ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Rubén Domínguez Alfaro	***Your Organization:*** National Autonomous University of Mexico	***Date of report:*** 3th August 2026
Conference Title: 8th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8IYGEC); 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (21ICSMGE)	***Location of Conference:*** Graz and Vienna, Austria	***Dates of Conference:*** 11th to 14th June and 14th to 19th June, 2026

What you learned:

Attending and presenting at the 8IYGEC and 21ICSMGE congresses allowed me to broaden my vision of geotechnics. I learned about geotechnical challenges in different parts of the world and the research and practical advances in solving them. In the conferences focused on numerical modelling I learned some considerations about boundary conditions for analysis considering the earthquake, which is of interest to me for the research I am currently doing.

One of the lectures I enjoyed most was the one given by Professor Kenichi Soga, at the 8IYGEC, about technological advancements in INSAR for monitoring geotechnical projects, since this technology is only now being implemented in my country, Mexico. I personally found this conference very interesting, as in my upcoming doctoral research I plan to implement building monitoring to validate analyses using numerical models.

I had the opportunity to visit the Terzaghi Archive. Attending the site where geotechnics began, seeing the original laboratory equipment and other important items was the most inspirational activity of both congresses. I had the opportunity to visit the Terzaghi Archive. Visiting the site where geotechnical engineering began, seeing the original laboratory equipment and other important items, was the activity I enjoyed most at both conferences. I returned to Mexico even more motivated and proud to be part of the geotechnical field.

People you met:

At the 8th IYGEC, I met young colleagues with whom I shared experiences, perspectives, and enthusiasm for geotechnical engineering. At both conferences, I met other prominent geotechnical engineers from whom I primarily learned their advice.

Saad Faizi

- Rara Noviarti
- Lee Long Guang
- Paulus Kevin
- Diego Alejandro Peña
- Max Barbosa
- Xiaotong Perlley
- Williams Perlley
- Lidija Zdravkovic

- Marc Ballouz
- Steven Kramer
- Guillermo Narsilio

Main features of conference:

The 8IYGEC was attended by 120 young speakers representing technical societies from 59 countries. The conferences were divided into different blocks such as field exploration, laboratory tests, numerical modelling, seismic engineering, foundations. This congress had the special characteristic that it was held at the same university where Terzaghi studied, the Technology University of Graz. This congress was held over 4 days, complementing the young people's conferences with 4 key lectures, given by important professionals, and a visit to the Terzaghi archive.

The 21ICSMGE had a diverse attendance of researchers, practicing engineers, professors, students and companies. This congress, held in Vienna with the phrase "where it all began", was characterized by celebrating the first 100 years of geotechnical engineering. This congress was decorated with several photographs of Terzaghi's life and the development of geotechnics in its early years, which also made this event feel unique. During the opening of the event, Helmut Schweiger mentioned that more than 1600 papers were received, which were divided between oral presentations, short presentations with printed poster and electronic poster.

Your comments on the conference:

Both conferences stood out for their good organization, starting with the abstract submission process. The time allotted for submitting abstracts and papers, as well as the response time, seemed sufficient to me.

The Graz University of Technology for the 8IYGEC and the Austria Center Vienna for the 21ICSMGE were easily accessible by local transport.

The computer equipment, screens, and microphones that were available during my conferences were excellent, and I had no problems. I also didn't encounter any such problems at any of the conferences I attended.

I thought it was excellent that the proceedings of the 21ICSMGE were fully available online before the congress ended. However, I see that the proceedings of the 8IYGEC have not yet been published; I hope they will be available soon.

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

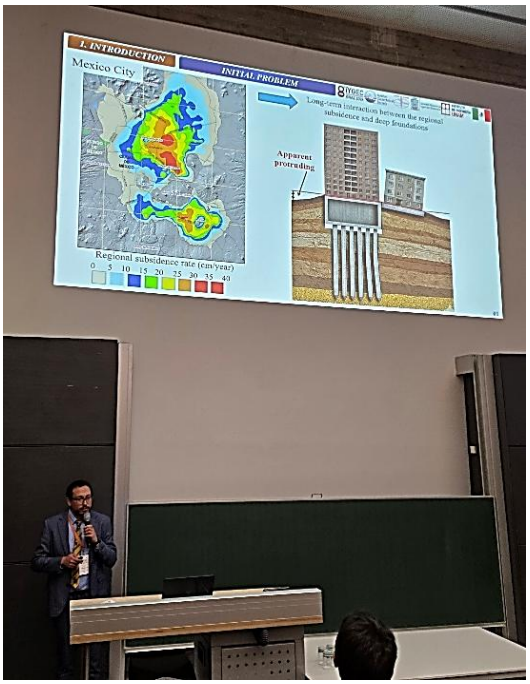
The 8th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference was celebrated at the Technology University of Graz, Austria, from 11th to 14th June, 2026. The 59 member societies of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) nominated candidates to participate in the conference. The oral presentations of the 118 nominees were grouped into nine technical themes, organized into 15 sessions. Keynote addresses were also given by Sergei Terzaghi, Lidija Zdravković, Kenichi Soga, and Robert Thurner, who covered topics related to the history, numerical modeling, monitoring, and risks in geotechnical engineering. This congress also included a visit by attendees to the Terzaghi Archive, located at Vienne University of Technology, Austria, where original equipment used by Karl Terzaghi is kept, as well as historical documents related to his scientific career.

