

## Conference reports

### International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering, Tunisia



**Organizer:** Geotechnical Engineering & Georisk Research Laboratory (National Engineering School of Tunis, University of Tunis El Manar)

The 4<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering ICGE'20 was held at “Le ROYAL HAMMAMET HOTEL” on 09- 11 March 2020 at Hammamet, Tunisia.

The technical program comprised 5 plenary sessions including 7 keynote lectures which are divided into 3 oral presentations (live), 2 Visio-conferences and 2 recorded conferences. Three parallel sessions were held on 9-10 March, involving 8 invited papers and 44 oral presentations.

The delivered keynote lectures were:

1. **Charles Wang Wei NG** (Hong Kong, President of ISSMGE): “*Effects of horizontal and vertical stress relief on the capacity and deformation of friction piles*”
2. **Kok Kwang PHOON** (Singapore, Appointed Member of the ISSMGE): “*Data-driven decision making in geotechnics - Myth or reality?*”
3. **Michel KASSER** (Switzerland, Institut National de l’information géographique et forestière): “*Geometric Aspects of Natural Hazards Monitoring*”
4. **Pedro Sêco e PINTO** (Portugal, appointed member of the ISSMGE): Appointed Board Member ISSMGE “*Geotechnical Hazards-lessons learned from case histories*”: Presented by R. TERZARIOL (Argentina)
5. **Chun LEUNG FAI & Siau SHIAN CHEN** (Singapore): “*Geotechnical challenges and solutions to container port construction*”
6. **Pierre DELAGE** (France, Chair of the Technical Oversight Committee of the ISSMGE) “*The thermo-hydro-mechanical behavior of clays and claystones*”
7. **Dimitrios ZEKOS** (USA, Chair of the Innovations and Development Committee of the ISSMGE): “*Integrated Satellite, UAV and ground-based assessment of landslides in Lefkada, Greece, following the November 17 2015 Mw 6.5 earthquake.*”

The presentations of the invited papers (invited speakers) comprised:

- 6 oral presentations (live) delivered by Abdallah RIFAAT (Oman), Ahmed Safuan BIN A. RASHID (Malaysia), Essaieb HAMDY (Tunisia), Mohamed MASTERE (Morocco), Etienne Marcelin KANA (Cameroon) and Roberto TERZARIOL (Argentina)
- 1 Visio-conference delivered by Roger FRANK (France)
- 3 recorded conferences delivered by Peter DAY (South Africa), Philip ROBINS (Australia) and Eun Chul SHIN (South Korea).

One afternoon was dedicated to a poster session, which included 4 presentations.

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### International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering, Tunisia (Con't)

The ICGE'20 was sponsored and supported by the following institutions:

- NTC (Tunisia)
- SIMPRO (Tunisia)
- ATMR (Tunisia)
- Sols Mesures (France)
- BAUER (Germany)

During the opening ceremony of ICGE'20, Prof CWW Ng, the president of the ISSMGE delivered a speech for presenting the history of ISSMGE and its role both for the practitioners and academicians in GE.

Prof E. HAMDJ (President of the Tunisian society of Rock Mechanics) and Prof E.M. KANA (V.P. for Africa, ISSMGE) pointed out the benefits of international events within the African region to make the Geotechnical Engineers much more connected.

The cloture Ceremony was chaired by Prof M. Bouassida who greatly thanked the sponsors who supported the conference and all the attendees for being able to travel in difficult conditions caused by the pandemy COVID-19.



Figure 1. Group Photo

On 08 March 2020 four members of the ISSMGE board: E.M. KANA, A. SFRISO, (V.P for South America, ISSMGE) R. Terzariol and M. Bouassida, shared a hotel room to attend the ISSMGE board meeting using skype connection.

*M. BOUASSIDA*  
*President of ICGE'20*  
*Appointed member of the ISSMGE*