

## News

### International Conference of Geotechnical Engineering 2010

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ICGE'10 was held at Hammamet (Tunisia) from 25th to 27th October 2010 at Le Royal Hammamet Hotel. Eighty participants attended the conference from 22 countries. The chairman of ICGE'10 was Prof. Mounir Bouassida and the chairman of the organizing Committee was Dr. Imen SAID.

Five keynote lectures, presented by Professors JL Briaud (USA), R. Frank (France), B. Indraratna (Australia), Z. Lafhaj (France) and M. Karray (Canada), were presented at the opening of five sessions relevant to the major themes of ICGE'10 namely: soil behavior, deep foundations and underground constructions, environmental geotechnics, soil improvement, slope stability and management of seismic risk.

At the opening ceremony, Prof. M. Bouassida briefly introduced the composition and activities of the Geotechnical Engineering Team organizer of ICGE'10 in its second edition of the serial "Innovative Geotechnical Engineering". Professor C. Bouden, Dean of the National Engineering School of Tunis, well outlined the prominent sign of an exciting international event especially honoured by the presence of Professors J.L. Briaud, President of ISSMGE and Prof. S. Ejezie, the Vice President for Africa of ISSMGE and well acknowledged experts in various themes in geotechnical engineering.

ICGE'10 was the opportunity to open the discussion about laterites and lateritic soils that is the label of TC 107 chaired by Africa as novel technical committee of ISSMGE. A panel discussion chaired by Professors Briaud, Ejezie and Bouassida helped the attendees to learn more on the role of TCs, how to be a member and what type of activities to be launched from a TC member. Two participants from Niger and Tunisia proclaimed volunteers to activate knowledge an expertise in lateritic soil theme as members of TC 107.

The GERT invited the committee of Tunisian Society (ATMS) of Soil Mechanics and Professors Briaud, Ejezie and Frank members of ISSMGE board during a dinner debate to exchange their thoughts about more efficient development of GE in Africa region.

The proceeding of ICGE'10, a volume of 810 pages with ISBN code, was printed in 200 copies. It includes a total of 62 papers authored from 28 countries. As a souvenir a group photograph was taken. The exchange of ideas and discussions between all participants of ICGE'10 is a positive sign for the recent wake up of Africa in Geotechnical Engineering.



Group photograph of conference participants