Your Name: Ammavajjala Sesha Sai Raghuram
Your Organization: Indian Institute of Technology Hyderabad, Kandi
Date of report: 3/8/2020

Conference Title: Geo-Congress 2020
Vision, Insight, Outlook
Location of Conference: Minneapolis, USA
Dates of Conference: February 25th-28th, 2020

What you learned:
The conference turned out to be a good fortune for me to learn about the experimental work that is being carried out on the similar lines of my analytical work (Reliability based design charts for spatially variable MSW landfill slopes). I learned about the other interesting areas of research in geotechnical engineering such as, reinforced structures, ground improvement techniques, waste material management, unsaturated slope stability. I got insights of the experimental setups built across the laboratories in different universities to simulate more realistic field problems.

People you met:
Prof. Farshid Vahedifard, Mississippi State University, USA.
Prof. Cloudia Zapata, Arizona State University, USA.
Prof. Anand Puppala, University of Texas, Arlington.
Prof. Muawia Dafalla, King Saud University, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.
Dr. Murray Fredlund, Strategic advisor, Geotechnical Bentley, Canada.
Prof. Hari Prasad Reddy, NIT Warangal, India.
Prof. Arif Ali Baig Mughal, NIT Warangal, India.
Prof. Bhaskar Chittoori, Boise State University, USA.

Main features of conference:
The GeoCongress is a yearly conference attended by many geotechnical engineers from across the world. The primary focus of the conference was on to acknowledge the accomplishments of geotechnical engineering. There were about 26 different themes on which peer reviewed papers and posters were presented by speakers. The conference also had short courses on different topics of geotechnical engineering like pavement design, stability of slopes, ground modification techniques which were insightful for the students.

Your comments on the conference:
The overall conference was a special experience for me being a student. Got lot of insights into different research areas happening across the globe. The conference was well organised with perfect themes and good presentations. The place of conference really lives up to the mark for a foreigner to feel the essence of the conference in addition.

Altogether, the conference turned out to be one of the best conferences that I have attended so far.
Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

This year the annual Geo-Congress 2020 was held in Minneapolis, USA. The conference started with inauguration by the conference chair Dasenbrock, D. D. On the same day, Dr. Bruce Kutter has presented the H. Bolton Seed medal lecture on Open issues about soil liquefaction from a perspective including physical model tests. Huge number of participants including professional engineers as well as academicians involved in the field of geotechnical engineering from all over the world has attended the conference. Prof. R. Kerry Rowe has given Mercer lecture on geosynthetics. Similarly, Karl Terzaghi award lecture and Ralph B. Peck award lecture was given by Ed Cording and Prof. Anand J. Puppala, respectively. Various cutting-edge emerging ideas were discussed in the conference ranging from ground modification methods and their recent developments in expansive and soft soils to challenges in the unsaturated soils. In addition to this, many student activities like GeoWall, GeoPrediction, GeoPoster, GeoShirt, GeoVideo were taken place which gave lot of insights to the student fraternity. The Geocongress 2020 conference has also witnessed stalls of 98 exhibitors from various commercial companies like Bentley, Meter Group, Geo Slope, Geokon etc. The company exhibition stalls provided the details of the works that they are undertaking across the globe which enhances the students’ perception towards geotechnical engineering.

Altogether, Geocongress 2020 has happened to be a wonderful experience in terms of technical and also personally. Finally, I would like to express many thanks and appreciations to the ISSMGE foundation for helping me to attend this prestigious conference.

Photographs from Conference:

Discussion with Prof. Farshid Vahedifard during break
Dr. Sarath Chandra congress, Prof. Hari Prasad reddy, Prof. Anand Puppala, Prof. Arif Ali Baig Moghal, and myself (from left to right).

Photograph during my presentation

A group photo at the end of the conference.