Your Name: Maciej Ochmański
Your Organization: The Silesian University of Technology; University of Cassino and Southern Lazio
Date of report: 25th November 2015

Location of Conference: Buenos Aires – Argentina
Dates of Conference: 15 – 18 November 2015

What you learned:
My participation in the 6th International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials was possible thanks to partial funding from the ISSMGE Foundation. I got a unique opportunity to present my paper entitled “Numerical analysis of tunnelling with jet-grouted canopy” which was published in the special issue of Soils and Foundations Journal. I gave my oral presentation on Wednesday 18th November in the session “Anisotropy and localization”.

After my presentation I received a feedback from various people which clearly shows that my work is going in a good direction. It also gives me a strong motivation for further work as new ideas came after seeing several keynote lectures and many oral presentations. Moreover, I had a possibility to meet dozen people from various professions including researchers, academics and professionals. Speaking with them widen my horizons and undoubtedly gives new opportunities to develop career. In my opinion this is a true goal of participation in such an international conference.

People you met:
During this conference I had opportunity to meet delegates from all over the world. They come from all possible geotechnical fields. A few of them are listed below:

- Gabriele Chiaro (University of Canterbury)
- Michał Topolnicki (Keller Polska Sp. zoo)
- Alessandro Flora (University of Naples Federico II)
- Anna d'Onofrio (University of Naples Federico II)
- Fumio Tatsuoka (Tokyo University of Science)
- Junichi Koseki (University of Tokyo)
- David Masin (Charles University in Prague)
- António Viana da Fonseca (University of Porto)
Main features of conference:
The 6th International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials (6th ISDCG) was simultaneously held with the 15th Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (15th PCSMGE), and the 8th South American Congress on Rock Mechanics (8th SCRM). The conference was organized by the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), Technical Committee TC 101, Argentinian Geotechnical Engineering Society (SAIG) and the local Organizing Committee.

At the first day of this event (Sunday 15th November) Pre-Conference Courses together with a welcome lecture preceded by the opening ceremony have been organised. The welcome lecture has been given by the Prof. Carlo Santamarina who spoke about general Soil and Rock Properties. Pre-Conference Courses have been organised to cover following topics:

- PC01 – Advance Course on Coupled Multiphysics Analysis in Geo-Engineering.
- PC03 – D/3D Slope Stability Analysis.
- PC04 – Geomechanics and Shale Gas Development.
- PC05 – Geosynthetics for soil reinforcement.
- PC08 – Design & Failure of Dikes and Levees.

In the remaining three days (from Monday 16th to Wednesday 18th November) common for all three conferences, plenary lectures interspersed with 27 panelists’ contributions have been organised. Following lectures have been given:

- The Casagrande Lecture delivered by Prof. Luis Valenzuela: Tailings Dams and Hydraulic Fills
- The third Bishop Lecture delivered by Prof. Herve Di Benedetto: Advanced Testing and modelling of Granular materials with and without viscous glue: Research and practical implication
- The Mercer Lecture by Prof. Jorge Zornberg: Stabilization of Paved Roads Using Geosynthetics
- Eighteen Keynote lectures

Going into details of the 6th ISDCG following keynote lectures delivered by the leaders of academia have been organised:

- Keynote I-a by Prof. Lyesse Laloui: Multiphysical Behaviour of Shales
- Keynote I-b by Prof. Mathew Coop: Limitations of a Critical State Framework Applied to the Behaviour of Natural and “Transitional” Soils
- Keynote II-a by Prof. Eduardo Alonso: Rockfill mechanics. Experimental observations and DEM modelling
- Keynote II-b by Prof. Richard Jardine: Shear strength and stiffness anisotropy of geologically aged stiff clays
- Keynote III-a by Prof. Dong So Kim: Measurement and Application of shear wave velocity to various geotechnical Problems
- Keynote III-b by Prof. Viana da Fonseca: Advances in soil characterization by complementing laboratory and field tests methods
Total number of 126 oral presentations has been delivered in 12 sessions. Sessions were organized with accordance to following topics:

- Advances in laboratory and field methods
- Data interpretation and geotechnical imaging
- Cemented and stabilized soils including bituminous mixtures
- Frozen soils including hydrates
- Time dependent response (ageing, viscous and cycling effects)
- Integrated site characterization
- Mixtures (soils with inclusions)
- Performance evaluation of geotechnical structures
- Multi scale problems in geomechanics (micro-to-macro strain)
- Physical and numerical modelling
- Anisotropy and localization
- Advanced sampling

Most of the them have been published in the conference proceedings and just few of them in the special issue of Soils and Foundations Journal (Vol. 55, Issue 5).

Moreover, to give more social feeling of this event gala a dinner was organised at the Tuesday evening. The tasty dinner was accompanied by show of the Madero Tango.

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**Your comments on the conference:**

The 6th ISDCG was a huge event concentrating researchers, academics and professionals from all around the world. It is a conference which is organised every 4 years. It is one of the most important conference in the geotechnical engineering field dealing with deformation characteristic of geomaterials.

Presented the-state-of-the-art knowledge by people from various fields dealing with geotechnical engineering gives very good overview about current research developments and directions. This was especially shown by the several keynote lectures delivered by the top researchers from different countries. Thanks to the organizing committee conference was very well organized and help for participants was available for all the time.
Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

Buenos Aires, Argentina, 15 – 18 November 2015
Nominee: Maciej Ochmański
Organization: The Silesian University of Technology; University of Cassino and Southern Lazio

This conference is in general a quadrennial event concentrating the top researchers, academics and professionals from all around the world. Pre-Conference Courses covering most of the current geotechnical engineering issues were organised in the first day of conference. In the remaining three days several keynote lectures have been delivered together with more than 100 oral presentations grouped in the twelve thematic sessions.

My oral presentation of the paper entitled “Numerical analysis of tunnelling with jet-grouted canopy” (co-authors: Giuseppe Modoni, Joanna Bzówka) published in the special issue of Soils and Foundations Journal was given on Wednesday (18th November) in the session “Anisotropy and localization”. After presentation I received extensive feedback from various people which gives new ideas and motivates for further work.

Participation in the 6th ISDCG was one of the most significant experience connected with my professional career. It was the most professional and serious conference in which I attended. I strongly suggest to other young researchers such as PhD students to attend in that kind of events as it is a unique opportunity to verify chosen research direction and to show work to wide audience. In my case fruitful discussions with other participants already have had positive impact on my career and current work focused on research.

Moreover, there was a technical exhibition concentrating more than 40 companies mostly working worldwide. Interesting products were presented including measuring and laboratory equipment, software etc.

At the end, I wish to thank you the ISSMGE foundation for giving me opportunity to attend in this conference and to present my work. Undoubtedly, it will have a positive influence on my future career.
Photographs from Conference:

During my oral presentation.

Keynote lecture delivered by Prof. Fumio Tatsuoka.
Exhibition area during coffee break.

View at the Puerto Madero along the Darsena Sur river.
Me in front of the La Bombonera (Estadio Alberto J. Armando) stadium.