

**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: Anil Kumar Sharma	Your Organization: Amrita University, Coimbatore, India	Date of report: 6 th June, 2016
Conference Title: 17 th Nordic Geotechnical Meeting	Location of Conference: Reykjavik, Iceland	Dates of Conference: 25 th -28 th May, 2016

What you learned:

17th Nordic Geotechnical Meeting provided me great opportunity to share my research with fellow scientists from all over world. Although participants were mainly from Nordic Countries, but it was a great experience for me to discuss some of the key problems in the Geotechnical Engineering that occurs throughout the world. The keynote lectures were quite informative which provided insights about geotechnical profession. The keynote lecture by Prof. Douglas VanDine, president of the Canadian Geotechnical Society, talked about the Geotechnical Profession which is very useful to Geotechnical Engineers like me. In the lecture by Prof. Antonio Gens, he discussed about the various initiatives taken by ISSMGE for the advancement of Geotechnical Engineering. There were many presentations that dealt with the problems associated with the sensitive clays. I came to know how the sensitive clays pose major threat to countries like Norway, Sweden etc. Prof. Vikas Thakur gave a very nice presentation about the recent advances in assessment and mitigation strategies for hazards occurring due to landslides in sensitive clays. I also learnt latest developments in the geotechnical experimental techniques which will definitely help me for my future research.

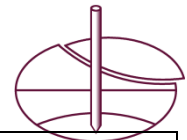
People you met:

I have met many people working in different fields of Geotechnical Engineering during the conference. I would like to highlight some of them.

1. Prof. Antonio Gens, Vice-President of the ISSMGE for Europe 2013-17
2. Prof. Stefan Van Baars, University of Luxembourg
3. Prof. Vikas Thakur, NTNU
4. Henok M Kassa, Senior Engineer, Statoil
5. Nils Hulgaard, Senior Geotechnical Expert, COWI
6. Prof. Jae Hyun Park, KICT, South Korea

Main features of conference:

The theme of the 17th Nordic Geotechnical Conference was broad and almost all the topics of geotechnical engineering were included. The conference mainly focussed on the Geotechnical issues of the Nordic Countries, but there were many participants from Europe and other countries too. I was the only Indian who has participated in this conference. The credit goes to ISSMGE Foundation award without whose support my attendance in this conference was not possible. A pre-conference workshop was also organised. The topic was



based on the Nordic perspective on the benefits and drawbacks of the current version, and to what extent it is a common Nordic tool today. The conference had also organised excursions and tours. Overall, the conference was well organized with sessions running in time.

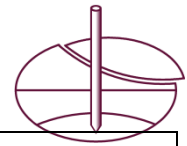
Your comments on the conference:

I must thank the team members of the organizing committee of the 17th NGM for organising such an amazing event. The conference was well organized and I enjoyed thoroughly the quality papers presented at the conference. It was a wonderful experience for me to attend 17th NGM. I also thank the ISSMGE Foundation for giving me such a great opportunity.

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

The 17th Nordic Geotechnical Meeting was held at Harpa Congress Center in Reykjavik, Iceland from 25th May to 28th May, 2016. All the presentations were divided into various themes such as Experimental Investigations, Deep Foundations, Modelling analysis and Design etc. and nearly covered all aspects of Geotechnical Engineering. The conference started with a short welcome program in which a stand-up comedian performed and made us all laugh. It was followed by three plenary lectures by Prof. Suzanne Lacasse, Douglas F. VanDine and Jorgen S. Steenfelt respectively. All the sessions were quite informative and useful for young geotechnical engineers. After the key lectures, parallel sessions were organized and were dedicated to various themes of geotechnical engineering. The presentation led me realize that the geotechnical challenges are common to some extent despite the distance between nations. I could find out that landslides are major threat to Nordic countries. I was impressed by their research studies towards mitigating the landslide hazards. Poster sessions were also organized during the lunch and coffee breaks. I had the opportunity to interact with many professionals and researchers working in my similar area during poster session. I also discussed with few people for potential cooperation in geotechnical engineering. I visited some of the exhibitions and stalls of few companies and came to know about the latest instrumentation technologies and software in geotechnical engineering. Apart from the conference, I also had the opportunity to visit some of the attractive and world famous places in Iceland. Some of the places which I visited are Gullfoss waterfall, Geysir, Pingvellir National Park.

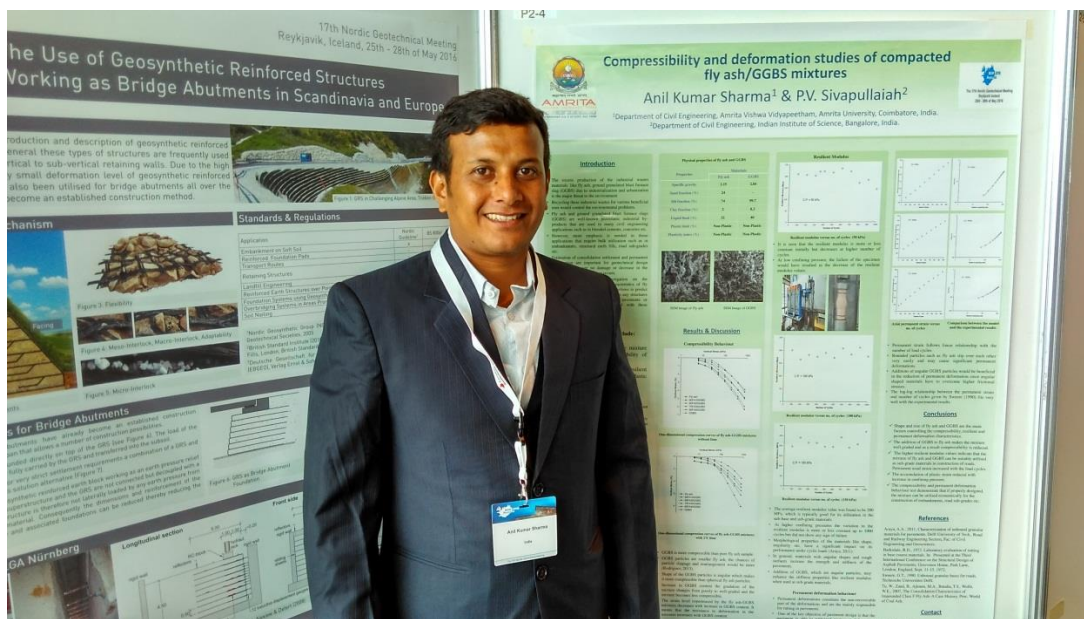
Overall, I can say that NGM gave me the opportunity to learn and understand the challenges that occurs in geotechnical engineering throughout the world. Last but not the least, I would like to thank ISSMGE Foundation for their financial support in attending this conference.



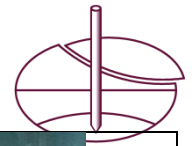
Photographs from Conference:



With Prof. Antonio Gens (Right), Vice-President of the ISSMGE for Europe 2013-17



Myself during the Poster Session



With Prof. Vikas Thakur from NTNU, Norway