ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name:	***Your Organization:***	***Date of report:***
MENNATALLA ELSEMARY	Civil Engineering Department, Faculty of Engineering, Tanta University, Egypt	2026/06/28
Conference Title:	***Location of Conference:***	***Dates of Conference:***
The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (21st ICSMGE)	Vienna, Austria	14-19 June 2026

What you learned:

During the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in Vienna, I expanded my technical knowledge through plenary lectures and technical sessions focused on ground improvement and slope stability. These topics are strongly connected to my academic and professional interests, particularly soft clay improvement, consolidation monitoring, settlement control, and stability assessment.

The sessions helped me understand how international researchers and practitioners use field monitoring, CPTu interpretation, case histories, and design verification to support safer geotechnical decisions. I was especially interested in how different ground improvement methods are selected according to soil conditions, construction limitations, and project performance requirements.

I also participated in the conference through a short presentation and a poster entitled "Improvement of soft clay by preloading and vertical drains in Northern Egypt." This gave me the opportunity to present an Egyptian case study to an international audience, discuss the results of preloading and prefabricated vertical drains, and receive useful comments from experts and professionals working on similar geotechnical challenges.

People you met:

During the conference, I met and interacted with professors, researchers, engineers, and young professionals from different countries. I benefited from the lectures, presentations, and discussions of leading geotechnical experts, including Prof. Helmut F. Schweiger, Marc Ballouz, Prof. Jie Han, and other speakers in the plenary and technical sessions.

I also exchanged ideas with several conference participants, including Hanieh Babaeizad from Iran, Fairuz from Egypt, Abdullah, and other colleagues and professionals working in related areas. These interactions helped me build new professional connections and discuss topics related to ground improvement, slope stability, field monitoring, and infrastructure projects.

Main features of conference:

The 21st ICSMGE was attended in person and included plenary lectures, parallel technical sessions, short presentations, poster sessions, and professional networking activities. I attended plenary sessions as well as technical presentations related to ground improvement and slope stability, where researchers, consultants, academics, and practitioners discussed current geotechnical challenges and practical solutions.

A key feature of the conference for me was presenting my work through both a short presentation and a poster. My contribution, "Improvement of soft clay by preloading and vertical drains in Northern Egypt," presented monitoring results from settlement plates and CPTu tests before and after improvement. The exhibition area was also useful because it introduced practical ground engineering technologies and created opportunities to connect with industry professionals.

Your comments on the conference:

The conference was very well organized, with a clear technical program, professional venue, and well-structured sessions at the Austria Center Vienna. The plenary and technical sessions were informative and directly relevant to current challenges in geotechnical engineering.

I particularly appreciated the opportunity to present my own work, attend sessions closely related to my research interests, and receive feedback from an international audience. I am sincerely grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for supporting my attendance at the 21st ICSMGE. This support enabled me to take part in an important international event, strengthen my technical knowledge, and develop professional connections that will contribute positively to my future career as a geotechnical engineer.

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

Attending the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in Vienna was an important step in my academic and professional development. It gave me the opportunity to learn from international experts, follow recent geotechnical research, and see how different countries approach similar engineering challenges.

My main interest during the conference was in the sessions related to ground improvement and slope stability. These topics are closely connected to my research and practical interests, especially soft clay improvement, consolidation monitoring, settlement control, and the stability of geotechnical structures. The discussions helped me understand how field monitoring, interpretation of CPTu results, and case history comparisons can support better engineering decisions.

I was also pleased to participate in the conference through a short presentation and poster entitled "Improvement of soft clay by preloading and vertical drains in Northern Egypt." Presenting this work allowed me to explain our case study to an international audience and receive useful comments from researchers and practitioners. It also helped me compare the Egyptian case with other international experiences in soft soil improvement.

The conference was also valuable for networking. I met professors, researchers, engineers, and young professionals from different countries, and these interactions helped me exchange ideas and build professional connections for future collaboration.

I am sincerely grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for supporting my attendance. This award enabled me to participate in a major international event, strengthen my technical knowledge, and gain experience that will positively contribute to my future career as a geotechnical engineer.