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering took place at the Austria Center Vienna, Austria, from 14th to 19th June, 2026. The congress brought together researchers, academics, and professionals from around the world to exchange scientific advances, technological innovations, and practical experiences related to soil mechanics, foundations, infrastructure, geotechnical risks, and sustainability. In addition to commemorating the centenary of the contributions of Karl Terzaghi, considered the father of modern soil mechanics, the event highlighted the importance promoting international collaboration to address current and future civil engineering challenges. More than 1500 papers were received for conferences, which were divided into sections corresponding to the different Technical Committees of the ISSMGE.

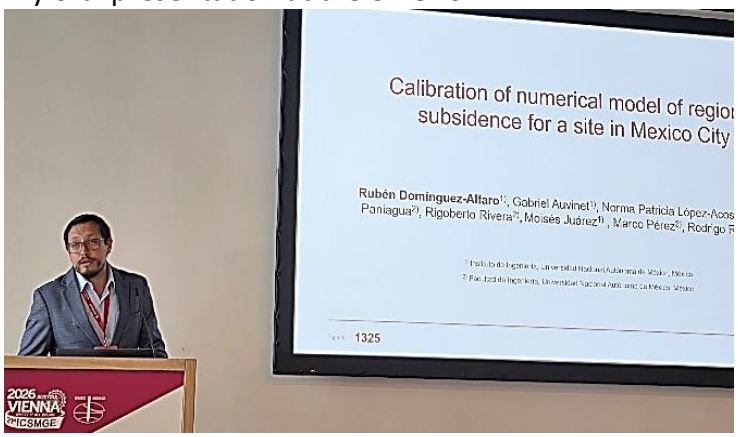
I participated in both congresses to present a special type of foundation, called control piles, that has been used in Mexico to correct the inadequate behavior of deep foundations that interact with Mexico City's regional subsidence, which reaches values of up to 40 cm/year. For 78 years, control piles have been used in over 600 buildings, correcting problems of apparent protruding of deep foundations. However, due to the unconventional behavior of this special type of foundation, its design has been guided primarily by empirical criteria, supplemented by the observational method. My research is the first numerical analysis carried out in this type of foundation, which has improved the state of knowledge of control piles. I was nominated by the Mexican Geotechnical Engineering Society to represent Mexico at the 8IYGEC due to the relevance of my research. I had the opportunity to speak with different colleagues about this special type of foundation, which was of great interest to them.

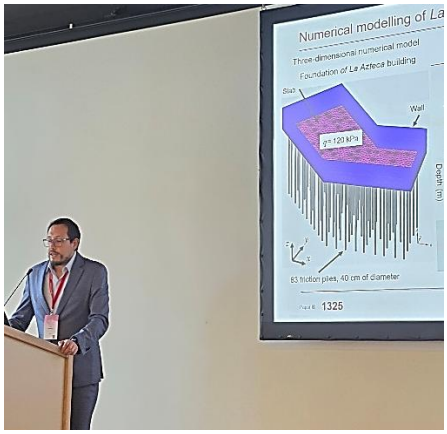
Photographs from Conference:





My oral presentation at the 8IYGEC





My oral presentation at the 21ICSMGE





My electronic poster presentation at the 21ICSMGE





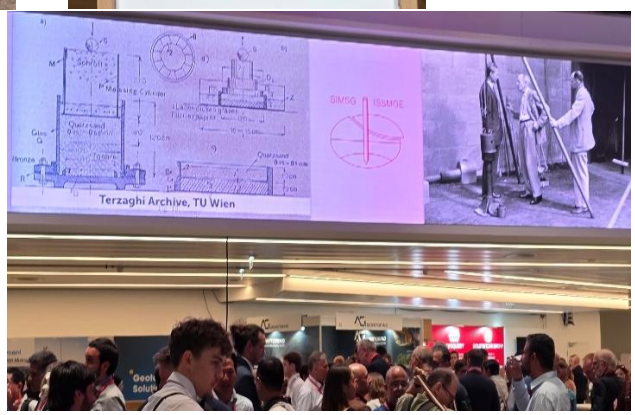


Some pictures from my attendance at the 8IYGEC. I was in the first group for visiting the Terzaghi Archive.









Some pictures from my attendance at the 21ICSMGE.