

**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: Abdolreza (Reza) Osouli	Your Organization: Southern Illinois University Edwardsville	Date of report: 3/18/2013
Conference Title: 2013 GeoCongress Stability and Performance of Slopes and Embankments III	Location of Conference: San Diego, CA	Dates of Conference: March 3-7
<p>What you learned:</p> <p>I benefited from many lectures and presentations by professional leaders and researchers in topics related to slope and embankment stability. I got familiar with the history and current state-of-the-art methods in analyses of slopes. The conference broaden my knowledge in the areas of liquefaction analyses of slopes and embankments, research needs in slope stability, exploration and field characterization of slope material, seepage analysis, limitations of laboratory characterization of soils and rocks, ground improvements for stabilization of slopes, slope monitoring and instrumentation. I have also noticed that pioneers such as Prof. Wright, Prof. Duncan and Prof. Hendron heavily encouraged all attendees to be aware of soil mechanics principles when they are applying sophisticated tools and products in their analyses and should always check the analyses multiple times before making any decision. I am planning to incorporate the knowledge gained from the conference in my courses that I teach.</p>		
<p>People you met:</p> <p>I have met and talked to many professional leaders from industry and academia. A few of them are listed below.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Stephen Wright (University of Texas at Austin) 2. Prof. Michael Duncan (Virginia Tech University) 3. Prof. Robert Holtz (University of Washington) 4. Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud (President of ISSMGE) 5. Prof. Skip Hendron (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign) 6. Dr. Suzanne Lacasse (NGI) 		
<p>Main features of conference:</p> <p>The conference organizing committee were very selective in accepting papers of this year. Therefore, more time was allocated to each presentation so the speakers would provide more in-depth discussion of their research findings. H. Bolton See lecture was presented by Prof. Stephen Wright on the topic of slope stability computations. Ralph B. Peck lecture was presented by Prof. Jonatahn Bray on liquefaction effects on structures. The Karl. Terzaghi award was presented by Prof. Skip Hendron on improving dam safety with lessons learned from case histories of dam failures and unacceptable dam performance. There were eight</p>		

an hour and half time slots for paper presentations. There were six tracks or technical sessions within any of the presentation time slots. Each track typically consisted of three to six papers. Students were also well- attended and involved with the conference especially with GeoChallenge Competition. Also, more than 90 companies participated in exhibit hall presenting their latest product and innovative solutions for geo-engineering problems.

Your comments on the conference:

The conference was properly organized and many well-known leaders attended the conference. The quality of the papers and presentations were very high. There were many committee meetings organized on 3rd, 4th, and 5th of March after the conference presentations from 8 pm to midnight. These committee meetings provided an excellent opportunity for those who wanted to be involved with collaborative research effort and help the organization committee of the next year. I think the conference audience was broad including students, engineers from the industry, researchers from academia. I would really like to thank ISSMGE foundation for their support.

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

2013 Geo-Congress – Stability and Performance of Slopes and Embankments III
March 3-7, San Diego, CA, USA

This conference built upon the past ASCE Geo-Congresses in 1966 and 1992 conferences focusing on the stability and performance of slopes and embankments. This conference addressed important issues and advances in the design and analyses of slopes and embankments. It had fewer concurrent technical sessions to allow participants to benefit more from lectures.

The conference started on Sunday March 3rd with offering courses which were followed by the Welcome Session and H. Bolton Seed Lecture. This lecture was provided by Prof. Stephen Wright where he reviewed four slope stability examples and he emphasized on understanding basic soil mechanics principles. On Monday March 4th, Opening Plenary was presented by Prof. Michael Duncan where he compared the current and past practice in slope stability analyses and emphasized on appropriate shear strength selection. The Ralph B. Peck award lecture was presented by Prof. Jonathan Bray which was followed by two panel and technical sessions. In the afternoon the GeoWall, GeoPrediction, and GeoPoster student competitions were held concurrently with honorary symposia for Prof. Robert Holtz and Prof. Kulhawy. On Tuesday and Wednesday two concurrent Plenary Sessions were followed by panel and technical session until evening. Terzaghi Lecture was presented by Prof. Skip Hendron on Tuesday evening where he reviewed lessons learned from case histories. The Hero and Awards Luncheon was held on Tuesday and Prof. C. Ladd was selected Hero due to his contribution in the last decades.

There were several networking breaks during the conference that conference attendees could meet and exchange ideas and continue discussions related to the technical sessions. The exhibit hall were full during the lunch times as attendees were dining and visiting the expansive array of vendor exhibits.

More than 228 papers were presented at the GeoCongress 2013 related to liquefaction analysis for slopes and embankments, soil slope modelling, unsaturated soil mechanics, slope stabilization, design, analysis and performance of soil slopes, laboratory characterization of fully softened shear strength, risk assessment, desiccation cracking and tensile strength, field characterization of soil and rock, seepage and slope stability, ground improvement, monitoring and remote sensing.

This conference provided me an excellent opportunity to meet leaders of academia and industry in the field of geoen지니어ing. I was able to talk to many potential research collaborators. I also participated in the committee meetings to be closely in touch with other researchers and contribute to the research and educational goals of Geo-Institute in the years to come.

I would like to thank ISSMGE foundation for their sponsorship.



Photo 1 – H. Bolton Seed Lecture by Prof. Stephen Wright



Photo 2 - From left to right: Prof. Robert Holtz, Prof. Abdolreza (Reza) Osouli, Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud during the Welcome Reception in the Exhibit Hall