

Technical Committee Bio-Geotechnical Engineering (TC223)

Online Launch Meeting Tuesday 29th May 2026

Present: Grainne El Mountassir (Chair), Rafaela Cardoso (Secretary), Junliang (Julian) Tao (Vice-Secretary), Enrique Romero, Michael Gomez, Marcelo Sanchez (TOC Chair, ISSMGE Representative), Leon van Passen, Alejandro Martinez, Alessandro Fraccica, Alessia Cuccurullo, Anil Yildiz, Anthony Leung, Brendan O'Kelly, Charalampos Konstantinou, Cino Viggiani, Alexandra Clará Saracho, Claudia Vitone, Emmanuel Salifu, Guijie Sang, Hamed Khodadadi Tirkolaei, Hans Henning Stutz, Irene Rocchi, Lidija Zdravkovic, Marco Rosone, Marius Milatz, Neelima Satyam, Rajibul Karim, Sabatino Cuomo, Sergio Lourenço, Sheng Dai, Sravan Muguda Viswanath, Stefano Muraro, Surabhi Jain, Raghuveer Rao Pallepatti, Lin Li, Yang Xiao.

Apologies: Annette Esnault-Fillet, Aswin Lim, David Boldrin, Dimitrios Terzis, Gloria Castro, Manuela Ceccioni, Vito Tagarelli, Vittoria Cappobianca.

1	Welcome	Actions
	Grainne El Mountassir (GEM) welcomed everyone to the launch of TC223 in Bio-Geotechnical Engineering.	
2	Chair Presentation	
	GEM first outlined the leadership team of TC223: <i>Chair – Grainne El Mountassir</i> <i>Vice-Chair – Junliang (Julian) Tao</i> <i>Secretary – Rafaela Cardoso</i> <i>Nominated by Chair – Enrique Romero</i> <i>Nominated by Chair – Michael Gomez</i>	
	GEM gave an overview of the scope and objectives and task forces of TC223. The TC will have both technical and professional task forces. The task forces will be assigned leaders and deputy-leaders once the membership list has evolved. GEM outlined potential links between TC223 and other existing TCs.	
	GEM gave an update on the current membership of TC223 and outlined the route to becoming a member of TC223: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Members can only be proposed via your member society</i>• <i>Each member society can propose up to two members as nominated members (with voting rights).</i>• <i>Additional members can be proposed as corresponding members (no voting rights).</i>	Action on all potential members to contact their member society.

3	Asian Regional Technical Committee in Biogeotechnics (AsRTC)	
	Anthony Leung gave an update on the recently launched Asian Regional Technical Committee on Biogeotechnics, (launched 12 th May 2026) pointing out the potential for cooperation. In particular, highlighting their focus on engagement with young engineers.	
4	ISSMGE Update	
	<p>Marcelo Sanchez (representative of ISSMGE) confirmed support for this new TC, and that ISSMGE are very happy to have this new TC launched.</p> <p>Marcelo confirmed that ISSMGE would request representatives of TC223 join the editorial boards of the following ISSMGE journals: ISSMGE International Journal of Geoenvironmental Case Histories ISSMGE Journal on Geotechnical Engineering Research</p>	GEM to invite Expression of Interests for joining Editorial Boards
5	Upcoming Activities	
	<p>Members discussed the potential to run a webinar series for TC223, similar to the previously held ISSMGE interactive talks (speakers covering a range of career stages, gender diverse and from different regions). This initiative was positively received by attendees.</p> <p>GEM highlighted a number of upcoming conferences with existing Biogeotechnical themes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNSAT Boston (6th -9th June 2027) Abstracts until 26th June –them on biogeotechnics. • 10th ISSMGE Env Geo Kyoto (1st-5th Nov 2027) Abstracts 31st December 2026 – theme on Bio-mediated and Bio-inspired geotechniques 	Leadership Team to take forward Webinars initiative.
6	Member Discussion	
	<p>Then, the meeting was open to interventions from the attendees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alejandro Martinez (AM) mentioned that UC Davis are intending to host the 2nd ICCBG conference in May/June 2028, and there may be interest in running the conference in partnership with TC223. Marcelo Sanchez was supportive of this initiative. ISSMGE are very supportive of the 4-year international conference series as a means of bringing the global community together. 	AM to discuss with local organising committee.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sravan Muguda Viswanath announced that TC307 (Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering) had recently announced their 1st International conference - ICSGE in Lisbon in 2027, with themes on Biogeotechnics (https://icsge.lnec.pt/). Agreed that there is scope for partnering with TC307. • Cino Viggiani highlighted that as well as conferences it can be good to organise smaller workshops to promote the discussion of science and particularly with in mind students and younger colleagues. Cino suggested hosting a Bio-Geotechnics focused session as part of the ALERT Network Annual Workshop in Aussois, France. Colleagues were supportive of this initiative. 	<p>RC to contact the local organising committee to explore collaboration potential.</p> <p>GEM to check deadlines for applying for ALERT workshop.</p>
6	Member Introductions	
	Julian Tao invited all attendees to introduce themselves and share their specific interests related to Bio-Geotechnical Engineering.	
7	Date of next meeting	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting at ICSMGE 2026, Vienna on 16/06/26 13:00-13:45 (UTC+2) Meeting room 1.16, level 1 and online. 	