

NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE

The 5th international Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference - iYGEC 2013

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Chair of the Organizing Committee of 5th iYGEC

The fifth international Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference - iYGEC 2013 was held on 31st of August and 1st of September, 2013, at Ecole des Ponts Paris Tech (ENPC) under the auspices of the French Society for Soil Mechanics (CFMS) and the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE). The Organising Committee was composed of: Yu-Jun Cui (Chair), Fabrice Emeriault (Co-chair), Séverine Beaunier, Fahd Cuira, Siavash Ghabezloo, Jean-Michel Pereira, Hugo Ravel, Michael Reboul and Anh Minh Tang. The contribution of the following volunteer PhD students was greatly appreciated: Rawaz Muhammed, Trong Vinh Duong, Hamza Menaceur, Sadok Feia, Linh Quyen Dao, Simona Saba, Jean-François Bruchon and Radja Elandaloussi.

The iYGEC conference series aims at bringing together young people who may be studying for a PhD or Msc or at the early stage of their career in industry or academia, and enables them to communicate with each other and to share their experience in their academic and professional activities. Traditionally, the participants are selected by their respective ISSMGE Member Societies - i.e., two nominees per Member Society. For this fifth edition of iYGEC, in order to further promote the exchanges, the participation was extended to all young geotechnical engineers. This was done without losing the iYGEC's tradition: thus, a mixed format was adopted with nominees and non-nominees.

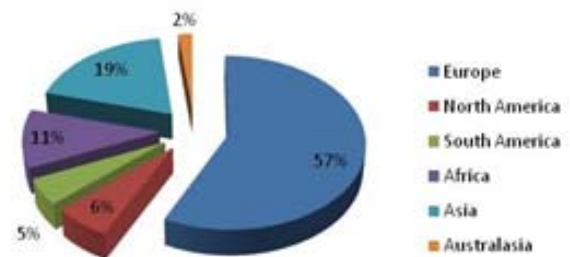


Fig. 1. Participation of countries by continent



Fig. 2. Picture of all the participants

In total 164 young engineers participated in the event, with a distribution as 60% nominees and 40% non-nominees, 55% academia and 45% practitioners, and 70% men and 30% women. 57 countries were represented with a repartition by continent shown in Fig. 1. Fig. 2 is the picture of all the participants.

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The papers received were peer-reviewed by experts in the field of geotechnical engineering. A total of 143 papers was accepted and published in the proceedings (see the cover in Fig. 3).

As for the Conference programme, after the keynote lecture delivered by Dr Alain Puech on “Gassy soils: a challenging issue in offshore geotechnical engineering”, 128 oral presentations were organised in 8 parallel sessions (three running at the same time), with the following topics: laboratory testing, in-situ testing, slope stability, soil behaviour, ground improvement, modelling, earthquake and geodynamics, foundations, earthworks, tunnel and underground structure, and retaining structure. In order to prepare the general report for the plenary session devoted to iYGEC inside the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering - Paris 2013, 18 reporters were mobilised to the various parallel sessions: Sara Amoroso (Sudan), Cécilia Bohn (France), Yuepeng Dong (UK), Leonardo Dorador (Egypt), Richard Heritage (New Zealand), Anna Karatzetzou (Greece), Hatice Kaya (Germany), David Lacey (Australia), Frederick Levy (UK), Layal Maddah (Lebanon), Marcos Montoro (Argentina), Tejas Murthy (India), Gaston Quaglia (Argentina), Sylvie Raymackers (Belgium), Sean Rees (United Kingdom), Daniel Vandenberghe (USA), Kristine Vandenboer (Belgium) and Marek Zalesky (Czech Republic). Fig. 4 is the picture of 16 of them.

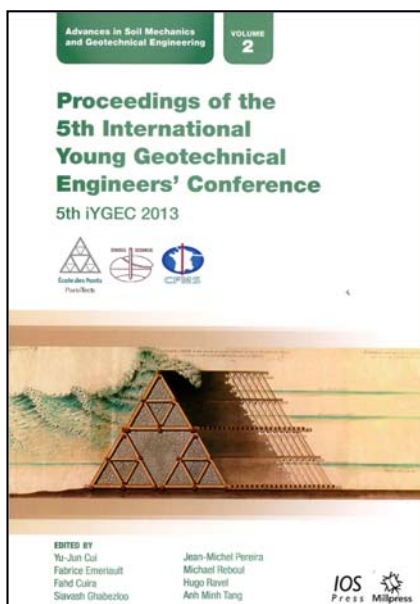


Fig. 3. Proceedings



Fig. 4: Reporters

At the end of the Conference, the reporters worked together to prepare the general report and to elect two representatives (David Lacey from Australia and Gaston Quaglia from Argentina) for the oral presentation in the iYGEC Session of 18 ICSMGE - Paris 2013.

It is important to note that two outstanding presentations were selected by the Organising Committee to be presented during the iYGEC Session of 18 ICSMGE - Paris 2013:

- Francesca Ceccato (Italy): Effect of wood degradation and soil creep on the behavior of wooden pile foundation in Venice;
- Antonio Correia (Portugal): An innovative deep foundation macro-element model for seismic analysis of pile/column supports.

Thanks again to David and Gaston for their excellent general report and congratulations again to Francesca and Antonio for their success.

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Finally, I would like to finish my report with the kind and encouraging words from Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud, our former ISSMGE President:

Dear Yu-Jun,

You and your team deserve a lot of compliments for this magnificent success. You had more young people participating in this conference than any time in the history of ISSMGE. I heard nothing but praise about the event and I wish I could find a way to reward all of you for this devotion and unselfishness. I am afraid that I do not have the right answer but you should pride yourself to have made a difference, to have had an impact on the future generation and to have created an unforgettable moment in the mind of many. It is this kind of tremendously successful effort with nothing but a hand shake or a pat on the back at the end which makes life worth living and which allows us to fall asleep at night with a smile on our face.

Happy dreams.

Jean-Louis