ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Koushik Das	***Your Organization:*** Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	***Date of report:*** June 25th, 2026
Conference Title: 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026) (Entitled: Geotechnical Challenges in a Changing Environment)	***Location of Conference:*** Vienna, Austria	***Dates of Conference:*** 14-19 June 2026

What you learned:

As a Ph.D. research scholar, my research focuses on ground-borne vibration isolation using wave barrier systems, with particular emphasis on evaluating sustainable infill materials through laboratory characterization, full-scale field investigations, and numerical simulations. Attending this conference was an invaluable opportunity to broaden my technical knowledge and gain exposure. The conference provided valuable insights into sustainable geotechnical solutions, innovative vibration mitigation techniques, and advanced numerical modelling approaches. The keynote lectures and technical sessions introduced recent research approaches, latest development in geotechnical engineering.

One of the highlights of the conference was presenting my paper, "**Field Investigation on Performance of Trench Barriers under Impact Loading**," on 16 June 2026. The presentation discussed full-scale field investigations conducted to evaluate the effectiveness of trench barriers in mitigating ground-borne vibrations generated by impact loading, including the experimental methodology, field instrumentation, measured vibration responses, and comparative performance of different barrier configurations.

Presenting my research before an international audience provided an excellent opportunity to share my findings and receive constructive feedback from experts in geotechnical engineering. The discussions following the presentation to poster session, broadened my understanding of the subject, offered valuable suggestions for improving my research, and identified potential directions for future investigations. The experience also significantly enhanced my confidence in communicating scientific research on an international platform.

The conference was particularly beneficial for me as an early-career researcher. It provided opportunities to interact with internationally renowned experts, exchange ideas with researchers from academia and industry, and establish valuable professional connections that may lead to future collaborations.

Beyond the technical and professional benefits, attending the conference allowed me to experience the rich culture and heritage of Austria. Exploring the local traditions and surroundings made the visit both academically rewarding and personally memorable.

People you met:

Dr. Steven L. Kramer, University of Washington
Dr. Anand J. Puppala, Texas A&M University
Dr. Krishna R Reddy, University of Illinois, USA
Dr. Deepankar Choudhury, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Dr. Ashish Juneja, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
Dr. N. K. Samadhiya, Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee
Dr. G. Madhavi Latha, Indian Institute of Science Bangalore
Dr. Neelima Satyam, Indian Institute of Technology Indore
Dr. Haris Felić, Graz University of Technology
Dr. Arpit Jain, Indian Institute of Technology Patna
Sergei Terzaghi, A O'Sullivan & Associates LTD

……. and many others.

Main features of conference:

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026), held in Vienna, Austria, from 14-19 June 2026, is one of the world's premier conferences in geotechnical engineering, organized every four years under the auspices of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). The conference brought together researchers, practicing engineers, consultants, industry professionals, and students from across the globe to exchange knowledge and discuss recent advances in geotechnical engineering.

The technical programme included keynote lectures by internationally recognized experts, parallel technical sessions, invited lectures, workshops, panel discussions, and exhibitions showcasing emerging technologies and engineering solutions. The conference covered a broad range of topics, including soil dynamics, earthquake geotechnical engineering, foundation engineering, transportation geotechnics, ground improvement, underground construction, geoenvironmental engineering, computational geomechanics, offshore geotechnics, and sustainable geotechnical materials. In addition to the technical programme, the conference provided numerous networking opportunities, enabling participants to interact with experts, establish professional collaborations, and exchange ideas on current research challenges and future developments in geotechnical engineering.

Your comments on the conference:

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the conference organizers for successfully hosting such a well-organized and technically enriching event. The conference maintained an excellent standard of technical quality, and the overall planning, session management, and logistics were highly commendable.

One of the most memorable highlights for me was the **Terzaghi Archive**, which provided a unique opportunity to see historical documents and collections related to the pioneers of geotechnical engineering. As a young researcher, this was an inspiring experience and a privilege that I will always cherish. The conference featured a comprehensive range of technical topics covering diverse areas of geotechnical engineering, the opportunities to interact with internationally renowned researchers, leading experts, and delegates from around the world.

Overall, the conference was an exceptional learning experience and provided an ideal platform for scientific exchange, professional networking, and personal growth.

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

Participation in the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026)

With the generous support of the ISSMGE Foundation, I had the privilege of attending the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026), held in Vienna, Austria, from 14-19 June 2026. The conference brought together researchers, practitioners, and industry professionals from around the world to share recent advances and discuss emerging challenges in geotechnical engineering.

As a Ph.D. research scholar at the Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, my research focuses on ground-borne vibration isolation using wave barrier systems, with particular emphasis on evaluating sustainable infill materials through laboratory characterization, full-scale field investigations, and numerical simulations. Attending ICSMGE 2026 provided valuable exposure to recent developments in sustainable geotechnical engineering, innovative vibration mitigation techniques, and advanced numerical modelling approaches. The technical sessions and keynote lectures broadened my perspective and offered new ideas that will directly benefit my ongoing doctoral research.

