and what are my colleagues dealing with in their professional life. It was interesting to understand how the academic life in Japan is organised and what can be improved in Albania, following their experience.</p>		
<p><b>People you met:</b></p> <p>I met many research students from almost every Asian country and also other professionals participating in the conference. I also met many professors, among which: Prof. Ryosuke Uzuoka, Prof. Mitsu Okamura. Prof. Ikuo Towhata, Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov, Dr. Hiroki Ishikawa, etc.</p>		
<p><b>Main features of conference:</b></p> <p>The conference has a really comprehensive program and the two presentation days were really intense and fruitful. Other interesting features of the conference were the Technical Tour to Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge, the closing ceremony at the Pacific Harbor, the workshop for the Mini Soil Tower Contest, etc.</p>		
<p><b>Your comments on the conference:</b></p> <p>To be short and clear, the conference was excellent from any point of view.</p>		

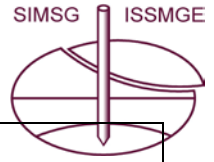
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Participating at the 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Young Geotechnical Conference has been really exciting and this not only from the professional point of view. What makes this activity more beautiful is the fact that for me, and for most of Albanians, visiting a country like Japan was just a beautiful dream. This conference was a big event in my career as a young geotechnical engineer. I had the opportunity to meet colleagues from almost every Asian country and it was great to shear our knowledge and to discuss about topics regarding geotechnical engineering in our countries. It is amazing to realize that countries really far from each other (even in different continents), despite many distinctions, can face very similar realities. It was a good feeling to me to understand that my geotechnical knowledge can be applicable all around the world.

The most interesting feature of the conference was discussing for each paper with the authors and with the professors that were present. Since the conference covered a large number of geotechnical topics, I had a comprehensive understanding on what issues are the participants, and also universities and research institutions, dealing nowadays. During these discussions I had the opportunity to create contacts and links with researchers and that deal with topics similar to mine and we can continue to communicate and to shear ideas with each other.

Other important aspects from the conference were activities such the technical tour in Akashi-Kaikyo Bridge, the Mini Soil Tower Contest, the closing ceremony, etc. The organising committee did an excellent job in providing every necessary information and facility, all this accompanied with an unbelievable courtesy. The contest was especially interesting because, at the same time, it was really simple, interacting and entertaining.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people that helped me to attend the 7AYGEC, starting from Prof. Harry Poulos and ISSMGE Foundation who approved my grant request. I am also very grateful to Prof. Ryosuke Uzuoka for the work done in organising the conference and for replying with patience to all my emails. I wish also to thank and congratulate ISSMGE and all member societies for the excellent and hard work in coordinating and supporting such activities.



**Photographs from Conference:**

