TC306 meeting 2/2026

Date: Monday 13th July, 11:00 UTC

Place: online (Meet)

Agenda

1. Communications
2. Ongoing initiatives
3. New initiatives
4. Other issues

Participants

Name	Country	Membership	Attendance
Asif Ahmed	USA	Nominated Member	1
David Airey	Australia	Nominated Member	
George Anoyatis	Belgium	Nominated Member	apologies
John Atkinson	United Kingdom	Nominated Member	
Katia Bicalho	Brazil	Nominated Member	apologies
Giovanna Biscontin	United Kingdom	Corresponding Member	
Gretchen Bohnhoff	USA	Nominated Member	1
Brian Byrne	Ireland	Corresponding Member	
Michele Calvello	Italy	TC Chair	1
Francesca Ceccato	Italy	Nominated by TC Chair	1
Ilhan Chang	South Korea	Corresponding Member	
Liang Cui	Canada	Nominated Member	
Jean de Sauvage	France	Corresponding Member	1
Vasiliki Dimitriadi	Greece	Corresponding Member	1
Kurt Douglas	Australia	Nominated Member	
Silvina Echazú Lamas	Argentina	Nominated Member	
Tugba Eskişar Tefçi	Turkey	Nominated Member	
George Fanourakis	South Africa	Nominated Member	1
Wolfgang Fellin	Austria	Nominated Member	1
Miguel Angel Figueras Corte	Mexico	Nominated Member	
Ana Heitor	UK	Corresponding Member	1
Mark Jaksa	Australia	Corresponding Member	
Orianne Jenck	France	Nominated Member	
Polyxeni Kallioglou	Greece	Corresponding Member	1
Mamoru Kikumoto	Japan	Nominated Member	

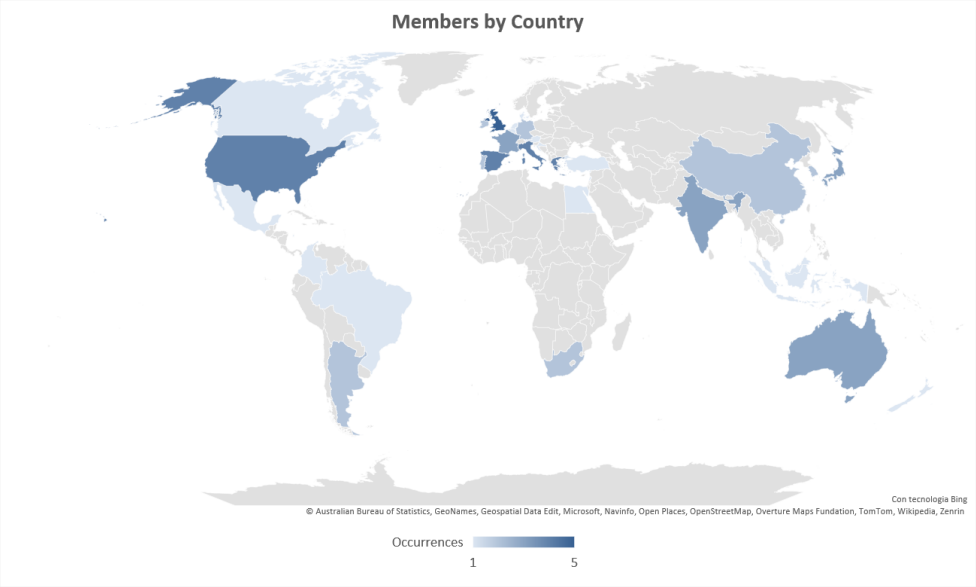
Emil Mejlhede Kinslev	Denmark	Nominated Member	apologies
Ansgar Kirsch	Germany	Nominated Member	apologies
Katharina Kluge	Germany	Nominated Member	apologies
Biljana Kovačević Zelić	Croatia	Nominated Member	1
Tae-Hyuk Kwon	South Korea	Nominated Member	
Robert Lanzafame	USA	Corresponding Member	1
Alberto Ledesma	Spain	Nominated Member	1
Andy Leung	Hong Kong	Nominated Member	
Xia Li	China	Nominated Member	
Huabei Liu	China	Nominated Member	
Charles MacRobert	South Africa	Nominated Member	1
Francisco Javier Manzano Diosdado	Spain	Corresponding Member	
Farimah Masrouri	France	Nominated Member	apologies
Manuel Matos Fernandes	Portugal	Nominated Member	
Bryan McCabe	Ireland	Nominated Member	
Silvana Montoya-Noguera	Colombia	Nominated Member	
Toshifumi Mukunoki	Japan	Nominated Member	
Soon Min Ng	Malaysia	Nominated Member	1
Hideki Ohta	Japan	Corresponding Member	1
Rolando Orense	New Zealand	Nominated Member	
Marina Pantazidou	Greece	TC Vice chair	1
Anitha G. Pillai	India	Nominated Member	
Margarida Fernandez Pinho Lopes	Portugal	TC Secretary	1
Muhsin Rahal	Lebanon	Nominated Member	
Anna Ramón Tarragona	Spain	Corresponding Member	
Saibaba Reddy	India	Corresponding Member	
Rodrigo Salgado	United States	Nominated by TC Chair	
Thomas Shire	United Kingdom	Nominated Member	
Klaas Siderius	Netherlands	Nominated Member	
Guda Sridevi	India	Nominated Member	
Alessandro Tarantino	UK	Nominated by TC Chair	1
Girima Tirner	Argentina	Nominated Member	
Ezra Tjung	Indonesia	Nominated Member	
Francisco Javier Torrijo	Spain	Nominated Member	
Roberto Valentino	Italy	Nominated Member	apologies
Roberto Vassallo	Italy	Nominated Member	1
Vasiliki Xenaki	Greece	Nominated Member	1
Jun Yang	Hong Kong	Nominated Member	
Fayrouz Yasser	Egypt	Nominated Member	

