### ISSMGE FOUNDATION
### REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Your Name:</th>
<th>Your Organization:</th>
<th>Date of report:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Miss Faith E. Osegi</td>
<td>University of Port Harcourt, Port Harcourt, Nigeria</td>
<td>November 30, 2012</td>
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<tr>
<th>Conference Title:</th>
<th>Location of Conference:</th>
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<td>The Third African Young Geotechnical Engineers’ Conference (3AyGEC’12)</td>
<td>Housing and Building Research Centre, Cairo, Egypt</td>
<td>November 12 - 14, 2012</td>
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### What you learned:

I gained a lot from the keynote lectures by eminent geotechnical professionals, the paper presentations by vibrant African young geotechnical engineers and various comments and questions during the interactive sessions. I took home a better understanding of the importance of arriving at conclusions that adds to knowledge and not a mere summary of one’s research work or what is already known. I was able to appreciate more the benefits of using geotechnical engineering software which makes analysis a lot faster and easier to handle; but recognised them for what they truly are – tools. They do not replace a good theoretical background and sound engineering judgement. I also learnt that understanding the hypothesis governing every equation is crucial to its right application. By watching others give their presentations, I got useful tips to improve on mine in terms of style of delivery, PowerPoint useful add-ons for better illustration, etc. I also got very useful comments which will aid further work on my research.

### People you met:

- Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud, President, International Society for Soil Mechanics & Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), USA
- Prof. Samuel U. Ejezie, ISSMGE Vice-President for Africa Region, Nigeria
- Mr Peter Day, Chairman Jones & Wagener (Pty) Ltd, South Africa
- Prof. Mostafa El-Ghamrawy, Honorary President of Egyptian Geotechnical Association (EGS), Egypt
- Prof. Ahmed Hossny, Vice-President of EGS, Egypt
- Prof. Fatma El-Zahraa Baligh, Chairperson Conference Organising Committee, Helwan University, Egypt
- Prof. Mamdoul Hamza, President Hamza Associates, Egypt
- Osama Ali Huussein, The Arab Contractors, Egypt
- And fellow young geotechnical engineers/participants from Algeria, Tunisia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Yemen and Egypt.

### Main features of conference:

The conference was a technically sound and enriching three-day conference. On the first two days, five outstanding keynote lectures were delivered by renowned senior professional geotechnical engineers. Young geotechnical engineers also presented their research work on a variety of geotechnical topics. The question and answer sessions were very enlightening. The conference provided a good atmosphere for gainful interactions and discussions through
coffee and lunch breaks between technical sessions and other social events. There was a technical visit on the third day to a Multi Storey Garage below El-Tahrir Square, an on-going project by The Arab Contractors. There was also opportunity to enjoy the rich Egyptian culture while cruising on River Nile and a short but pleasurable visit to the pyramids area.

**Your comments on the conference:**

The conference was well organised and successful. The organising committee were very hospitable. The volunteers, most of whom were young graduate engineers, did a very good job. I was impressed by the large number of female participants. I particularly liked the conference closing ceremony – it was done in a memorable fashion. There was ISSMGE President, Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud’s closing speeches on “Geotechnical Engineering in 3000” and “10 Rules for Success” and presentation of certificates and gifts. The social programmes provided an apt avenue for mutual exchange of ideas and making useful contacts for future collaborative research.
Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

Report on The Third African Young Geotechnical Engineers’ Conference (3AyGEC’12)
November 12 - 14, 2012 Cairo, Egypt

I was privileged to be nominated by the Nigerian Geotechnical Association (NGA) to attend the Third African Young Geotechnical Engineers’ Conference held from November 12 – 14, 2012 in Cairo, Egypt. I participated as a young geotechnical engineer and presented my research on “Correlation of undrained pile-soil adhesion and undrained soil cohesion for clay deposits in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria”.

The conference venue was the Housing and Building Research Centre, in the heart of the city of Cairo. It was well organised. There were five keynote lectures by renowned senior professional geotechnical engineers. Two centred on very interesting geotechnical engineering projects carried out in Africa by two major contractors. Young geotechnical engineers also got to present their research on a variety of geotechnical topics. The question and answer sessions were very enlightening. Outstanding paper presentations were recognised. I am glad to have won the prize for the best presentation of Paper Session V (Deep Foundation Design & Practice).

The conference provided a good atmosphere for gainful interactions and discussions through coffee and lunch breaks between technical sessions and other social events. We went on a technical visit to a Multi Storey Garage below El-Tahrir Square, an on-going project by The Arab Contractors. It was a lovely experience cruising on River Nile in the Nile Pharaoh boat during the cultural evening, where we were entertained by Egyptian folk dancers and treated to tradition oriental meals and drinks. We also visited the pyramids area and saw the sphinx. The conference was indeed very successful based on what was learnt, useful contacts made and exciting places visited.

I want to use this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the following persons/organisations whose contributions made it possible for me to participate in the conference. Prof. Samuel U. Ejezie, thank you for laying the foundation for my research and painstakingly reading through the manuscript. Engr. Enoch George, I appreciate your inputs which helped to frame my research. I am particularly grateful to Enoch George Associates Ltd for providing me with the much-needed data for the work. Prof. Fatma El-Zahraa Baligh, your patience and understanding is most appreciated. To the ISSMGE Foundation, I am truly grateful for your financial support.

Finally, to everyone who was present and who contributed to the conference I say a big thank you for making it a huge success.

Faith E. Osegi
University of Port Harcourt
Port Harcourt, Nigeria

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email
3AyGEC’12 in Pictures

Senior professional geotechnical engineers with young geotechnical engineers/participants

ISSMGE President with participants sponsored by ISSMGE Foundation

L-R: Mr. M. Ogbodo (Nig.), Me, Mr. Peter Day

Me receiving prize for best paper presentation in Paper Session V (Deep Foundation Design & Practice)

At pyramid in Giza (pyramid used as conference logo)