# ISSMGE FOUNDATION
## REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Your Name:</th>
<th>Fabio Tradigo</th>
<th>Your Organization:</th>
<th>Arup Italia</th>
<th>Date of report:</th>
<th>11/10/2019</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Conference Title:</td>
<td>The XVII European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering</td>
<td>Location of Conference:</td>
<td>Reykjavik Iceland</td>
<td>Dates of Conference:</td>
<td>1-6 September 2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### What you learned:

ECSMGE 2019 has been a great opportunity for me as I actively took part to the parallel session where I presented the paper entitled “Blue Green Infrastructures and groundwater flow for future development of Milano (Italy)” and also chaired the Bright Spark award main session. I have learnt many things, among which:

- Iceland is an amazing country which makes the best possible use of its resources. That may sound easy as there which a large country the need to serve a very small population, but this also implies some non-obvious choices, like showering with sulphur smelling hot boiling water mixed with frozen clean water from natural springs.
- I’ve re-discovered the passion of the global geotechnical community, proved by the great atmosphere we could breath at the conference.
- Bright Spark main sessions can be a success even if start early in the morning after the conference dinner.
- The importance of geotechnical engineering with respect to today’s world challenges.
- Iceland is the youngest country on earth, with the possibility to walk into an active fault.

### People you met:

I have had the opportunity of meeting many friends and colleagues from all over the world, as well as to meet new people. Among many other, let me name the two Bright Spark winners (Federico Pisanò from Delft and Matteo Ciantia from Dundee), ISSMGE Board members like prof. Mario Manassero (Europe Vice President) and prof. Neil Taylor, as well as CAPG members like Peter Day from South Africa, Yuli Doulala-Rigby, other Arup colleagues (Patrick Casey from Ireland, Jessica Oudhof from Amsterdam, Jack Yiu and Arthur Cheung from HK), great “masters” from university like Antonio Gens and Marcos Arroyo from UPC, and many others (Mario Martinelli from Deltares, Alessandro Mandolini from Horizon Geosciences, etc), etc...
Main features of conference:

The opening speech of the former Iceland President has been an unexpected gift from the organizing Committee. It set the scene very well, and gave a valuable “global” perspective to the Conference, well in line with the Conference title “‘Geotechnical Engineering, foundation of the future’.

I have very much appreciated keynote lectures in the morning, and the fact that the Bright Spark lecture, delivered by two excellent speakers under 36, has been so well received. Just before that, in the same session, the extensive CAPG session which included an open workshop with all the attendees proved to be a very successful interactive format, definitely to be repeated in other Regional Conferences and possibly in Singapore. I strongly recommend you all to read the report we have prepared for the Bulletin!

Finally, the opportunity of visiting Iceland with many friends/colleagues its own unique geological, geotechnical, natural features has been very special. In particular, the amazing and instructive trip on the second largest European glacier is definitely worth mentioning.

https://intothe glacier.is/

Your comments on the conference:

Very well organized conference. Possibly, parallel sessions could have been more “structured” in terms of coherence of topics, but I guess that’s a pretty hard exercise and encountering unexpected topics in parallel session proved to be an opportunity!
Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

ECSMGE 2019 has been an important milestone in the work that I’ve done in the last years as a member of the Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG) with few other young professionals spread all over the globe who serve in the same Committee. In particular, during the conference two Bright Spark Awards have been announced. Bright Spark award is a new award promoted by ISSMGE to promote young members of ISSMGE to play a major role in various international and regional conferences. The award consists in the opportunity for promising young (under 36 years old) geotechnical engineers/academics to have a chance to deliver keynote and invited lectures at these conferences. Most of the European member societies nominated candidates for this ECSMGE 2019 Bright Spark Award, YMPG provided a preliminary selection to ISSMGE President for final approval. In order to strengthen the collaboration between YMPG and Corporate Associates (CA), a jointed main session was organized and I had the opportunity to chair the Bright Spark award sessions. The award was given by prof. Charles NG to Federico Pisanò (Tu Delft) and Matteo Ciantia (University of Dundee) during the opening ceremony Monday morning, while the session was on Thursday morning.

Two things struck me the most about the two awardees. First of all, the clarity and depth of the talks, which proved (once again) that thanks to strong basis, passion and hard work, young talents are a great source of innovation in our field. Secondly, the fact that both presentations highlighted with references and quotes how the research is always the result of a strong networks of professionals made of peers as well as “masters”.

During the conference I also had the opportunity of presenting a work entitled “Blue Green Infrastructures and groundwater flow for future development of Milano (Italy)”, which is the outcome of an Arup funded research which started in 2015 in collaboration with University of Bicocca in Milan. The content of the work, which is about turning water table rising in Milan from an issue to an opportunity for a more sustainable city, very much fitted with one of the key themes of the conference: climate change.

From Friday to Sunday I have also very much enjoyed my time in Iceland. First of all, the very instructive trip to the second biggest European glacier. Secondly, the Golden Circle tour. And, last but not least, a few hour fishing session in a rough sea which ended up with a tasty grilled BBQ on the boat.
Photographs from Conference: Insert here or attach to email

Former Iceland President’s opening speech

A few facts about Iceland’s natural water
Cold water. Comes directly from underground springs. It is pure and refreshing and perfectly suited for drinking. It meets all international standards for potable water.
Hot water. Geothermal water that comes from deep boreholes has a slight natural smell of sulphur. It is excellent for bathing and washing. Silver jewellery may tarnish if worn while bathing.
Caution: The hot water can be over 80°C hot (176°F)
Water in Iceland is a renewable natural source but do not waste it.
Conserve water - conserve energy

About Iceland water

CAPG + YMPG Thursday morning session (Chairs and Bright Spark Awardees)
Myself chairing YMPG Bright Spark session, introducing Young Member Presidential Group activities

Young Geotechnical dinner at Reykjavik Port
Into the glacier: below 40m of blue ice