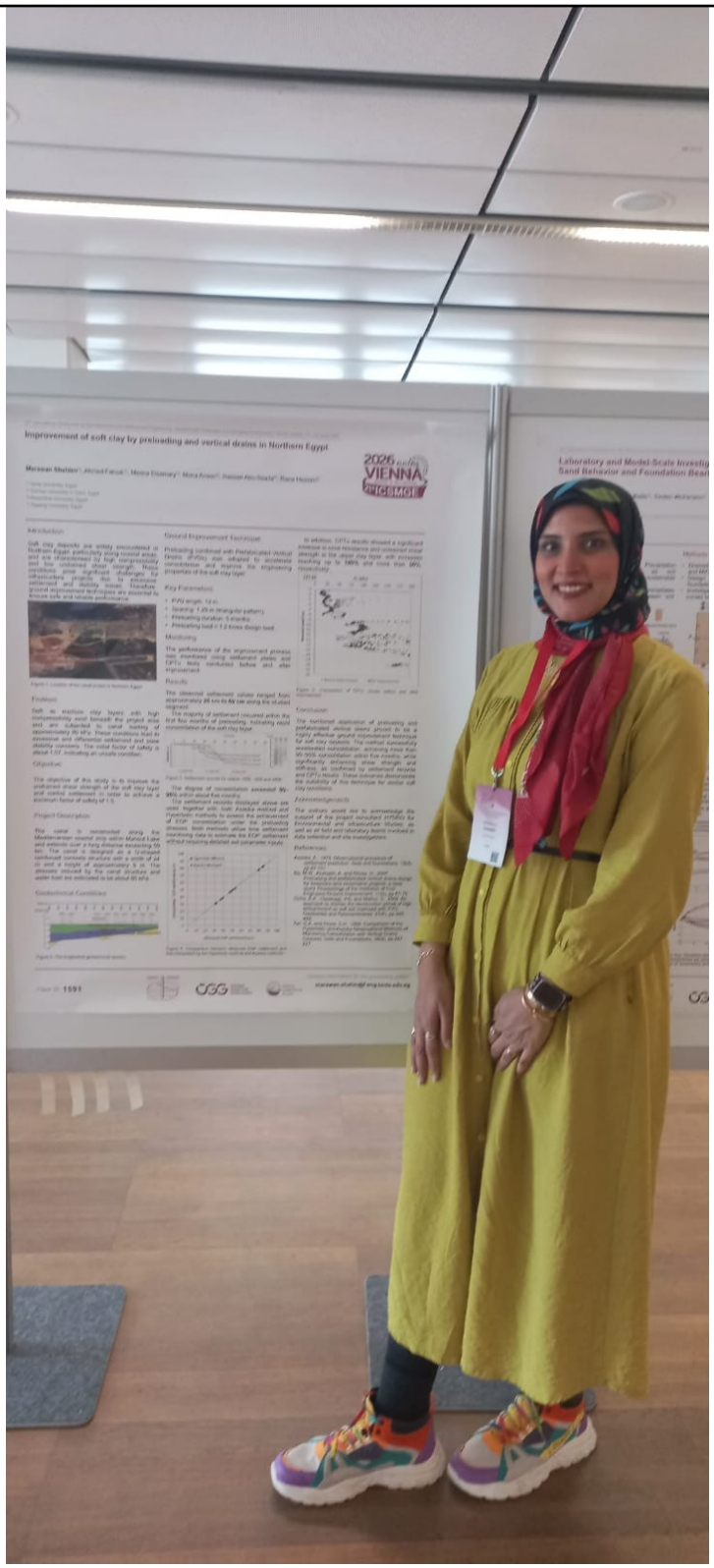
Photographs from Conference:



At the Austria Center Vienna during the 21st ICSMGE.



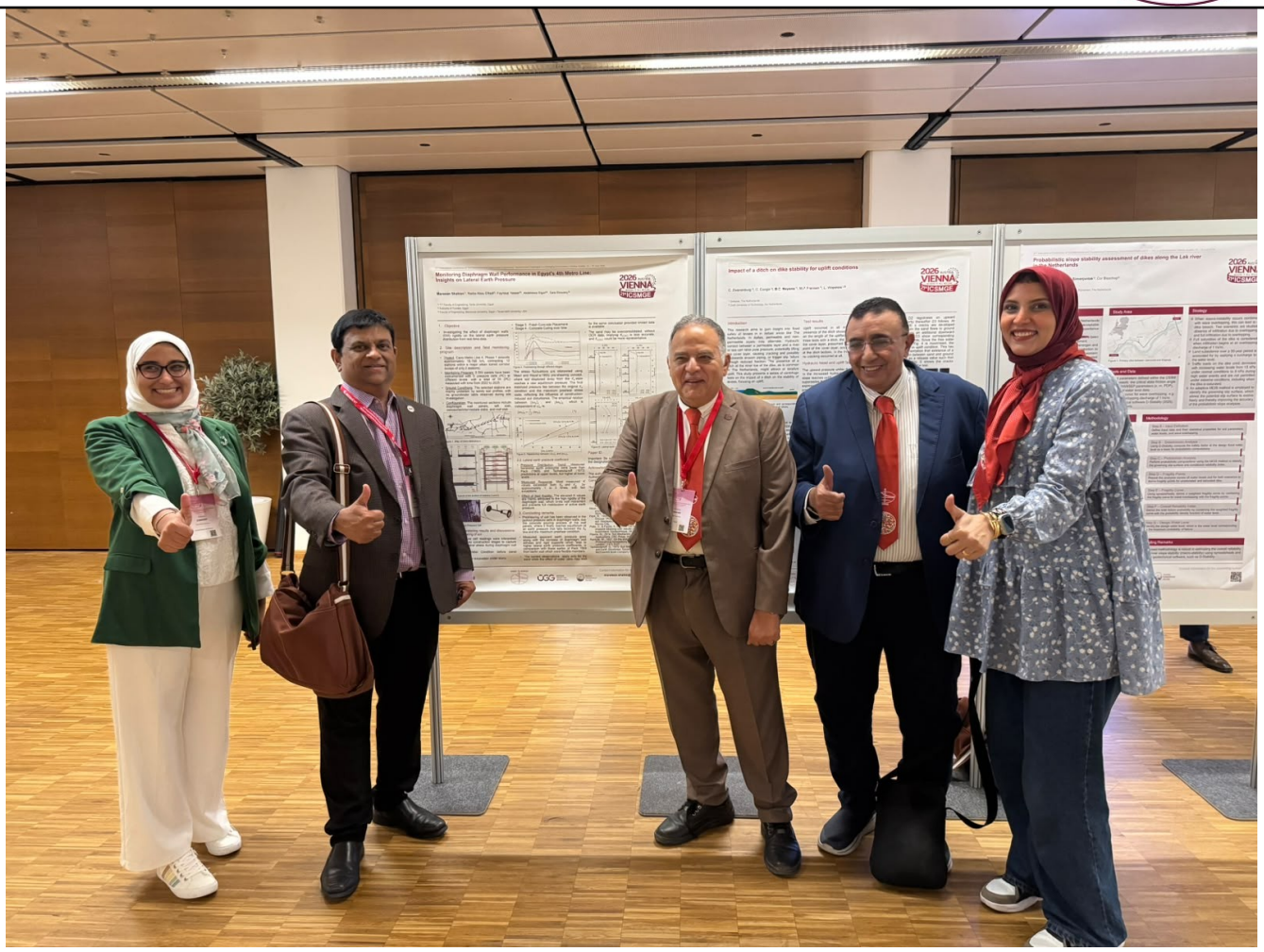
Conference welcome area and registration/exhibition space.



