

**CONFERENCE REPORT:**

**The 18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL MECHANICS  
AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING (18 ICSMGE) (CONTINUED)**



Opening session of Paris 2013 Conference in the great amphitheatre of the Palais des Congrès of Paris



Jean-Louis Briaud, President of ISSMGE (2009-2013)

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View of the exhibition hall



Philippe Mestat, IFSTTAR, President of the CFMS, Chairman of the 18th ICSMGE, Paris 2013



**CONFERENCE REPORT:****The 18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING (18 ICSMGE) (CONTINUED)**

Parallel Session in Room Maillot



Poster presentation in the corridors leading to the parallel sessions

**CONFERENCE REPORT:****The 18th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL MECHANICS AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING (18 ICSMGE) (CONTINUED)**

Gala dinner at the Pavillon Dauphine

**From the Editor of ISSMGE BULLETIN**

During the ICSMGE in Paris, the editing team of the Bulletin got together in a one-star restaurant in the heart of Paris and enjoyed the authentic French cuisine. This gathering was planned by the Editor-in-Chief in order to appreciate the enthusiastic contribution of the team members. The photograph below right was taken after this gathering. If you are interested in what happened after this photograph, please ask one of the editing team members.



During the dinner



After the dinner



## NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE

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

Yu-Jun Cui

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.

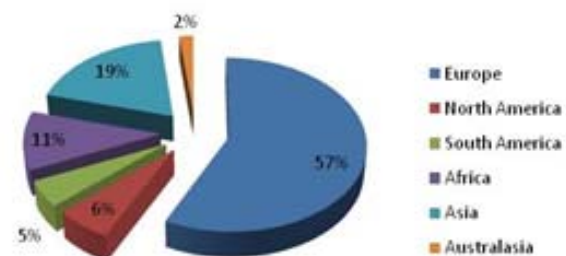


Fig. 1. Participation of countries by continent



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.

## NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE

### The 5th international Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference - iYGEC 2013 (CONTINUED)

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.

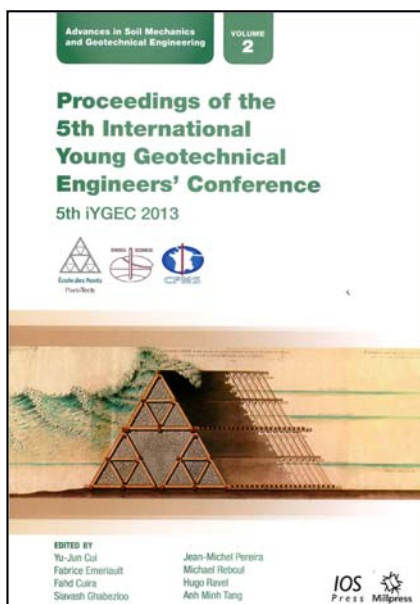


Fig. 3. Proceedings



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.

## NEWS ON RECENT CONFERENCE

### The 5th international Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference - iYGEC 2013 (CONTINUED)

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*

## RECIPIENT OF KEVIN NASH GOLD MEDAL DURING THE 18TH ICSMGE IN PARIS

The Kevin Nash Gold Medal is awarded in memory of Professor Kevin Nash, Secretary General of the International Society (1965-1981). The medal is awarded to a person who, through his distinction as an engineer, through his international contributions to engineering practice and education, through his contributions to international good will, and through his service to the International Society has made a major contribution to fostering the ideals and goals of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering throughout the world.



The recipient is to be selected by a committee composed of the Past Presidents of the International Society, chaired by the immediate Past President, and the announcement will be made at the opening of each International Conference. Presidents and Past Presidents are not eligible to receive the Award. The ISSMGE secretariat will write to the Member Societies, asking them to forward nominations for recipients of the Kevin Nash Gold Medal to the Immediate Past President.



Professor Heinz Brandl - flanked by all ISSMGE-Presidents of the past 20 years (left: P. Seco e Pinto, W. Van Impe; right: J.L. Briaud, K. Ishihara, M. Jamiolkowski), thus underlining their high appreciation of his lifework

The most recent recipient of the Kevin Nash Medal was announced during the ICSMGE in Paris. This honourable person is Prof. Dr. Heinz Brandl, Vienna University of Technology, Austria. Professor Brandl has been a full professor for geotechnical engineering since 1977, chairing the Geotechnical Institute founded by Professor Terzaghi in 1928 at the Vienna University of Technology, Austria, until 2009 and is now active as Professor Emeritus.

His creative work comprises about 530 scientific publications (including 21 books) partly translated in 18 languages. He also published on philosophical aspects and on ethics in our profession. Prof. Brandl delivered more than 500 invited lectures, e.g. the 2001 Rankine Lecture or the 2010 Giroud Lecture of IGS, and he has been active worldwide since 1968 as chairman, general reporter, keynote lecturer etc. at numerous international conferences on geotechnical engineering, geosynthetics, road and environmental engineering on all continents.



## RECIPIENT OF KEVIN NASH GOLD MEDAL DURING THE 18TH ICSMGE IN PARIS (CONTINUED)

Since 1963 he has been fully responsible for about 4000 projects of civil engineering, geotechnical and hydro engineering, road and railway engineering, structural and environmental engineering, thus intensively combining research and development, theory and practice with a strong interdisciplinary view.

His innovations represent important advances in civil engineering, geotechnical and environmental engineering. He was a manifold geotechnical pioneer, for instance of interactive designing with contingency plans, advanced earthworks, soil stabilization and deep soil improvement, freezing-thawing problems, spectacular retaining structures (up to 70 m height), pre-stressed ground anchors (up to 130 m length already 40 years ago), outstanding underpinning, slope and rock engineering, geosynthetics, landfill engineering and geothermal geotechnics.

