ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name:	***Your Organization:***	***Date of report:***
PRATIK GOEL	Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee	29-06-2026
Conference Title:	***Location of Conference:***	***Dates of Conference:***
21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE), Vienna	Austria Center Vienna Bruno-Kreisky-Platz 1 1220 Wien Austria	June *14-19, 2026*

What you learned:

Attending the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) was a highly rewarding experience that provided exposure to cutting-edge research and emerging trends in geotechnical engineering from leading researchers and practitioners across the globe. The conference offered valuable insights into several rapidly evolving areas, including offshore geotechnics, foundation systems for renewable energy infrastructure, machine learning and surrogate modelling, advanced numerical simulation techniques, seismic soil–structure interaction, and sustainable geotechnical engineering solutions.

The keynote, special, and state-of-the-art lectures were particularly inspiring. Notable sessions included “Subsurface Energy Solutions: Where Geotechnics Meets Innovation” by Prof. Lyesse Laloui, “Soil Erosion: From Fundamentals to Applications” by Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud, “From Oedometer to Computed Tomography: 100 Years of Experimental Soil Mechanics” by Prof. Cino Viggiani, the State-of-the-Art Lecture on the Discrete Element Method (DEM) by Prof. Catherine O’Sullivan and co-authors, and “Geotechnics for Offshore Wind Developments” by Ana Page and Prof. Britta Bienen. These lectures highlighted how advances in experimentation, numerical modelling, monitoring technologies, sustainability, and renewable energy applications are shaping the future of geotechnical engineering.

A particularly valuable aspect of the conference was the opportunity to present my research on the seismic behaviour of skirted ring foundations for offshore wind turbines. The discussions and feedback received from internationally recognized experts helped refine my understanding of the subject, identify potential future research directions, and better appreciate the practical implications of my work.

Beyond the technical sessions, interactions with researchers, academics, and industry professionals provided a broader perspective on how innovative research is translated into engineering practice. The conference reinforced the growing importance of interdisciplinary collaboration, data-driven decision-making, sustainability, and resilience in addressing contemporary geotechnical challenges.

Overall, the 21st ICSMGE significantly enhanced both my technical expertise and professional network, while further strengthening my motivation to contribute to impactful research in offshore geotechnics, earthquake engineering, and sustainable infrastructure development.

People you met:

The conference offered valuable opportunities for interaction with prominent international researchers and experts in geotechnical engineering.

- Prof. Cino Viggiani (Université Grenoble Alpes)
- Prof. Lyesse Laloui (EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland)
- Prof. David Taborda (Imperial College London, UK)
- Prof. Catherine O'Sullivan (Imperial College London, UK)
- Prof. Katerina Ziotopoulou (University of California, Davis)
- Prof. Stavroula Kontoe (University of Patras)
- Prof. Arman Khoshghalb (University of New South Wales, Australia)
- Prof. Phil Watson (University of Western Australia)
- Prof. Deepankar Choudhury (Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay)
- Prof. Bal Krishna Maheshwari (Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee)
- Prof. Fraser Bransby (University of Western Australia)
- Prof. G Madhavi Latha (IISC Bengaluru)
- Prof. Akira Murakami (Kyoto University)
- Prof. Krishna Reddy (UIC Chicago)
- Prof. Steven L Kramer (University of Washington)
- Mr. Jagadeesh Janga (UIC Chicago)

Main features of conference:

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) brought together researchers, academics, consultants, contractors, and industry professionals from around the world to discuss recent advances and future challenges in geotechnical engineering.

The conference featured a diverse technical program comprising keynote lectures, state-of-the-art lectures, honour lectures, invited lectures, technical paper presentations, panel discussions, poster sessions, and industry exhibitions. Major themes included offshore geotechnics, geotechnical earthquake engineering, transportation geotechnics, sustainability in geotechnical practice, renewable energy infrastructure, advanced numerical modelling, machine learning applications, ground improvement techniques, monitoring and sensing technologies, and risk-informed design approaches.

A key highlight was the participation of internationally renowned experts who delivered lectures on emerging topics such as subsurface energy systems, offshore wind foundations, soil erosion, advanced experimental soil mechanics, discrete element modelling, digital monitoring technologies, and sustainable geotechnical solutions. The conference also emphasized the integration of research, industry practice, and innovation to address global challenges related to climate change, energy transition, urbanization, and resilient infrastructure development.

In addition to technical sessions, the conference provided excellent networking opportunities through workshops, social events, industry exhibitions, and discussions with leading researchers and practitioners. These interactions facilitated knowledge exchange,

collaboration, and exposure to real-world engineering applications from different parts of the world.
Overall, the conference served as a global platform for sharing knowledge, fostering collaboration, and showcasing the latest developments shaping the future of geotechnical engineering.

Your comments on the conference:

The 21st ICSMGE was exceptionally well organized and provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange among researchers, academics, and industry professionals from around the world. The conference successfully combined high-quality technical presentations, thought-provoking keynote lectures, and valuable networking opportunities, creating an environment that encouraged both learning and collaboration. The diversity of topics—from offshore renewable energy and geotechnical earthquake engineering to sustainability, digitalization, and advanced numerical modelling—reflected the evolving nature of the profession and its response to global challenges. Presenting my research and interacting with leading experts was particularly rewarding, making the conference a highly enriching and professionally valuable experience.

