ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: GUDAPATI PHANINDRA	***Your Organization:*** Indian Institute of Technology, Hyderabad	***Date of report:*** 29-06-2026
Conference Title: 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE)	***Location of Conference:*** Vienna, Austria	***Dates of Conference:*** 14-19th June 2026

What you learned:

Attending the 21st ICSMGE 2026 provided valuable insights into the latest developments in geotechnical engineering. I learned about advances in transportation geotechnics, geosynthetic-reinforced infrastructure, ground improvement techniques, and sustainable geotechnical solutions. The technical sessions highlighted the use of innovative materials for pavement construction and innovative approaches for numerical modelling, and field performance evaluation. I also gained exposure to emerging applications of artificial intelligence and data-driven methods in geotechnical engineering. These learnings are directly relevant to my research and will help enhance the quality, sustainability, and practical applicability of my future research work.

People you met:

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to interact with several internationally renowned researchers, industry experts, and fellow students working in transportation geotechnics and related fields. Among the distinguished professionals I met were Prof. Helmut F. Schweiger (Conference Chair, TU Graz), Dr. Marc Ballouz (President, ISSMGE), Prof. Erol Tutumluer (University of Illinois), Prof. Anand Puppala (Texas A&M University), Prof. Krishna R. Reddy (University of Illinois Chicago), Prof. Buddhima Indraratna (University of Technology Sydney), Prof. Abu-Farsakh (Louisiana State University), Prof. Dietmar Adam (TU Wien), Dr. Anil Joseph (President, Indian Geotechnical Society), Dr. Diego Marchetti (Studio Prof. Marchetti), Dr. C. R. Parthasarathy (Sarathy Geotech & Engineering Services), and Dr. Sparsha Nagula (Norwegian Geotechnical Institute), along with several professors from Indian institutions.

In addition, I met fellow researchers from various Indian institutes and young professionals from different countries during the young members get-together organized by the Joint Young Members Austria (J-YMA). I also interacted with representatives from industry and research organizations at the exhibition stalls. These interactions enabled valuable technical discussions, expanded my professional network, fostered international connections, and opened opportunities for future academic and research collaborations.

Your comments on the conference:

The 21st ICSMGE 2026 was exceptionally well organized and provided a high-quality platform for knowledge exchange among geotechnical professionals worldwide. The technical sessions were comprehensive and covered a diverse range of research topics. The venue and conference facilities were excellent, facilitating smooth participation and interaction among delegates.

The conference attracted participants from many countries, creating a truly international environment and exposing attendees to diverse perspectives and research approaches. The networking opportunities were particularly valuable, allowing young engineers and researchers to interact with leading experts, discuss research ideas, and explore potential collaborations. Overall, the conference significantly contributed to my professional development and provided inspiration for future research and career growth in geotechnical engineering.

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

I had the privilege of attending the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2026), held in Vienna, Austria, from 14-19 June 2026, with support from the ISSMGE Travel Grant. As a doctoral researcher working in the field of transportation geotechnics and geosynthetics, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to learn about the latest advancements in geotechnical engineering, present my research, and interact with experts from around the world.

The conference brought together researchers, practitioners, and industry professionals from several countries, creating a vibrant platform for technical discussions and knowledge exchange. The technical program covered a broad spectrum of topics, including transportation geotechnics, ground improvement, geosynthetics, numerical modelling, sustainability, earthquake engineering, and climate-resilient infrastructure.

Technical presentations on geosynthetics-reinforced pavement systems, ground improvement techniques, and performance-based design approaches provided valuable insights into current research trends and practical applications. I also learned about emerging developments in artificial intelligence, machine learning for geotechnical analysis and design, which are expected to play an increasingly important role in the profession.

Beyond the technical sessions, the conference offered exceptional networking opportunities. I had the opportunity to interact with leading researchers, professors, and fellow young engineers from different countries. These discussions broadened my perspective on ongoing research challenges. Meeting internationally recognised experts and exchanging ideas with peers was one of the most rewarding aspects of the conference.

The experience significantly enhanced my technical knowledge and professional development. The knowledge gained will directly contribute to my ongoing research and help me adopt new methodologies and perspectives in my future work. Furthermore, exposure to international research and engineering practices strengthened my understanding of the global challenges facing the geotechnical community.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to ISSMGE for providing the travel grant, which made my participation possible. The support enabled me to benefit from this outstanding international event and will have a lasting positive impact on my research career and professional growth.

Photographs from Conference:



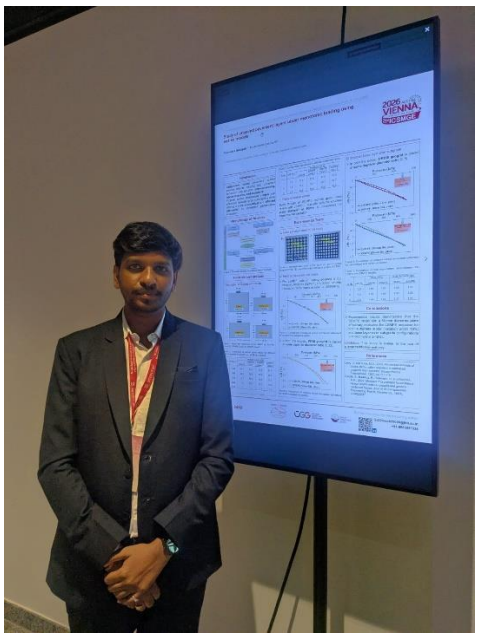


21st ICSMGE Conference venue: Austria center vienna.



Opening Ceremony of the 21st ICSMGE, Vienna, Austria.





Photographs during conference and presenting poster presentation.



Photographs with Prof. Erol Tutumluer (University of Illinois), Prof. Anand Puppala (Texas A&M University), Prof. Krishna R. Reddy (University of Illinois Chicago) from left to right.



Photographs with Prof. Buddhima Indraratna (University of Technology Sydney), Prof. Abu-Farsakh (Louisiana State University), Prof. Deepankar Choudhry (IIT Bombay) from left to right.



Group photo with professionals and fellow researchers.