Your Name: Miklós Pap
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Date of report: 25th September 2019

Conference Title: XVII European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering
Location of Conference: Reykjavík, Iceland
Dates of Conference: 1-6 September 2019

What you learned:
The XVII ECSMGE gave me the opportunity as a young engineer to meet renowned professors and to listen to their lectures from various fields of the geotechnical engineering. Personally, my special field of interest is the unsaturated soil mechanics and seepage in porous medium therefore I was focused on these kinds of works. At the first day of the conference we heard about the geological settings and geotechnical problems of Iceland which was very interesting. On the conference several speakers mentioned the sustainable development which is very important to civil engineers to protect the environment for the next generations.

People you met:
During the conference I have met several people. Including but not limited to:
Peter Nagy
Emőke Imre
Guillaume Bégué
Dimitrios Loukidis
Edina Koch
János Szendefy
Ivan Vanicek
Alberto Ledesma

Main features of conference:
This conference amazed me how various field the geotechnical engineering is. After the keynote lectures and presentation of invited speakers, in the afternoon during the discussion session lot of presentation were given which covered topics such as ground improvement, laboratory testing, unsaturated soils, numerical methods, in-situ testing, environmental geotechnics, offshore geotechnics, earthquake and liquefaction analyses. In addition, the coffee and lunch breaks provided possibility to discuss with colleagues and presenters.

Your comments on the conference:
The Harpa conference hall with its large lecture halls and smaller conference rooms is a perfect venue to hold a conference. The keynote and the invited plenary speakers gave us great and thoughtful presentations. The colleagues in the parallel sessions were also well-prepared, and their lectures were interesting and enjoyable. The coffee breaks provided the chance to observe the poster presentations which were also spectacular, informative and well-organized.
Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:
The XVII European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was held on
the 1-6 September in Reykjavík, Iceland in the Harpa conference hall. This conference is the most important geotechnical conference in Europe. The event started with the meetings of technical committees on Sunday, and next day was officially opened by such honoured guests as the former president of Iceland, Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson and Charles Ng, the president of ISSMGE. On the following days, in the morning keynote and invited plenary speakers gave their presentations, in the afternoon technical discussions and parallel sessions was held in the conference rooms. During the breaks the participant could also have a look at the exhibited posters. The coffee and lunch breaks between the sessions provided an excellent opportunity to discuss the presentations and exchange ideas with colleagues.
The official closing ceremony took place on Thursday afternoon, but on the last day the various technical visits such as tour to one of the largest ice tunnels in Europe and a geothermal power plant were closing the conference.
During the conference I could widen my horizon in various fields of geotechnical engineering as a PhD student. I would like to thank the support of ISSMGE foundation, which allowed me to attend the most prestigious geotechnical conference in Europe and not least to visit this enchanting country. I am also thankful to the Hungarian Geotechnical Society, which is the Hungarian Member Society of ISSMGE.

Reported by
Miklós Pap
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Photographs from Conference:

Delegates from Hungary on the XVII ECMGEO
During my presentation

First day of the conference
(Sigurður Erlingsson: “Geotechnical challenges in Iceland”)