Prof. Brandl has been a member of several international scientific committees within the ISSMGE and related Societies. Since 42 years he has been President of the Austrian Member Society of ISSMGE; thus he is worldwide the longest serving chairman in the ISSMGE's history. From 1997 to 2001 he was European Vice-President of the ISSMGE. He is a member of the editorial board and reviewer of several scientific journals worldwide. Prof. Brandl received numerous national and international awards, and other honours.

What follows is his vote of thanks that was made during the Opening Ceremony of the Paris Conference.

*Mr. President,  
Dear Past Presidents,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,*

*It gives me great honour and pleasure having been awarded the prestigious Kevin Nash Gold Medal today. Thank you so much.*

*This year it's just 50 years that I started my career in Geotechnical Engineering. As an ISSMGE Council Member, voting for Austria since 45 years I have known personally all giants of our profession in this period, hence also Prof. Nash, and dominating personalities of related societies (e.g. Rock Mechanics, Geosynthetics, Road and Hydro engineering).*

*Due to the geographical position and historical roots of the Terzaghi Institute at the Vienna University of Technology my view has been from the very beginning also to Eastern Europe. This was nearly 30 years an exciting challenge due to the "Iron Curtain" that separated Europe. The "Danube European Conferences for Geotechnical Engineering" were the first Events in Europe, which brought together colleagues from either side. Next year we will celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Vienna, and I do hope that many of you will join us.*

*In the year 2000 Board and Council of ISSMGE decided to support the Geotechnical Heritage Museum in Vienna focusing on the era of K. Terzaghi. I am still working on this "vision" which will contain also exhibits from outstanding contemporaries of K. Terzaghi and from professionally related personalities (mainly rock engineering) - partly up to the present. Any support from your side - worldwide - is highly welcome.*

*Another aim is my historical book on our profession, focusing on the European Member Societies of ISSMGE and related Societies; new details can be expected.*

*I would like to end with a recommendation to the younger colleagues here in the hall: Try to combine theory with practice as it was already the most successful way of K. Terzaghi, A. Casagrande, R. Peck, Alex Skempton and other pioneers of our profession. Moreover, don't stick only to one narrow topic in the wide field of geotechnical engineering, but dip into its versatility and interdisciplinary challenges.*

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

ISSMGE Foundation supply financial supports to promising people who are enthusiastic to play important roles internationally but cannot afford necessary costs. This time 21 people received this support for their participation in 18th ICSMGE and 5th iYGE (international Young Geotechnical Engineer Conference), both of which took place in September, 2013, in Paris. Their reports are presented in this article.

### (1) Abdou Xaadir GAYE, Senegal

My article talking of optimization of the calculation of pavement in the tropics, was nominated for publication in the proceedings of the international conference of young geotechnical engineers, and an oral presentation. At the same time, I was invited to the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.

Living in developing countries (SENAGAL) where scientific research is not well developed to receive subsidies even less in the field of geotechnical engineering, I received a grant from the International Society of Soil Mechanics and geotechnical engineering to participate in both events. I had acquired aware of these two events a wide range of experience but also an open mind in the geotechnical world.

Road engineering in tropical and desert countries is a difficult technique. In these areas, any problem road is practically a new problem with a specific character.

We have proposed to study the CBR in relation to other soil identification parameters. We obtained three formulas of prediction of CBR function of other parameters. These formulas are detailed in the article.

Starting from slope stability, in laboratory testing, ground improvement, foundations, modeling, earthworks, tunnels and underground structures, in-situ testing, soil behavior and earthquake geodynamics, retaining structures to monitoring, it is a largemouth knowledge in geotechnical engineering that was served to me. Before and after my presentation, I had to attend a few and especially in the field of earthworks.

I had to make important contacts that will help me in the future likely to develop my skills in the geotechnical engineering field but also to orient myself in the research. Among these contacts, they are people of Albanian, Taiwan, Iran, etc. There were 164 participants consisting in 57 countries. We had to gather some advice from Mr. YU JUN CUI which made us understand that in the research; try to know the why of things especially for those who are engaged in the correlations between parameters.



Photo 1 - Myself in the conference



Photo 2 - Myself and new friend

During the 18th conference, we had to discover a wide range of materials, devices geotechnical measurements which we never got to meet and especially automatic odometer that automatically loads and traces curves being test. This device is very interesting because we lose a lot of time with this test in our country. We had also discovered the pressuremeter designed by Jean Louis BRIAUD a pressuremeter that we have still ignored the existence. Case presentation by some professors has a lot informed us regarding the scope of geotechnical engineering.

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

Participation in these events has been of paramount importance in our careers of young geotechnical engineers. With that, we thank the ISSMGE for helping us to attend and participate. The next edition is scheduled in Korea in 2017 by then we are more motivated than ever to present studies of interesting and innovative research and whether the means allow us we will develop devices and methods of measurement.

### (2) Aleksej ANISKIN, Odessa State University of Civil Engineering and Architecture, Ukraine

The conference was attended by 162 invited delegates from 57 European countries who prepared their presentations. Former USSR countries represented by delegates from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Submission of reports occurred over two days, August 31 and September 1 at the university Ecole des Ponts ParisTech. The conference was divided into 8 sessions, 4 sessions a day. The sessions lasted for 75-90 minutes with breaks of 15-30 minutes and 90 minutes break for lunch. In general, excepting introductory and concluding part, it was presented a 30-minute report of the Organizing Committee, and a 30 -minute lecture from sponsors and 128 reports from delegates. Each of the delegates was given 10 minutes to report and 5 minutes for discussion. The official conference language was English. There have been 128 reports of delegates that made their presentations at the conference and were divided to several basic sections of Geotechnics: slope stability; laboratory tests ;improving soil; foundations; modelling; earthworks; tunnels and underground structures; field trials; behaviour of soils; earthquakes and geodynamics ;supporting structures; monitoring. Among the presentations selected for the report on the main conference:

- Franchesca Ceccato from Italy;
- Antonio Araujo Correia from Portugal.