Agenda point 1 "Communications"

[Michele Calvello] communicates that, since our last meeting, the **TC membership** changed as follows.

- Guda Sridevi (India), new member nominated by Indian member society replacing Rama Rao
- Miguel Angel Figueras Corte (Mexico), new member nominated by Mexican member society
- Girima Tirner (Argentina), new member nominated by Argentinian member society
- Alessandro Tarantino (UK), new member nominated by TC Chair
- Jean de Sauvage (France), new corresponding member

[MC] welcomes the new members and highlights that TC 306 now has 64 members (including 13 corresponding) from 32 member societies across all continents, as shown in the following Figure.



[Michele Calvello] is pleased to inform TC members that the **first "Geo-Education Knowledge Bridge Award"** has been awarded in March 2026 to Dr. Joey Zhu, postdoctoral researcher at the University of Sydney (Australia), for an activity titled "A Little Water Can Make Sand Stronger." The recipient is expected to produce the educational material by the end of 2026 consulting, as mentioned in the application, the senior colleague Prof. David Airey (University of Sydney, Australia).

[Michele Calvello] communicates that, at the ISSMGE Council Meeting held in Vienna on 14 June 2026, Prof. Lyesse Laloui (EPFL, Switzerland) was elected President of the Society for the period 2026-2030, and that a member of our TC, **Prof. Rolando Orense**, was nominated in the new ISSMGE Board as Vice President Australasia (https://www.issmge.org/news/professor-lyesse-laloui-elected-as-new-issmge-president-2026-2030). [MC] warmly congratulates Rolando Orense for this achievement.

Regarding the **ICSMGE held in Vienna (14-19 June 2026)**, [Michele Calvello] informs the members that TC306 did not organize any specific initiative nor chaired any technical session in this Conference. The three papers dealing with geo-engineering education issues selected for oral presentation (out of 10 submissions) were placed within a "Miscellaneous" session on Thursday 18th June.

Agenda point 2 "Ongoing initiatives"

2.1. TC306 web ecosystem and dissemination of relevant information

[Michele Calvello] highlights a recent post by Marina Pantaziodou titled **"GEE 2025 legacy: a substantial footprint"**, published both as a ISSMGE TC306 news item (https://www.issmge.org/news/gee-2025-legacy-a-substantial-footprint) and as a new discussion topic in the GeoWorld group Geo-engineering Education (TC306) (https://www.mygeoworld.com/groups/geo-engineering-education-tc306/discussions). This should be considered a good practice of dissemination of relevant geo-educational material produced by our TC, in this case addressing our latest quadrennial conference GEE 2025 (providing freely accessible papers, recorded presentations, slides from invited talks).
[Marina Pantazidou] and [Alessandro Tarantino] add that anyone, not only TC306 members, can sign up to be notified via email every time a News item is posted on our TC ISSMGE webpage (simply clicking on button "sign-up to receive committee news") and/or in the GeoWorld group (by joining the group).