Poster presentation: "Improvement of soft clay by preloading and vertical drains in Northern Egypt."



Attendance of one of the plenary sessions at the conference.



Networking with conference participants during the poster sessions.



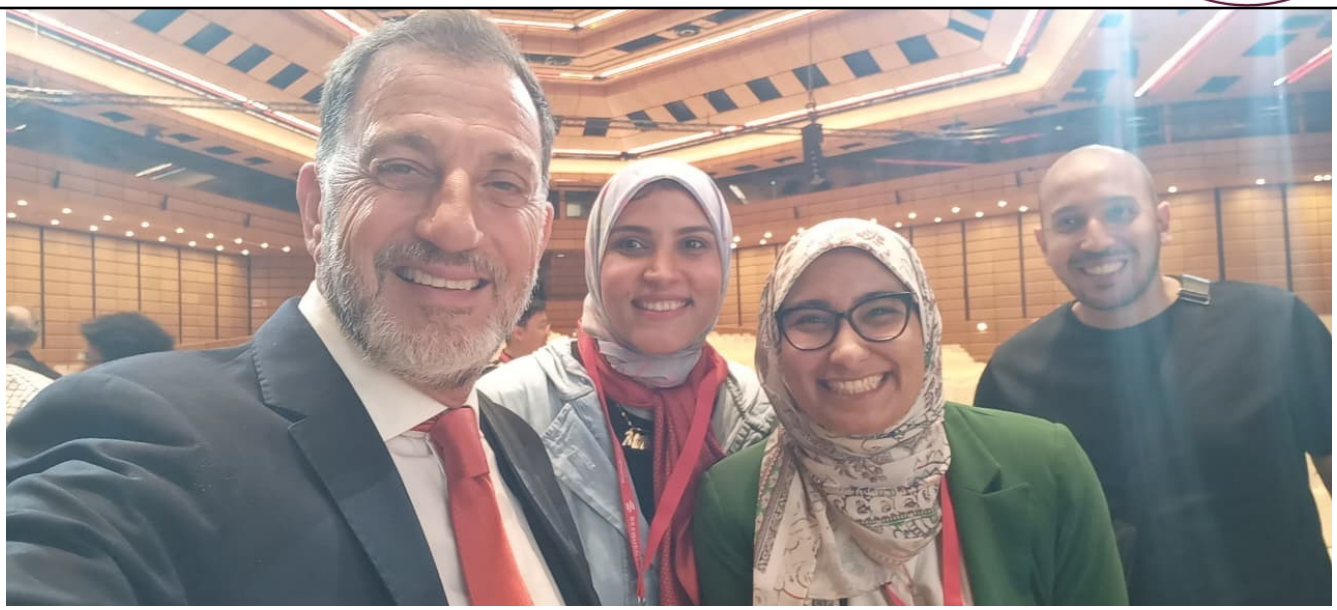
Discussion with professionals at the ground engineering exhibition area.



Networking with Marc Ballouz during the 21st ICSMGE.



With professors and colleagues during the conference.



With Marc Ballouz and conference participants after a plenary session.



With professors during one of the conference sessions.



Prof. Jie Han presenting during the 21st ICSMGE.