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

The 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE), held in Vienna, Austria, brought together geotechnical researchers, practitioners, consultants, contractors, and academics from around the world to discuss recent advances and future directions in geotechnical engineering. The conference provided an outstanding platform for technical exchange, professional networking, and international collaboration.
The technical programme covered a broad spectrum of topics, including offshore geotechnics, geotechnical earthquake engineering, transportation geotechnics, sustainable infrastructure, advanced numerical modelling, machine learning applications, monitoring technologies, and renewable energy foundations. The keynote, special, and state-of-the-art lectures offered valuable insights into emerging challenges and opportunities facing the profession.
Particularly memorable were the lectures on subsurface energy solutions by Prof. Lyesse Laloui, soil erosion by Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud, advances in experimental soil mechanics by Prof. Cino Viggiani, importance of soil SSI for megastructure by Prof. Deepankar Choudhury in TC 207, and geotechnical challenges associated with offshore wind developments by Ana Page and Prof. Britta Bienen. These presentations highlighted the increasing importance of sustainability, digitalisation, advanced experimentation, and renewable energy infrastructure in modern geotechnical engineering.
As part of the conference, I presented my research entitled “Seismic Behaviour of Skirted Ring Foundations under V–H Loading in Layered Soils for Offshore Wind Turbines.” The presentation generated valuable discussions with experts working in offshore geotechnics and earthquake engineering, providing constructive feedback that will help shape the future direction of my research. The opportunity to interact with internationally renowned

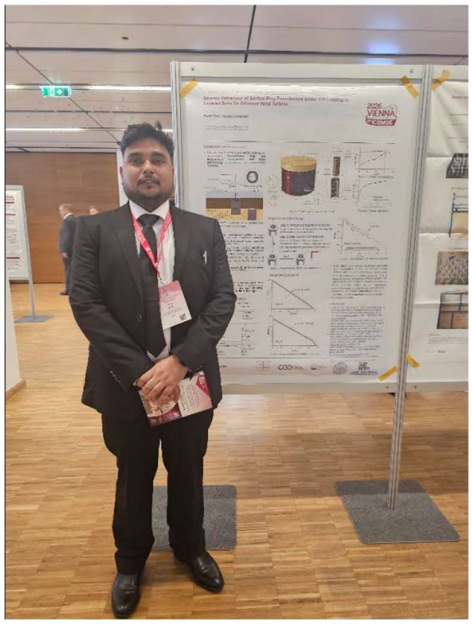
researchers significantly broadened my understanding of current research trends and practical engineering challenges.

Beyond the technical sessions, the conference offered exceptional networking opportunities. Engaging with researchers, practitioners, and fellow students from diverse backgrounds enabled me to establish professional connections that I believe will lead to future collaborations and lasting friendships.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the ISSMGE Foundation for awarding me a Foundation Grant, which made my participation in this prestigious conference possible. The financial support provided by the Foundation played a crucial role in enabling me to present my research, interact with leading experts, and benefit from this unique international learning experience.

Overall, participation in the 21st ICSMGE was an immensely rewarding experience that enhanced my technical knowledge, expanded my professional network, and inspired me to continue contributing to research and innovation in geotechnical engineering. I am deeply thankful to the ISSMGE Foundation for its support and commitment to fostering the development of young geotechnical engineers worldwide.

Photographs from Conference:







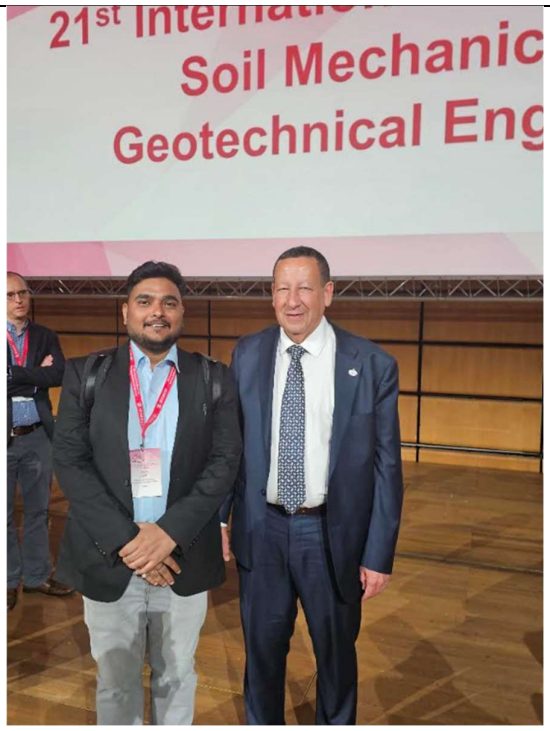
Pratik Goel (me) at the 21st ICSMGE



With Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud, Distinguished Professor of Civil Engineering, Texas A&M University



With Prof. Steven L Kramer, University of Washington



With Prof. Lyesse Laloui (EPFL, Lausanne, Switzerland)



With Prof. Krishna R Reddy (UIC Chicago)



At the Young Engineers Connect Meet, 21st ICSMGE



With Indian delegates and Dr. Marc Ballouz



With Indian delegates and Dr. Marc Ballouz and Prof. Lyesse Laloui



With Prof. N.K. Samadhiya, Prof. BK Maheswari, Prof. Aakanksha Tyagi, Prof. Kaustav Chatterjee, Prof. Arpit Jain



Attending a lecture of Prof. Deepankar Choudhury in TC 207 meeting



Dr. Marc Ballouz handing the ISSMGE Gavel to Prof. Lyesse Laloui