

**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: Nizar Rahme	Your Organization: Damascus University	Date of report: 10 September. 2016
Conference Title: the Eighth Asian Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8 AYGEC)	Location of Conference: Astana	Dates of Conference: 5-8 August.2016,
<p>What you learned:</p> <p>I benefitted immensely from the presentations made by young Geotechnical researchers who were present at the conference. Specifically, I got familiar with the latest researches in Preservation of Historic Sites, Numerical Methods and Physical Modelling in Geo-mechanics, Ground Improvement and Deep Foundations. I get a fresh information about other papers. I am going to share this information with young researchers in University and it will be important for the development of scientific research in our university.</p>		
<p>People you met:</p> <p>I have met and talked to many professors from different countries. A few of them are listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Ikuo Towhata (Japan) 2. Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov (Kazakhstan) 3. Prof. Eun-Chul Shin (Korea) 4. Dr. Wolfgang Sondermann (Germany) 		
<p>Main features of conference:</p> <p>The main features of the conference include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opening session and Closing ceremony, 2. Special and Keynote Lecturers, 3. Papers on diverse topics. (presentations and questions), 4. Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner. 		



Your comments on the conference:

The conference was successful and well organized; the organizing committee was very hospitable. The quality of the presentations in Special and Keynote Lecturers was very high. The presentations of young researchers were very interesting and covered wide diverse topics. The Welcome Reception and Gala Dinner were very nice. I have really enjoyed every minute in this conference.



The Eighth Asian Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8 AYGEC)

Prepared by Nizar Rahme,

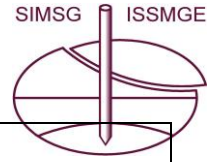
The Eighth Asian Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8 AYGEC), which took place at Nazarbayev University in Astana, Kazakhstan, was hosted by Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society. The main theme of the Conference was “Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics”. The three-day conference started with registration of the participants on 5th of August, 2016 and ended on 7th. The 8AYGEC – Astana 2016, has included two days of technical paper presentations and one day of Technical tours to construction sites. The conference was flawlessly organized and relatively well attended.

The conference started on Friday August 5th with an opening session which was followed on Friday and Saturday 5th and 6th by Special and Keynote Lectures at Senate Hall of Nazarbayev University (NU) and at Eurasian National University (main Campus). These important lectures were provided by Professors: Wolfgang Sondermann (Germany), Eun-Chul Shin (Korea), Ikuo Towhata (Japan), Talal Awwad (Syria), Jong R. Kim (Kazakhstan), Askar Zhussupbekov (Kazakhstan). On Friday and Saturday August 5th and 6th, there were also seven technical themed presentations. More than 59 reviewed papers from 17 different nations were presented at the 8 AYGEC related to Laboratory and Field experiments; Foundation and Underground structures; Ground improvement; Earthquakes and Environment; Numerical and Analytical modelling; Advanced soil mechanics and Preservation of Historic Sites. These sessions took place at Senate Hall of Nazarbayev University (NU). The presentations and questions were very interesting and covered wide diverse topics.

On Sunday August 7th, there were Technical tours to construction sites of EXPO 2017.

This conference provided me an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to many professors and young researchers from different countries and many other potential research collaborators as well.

Finally, I would like to deeply thank ISSMGE Foundation for their award.



Photographs from Conference:



Photo1. From left to right: Nizar Rahme, Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov, Prof. Talal Awwad, Prof. Ikuo Towhata , Prof. Eun-Chul Shin during 8 AYGEC.



Photo 2. Special Lecture by Dr. Wolfgang Sonderrmann (Germany)