[Michele Calvello] reminds everyone that TC306 activities and material are shared on the web using **multiple dissemination channels**, all listed in our main web portal (https://www.issmge.org/committees/technical-committees/impact-on-society/geo-education). The latest addition is the link to **LinkedIn posts using the hashtag #TC306** (https://www.linkedin.com/search/results/content/?keywords=%23tc306). [MC] invites TC members to use the various channels of our web ecosystem both to personally explore and to further disseminate the vast archive of resources available there.

2.2. Peer-reviewed educational materials

[Marina Pantazidou] thoroughly presents to the TC members the draft of a **TC306 guide for peer review of educational materials** she has prepared (link to shared ANNEXES: review guide, contents of textbooks). The guide is written in the style of a rubric, i.e., it does not only list criteria as each criterion is accompanied by questions. As it is written in the guide: "*Reviewers are expected to assess the material by considering whether they would be able to adopt and use it confidently in their own teaching.*" [MP] invites members to send her comment on the content of the guide, after they have read it. The comments will help her refining the guide in the next few months.

[MP] says that it would have been nearly impossible to create a meaningful review guide without using it for at least one review. Therefore, she reviewed a video on shear strength basics created by [Wolfgang Fellin] (https://doi.org/10.48517/6fbd-kb84), after having asked his permission to write the review and without discussing the content of the video with him prior to writing the review (i.e., independent review, link to shared ANNEXES: review, reply). [MP] publicly thanks: Wolfgang Fellin for agreeing graciously and bravely to have his material reviewed; Gretchen Bohnhoff for the guide she recommended in her paper from the conference last year; Alberto Ledesma for inspirational words he wrote stating that even for the most advanced soil mechanics concepts, if we think they're core, we have to find ways of presenting them at the appropriate conceptual level in our courses.

The discussion, besides some comments about specific topics tackled in the video (e.g., the use and meaning of "critical state", and the expression "asymptotic state" as a possible alternative), mainly addressed the issue of how the TC intends to proceed with this activity. [Alessandro Tarantino] asks what level of "certification" we would like to have from TC306 on the reviews performed. [Michele Calvello], [Alberto Ledesma] and [Marina Pantazidou] all agree that the TC shall not try to establish any certification procedure but rather aim

at presenting publicly relevant materials (starting from what [MP] calls "quality materials") and their peer-reviews. This will have various potential benefits: provide commented content that may be useful to instructors; help establishing a practice of reviewing educational material; openly highlight disagreement, if present; prompt further discussions.

[Michele Calvello] will put an agenda item in the next TC meeting to discuss how to proceed technically, i.e., where and how to post the guidelines and the performed reviews, how to stimulate and collect feedback by instructors. In the meantime, TC members are strongly invited to send feedback on the content of the guide prepared by [MP] and/or on the review she performed.

from the chat

[Ana Heitor] I think this is a good idea, especially for new lecturers starting out. I still welcome feedback on my own teaching materials.

2.3. GEE posts

[Michele Calvello] reminds TC member of the GEE posts initiative (short contribution written by a TC306 member published on our web page: https://www.issmge.org/committees/technical-committees/impact-on-society/geo-education). [Robert Lanzafame], confirming the availability expressed during the last meeting, is still committed to review one or two videos produced by the Geotechnical division of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (https://hkieged.org/public/soil-testing-video-series), to interact with the video authors, and to end the activity writing a GEE post.

2.4. GEE2029

[Michele Calvello] informs that the **GEE2029 survey**, sent out to TC members to get opinions on location, period and format of our next GEE quadrennial conference, got 24 responses. [MC] illustrates the results of the survey (link to shared ANNEX). In reply to the last questions "Would you be available to organize GEE2029 in your country and Chair the conference?" and "… do you already have any idea on where and when GEE2029 could be held?", the following people expressed an interest in discussing further the possibility of hosting GEE2029:

- **Michele Calvello (Italy)**: Campania region, Hotel (rooms reserved for all participants) in Amalfitana coast, May to July or September.
- **Wolfgang Fellin (Austria)**: Innsbruck - in the heart of the alps
- **Ilhan Chang (South Korea)**: We can discuss / Perhaps August?
- **Gretchen Bohnhoff (USA):** Milwaukee, WI, USA. [I am hesitant to host an international conference given the current environment, though I hope conditions will improve by 2029.]
- **Silvana Montoya (Colombia)**: End of May to mid-July in Medellín, Colombia at Universidad EAFIT.
- **George Anoyatis (Belgium)**: GEE2029 could be held on our KU Leuven campus in Bruges, Belgium with direct connection from Brussels International Airport and train connections to London, Paris, Amsterdam.