A major highlight of the conference was presenting my paper, "**Field Investigation on Performance of Trench Barriers under Impact Loading**," on 16 June 2026. The presentation described full-scale field investigations on the effectiveness of trench barriers in mitigating ground-borne vibrations generated by impact loading, covering the experimental methodology, field instrumentation, vibration measurements, and comparative performance of different barrier configurations. Presenting my work before an international audience provided an excellent opportunity to receive constructive feedback from leading experts, which will help strengthen my future research and publications.

The conference also offered outstanding networking opportunities. I interacted with internationally renowned researchers, senior academics, and fellow young engineers from different countries, exchanging ideas and establishing professional connections for potential future collaborations. One particularly memorable experience was the **Terzaghi Archive**, which provided the opportunity to view historical developed apparatus, documents, thesis, papers, notebooks, and collections related to the Father of Geotechnical Engineering, an inspiring experience for any young geotechnical researcher.

Beyond the technical programme, experiencing the culture and heritage of Austria made the visit even more enriching. I sincerely thank the ISSMGE Foundation for its generous travel

grant, which made my participation possible. The conference was an invaluable experience that enhanced my technical knowledge, expanded my professional network, and further motivated me to contribute to sustainable geotechnical engineering research.

Photographs from Conference:



Figure 1. Oral presentation of my paper in the conference.

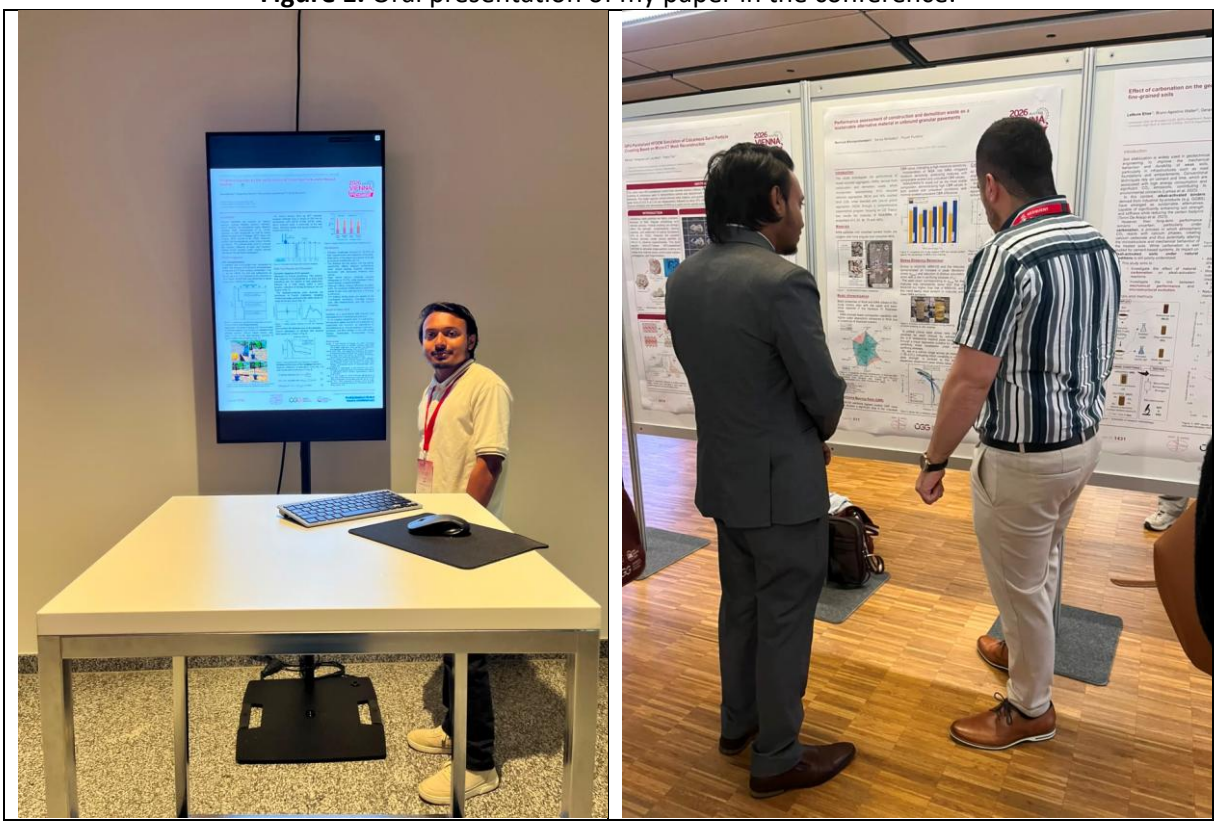


Figure 2. Poster presentation and discussion session after the oral presentation.



Figure 3. Conference group photograph with the delegates from India.