And to report on the results of the youth conference:

- Gaston Quaglia from Argentina;
- David Lasey from Australia.

My presentation was entitled "Pressure of isotropic granular medium on closely spaced walls of arbitrary curvature".



Photo 1 - Answering questions



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

### (3) Ani Kosho, Albanian Geotechnical Society, Albania

As a nominee member of the Albanian Geotechnical Society, I was very privileged to represent this society in an International event of greater importance as was the 5th IYGEC.

The participation in this important event was a great success for my professional career in the geotechnical engineering field. I had the opportunity to meet engineers from all over the world and to learn a lot from them.

The most interesting feature of the conference was discussing for each paper with the authors and with the professors that were present. During these discussions I had the opportunity to create contacts and links with researchers and that deal with topics similar to mine and we can continue to communicate and to share ideas with each other.

One of the beautiful things of this conference was the gala dinner. In the young engineers dinner we had the opportunity to talk about how they organize their days at work; how they organize their research studies and also talking about the opportunities each country has for the development of the geotechnical engineering.

The gala dinner was a dinner to be remembered, everything was perfect, I was surrounded by a lot of professor and has the possibility to talk with them for all the conference themes and for the opportunity that geotechnical field has in Albania.

Finally I want to thank all the people that helped me to attend this conference, starting from the President of ISSMGE, Prof. Jean Luis Briaud, ISSMGE Foundation and Prof. Harry Poulos. To Prof. Luljeta Bozo, President of Albanian Geotechnical Society, for the continuous support for the young geotechnical members of AGS, to "ALTEA & Geostudio2000" the laboratory that helped me in every steep of my career. A special thanks to Mrs. Severine Beaunier for the work she has done.

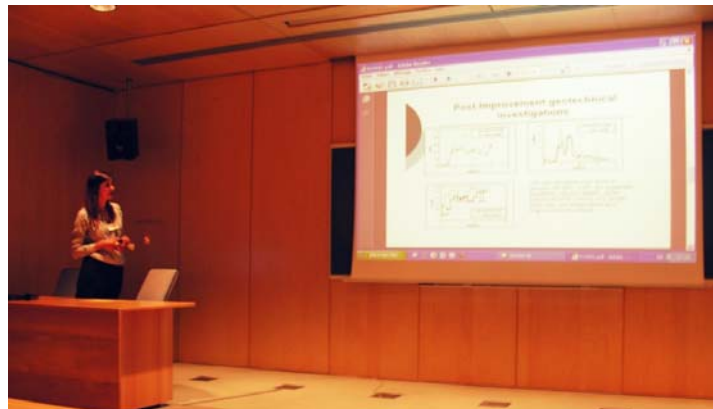


Photo 1 - During my presentation at 5th IYGEC

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 2 - With Albanian participant from AGS International Conference (Prof. Dr. Luljeta Bozo, Mr. Skender Allkja, Olsi Koreta)



Photo 3 - With Prof. Jean Luis Briaudat 18th at gala dinner

### (4) Assem Issina, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University in the City of Astana, Kazakhstan

The 5th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (5th IYGEC), "Advances in Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering", was a very successful and unique experience. The conference was held at National School of Bridges and Roads (Ecole des Ponts ParisTech), Paris, France. There were more than 140 young participants from France, Kazakhstan, USA, UK, China, Japan, Germany, Canada, Korea, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Sweden, India, Taiwan, Italy, Austria, Australia, Norway, Spain, Belarus, Lebanon, Sudan, Turkey, Romania, Ukraine, Portugal, Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, South Africa, Brazil, Finland, Vietnam, Ireland, Iran, Egypt, New Zealand, Greece, Serbia, Argentina, Slovakia, Belgium, and Slovenia. In addition, the conferences also provide a great opportunity for young geotechnical engineers to successfully demonstrate leadership, build network, and exchange beneficial knowledge among others and famous scholars.

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 1 - The opening ceremony of the 5th IYGEC



Photo 2 - Myself giving her talk entitled "Geotechnical investigations of historical monuments of Central Asia" during the session-4 of Foundation (4a) with about 75 participants (on August 31, 2013)

According to the 5th IYGEC programme, I have been involved in participations in the first two days of the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (18th ICSMGE), "Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics". The conference was held at the Paris International Conference Centre (Palais des Congres de Paris). The conference was attended by many well-known professors and scientists from all over the world.

Both conferences have given rise to further cooperation and exchange of experience between scientists from different countries and young engineers.

Participation in these great events was a great way for me to make contacts with leading and rising scholars in the geotechnical engineering society. I deeply appreciated the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) for providing me with this great opportunity to demonstrate leadership and exchange beneficial knowledge.

I would like to express my deep gratitude and appreciation to Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov (President of Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society, Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan) for his valuable support, encouragement, and guidance, without which the current study would not have been accomplished.

Finally, I must also acknowledge and thank the nomination of the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society (KGS), as well as a generous grant from ISSMGE that enabled me to present my research in the 5th IYGEC. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the support of ISSMGE young geotechnical engineers to develop their professional skills.



Photo 3 - Myself near the board of the 18th ICSMGE



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 4 - "Family Photo" of the 5th IYGEC

### (5) Ghassan Akrouh, Texas A&M University, USA

The two conferences were organized by the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering. The conferences took place in Paris, France from 30 August to 6 September. The conferences covered most of the topics related to soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering through plenary sessions and workshops organized by the different technical committees.

