ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: JAIME ANGELO VICTOR	***Your Organization:*** TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY	***Date of report:*** JULY 7, 2026
Conference Title: 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026)	***Location of Conference:*** Vienna Austria	***Dates of Conference:*** ***June 14-19, 2026***

What you learned:

I gained a broad understanding of the latest advances in geotechnical engineering, with particular interest in emerging themes related to scour research and practice, soil-structure interaction, deep foundations, ground improvement, offshore and coastal geotechnics, sustainability, numerical modeling, and field instrumentation. The conference highlighted how the profession is evolving to address climate resilience, infrastructure durability, and the need for more reliable predictive methods. I also appreciated the opportunity to see how fundamental geotechnical concepts continue to be applied to practical problems across different regions and project conditions.

People you met:

I had the privilege of meeting several distinguished leaders in the geotechnical community, including former ISSMGE Presidents, Dr. Marc Ballouz (USA), Roger Frank (France), and Professor Pedro S. Sêco e Pinto (Portugal). I also met colleagues from the Norwegian Geotechnical Institute (NGI) and from the Philippine Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (PSSMGE). These interactions were especially meaningful because they strengthened professional connections across organizations and countries and provided an opportunity to exchange ideas about geotechnical practice, research, and future collaboration.

Main features of conference:

The main features of the conference included the Terzaghi Oration, parallel technical sessions, poster sessions, and the turnover of leadership of ISSMGE. The conference brought together a large and diverse international audience, and the technical program covered many relevant and timely topics. The breadth of sessions made it possible to engage with both classical and emerging areas of geotechnical engineering. The leadership transition was also a memorable part of the event, reflecting the continuity and strength of

the ISSMGE community.

Your comments on the conference:

The conference was very well organized, very well attended, and held at an excellent venue. The technical quality was high, and the program was diverse, covering very important topics for the future of geotechnical engineering. The atmosphere was collegial and intellectually stimulating, with many opportunities for learning and networking. As a PhD student at Texas A&M University, I found the conference especially valuable because it reinforced the importance of documenting key technical themes, references, and emerging trends related to geotechnical engineering research and practice.

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

I attended ICSMGE 2026 in Vienna as a PhD student in geotechnical engineering at Texas A&M University under the supervision of Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud. The conference was exceptionally well organized and well attended, with a diverse international community and a technically broad program. I especially appreciated the Terzaghi Oration, the wide range of parallel and poster sessions, and the turnover of leadership within ISSMGE, all of which reflected the strength and continuity of the geotechnical profession. The conference covered many important topics, including scour research and practice, foundation engineering, ground improvement, soil-structure interaction, sustainability, and the role of geotechnics in resilient infrastructure. A major benefit of attending was the opportunity to meet several distinguished leaders in the field, including former ISSMGE Presidents Dr. Marc Ballouz, Prof. Roger Frank, and Prof. Pedro S. Sêco e Pinto, as well as colleagues from NGI and the Philippine Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. These interactions broadened my perspective and reinforced the value of international collaboration in research and practice. I plan to share the key technical themes, references, and emerging trends from the conference with fellow graduate students at Texas A&M University and with colleagues in the PSSMGE community. Another highlight for me was attending the Tribute Session in memoriam Michele Jamiolkowski, which was truly an honor.

Photographs from Conference:




ABACCO'S


14 - 19 JUNE
VIENNA, AUSTRIA
2026
VISIT BOOTH 39
NGI Terzaghi Library
DORA
Terra Sonic International
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