

Proceedings of the 5th International Conference on Geotechnical Engineering Education,
Athens, Greece, June 23-25, 2020

Geotechnical Engineering Education 2020

Edited by

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ISBN: 978-618-84925-0-9

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Preface

The international conference on Geotechnical Engineering Education, GEE 2020, was organized by the technical committee TC306 of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) under the auspices of the School of Civil Engineering of the National Technical University of Athens, the Hellenic and the International Societies for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, and the City of Athens. It was an online conference, streamed on June 23-25, 2020.

The conference brought together education researchers and geotechnical engineering professors, researchers and practitioners. The conference was designed to serve as a blueprint for a discipline to organize its own education and create education funded projects, in addition to disseminate scholarly practices and research results. Specific objectives included the following:

- 1) to promote adoption of results from research on education in engineering instruction;
- 2) to disseminate educational collaborations between engineering schools and engineering consulting firms;
- 3) to sponsor the training of young engineering academics in evidenced-based practices for effective teaching;
- 4) to stimulate future activities and collaborations in support of geotechnical engineering education, with the help of two panel discussions on “Geo-engineering education papers: scope, characteristics and use” (Panel 1) and “Building a community of scholarly education practice” (Panel 2), which are available at [TC306's YouTube channel](#).

In addition to typical education theme topics, such as Curricula, Coursework, Open Resource Educational Material and Links to Research on Learning and on Engineering Education, GEE 2020 had two priority themes: “Training for Geotechnical Engineering Instructors” (Priority Theme 1) and “Incentives and Opportunities for Industry-Academia Collaboration” (Priority Theme 2). Unfortunately, Priority Theme 1 was not represented with any paper; this lack was partly offset by the discussion in Panel 2 and by awarding a competitive prize to a young geotechnical engineering educator to attend a conference on engineering education.

These proceedings are mostly a record of what the conference leaves behind. As to the future directions, discussions pointed to the need for a) including the Critical State Soil Mechanics Framework in undergraduate instruction, b) compiling a collection of open access images and graphs, c) creating a repository of peer-reviewed educational material and d) developing refresher courses for geotechnical instructors with the broader aim to revitalize geotechnical engineering teaching.

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July 2020

Organization

GEE 2020 Organizing Committee

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