ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name:	***Your Organization:***	***Date of report:***
Sirine SGHAIER	National Engineering school of Tunis (ENIT-Tunisia)	July 19th 2026
Conference Title:	***Location of Conference:***	***Dates of Conference:***
8th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8iygec 2026)	Austria, Graz	11th to14th of June 2026

What you learned:

Attending the 8iYGEC conference was my first overseas experience and a valuable milestone in my professional development. The conference was attended by not only young students and researchers but also internationally recognized experts who delivered high-quality lectures and shared their expertise. As a young engineer, attending these presentations allowed me to stay up to date with the latest developments in geotechnical engineering and discover various approaches for addressing geotechnical challenges encountered in professional practice, particularly in soil mechanics, laboratory and in-situ testing, seismic analysis, tailings dams, numerical modelling, soil improvement, and deep foundation design.
Presenting my paper, "Experimental and Numerical Assessment of Nailed Soil Using Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars," provided me with an excellent opportunity to exchange ideas with researchers and experts and receive valuable feedback on my work. I also gained ins633ights into innovative reinforcement materials, advanced numerical modelling approaches, and practical design methods for reinforced soil structures.
During my stay in Graz, I also had the opportunity to discover different parts of Austria with colleagues from around the world, which contributed to enriching my cultural and professional experience. The final highlight of my trip was a visit to Vienna and the Terzaghi Archive, which offered a valuable connection with the historical foundations of soil mechanics and a deeper appreciation of the remarkable evolution of geotechnical engineering.

People you met:

In addition to meeting young geotechnical engineers from nearly 50 countries, with whom I hope to maintain connections and meet again at future events, I had the valuable opportunity to meet several renowned experts and professionals in the field of geotechnical engineering, including:

- Dr. Marc Ballouz, President of ISSMGE
- Dr. Robert Thurner, Keller Grundlaggning
- Dr. Sergei Terzaghi, Aosullivan & Associates (Australia)
- Prof. Lidija Zdravkovic, Imperial College London
- Prof. Kenichi Soga, University of California, Berkeley

Main features of conference:

The 8th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8iYGEC) was exceptionally well organized by the Organizing Committee and the ISSMGE Young Members Presidential Group. I was particularly impressed by their commitment to creating valuable opportunities for young geotechnical engineers to exchange knowledge, build international networks, and develop professionally within a welcoming, collaborative, and engaging atmosphere.

The conference featured four outstanding keynote lectures delivered by internationally recognized experts, providing valuable insights into current challenges, emerging trends, and future directions in geotechnical engineering.

The event attracted an important number of participants, making it an excellent platform for bringing together researchers, academics, and industry professionals from around the world. The technical program was diverse and showcased the latest advances in geotechnical engineering through 98 high-quality paper presentations covering a broad range of topics, including shallow and deep foundations, slope stability, seismic analysis, ground improvement, laboratory and in-situ testing, constitutive modelling, numerical and physical modelling, deep excavations and retaining structures, infrastructure projects, ground modelling, and machine learning applications in geotechnics.

Your comments on the conference:

Overall, I found the 8th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8iYGEC) to be an outstanding and highly enriching experience. The conference was exceptionally well organized, and the organizing committee was dynamic, supportive, and always willing to assist participants and answer their questions. I will always remember the excellent organization of the conference, which inspired me with many ideas that I hope to apply in future geotechnical events in Tunisia.

What impressed me most was the welcoming atmosphere and the willingness of senior experts to engage with young engineers. The accessibility and openness of internationally recognized researchers made scientific discussions both inspiring and motivating, creating an environment that strongly encouraged learning, knowledge sharing, and professional growth.

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

I had the privilege of attending the 8th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (8iYGEC 2026), held in Graz, Austria, from 11 to 14 June 2026. This international event gathered young geotechnical engineers and researchers from nearly 50 countries and provided an outstanding platform for exchanging knowledge, sharing research experiences, and strengthening collaboration within the global geotechnical community.

The conference featured a rich scientific program, including keynote lectures delivered by internationally recognized experts, technical sessions, and networking activities. The presented works covered a wide range of current topics in geotechnical engineering, including soil mechanics, shallow and deep foundations, slope stability, seismic analysis, ground improvement, laboratory and in-situ testing, constitutive modelling, numerical and physical modelling, deep excavations and retaining structures, infrastructure projects, ground modelling, and machine learning applications in geotechnics. The broad range of topics and the high quality of the presentations demonstrated the continuous progress of geotechnical engineering and the innovative solutions being developed to address current challenges.

During the conference, I presented my research paper entitled “Experimental and Numerical Assessment of Nailed Soil Using Glass Fiber Reinforced Polymer (GFRP) Bars.” This study investigates the potential use of GFRP bars as an innovative and sustainable alternative to conventional steel soil nails through experimental and numerical approaches. The presentation provided an excellent opportunity to discuss my research with international researchers and experts, receive valuable feedback, and exchange ideas on innovative reinforcement materials and advanced numerical modelling approaches.

Beyond the scientific program, 8iYGEC offered a valuable opportunity to meet young engineers from different countries, share professional experiences, and establish new connections within the international geotechnical community. The friendly and collaborative atmosphere of the conference, combined with the accessibility of senior experts, made this event particularly enriching for young researchers.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the 8iYGEC Organizing Committee and the ISSMGE Foundation for their valuable support in making my participation possible, particularly through their financial assistance. This experience represents an important milestone in my professional development and will contribute to strengthening my future research activities and involvement in the global geotechnical engineering community. I will retain very positive and lasting memories of this enriching experience.

Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email







