



## **ISSMGE TC201**

### **Geotechnical Aspects of Dykes and Levees and Shore Protection**

#### **Newsletter December 2025**

Dear TC201 members,

This is the twenty-sixth newsletter of the ISSMGE Technical Committee 201: Geotechnical Aspects of Dykes and Levees and Shore Protection. The intention of the newsletter is to keep all members informed on coming activities of our TC201 and the ISSMGE.

Chairman TC201: **Cor Zwanenburg**  
Secretary TC201: **Norma Patricia López-Acosta**

### **1. TC Chair Elections – Next Steps and Timeline**

#### **Announcement**

Dear TC201 members we notify you that the Cor's second term as TC201 Chair has concluded, and it is time to hand-over the TC201 Chair. To find a new candidate elections will be held and we ask anyone who is interested in serving as chair to come forward. In discussion with the ISSMGE board we would like to have the new chair installed and active at the international conference in Vienna. Since this event will be held in June 2026 we come to the following timeline:

#### **Next Steps and Timeline**

- The process to select a new TC201 Chair will start in December 2026. — Call for candidates. Each candidate should prepare a short bio (half a page) and a vision statement on TC201 (half a page).
- Deadline for submissions: 31 January 2026.
- First week of February 2026: Candidate materials, bio + vision statement, to TC members will be circulated.
- Three-week voting window (February 2026): Online, anonymous voting.

Note: TC201 will be using the ISSMGE-approved voting system for this procedure. Details about the voting system will follow later.

- Early March 2026: Confirm and announce the new Chair (confirmation by TOC/president).

## 2. TC201 management meetings 2026

We are planning to have two TC201 management meetings in 2026 as follows:

- a) A dedicated **on-line TC201 meeting** on the joint publication on retrofitting and reinforcements of levees will be held on **March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026** (6:30 h Mexico/ 14:30 h Delft/ 21:30 h Seoul).
- b) A **hybrid TC201 meeting** within the framework of the 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (21<sup>st</sup> ICSMGE), in Vienna, Austria, from 14 to 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2026. The exact date and time will be announced later.

Details of these meetings as well as the invitations to the on-line and hybrid meeting will follow later.

## 3. News about the joint report on retrofitting and reinforcements of levees

Up to now, many contributions with very interesting case studies and topics were received from a significant number of TC201 members. At this time, the information is being processed by the coordinator Yida Tao in the joint publication on retrofitting and reinforcements of levees, which will be presented in the 21<sup>st</sup> ICSMGE (Vienna, Austria, June, 2026).

## 4. New members

- **Shunzo Kawajiri** (Japan, since July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025)
- **Hirotohi Mori** (Japan, renewal since July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025)

We warmly welcome these new TC201 members.

## 5. Some upcoming events

- 4th Unsaturated Soil and Environmental Engineering Symposium (on-line and in person). Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest, Hungary, January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026. More information: Emőke Imre ([imreemok@gmail.com](mailto:imreemok@gmail.com)).

- The 21<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (21<sup>st</sup> ICSMGE), Geotechnical Challenges in a Changing Environment, will be held in Vienna, Austria, from 14 to 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2026. It will be an in-person event. <https://www.icsmge2026.org/en/>

**Important Note:** Our joint report on retrofitting and reinforcements of levees will be presented in the 21<sup>st</sup> ICSMGE.

- European Working Group Internal Erosion (EWG-IE) & Overflow and Overtopping Erosion (EWG-OOE) Meeting, 22-26 June 2026, Delft, the Netherlands



## 6. Endorsement research proposal

TC201 has endorsed the research proposal “Digital dikes a multiscale framework for risk assessment of backward erosion piping” as being one of the stakeholders for the research outcome. Last week we got the news that the proposal was **granted**. Congratulations to the project team. The proposed project is described as:

*A key threat to dike stability is Backward Erosion Piping (BEP), a complex process where water seeping under a dike dislodges sand, potentially causing collapse. Current assessment methods use overly simplified models that don't account for the intricate physics beneath the surface. The Digital Dikes project addresses this critical challenge by developing advanced digital models that capture the 3D nature of BEP and the variability of soil and water conditions. These models will be informed by real-world monitoring*



*data and tested through extensive collaborations with industry, government, and international partners. This will lead to better-targeted dike reinforcements, smarter allocation of scarce technical labour, and more effective use of public funds.*

If you want TC201 to join the stakeholder committee of your research proposal, please contact TC201 chair ([cor.zwanenburg@deltares.nl](mailto:cor.zwanenburg@deltares.nl))

## **7. Next TC201 Newsletter**

The next newsletter will be sent in April 2026. Please provide all available information, like TC related publications, academic papers, news, research, among others, to the Secretary TC201 *Norma Patricia López-Acosta*, [nlopeza@iingen.unam.mx](mailto:nlopeza@iingen.unam.mx)