- **Charles MacRobert (South Africa)**: Stellenbosch, South Africa. [We have a great venue: https://tmp.stias.ac.za/conference-facilities/venues/ I have not made any enquires about cost or support from the South African Geotechnical Division.] *This comment has been followed by a formal bid received by email (supported by 2 slides included in the ANNEX)

[Michele Calvello], [Wolfgang Fellin] and [Charles MacRobert] confirmed they have already secured the support of their institutions to possibly host GEE2029. [Gretchen Bohnhoff] cannot confirm this at this stage. The other three people that expressed an interest were not attending the meeting and thus could not comment further. A lively discussion follows. The following issues have been mentioned.

- ✓ We have a tradition of having inexpensive conferences because education has this unique burden of people not having funding explicitly from projects to travel, says [Marina Pantazidou].
- ✓ Further occasions for TC306 members to meet and discuss in person are sessions potentially organized during ISSMGE conferences, says [Marina Pantazidou]. For instance, in August 2028 the Europeans will meet in Istanbul at ECMSGE, https://www.ecsmge-2028.com/, and in November 2029—not 2030 as stated during the meeting—the ICSMGE will be held in Shanghai, https://www.issmge.org/news/professor-lyesse-laloui-elected-as-new-issmge-president-2026-2030.
- ✓ We need to consider the potential in-person participation to GEE2029 of both TC members and other attendees, says [Michele Calvello]. If the number of participants is between 50 and 100, it can be considered a well attended conference. Registered participants to the two previous editions of the conference held in person (GEE2020 was fully online) were: 16 for SFGE2016 in Belo Horizonte (Brazil), and about 80 for GEE2025 in Nancy (France). It's worth noting that SFGE2016 was held in conjunction with the national geotechnical engineering Brazilian conference and thus the plenary session (including the 1st Burland lecture delivered by John Atkinson) were attended by a much higher number of people. For GEE2025, more than a third of the participants were French and about 15 were coming from outside Europe.
- ✓ [Michele Calvello] proposes to move forward by collecting more information from the people that already expressed an interest in hosting GEE2029, in the form of answers to a new survey that will be circulated after the summer.
- ✓ In relation to who will finally decide where and when to organize GEE2029, [Michele Calvello] proposes to involve again TC members in expressing their opinion on the final bids, while leaving the final decision to the three TC306 Officers. [Alessandro Tarantino] mentions the experience of other TCs, where a vote by all TC members is required for such a decision.

from the chat

[Ana Heitor] I would personally prefer Europe for convenience, but we ought to be inclusive so I would support a location outside of Europe.

All that considered, it is decided that the three TC officers will prepare and submit a new survey to collect more information from the seven people that expressed an interest in hosting GEE2029. Subsequently, they will inform TC members of the new information gathered and will formally involve the entire TC (modality to be decided) in the selection of the winning bid.

2.5. New Burland lectures

[Michele Calvello] says that TC306 is willing to continue awarding its Honour Lecture (the John Burland lecture) every 4 years, with the lecture being delivered during the quadrennial GEE conference (the previous ones were delivered by John Atkinson at SFGE2016, by Mark Jaksa at GEE2020, and by Marina Pantazidou at GEE02025). Therefore, the new ISSMGE board needs to be informed and to be asked whether a new proposal from the TC must be submitted. [MC] reminds members that the current guidelines of the TOC (https://www.issmge.org/filemanager/article/390/Guidelines_for_ISSMGE_Technical_Committees_Final_Oct_2022.pdf) only state "The lifespan of an ISSMGE Honour Lecture shall normally be a minimum of 8 years. If a TC is dissolved, the ISSMGE Honour Lecture will also cease."

In the meantime, TC members are invited to think about possible candidates to the fourth John Burland lecture. We need to secure at least three candidatures.

Agenda point 3 "New initiatives"

3.1. News and proposals by Alessandro Tarantino

[Alessandro Tarantino] informs TC members that the British Geotechnical Association (BGA) has launched a **UK GENIUS 'Ground Engineering Network for Industry-University Skills' initiative** on industry-informed teaching in geotechnics (link to shared ANNEX). [AT] is a member of GENIUS and will keep informing TC306 of relevant ongoing activities and material produced, for instance circulating the GENIUS webpage when it will be launched.

