ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name: Vandana	**Your Organisation:** Indian Institute of Technology Delhi	**Date of report:** September 3, 2026
Conference Title: International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Soft Soil Engineering 2026	**Location of Conference:** Delft, Netherlands (Aula Conference Centre, TU Delft)	**Dates of Conference:** 24-26 July 2024

What you learned:
I am a research scholar at IIT Delhi, and my PhD work focuses on the stabilisation of soft soils using electrodeposition, an electrochemical mineral precipitation technique. Attending Soft Soils 2026 was an excellent opportunity to situate my laboratory-based electrochemical research within the wider field of soft soil engineering, and to learn how researchers and practitioners around the world are addressing ground improvement, embankment behaviour, and sustainable stabilisation of problematic soils.

During the conference, I presented my paper "**Stabilization of Soft Soils using Electrochemical Mineral Precipitation: Application to Overburden Dumps**," which describes how a mild electric potential can be used to drive electrokinetic mineral precipitation (calcium-silicate-hydrate formation) within mine overburden dump material, improving its microstructure, penetration resistance, and shear strength while avoiding the high carbon footprint of conventional cement-based stabilisation.

Presenting this work to an international audience of geotechnical researchers and receiving feedback from experienced academics helped me refine my understanding of the electrochemical mechanisms involved and identify directions for further optimisation of electrode configuration and treatment duration. As a young researcher, the chance to listen to keynote lectures, participate in technical sessions, and engage directly with senior researchers and industry professionals was invaluable in broadening my perspective and building new professional connections. Beyond the technical sessions, I also enjoyed experiencing Delft and the TU Delft campus, and the opportunity to interact informally with delegates from many countries made the overall experience both professionally rewarding and personally memorable.

People you met:
Prof. Stefano Muraro, TU Delft, Netherlands
Prof. Wout Broere, TU Delft, Netherlands
Prof. Yoichi Watabe, Hokkaido University, Japan
Prof. Arash Azizi, University of Glasgow, UK
Dr. Deepesh Bansal and Deepak Pant, Shandong University, China

Main features of the conference:
The International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Soft Soil Engineering (Soft Soils 2026) was held from 24-26 August 2026 at the Aula Conference Centre, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. The conference was jointly supported by the

International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE), its Soft Ground and Improvement (SIMSG) technical committee, and the KIVI Engineering Society. The event brought together researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers from around the world to discuss recent advances in soft soil engineering, covering themes such as ground improvement techniques, soil stabilisation, embankment and foundation performance on soft soils, laboratory and field characterisation methods, and sustainable and low-carbon approaches to geotechnical construction.

The programme consisted of keynote lectures from leading academics, parallel technical sessions with oral presentations, and opportunities for delegates to network and discuss ongoing research with peers from a wide range of countries and institutions.

Your comments on the conference:
I sincerely thank the ISSMGE Foundation for the travel grant that made it possible for me to attend Soft Soils 2026, and I am grateful to ISSMGE and the Soft Soils 2026 organising committee for hosting such a well-organised and technically rich conference. The quality of the keynote lectures and technical sessions was excellent, and I benefited greatly from discussions with researchers working on complementary aspects of soft-soil engineering.
One aspect that particularly impressed me was the wide variety of themes covered in the keynote lectures and technical sessions. The selection of topics was excellent, catering to the attendees' diverse interests and research areas. I interacted with numerous pioneer personalities, delegates, and researchers from various parts of the world, enriching my knowledge and fostering potential collaborations.

Please attach a short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:
The International Conference on Advances and Innovations in Soft Soil Engineering (Soft Soils 2026), a globally recognised event for geotechnical engineers working on soft ground and ground improvement, took place from 24 to 26 August 2026 at the Aula Conference Centre, Delft University of Technology, the Netherlands. This three-day conference brought together researchers, industry professionals, and policymakers from around the world, providing a platform for knowledge exchange and networking.

The conference featured a diverse program, including invited keynote lectures, technical sessions, poster presentations, and oral presentations. The event commenced with a welcome reception, serving as an icebreaker for all attendees and fostering a friendly and collaborative atmosphere. The technical sessions opened with keynote lectures from leading academics in soft soil engineering, setting the tone for engaging presentations and discussions. Each day of the event featured a range of activities to keep researchers actively engaged and enhance their knowledge. Invited lectures and parallel technical sessions were organised around themes such as ground improvement, embankment and foundation behaviour on soft ground, laboratory and in-situ characterisation, and sustainable, low-carbon approaches to soil stabilisation, offering diverse perspectives and fostering valuable exchanges of ideas.

Furthermore, each day included oral presentations following the keynote sessions, allowing young researchers, including myself, to present their work to an international audience. I had

the opportunity to present my paper, "Stabilization of Soft Soils using Electrochemical Mineral Precipitation: Application to Overburden Dumps," which examines the use of mild electric potentials to induce mineral precipitation and improve the mechanical stability of mine overburden dumps.

Overall, Soft Soils 2026 was a remarkable event that brought together experts in the field, provided a platform for fruitful discussions and knowledge sharing, and facilitated interactions with professionals from various sectors and countries.

Photographs from the Conference:



During my oral presentation



With Session 7B chair: Prof. Wout Broere, TU Delft, Netherlands



Prof. Stefano Muraro, TU Delft, Netherlands



Meeting with Prof. Yoichi Watabe (Hokkaido University), Dr. Arash Azizi and Aditi Rana (University of Glasgow), Deepesh Bansal and Deepak Pant (Shandong University) and Tapan Suyal (IIT Roorkee).