I presented my work and the on-going research at Texas A&M University regarding my research topic during the iYGEC. I attended most of the sessions and presentation given by my colleagues on the different topics of geotechnical engineering. During the session breaks, I had the chance to meet Ph.D. students from different areas of this world, communicate with them, and share my research interest and work. During this conference too, I had the chance to meet the organizers and the chair, Prof. Yu-Jun Cui. The conference ended on the 1st of September with a closing ceremony and a summary. In addition, two participants were nominated as the most outstanding presentation and they presented their work at the ICSMGE

The ICSMGE started on the 2nd of September with an opening ceremony at 9:00 A.M with more than 1500 participant. The program included two days of plenary sessions given by senior professor from different universities covering different topics in the honour of great geotechnical engineers that made great contribution to our field. The 3rd and 4th day were allocated for workshops and technical sessions organized by the different technical committees covering all aspect of geotechnical engineering.

This conference gave me the opportunity to increase my knowledge in the different fields of geotechnical engineering as a Ph.D. student. It gave me the opportunity to meet leaders of academia and industry in this field. I had the chance to talk to many future researched about potential future work and collaboration in the academia and industry fields. One of the important things is that I participated in the first meeting of the new technical committee on energy geotechnics chaired by Professor Marcelo Sanchez.

At the end, I would like to thank ISSMGE foundation for funding my trip.

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 1 - Attendees of the 5th iYGEC



Photo 2 - My presentation at the 5th International Young Geotechnical Engineer's Conference



Photo 3 - Opening Ceremony of the 18th ISSMGE



Photo 4 - Dinner in Paris with President Jean-Louis, his family, and colleague (I am in the middle to the right)

### (6) Heba Kamal El Dine Moustafa, Housing & Building National Research Centre (HBRC), USA

18th ICSMGE was jointly organized by the French Society for soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering and ISSMGE this year. The main topic of the conference was “Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics” and the keynote lectures, workshops and discussion sessions were concentrated on this topic. The conference started on the 2nd until 6th of September with an opening ceremony with more than 1500 participants. The program included two days of plenary sessions given by leader professors and professionals in the field of geotechnical engineering. The other days were allocated for workshops and technical sessions organized by the different technical committees covering all aspect of geotechnical engineering, and the fifth day is for field visit in Paris. The participation in the conference has enabled me learn from the leaders of the profession. I would like to express my sincere thanks to ISSMGE foundation for providing financial support for participating the 18th ICSMGE conference.

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

(7) Jeanne Florette, Tsala Nomo, LABOGENIE, Cameroon

Let me first thanks the ISSMGE foundation for the opportunity given to me to participate at these events. There was very amazing to participate at these events especially the 18th ICSMGE which were very magnificent. People of many countries who were there, leading person of professional practices that I met, show stands were very interesting and I was impressed by the organizing committee which done a good job by the successful of these events. I learnt a lot of this experience.

For the 5iYGEC: Communications were really practical for being applied directly to building site in process. These communications are also being for researches which explain natural phenomenon commonly happened like landslides. I especially appreciated the communication which talks about « correlation between rock permeability and rock quality designation (RQD) of rock. This correlation is effectively conceivable and we can really do a study in my country which actually going to build dams. We can also consider this correlation for introductory dam's studies or we can use it for verification or prediction of permeability for a RQD done and for a permeability test in process. The others communications are also interesting and I learnt more about it notably the one on slopes stability, laboratory testing, ground improvement, Earthworks, foundations, Tunnel and underground structure, in situ testing, soil behavior, modeling, Earthquake and Geodynamics, retained structures, Monitoring.

For the 18th ICSMGE: Here again, I learnt more. I discovered software which computes slope stability of rock. A demo version of this software has been given to me, generally in my country, we put rock slope in inspection. There was my first time to ear slope stability of rock. Moreover, I eared of a method which is use for stabilization of embankment slope. We put geotextile under the embankment which generate a shear stress and go against landslides. I saw many geotechnical engineers who have their names on many geotechnical books: JP MAGNAN, Philippe MESTAT, Jean Louis BRIAUD, Alain GUILLoux and so one. I also learn more about Deep foundations, unsaturated soils, soils structure and retaining walls, underground constructions, the contribution of physical modeling to geotechnical engineering, interactive geotechnical design, challenges of soil-structure interaction and retained walls analyses, foundations engineering in difficult soft soil conditions.

Thanks again,



Photo 1 - Opening session of fifth young Geotechnical Engineer Conference



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

### (8) Juan Ayala, Chilean Society of Geotechnics / Golder Associates, Chile

First of all, I would like to thank the ISSMGE Foundation for the initiative in helping me to afford the trip and registration fees to attend these conferences and have the chance to present my work in the 5th international young geotechnical engineers' conference in Paris, thanks to the ISSMGE President Professor Jean-Louis Briaud, whom I had the chance to meet back in 2011 in Santiago of Chile for the 5th international conference on earthquake geotechnical engineering and see again in this opportunity, he's a really nice person. Finally I like also thanks to the Professor Harry Poulos, Chair of the ISSMGE Membership, Practitioners, and Academicians Committee (MPAC) for approving my application.

I remember back in 2011 when I was starting myself in geotechnics, have the chance to meet senior engineers with many years of experience and still enjoying what they were doing, now I think that was the main reason why I started in the area. Now that I have just started to work and took the chance to travel and meet with "new" old friends from different countries and different occupations in geotechnics I'm really glad to take this way.

The opportunity of present my work in the international young geotechnical engineering conference was something exceptional, It was a really good experience and I'm sure I will try to do it again. Plus have the chance to attend to the 18th international conference in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering was really good, the lectures where really good specially the Terzaghi Oration from Suzanne Lacasse, outstanding.

