Sensitivity: General

ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Naveen Kumar Meena	***Your Organization:*** Beca Pty. Ltd., Sydney Australia	***Date of report:*** 15/07/2026
Conference Title: 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering	***Location of Conference:*** Vienna, Austria	***Dates of Conference:*** 14th – 19th June 2026

What you learned:

Key learnings from the conference included the application of advanced numerical and probabilistic methods for assessing geotechnical risks, the value of integrating field monitoring data with design assumptions, and emerging sustainable approaches to improving ground performance while minimising environmental impacts. I also received valuable feedback on my paper, "*Geotechnical Challenges and Mitigation Measures in Bushfire-Affected Landscapes of Australia*," which enhanced my understanding of international best practices for managing bushfire-related geotechnical challenges.

In addition, I reviewed few papers from the conference proceedings to broaden my knowledge of recent developments in geotechnical engineering. This review provided insights into current research trends and practical advancements in areas such as ground improvement, foundation engineering, geotechnical risk management, numerical modelling, soil characterisation, sustainable geotechnical design, and performance-based infrastructure delivery. The proceedings also presented international case studies that highlighted lessons learned from complex infrastructure and urban development projects.

People you met:

The conference also provided an excellent opportunity to network with leading academics and researchers in geotechnical engineering from Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) and internationally recognised universities. Notable experts I interacted with included Prof. Deepankar Choudhury (IIT Bombay), A/Prof. Neelima Satyam (IIT Indore), Distinguished Professor Buddhima Indraratna (UTS), and Prof. Anand Puppala (Texas A&M University), among many other respected professionals in the field. These interactions enabled valuable discussions on current research, industry challenges, and emerging trends in geotechnical engineering.

Main features of conference:

The 21st ICSMGE is the premier international geotechnical engineering conference (held once in four years), bringing together global experts to discuss geotechnical challenges in a changing environment, sustainable infrastructure, innovative ground engineering solutions, and the future of soil mechanics while marking the 100th anniversary of Karl Terzaghi's contribution to modern geotechnical engineering.

Your comments on the conference:

Attending the 21st ICSMGE was highly valuable and experience for me. It has provided an

excellent platform to present my research, exchange ideas with peers, and learn from leading academics and industry experts from around the world. The diverse range of technical sessions showcased current challenges, innovations, and emerging trends in geotechnical engineering, reflecting the breadth and depth of the profession. The event was exceptionally well organised and fostered meaningful technical discussions, professional collaboration, and networking opportunities. Overall, the conference significantly enhanced my technical knowledge, broadened my professional connections, and contributed to my ongoing professional development.

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 (ICSMGE 2026) in Vienna, Austria, was a highly rewarding professional experience. The conference brought together geotechnical engineers, researchers, academics, and industry professionals from around the world, providing an excellent platform for knowledge sharing and technical discussions.

A wide range of technical sessions covered current challenges and emerging developments in geotechnical engineering, including geotechnical risk assessment, numerical modelling, ground improvement, foundation engineering, sustainability, and resilient infrastructure. The presentations highlighted both research advancements and practical applications, offering valuable insights into how the profession continues to evolve to meet future engineering challenges.

One of the highlights of the conference was the opportunity to present my paper, "*Geotechnical Challenges and Mitigation Measures in Bushfire-Affected Landscapes of Australia*." Presenting my work to an international audience enabled constructive discussions with experts and researchers, and the feedback received provided valuable perspectives that will contribute to my future professional development. It also enhanced my understanding of global approaches to managing geotechnical issues in hazard-prone environments.

The conference provided numerous opportunities to network with leading academics and practitioners from across the world. Engaging with professionals from universities, research institutions, and industry organisations allowed the exchange of ideas on current research trends, innovative engineering solutions, and lessons learned from major infrastructure projects. These interactions broadened my professional network and strengthened connections within the international geotechnical community.

In addition to attending the technical sessions, I reviewed several papers from the conference proceedings. This helped me gain a deeper understanding of recent developments in areas such as geotechnical risk management, soil characterisation, foundation systems, performance-based design, sustainability, and advanced analysis techniques. The case studies presented throughout the conference demonstrated practical approaches to addressing complex geotechnical challenges in different geographical and geological settings.

Overall, ICSMGE 2026 was an enriching experience that enhanced my technical knowledge, expanded my professional network, and provided valuable exposure to international best practices in geotechnical engineering. The conference reinforced the importance of collaboration, innovation, and sustainable engineering solutions in addressing the challenges facing the profession today and in the future.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email



