

**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

Your Name: Suganya Kuppusamy	Your Organization: Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India	Date of report: 24 th September 2013
Conference Title: 18 th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (18 th ICSMGE), Paris	Location of Conference: Paris, France	Dates of Conference: 2-6 September 2013
<p>What you learned:</p> <p>Attending the 18th ICSMGE conference at Paris provided an excellent opportunity for enhancing my knowledge in various areas of Geotechnical engineering. As a young researcher it was a great opportunity for me to hear eminent people, to interact with them and to develop contacts. Papers presented were of high quality and the discussions that followed helped me explore the recent research trends in my area of interest such as characterization of soft clays and ground improvement. Presenting my work in one of the sessions and the ensuing discussions on my work helped in knowledge sharing and honing my presentation skills. Additionally the workshops organized by the various technical committees introduced me to very interesting topics such as sustainability in Geotechnical engineering, Forensic analysis of geotechnical failures, Geo-Mechanics from macro to micro and so on. The technical visit helped me learn the Geology of Paris city. This helped me appreciate the extent of monitoring and remediation done, in order to safely establish infrastructure overcoming problems due to underground limestone quarries and Gypsum dissolution.</p>		
<p>People you met:</p> <p>The conference provided a platform for meeting and interacting with experts from Academia and industry.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud (Texas A&M University, USA) 2. Dr. Suzanne Lacasse (Norwegian Geotechnical Institute, Norway) 3. Prof. Malcolm Bolton (University of Cambridge, UK) 4. Prof. Richard Jardine (Imperial College, London) 5. Prof. John Burland (Imperial College, London) 6. Prof. Mark Randolph (The University of Western Australia, Australia) 7. Prof. Satoru Shibuya (Kobe University, Japan) 8. Prof. Charles D. Shackelford (Colorado State University, USA) 9. Prof. Carlos Santamarina (Georgia Institute of Technology, USA) 10. Prof. Adam Bezuijen (Ghent University, Belgium) 11. Dr. Bruno Simon (Scientific Director, Terrasol, France) 		
<p>Main features of conference:</p> <p>The conference format was itself relatively new with honour lectures rendered by experts on various interesting topics scheduled on the first two days of the conference. This was very impressive and promoted systematic learning. There was an interactive session on</p>		

Research, Innovation and Practice at the end of the plenary talks where dynamic personalities participated which was quite interesting and motivating. The quality of the work presented in the discussion sessions was remarkably good. Poster sessions also gave nice opportunity to interact with other researchers to discuss on their work and to learn new things. One important feature of the conference was the Workshop sessions organized in parallel with the discussion sessions. These sessions highlighted arenas where research contributions are necessary. The exhibitions in which a large number of companies participated were open all throughout the conference and it was very interesting to interact with professionals and know the kind of projects they handle and the kind of solutions they provide for various geotechnical engineering problems.

Your comments on the conference:

The technical quality of the conference was excellent. And the way in which the conference was organized was also very systematic. Attending the conference itself was a fine learning experience. My appreciations and heartfelt thanks for the organizing committee of ICSMGE 2013 for organizing such a great event.

Short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

**18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering
(18th ICSMGE)**

2 - 6 September 2013, Paris, France

18th ICSMGE was jointly organised by the French Society for soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering and ISSMGE. It's a once in four years event for the geotechnical community and this particular conference, 18th ICSMGE at Paris was so successful in contributing to the profession greatly. The theme of the conference was "Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics" and the lectures, workshops and discussion sessions were precisely justifying the theme.

The conference started on 2nd September with the 8th Terzaghi Oration rendered by Dr. Suzanne Lacasse. The presentation was focused on case histories involving slope failures and various examples illustrating landslide risk management. Three honour lectures namely Ishihara Lecture by Prof. Gazetas G., Ménard Lecture by Prof. Briaud J.-L. and Bishop lecture by Prof. Richard Jardine were delivered on the same day. The second day of the conference started with the Kerisel lecture presented by Prof. Calabresi G. on the role of Geotechnical Engineers in saving monuments and historic sites followed by McClelland lecture delivered by Prof. Mark Randolph. Prof. Shackelford rendered Kerry Rowe lecture and he highlighted the role of contaminant transport by diffusion and the need for understanding it in the field of Geo-Environmental engineering. Prof. Malcolm Bolton delivered Schofield lecture in which he explained the potential use of physical modelling in envisaging the field behaviour with suitable examples. Three special lectures and two best presentations selected from IYGEC'13 were also presented during the plenary sessions. The discussion forum on innovation and practice was highly motivating.

On 4th and 5th of September there were oral presentations of papers in parallel discussion

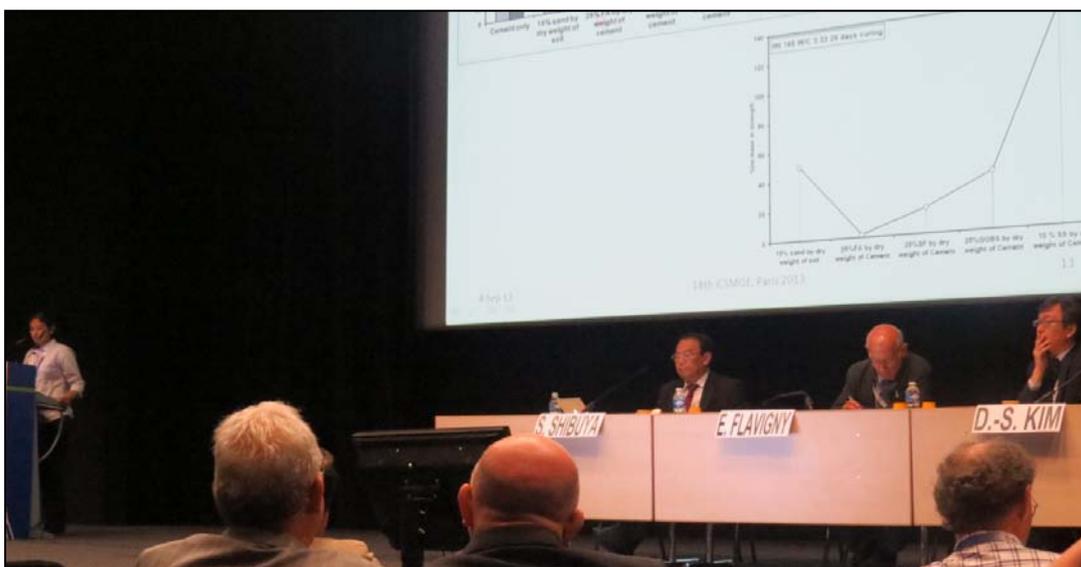
sessions on a wide spectrum of topics in Geotechnical engineering. Poster presentations organised in parallel also aided in interaction and knowledge sharing with the fellow participants. Workshops organised by the TCs of ISSMGE provided immense opportunity for widening knowledge in various topics of geotechnical engineering. On the last day of the conference a field visit was organised and it helped me in learning about the geology of Paris.

The participation in the conference has enabled me learn from the leaders of the profession. The contacts gained and the discussions I had with professionals in my area of research have improved my vision and equipped me with new ideas to explore on. I would like to express my sincere thanks to ISSMGE foundation for providing financial support for participating and presenting in the conference.

Photographs from Conference:



Indian team at ICSMGE, Paris 2013



During my presentation in TC 101, Session II (Strength properties and treated soils)



With Prof. John Burland during the conference