For my career I think the opportunity that the ISSMGE Foundation had given me it's very important, and I'm sure that I will not just work for the industry, but also try to do some research with the same experiences that I'm getting while I work, because attend to this conferences shows you the importance of this in engineering and specially in geotechnics. We work in a part of civil engineering that needs a special point of view that not necessarily our structural colleagues understand. With my little experience I've been in the need for example, explaining the importance of some laboratory testing in foundation design, and believe me when you're an ungraduated geotechnical engineer and you're talking to a senior mechanical engineers that not necessarily want to spend some money to know the real "mechanical" properties of the foundation soils, you really have to have your ideas clear.

I think attend to this kind of events will always be a great opportunity to grow professionally and personally, that's why I like to thank again to the ISSMGE Foundation for their help.

Thank you.



Photo 1 - Paris, France

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

### (9) Layal Maddah, Texas A&M University, USA

On the 28th of August, I found myself on a plane to Paris, France from Houston, USA to attend two conferences ICSMGE and iYGEC. The conferences took place between the 30th of August and the 6th of September of 2013. I was privileged to attend the conferences as a nominee of the Lebanese Geotechnical Engineering Society. This experience enabled me of presenting my work on site investigation requirements, made me realize the technical and human contribution in the geotechnical profession, and gave me the chance to meet members of the international geotechnical family.

I presented the article that I have been preparing while working at Dar Al Handasah Shair and Partners ([www.dargroup.com](http://www.dargroup.com)) at the iYGEC conference. The article, co-authored by Prof. Jean-Louis BRIAUD, is titled: "Site Investigation Requirements, an International Study", and included a comparison between different country code requirements for borehole number and depth of investigation points and the number and depth from a probabilistic approach. Aside from presenting this work at the iYGEC, I got the chance to attend other young geotechnical engineers' work presented in the sessions. The work presented made me enthusiastic about developing my research in the future, and more aware about different geotechnical problems and the suggested solutions. I guess this conference gave me a glimpse of what to expect from the ICSMGE conference that turned out to be more than I expected.

On the 2nd of September, the ICSMGE commenced at 9:00 A.M. The program included plenary sessions related to soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering, organized by the technical committees. The sessions were given by outstanding professors of our days on various topics in the honour of geotechnical engineers with huge contribution to our profession (namely Terzaghi, Ishihara, Menard, Bishop, Kerisel, McClelland, Kerry Rowe, and Schofield). In parallel, an exhibition was taking place including display material for various geotechnical contractors, designers, manufacturers, suppliers, and others from different parts of the world. The ISSMGE also had a booth in the exhibition in which ISSMGE members displayed items of interest to the broad membership. The conference did not only make me aware of the various geotechnical topics, challenges, need for innovation, and latest software and techniques employed in the field; it also gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with geotechnical professors and engineers from around the world.

Through the two conferences, I got the chance to meet the conference organizers, professors, professionals, contractors, consultants from different parts of the world. This made me aware of the huge potential we have to develop and promote for our profession especially that the greatest contribution in any project is the human contribution. The conferences made me realize that it is my responsibility to be an active geotechnical engineer, and support my profession through my participation and contribution in ISSMGE events.

I cannot thank the ISSMGE President Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud enough for encouraging and supporting me to participate in this event. As he believes in us as his students and as young geotechnical engineers, he inspires us to work harder every day. I would also love to thank the ISSMGE foundation and Texas A&M University for funding me to get to Paris; I couldn't have done this without their support. My special thanks also go to Dar al-Handasah that made me a geotechnical engineer. I am definitely encouraging my colleagues to attend upcoming conferences, and I hope that someday I get to help young people like



Photo 1 - Attendees of the 5th iYGEC back from the conference (from left to right: me, Ph.D. student Eng. Ahmed Elhashimy Elmaleky, Dr. Jennifer Nicks)

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

myself to achieve their professional dreams as an individual and through organizations like ISSMGE Foundation.



Photo 2 - Opening Ceremony of 18th ISSMGE



Photo 3 - Cultural Event at 18th ISSMGE



Photo 4 - ISSMGE Booth at 18th ISSMGE (Professor Jean-Louis Briaud signing his book)



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 5 - Of Course...Paris...

### (10) RAKOTOMALALA Lucie, University of Mahajanga, MADAGASCAR

At the time of the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, I have an overview of geotechnical know-how for any kind of construction, Knowledge of new methods for teaching Geotechnics and I saw new equipment.

I could meet my colleague and discuss with them many points for the development of geotechnical engineering in Africa and Madagascar.

#### Exhibition

I have seen various materials for soil investigations, geotechnical and structural monitoring instruments:  
 drilling, laboratory and software  
 A complete range of compact and multipurpose specific rigs  
 A large range covering all water wells drilling from small to large depth  
 The latest of Menard-style pressuremeter Exhibition catalogue

#### Meeting with members of CTGA

This is the first time that I could meet my fellow geo-technicians of Africa. We could discussed the following points:

- 1- Young African Geotechnical Engineers
- 2- Corporate Associates.
- 3- Seminars by African Societies
- 4- Aim for an African Code of Practice
- 5- Regional Technical Committees

There is a need to encourage the formation of Technical Committees to address problems and specific needs for Africa 6-Increase the number of African countries, by asking each society to encourage and help a nearby country to form a society, or even better, adopt a country and provide feedback on any obstacles.

