ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

Your Name:	***Your Organization:***	***Date of report:***
Sanchari Mondal	University of Melbourne	07/10/2021
Conference Title:	***Location of Conference:***	***Dates of Conference:***
6th International Conference on Geotechnical and Geophysical Site Characterisation	Budapest, Hungary Attended: Virtually	26 – 29th September 2021

What you learned:

The main theme of the conference was the geotechnical and geophysical site characterisation which has been a primary part of my research. Since site characterisation techniques are developing rapidly, it is necessary to keep up with the pace to be aware of the state-of-the-art techniques. At this conference, I was able to attend a short course on Flat Dilatometer, Seismic Dilatometer and Medusa Dilatometer. I also learned about pressuremeter testing, interpretation of CPT testing data, uncertainties in seismic site characterisation and current integrated practice on site characterisation. I was able to learn about two interesting domains, one being the numerical modelling of CPT and the other being the non-destructive geotechnical site characterisation technique. Attending the conference also enabled me to gain knowledge about the various research carried out by my peers throughout the world especially in my research area of deep foundations and piling.

People you met:

Although I could only attend the conference virtually, I was able to attend the workshop where the speakers were:
Eng. Diego Marchetti
Prof. Paola Monaco (University of L'Aquila)
Prof. Sara Amoroso (University of Chieti-Pescara)
I also attended talks by:
Catherine Jacquard, Jason DeJong, Kenneth H. Stokoe, Paul Mayne, Richard Jardine and others.

Main features of conference:

The main feature of the conference was the short course on Flat Dilatometer. Also, the talks by the experts in the field such as:

- Pressuremeter testing and design methods by Catherine Jacquard
- Optimisation of CPT soundings to reduce uncertainty in interpretation of subsurface stratigraphy by Jason DeJong.
- Silvano Marchetti Lecture by D. M. Berisavljevic on Dilatometer and seismic dilatometer tests in different depositional environments.
- Recent developments in CPT based design procedure for driven piles by Richard Jardine.

Your comments on the conference:

This was the first conference I have attended (although virtually), I was very delighted to learn about so many wide topics from researchers all over the world. I have read papers by the pioneers for my research, being able to listen to them live about their research interests was a unique experience for me.
I think the organisers did a commendable job in hosting a hybrid event. This conference was postponed from September 2020 to 2021. Although there were minor technical glitches with the online links to the presentation rooms and talks, I believe organising this event both online and physically in these times was appreciable.
I had recorded my presentation before the conference, and it was played during the session on 'Piles' at the conference.
The short course which I attended on dilatometers was also very informative.

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

The 6th International Conference on Geotechnical and Geophysical Site Characterisation was held in Budapest, Hungary, from 26th to 29th September 2021 in hybrid (physical and virtual) mode. I attended the workshop in online mode. I had submitted my work on the field investigation of instrumented minipiles to this conference. The main theme of this conference was site characterisation using both traditional and advanced techniques. The conference was divided into 16 breakout sessions among which 'piles' was the session designated for my presentation based on my paper. Other interesting sessions were liquefaction, soil parameters from testing, numerical modelling, sampling, quality control and others. Besides the sessions for the presentations, there were interesting talks by renowned experts such as Catherine Jacquard, Jason DeJong, D. M. Berisavljevic, Richard Jardine, Don J. DeGroot, Sebastiano Foti, Jean-Sebastien L'Heureux and others.
My pre-recorded video was played on 29th September. Other interesting talks in that session were on – Pressuremeter based methods to predict the behaviour of micropiles and grouted anchors by Habert et al., Assessment of stiffness degradation of soil by in-situ cyclic loading using pressuremeter by Kamura et al., Normalised py analysis method for laterally loaded piles in sand based on CPT results by Kim et al. among others. Although I could not directly interact with any of the speakers due to the online mode, I was able to listen to other speakers working in a similar research domain.
I also attended the workshop on Flat Dilatometer testing (DMT). This course focused on working principles, test procedure and interpretation of the field test data from a DMT test. The speakers shared their experience on projects they have worked on, how they have performed DMT tests and what was their key takeaway. Although I could not join the session on hands-on learning demonstration, I learned essential bits from the online presentations.
In conclusion, attending the conference was an enriching experience for me. I was able to present my research and learn about similar interests from researchers all over the world. Some of the keynote lectures by the renowned invited speakers were very insightful for an early career researcher like me. I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organising committee of the ISC'6 conference for giving me the opportunity to attend the conference. I am also grateful to the ISSMGE Foundation for supporting me financially to attend this conference.

Photographs from Conference: