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ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Daniela Fernandez Carrillo	***Your Organization:*** Defensa	***Date of report:*** 9/07/2026
Conference Title: 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE)	***Location of Conference:*** ***Vienna Austria***	***Dates of Conference:*** ***14-19 june, 2026***

What you learned:

The conference provided a profound update on the latest advancements in geotechnical engineering. I gained significant insight into probabilistic methods for geotechnical design, particularly from the session on Bayesian Inference of Grouted Anchors by Moritz J.P. Effenberger, which highlighted how Bayesian frameworks can enhance reliability analysis and more accurately estimate pull-out capacity. I also learned about cutting-edge approaches to seismic vulnerability, specifically the integration of soil-structure interaction (SSI) for heritage and existing buildings. This included the use of finite element modeling with p-y, t-z, and q-z springs, and the application of OpenSees-STKO for nonlinear static analysis and fragility assessment. The plenary session by Catherine O'Sullivan on the Discrete Element Method (DEM) was particularly enlightening, emphasizing how DEM simulations improve our understanding of element tests, inform continuum models, and are crucial for large-deformation problems. Finally, the Honor Lecture by Lyesse Laloui on surface energy solutions showcased not only the functionality of thermo-active systems but also the innovation of more accessible geothermal panels, marking a clear path toward more sustainable geotechnical practices.

People you met:

I had the privilege of connecting with numerous leading researchers and practitioners. I met with my co-author, Dr. Norma Patricia Lopez Acosta, and we discussed our collaborative work. I also networked with Walter Paniagua, Rara Noviarti, Rubén Domínguez, who presented calibration of numerical model of regional subsidence for a site in Mexico city. Also Jose Luis Rangel who presented the estimation of shear wave velocity,Vs, from seismic piezocone penetration test .Additionally, I met several early career researchers and industry professionals from various countries, fostering connections that I hope will lead to future collaborations.

Main features of conference:

The 21st ICSMGE was a landmark event, featuring a rich program of plenary sessions, honor lectures, panel discussions, and parallel technical sessions. Key themes included energy geotechnics, probabilistic and reliability-based design, numerical modeling, and sustainability in geotechnical engineering. The conference also offered excellent opportunities for professional development through workshops and networking events. The exhibition hall showcased the latest technologies and innovations, creating a dynamic environment for knowledge exchange.

Your comments on the conference:

Attending the 21st ICSMGE was an inspiring and invaluable experience. It was an opportunity to present my own research and to be at the epicenter of the field's most significant advancements. The high quality of the presentations, the depth of the discussions, and the chance to connect with brilliant minds from around the globe have not only expanded my knowledge but have also set a clear direction for my future research. The conference truly highlighted the innovative spirit of our profession and its crucial role in building a more sustainable and resilient future.

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

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in Vienna was a pivotal gathering for the global geotechnical community. The conference showcased the profession's trajectory, emphasizing sustainability, digitalization, and resilience. A key highlight was the focus on probabilistic and reliability-based methods, such as the application of Bayesian inference for grouted anchors, which is set to refine our approach to uncertainty in design.

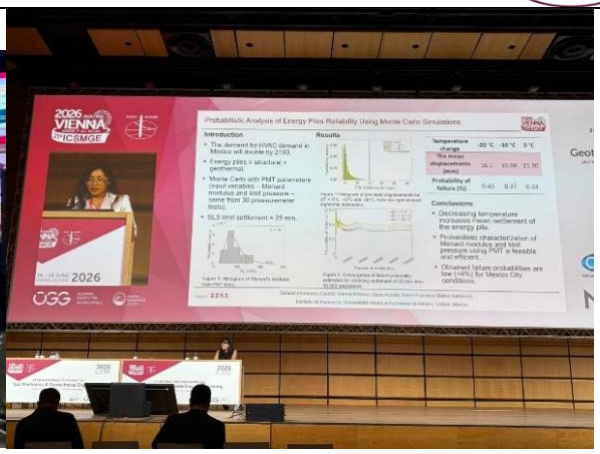
Significant attention was given to the intersection of geotechnics and energy. Professor Lyesse Laloui's Honor Lecture on surface energy solutions was particularly inspiring, presenting both thermo-active structures and innovative, more accessible geothermal panels. Parallel sessions on seismic resilience, especially concerning heritage structures, highlighted advanced numerical strategies like OpenSees-STKO for fragility assessment, demonstrating the power of modern computational tools.

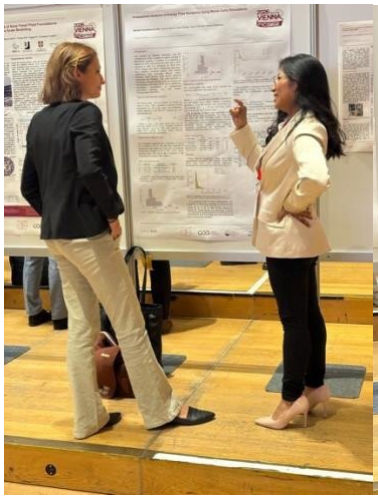
The conference was also a stage for fundamental advancements in soil mechanics. The plenary session by Professor Catherine O'Sullivan on the Discrete Element Method (DEM) underscored its growing role in bridging the gap between microscopic understanding and macroscopic behavior, with clear applications in large deformation problems. For my part, I was honored to present my work on the "Probabilistic Analysis of Energy Piles Reliability Using Monte Carlo Simulations," co-authored with Dr. Norma Patricia Lopez Acosta and M.I. David Francisco Barba Galdamez. The engagement and feedback from the audience were incredibly constructive, validating the importance of our research and opening new avenues for inquiry.

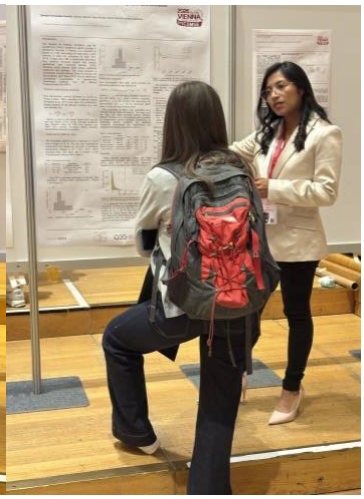
Beyond the technical sessions, the ICSMGE provided an unparalleled networking environment. Reconnecting with colleagues and meeting new experts, including Professor Indraratna and Professor O'Sullivan, has laid the groundwork for future collaborations. This conference served as a powerful reminder that our field is driven by collective intelligence and a shared commitment to innovation. It was a truly unique opportunity to be at the heart of geotechnical progress and to contribute to its future.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email

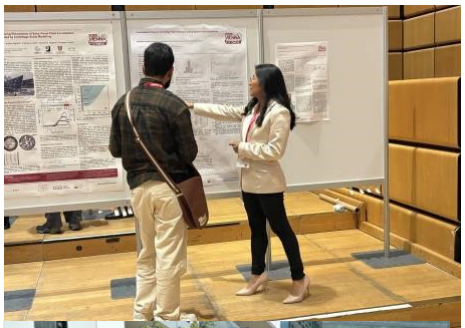

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Introduction
Results
Conclusions
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