This congress was very beneficial for me because that allowed me to acquire knowledge and to improve teaching of geotechnical engineering in Madagascar. Also I present all my thanks to the ISSMGE Foundation to have to grant a purse which allowed me to take part in it

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 1 - Meeting with Claude Plumelle

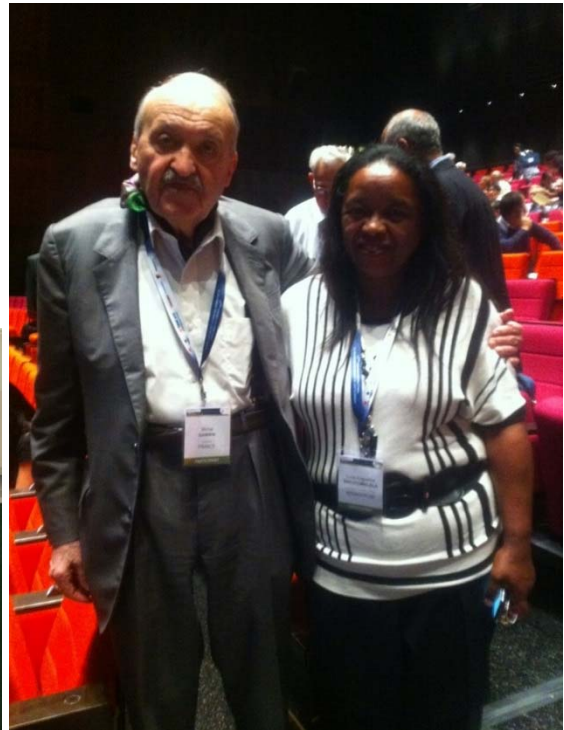


Photo 2 - Meeting with Michel Gambin

### (11) Menzer Pehlivan, Ph.D., Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, New York, USA

I have recently obtained my doctoral degree in geotechnical engineering from The University of Texas at Austin in May 2013 and I am currently working as a Geotechnical Engineer at Mueser Rutledge Consulting Engineers, New York. I have taken numerous leadership positions in national level with the student chapter of the Geo-Institute of ASCE during my graduate studies, thus I believe the value of getting involved with the professional organizations. This year, I have elected as the national nominee for the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in Paris by The Turkish National Society for ISSMGE. I have been honoured and, at the same time, flattered with this opportunity to represent my country in international level. However, being a graduate student I have needed financial support to attend to the 18th ICSMGE, therefore I have applied to ISSMGE Foundation Award.

Receiving this award enabled me not only to attend to the 18th ICSMGE conference in Paris with the honour of representing my country but also it helped me to develop connections and make presence in international field of geotechnical engineering. I have participated to my first committee meeting with Turkish National Committee where I have met and mingled with the other members and discuss our involvement in international geotechnical engineering arena. At the same time, I have had the chance to interact with professionals from different countries and the famous professional of geotechnical engineering. Moreover, attending to the lectures of distinguished professionals, I have learned the recent advances in broad scale of geotechnical engineering practice. As a young engineer in geotechnical field, the value and benefits of attendance to a conference like ICSMGE which exposes you to inspiring professional is invaluable. Therefore I am grateful to receive the ISSMGE Foundation Award.

The ISSMGE Foundation Award gives a chance to young professionals or any professional, with insufficient funds, who are willing to contribute to the geotechnical field and society. For a young professional like me, attending to an international conference is nothing but inspiring to do more and to carry our profession to the next level. ISSMGE increases the professional involvement and appreciation for the importance of professional organization not only in academia but also in practice within the young generations with this award. The importance of attending and being involved in an international

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

professional organization also helps engineers to be aware of the advances in other countries and help to increase the collaboration, which I believe to be the one of the goals of ISSMGE.

Finally, I would like to take this chance to once again express my sincere gratitude to the ISSMGE Foundation for giving me the award, which enabled me to attend to 18th ICSMGE.



Photo 1 - Prof. George Gazetas



Photo 2 - Prof. Jean-Louis Briaud

### (12) Miloš Marjanović, Ph.D, University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mining and Geology, Serbia

The 5th International Young Geotechnical Engineers' Conference has been organized by the ISSMGE in cooperation with French Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (CFMS) and École des Ponts ParisTech which has hosted the conference. The conference was routinely handled by Dr Cui and his team, and the organization was on a high level covering all details from welcoming, respecting the time-schedule, equipping the participants, technical support during the presentations, catering and organizing social events...

As a continuation of a good tradition, 5th iYGEC invited young engineers from all over the world, and for the first time non-nominees (that have not been recommended by their national ISSMGE society branches) were also welcomed. The turn-out was therefore bigger than the organizers had expected. There were 164 participants and 143 research papers have been presented and published in the conference proceedings. The conference lasted for two days (31.8-1.9.2013) and it was structured in three parallel sessions. Each session lasted for about an hour and a half, during which at least five presentations have been introduced and discussed (10 minutes for presenting and 5 for discussing). The session topics covered practically all geotechnical engineering aspects.

The daily program included several breaks, but those were all actually constructive after-session discussions interrupted by occasional sips of coffee and bites of French delicacies. The venue (École des Ponts) was therefore wisely chosen, because it was isolated and remote enough to keep all participants away from the temptations of Paris and concentrated on the conference. The social event (in the evening of the first conference day) was a different story, since the organizers made an effort to host a great social dinner in the heart of Paris in a wonderful atmosphere of a local restaurant.

From my angle, the conference was a great success: many topics have been discussed, contacts have been established, the awards, reports, and the opportunity to participate at the main ICSMGE event was highly motivating for all of us. It was only a little bit difficult to follow all interesting topics in three parallel sessions. I have personally learned a lot from my colleagues and particularly fruitful was a discussion with Huina Yuan about modern trends of computer science, machine learning in particular, and their application in FEM modelling and simulation. It will surely bring new ideas in my practice that had already been related to machine learning, and perhaps new collaboration.



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 1 - Group photograph - 5iYGEC

### (13) Marcos Montoro, Universidad Nacional de Córdoba, Argentina

Attending to the 5th International Conference of Young Geotechnical Engineers and the 18th International Conference of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was one of the most significant experiences I have in my academic and professional life.

As a member of the Student and Young Members Presidential Group for the period 2009 - 2013 I attended to the first quadrennial meeting of the SYMPG, where we discussed, with the other delegates, the group accomplishments during the last four years and also we share our ideas about the perspective of the future of SYMPG and the ISSMGE. After the meeting Siavash Ghabezloo (French corresponding member SYMPG) guided the group in a visit to the geotechnical laboratories of Paris Tech.

