ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Meghna V S	***Your Organization:*** Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad	***Date of report:*** 08/09/2026
Conference Title: International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Soft Soil Engineering (ICAISSE 2026)	***Location of Conference:*** TU Delft, The Netherlands	***Dates of Conference:*** 23/08/2026 to 26/08/2026

What you learned:

Attending ICAISSE 2026 was a highly enriching experience for me as a research scholar working in the area of soft clays. The conference provided an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest studies in soft soil engineering conducted by researchers from around the world. Presenting my work to experienced academicians and industry professionals enabled me to receive valuable feedback and perspectives on my research. I also had the opportunity to interact with fellow scholars from various universities and learn about their research approaches, which helped me gain broader perspectives on the field. The suggestions and ideas received during these interactions will be valuable in further developing my research. In addition, the visit to Delft and the TU Delft campus was a memorable journey that offered excellent insight into the academic and research environment at one of the premier institutions in geotechnical engineering.

People you met:

The conference was an excellent platform for connecting and engaging with researchers and industry leaders in the field of soft soil engineering. I had the opportunity to interact with the following people:

1. Dr. Mirva Koskinen, Helsinki Urban Environment Division, Finland
2. Prof. Minna Karstunen, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
3. Prof. Nandyala Darga Kumar, JNTU Kakkinada, India
4. Dr. Deepesh Bansal, Shandong University, China
5. Dr. Deepak Patwa, Shandong University, China
6. Vijayshree Sadasivan, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
7. Farzana Iqbal, Macquarie University, Australia
8. Muhammad Naqeeb Nawaz, The University of Melbourne, Australia

Main features of conference:

This three-day conference brought together researchers and industry professionals from around the world to discuss the latest advancements in soft soil engineering. The distinguished and featured lectures were carefully curated to cover broader and emerging aspects of soft soil engineering. The parallel technical sessions were organised into distinct themes, including soil behaviour, performance, ground improvement, testing, modelling, railway engineering, and unsaturated soil behaviour, with each theme covering a wide range of recent research developments. The presentations were delivered by young researchers, industry experts, and established academicians with extensive experience in the field, providing a diverse range of perspectives. The discussions and interactions following each presentation were highly engaging and enriching, offering new perspectives and approaches to various research topics. Another notable feature of the conference was the tour of the Geotechnical Laboratory at TU Delft, which offered an opportunity to observe the institute's advanced experimental facilities.

Your comments on the conference:

The International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Soft Soil Engineering (ICAISSE 2026) was a well-organised and highly valuable conference that brought together researchers and professionals in soft soil engineering. As a researcher working on soft clays, the conference provided an excellent platform to share my research with a diverse group of experts and receive valuable feedback and insights. The distinguished and featured lectures were particularly informative, with contributions by experts from both academia and industry. The conference schedule was thoughtfully planned, with sufficient time for discussion and interaction after each lecture and presentation, along with well-timed breaks that ensured the sessions were conducted smoothly without rushing. The conference also provided valuable opportunities to network with researchers from around the world, including faculty members, industry professionals, and fellow research students, which helped me gain new perspectives on current developments in soft soil engineering and establish professional connections. Overall, attending ICAISSE 2026 was a highly enriching experience that contributed significantly to my academic and professional development. I sincerely thank the ICAISSE 2026 organising committee for conducting such a well-planned conference and I am deeply grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for supporting me with the travel grant, which made this invaluable academic opportunity possible.

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

The International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Soft Soil Engineering (ICAISSE 2026), held at TU Delft, the Netherlands, was organised by Technical Committee TC214 and the Royal Netherlands Institute of Engineers (KIVI). The conference brought together researchers, academicians, and industry experts from around the world working in the field of soft soils.

The conference commenced with a distinguished lecture by Dr. Mirva Koskinen, Helsinki Urban Environment Division, Finland, titled "Halving the emissions in Malminkenttä via test structures and low-carbon geotechnical solutions." The talk highlighted the CO_2 emissions associated with different ground improvement techniques, including deep mixing using supplementary cementitious materials, timber piles, and prefabricated vertical drains (PVDs), and underscored the importance of developing low-carbon solutions in geotechnical engineering.

The programme also included keynote and featured lectures by experts from academia and industry, covering broad and emerging aspects of soft soil engineering. The technical sessions were organised around themes including soil behaviour, performance, ground improvement, testing, modelling, railway engineering, and unsaturated soil behaviour.

The presentations covered a wide range of recent research, including advances in experimental techniques, testing methods, numerical modelling, and innovative ground improvement approaches, providing valuable insights into both fundamental understanding and practical applications in soft soil engineering. A guided tour of the geotechnical laboratory at TU Delft was also organised, offering an opportunity to observe advanced experimental facilities and learn about ongoing research projects.

The conference schedule was thoughtfully planned, with sufficient time for technical discussions and interactions during refreshment breaks. These interactions provided valuable opportunities to exchange ideas with researchers from different countries and diverse institutions. Overall, ICAISSE 2026 was a deeply rewarding academic and professional experience that help broaden the understanding of current developments in soft soil engineering and provided valuable opportunities for international networking and knowledge exchange.

Photographs from Conference:



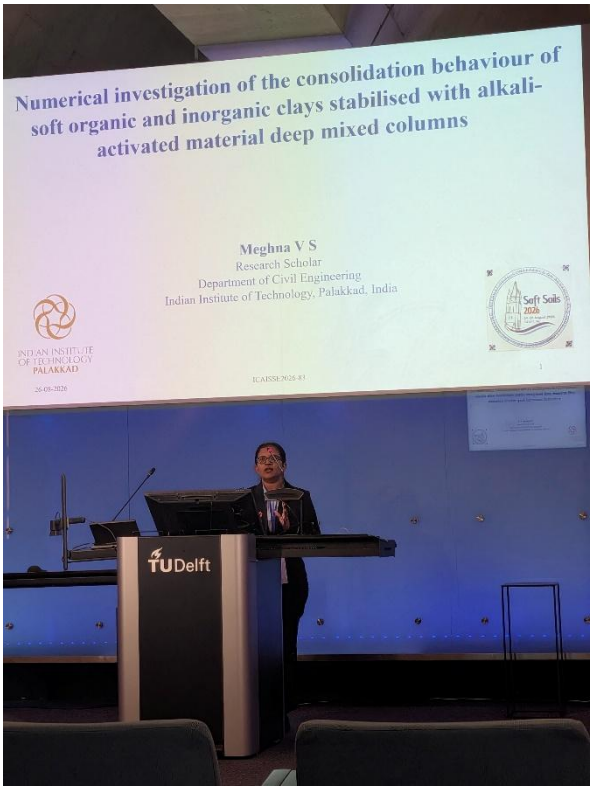
From the opening ceremony



Distinguished lecture by Dr. Mirva Koskinen, Helsinki Urban Environment Division, Finland



Featured lecture by Fintan Buggy, Associate Geotechnical Engineer at Roughan & O'Donovan, Dublin, Ireland



During my oral presentation





Myself at the venue



With Vijayshree Sadasivan, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden



With Farzana Iqbal (Macquarie University, Australia) and Muhammad Naqeeb Nawaz (The University of Melbourne, Australia)



With Farzana Iqbal (Macquarie University, Australia), Dr. Deepesh Bansal (Shandong University, China) and Dr. Deepak Patwa (Shandong University, China)