[Alessandro Tarantino] also proposes the following two new initiatives

- **TC306 special issue of the ISSMGE IJGCH** (proposed together with [Alessia Amabile] who is currently seeking nomination to TC306 by the British Geotechnical Society)

All TCs will be asked to contribute with a special issue. The proposal from TC306 could be a special issue on 'educational' case studies that may serve as teaching material, to be used by lecturers worldwide in designing coursework briefs and group design projects. To ensure that the case studies are realistic, robust, and directly applicable to teaching and design-based learning activities, this would require the involvement of industry partners to provide real-world problems, together with supporting data such as site investigation records, qualitative and quantitative observations of geostructure performance, and other relevant project information.

Replying to a specific concern expressed by [Michele Calvello], [AT] says that he is confident that a good number of case studies can come from industry partners from the UK. [Marina Pantazidou] adds that the TC306 representative in the Editorial Board (David Airey) must be involved. [AT] agrees.

- **Teaching unsaturated soils at undergraduate level** (proposed together with [Katia Bicalho] as a joint initiative with TC106 Unsaturated Soils)

There is a demand to integrate basic 'saturated' soil mechanics with elements of unsaturated soils, yet teaching elements of unsaturated soil mechanics at undergraduate level remains a challenge for non-specialist lecturers and existing textbooks are mainly design for advanced research training (not easily accessible by non-specialist lecturers). We intend to adopt the approach used by Marina Pantazidou,

whereby non-specialist lecturers either propose content for review by specialists or submit requests for specific content to be developed by specialists (TC106). Content may include: slides/lectures notes on specific topics (e.g., hydraulic conductivity, water flow, consolidation, compressibility, shear strength, slope stability, bearing capacity, retaining structures, etc.); support materials like worked examples, tutorials, quizzes.

[AT] and [KB] will circulate a call for topics and supporting materials to identify and prioritize the most pressing needs.

3.2. Proposal received by Chair of next TC101's international symposium

[Kartal Toker], Chair of the **9th International Symposium on Deformation Characteristics of Geomaterials** (IS-Ankara, https://www.isdcg2027.com/index.html) organized by TC101 Laboratory testing, sent us the following letter.

> *Dear Colleagues in TC306, Every 4 years, ISSMGE's Technical Committee on Laboratory Testing (TC101) organises a World conference, covering advances in laboratory testing of geomaterials. Following the success of previous symposium editions in Sapporo (1994), Torino (1999), Lyon (2003), Atlanta (2008), Seoul (2011), Buenos Aires (2015), Glasgow (2019) and Porto (2023), it is our great pleasure to invite members of TC306 to the 9th INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM on DEFORMATION CHARACTERISTICS of GEOMATERIALS, which will be held on 14th – 17th of September, 2027 at the Middle East Technical University (METU), Ankara, Türkiye. We would be delighted to have talks on inter-TC topics, such as laboratory sessions of soil mechanics courses, especially in the COVID-postCOVID era of increased digital education. We can have such a dedicated parallel session if enough number of presentations are received. Or, come to think of it, our conference bid proposal in 2023 included a panel on this topic, to share how educators from around the world handled laboratory teaching during the pandemic. We also plan to allocate a full day to themed 2-hour workshop sessions, one of which could be a joint collaboration. This meeting will bring together researchers, engineers, and industry experts from around the world to exchange the latest scientific knowledge, share innovative solutions, and discuss future challenges in laboratory testing of geomaterials. With more than 200 participants expected, IS-Ankara will provide an inspiring environment for fruitful discussions, networking opportunities, and international collaborations. We look forward to welcoming you to Ankara, Türkiye, and to METU, a leading institution in the region with a strong tradition of excellence in engineering and geosciences.*

[Michele Calvello] says he will not attend the symposium IS-Ankara, and thus he cannot lead any associated initiative. If there are TC members willing to follow up on this invitation, they will be put in contact with the chair of the IS-Ankara.

3.3. Other proposals by members

None.

Agenda point 4 “Other issues”

[Michele Calvello] remembers everyone NOT TO FORGET to subscribe to, and use (as needed), our distribution list (https://groups.google.com/g/geotechnical-engineering-education) and to use the #TC306 hashtag when posting relevant material on LinkedIn.

Closure

The meeting ends at 12:40 UTC