The 5th IYGEC was held in Paris Tech, this conference allowed to bring together more than 160 young Geotechnical Engineers from all over the world. The conference started with a very interesting plenary session about "Gassy Soils". Then the conference was organized in several parallel sessions. Each session was attended by a group of three reporters who were in charge to prepare a summary of the conference in order to produce a general report of the conference and present it in the special session at the 18th ICSMGE. All presentations I could attend were very interesting, and the chairs of each session promoted very interesting discussions and ideas interchange among the attendees and the presenters.

On Sunday evening the 18 reporters had a meeting to prepare the general report. It reflected the most important contributions presented during the technical sessions. Serving as a reporter was a great experience and allowed me to interact with young colleagues from different countries.

The first two days of the 18 ICSMGE were dedicated to the award lectures and keynote lectures, and the last two days were dedicated to the technical sessions and discussions.

During the first two days I could attend to outstanding presentations delivered by well-known lecturers who presented the audience the actual state of the art in our field and highlight the main contributions of the last years in the field and which are our main challenges in the geotechnical engineering practice and research for the near future. The last two days I attended to the Workshop in Geo-Education and the one of IGS. Also I could to several technical sessions. All presentations and

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

discussion were very interesting and enrichment for me. This event also allowed me to meet the most renowned researchers, professors and practitioners in our field.

In addition there was a great technical exhibition where I found very interesting products and devices related to our profession and having the chance to speak directly with the manufactures.

After having this great experience I have to thank Pedro Seco e Pinto, Roberto Terzariol and Waldemar Hachich, Jean - Louis Briaud, Paloma Peers, Neil Taylor, Harry Poulos and the ISSMGE Foundation.



Photo 1 - 5th IYGECE reporters group at Ecole National des Ponts Paris Tech.



Photo 2 - Gaston Quaglia and Marcos Montoro (Argentinean delegates)

### (14) Nguyen Minh Hai, Thu Dau Mot University

The 18th ICSMGE at Paris on 2 to 6 September 2013 was a special event for geotechnical engineers from every continent. I strongly that this conference's contributions to our profession were very great. It provided a wonderful occasion to learn from colleagues in a pleasant relaxed atmosphere and to exchange

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

views about the past, the present, and the future of geotechnical engineering. The number of conference participants and exhibitors is as follows:

- 2140 delegates including 167 students;
- 176 accompanying persons
- 96 countries represented ;
- 87 exhibitors including 4 partner sponsors, 1 platinum sponsor, and 15 gold sponsors.

The plenary sessions taken place on 2 and 3 September 2013 consisted of the Terzaghi oration by Suzanne Lacasse, the seven honor lectures organized by Technical Committees (Ishihara lecture by G. Gazetas, Ménard lecture by J.-L. Briaud, Bishop lecture by R. Jardine, Kerisel lecture by G. Calabresi, Mc Clelland lecture by M. Randolph, Kerry Rowe lecture by C. Shackelford, Schofield lecture by M. Bolton), the three special lectures organized by the French Society CFMS (A. Sim, F. Schlosser, V. Fluteaux), a report and presentations from the Young Members (Y.-J. Cui) and a discussion forum on innovations and practices by J.-L. Briaud, S. Springman, S. Pathmanandavel, S. Borel.

The concurrent sessions took place on 4 and 5 Sept 2013. In addition to the 28 TC-organized discussion sessions, there were 19 workshops also organized by TCs, a Franco-Chinese workshop, a symposium on pressuremeters-ISP6, 2 sessions organized by the International Geosynthetic Society. A total of 772 papers were submitted and accepted. About 200 were presented orally and 240 through posters.

6 September 2013 was devoted to the technical visits and to a francophone event at the CNAM Museum (where a geotechnical exhibition was staged starting in June 2013). On the social side, the welcome reception was at the night of 2 September 2013, The Awards luncheon was at the noon of 3 September 2013, and the Gala Dinner was at the evening of 3 September 2013. The election of the next ISSMGE president and the 19th ICSMGE location on 1 September 2013 was also announced. Professor Roger Frank (France) is President of ISSMGE from 2013 to 2017 and the 19th ICSMGE location in 2017 is Seoul, Korea.

Thank the organizers who have worked so hard for the success of the conference organized.



Photo 1 - My Vote for the Next President of ISSMGE Photo 2 - My Vote for the 19th ICSMGE



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 3 - My Presentation in Symposium on Pressuremeters-ISP6

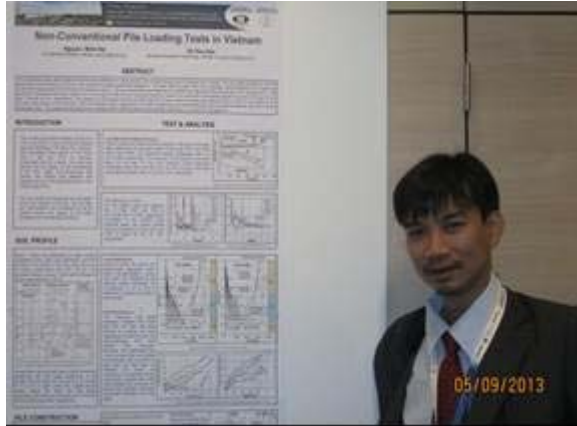


Photo 4 - My Poster in TC 212 - Deep Foundation



Photo 5 - Myself and Friends from Technical University Darmstadt



Photo 6 - Myself and Prof. Robert Holtz

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

### (15) Olsi Koreta, Albanian Geotechnical Society, Albania

The participation in this important event was a great success and a great achievement for my professional career in the geotechnical engineering field. I had the opportunity to meet colleagues from all over the world and to discuss for different topics.

A very important aspect of the conference was not only the technical aspect but also exchanging the life experience between participants by talking about: how they organize their days at work; how they organize their research studies and also talking about the opportunities each country has for the development of the geotechnical engineering.

For me was very interesting knowing about many opportunities that exists in different Technical Universities for supporting young engineers in developing research studies and doctoral studies. Exchanging information and ideas between the participants is very important because this information will be then distributed in the national societies and will play an important role in the development of these societies and therefore in the development of the geotechnical fields.

As a nominee member of the Albanian Geotechnical Society, I was very privileged to represent this society in an International event of greater importance as was the 5th IYGEC.

Finally I want to thank all the people that helped me to attend this conference, starting from the President of ISSMGE, Prof. Jean Luis Briaud, ISSMGE Foundation and Prof. Harry Poulos who approved my grant request. I am also very grateful to Prof. Luljeta Bozo, President of Albanian Geotechnical Society, for the continuous support for the young geotechnical members of AGS and for the immense contribution in the development of the geotechnical field in Albania. A special thanks to the organizing committee and to Mrs. Severine Beaunier for responding to our e-mails.

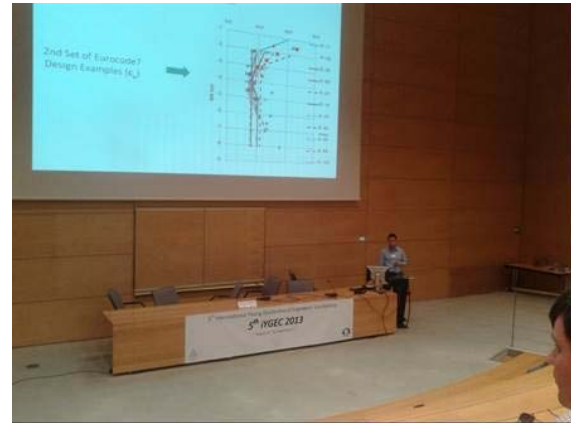


Photo 1 - During my presentation at 5th IYGEC



Photo 2 - With Prof. Jean Luis Briaud and Ani Kosho (Albanian participant from AGS) at 18th ICSMGE

### (16) Poklonskyi Sergii, State Enterprise "State Research Institute of Building Constructions", Ukraine

The conference was attended by 162 invited delegates from 57 European countries who prepared their presentations. Former USSA countries represented by delegates from Ukraine, Russia, Belarus and Kazakhstan. Submission of reports occurred over two days, August 31 and September 1 at the university Ecole des Ponts ParisTech. The conference was divided into 8 sessions, 4 sessions a day. The sessions lasted for 75-90 minutes with breaks of 15-30 minutes and 90 minutes break for lunch. In general, excepting introductory and concluding part, it was presented a 30-minute report of the Organizing Committee, and a 30 -minute lecture from sponsors and 128 reports from delegates. Each of the delegates was given 10 minutes to report and 5 minutes for discussion. The official conference language was English. There have been 128 reports of delegates that made their presentations at the conference and were divided to several basic sections of Geotechnics: slope stability; laboratory tests ;improving soil; foundations; modelling; earthworks; tunnels and underground structures; field trials; behaviour of soils;

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

earthquakes and geodynamics ;supporting structures; monitoring. Among the presentations selected for the report on the main conference:

- Franchesca Ceccato from Italy,
- Antonio Araujo Correia from Portugal.

And to report on the results of the youth conference:

- Gaston Quaglia from Argentina;
- David Lasey from Australia.

My presentation was entitled "Ways to improve the determination of deformation characteristics of soils under laboratory conditions".



Photo 1 - Conference Hall



Photo 2 - The Building

### (17) Billang Nyogog Serge Aurélien, Labogenie, Cameroun

The Fifth International Conference of Young Geotechnical Engineers (5iYGEC) organized by the French Committee of Soil Mechanics under the auspices of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering saw the participation of nearly 70 young geotechnical engineers. Approximately 57 countries on 5 continents were represented. The breakdown is as follows:

- 57% of Europe,
- 6% of North America,
- 5% of South America,
- 11% of Africa
- 19% of Asia,
- 2 % of Oceania.

I have had the privilege to be nominated by the Transnational Committee Geotechnical Africa (CTGA) to be one of the African representatives.

The conference began August 31, 2013 with a speech by the President and members of the organizing committee Prof. YU -JUN CUI, A. of Labourdonnaye Dr. Mestat, J. Nicks.

I attended as a young geotechnical engineer and presented my research on "INVESTIGATIONS ON ELASTIC MODULUS OF CRUSHED GRAVEL IN CAMEROON USING deflections". The venue was the Ecole des Ponts Paris-Tech, Marne- la-Vallée, France in the city of Paris.

The conference was held over two days. Three plenary sessions were held simultaneously in the amphitheater of the Ecole des Ponts. The research presented by young geotechnical engineers focused on the following topics: Slope Stability, Laboratory Testing, Ground Improvement, Foundations, Modeling, Earthworks, Tunnel and Underground Structure, In-Situ Testing, Soil Behavior, Earthquake and Geodynamics, Retaining Structures, Monitoring.

The conference provided a good atmosphere for profitable interactions and discussions through coffee breaks and lunch between the technical sessions.

Finally, I am very grateful vis-à-vis the ISSMGE Foundation for financial support that enabled me to attend the 5 iYGEC'13. I will not fail to express my gratitude to all those who are related to the Foundation donors through the ISSMGE President, ISSMGE Vice- President for Africa, the administration of ISSMGE and anyone else who contributed to the subsidy.



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 1 - Photograph of myself in discussion after my presentation



Photo 2 - Family photograph

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

### (18) Stacey Tucker, Kansas State University, USA

The 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering was in Paris, France the first week of September in 2013. I applied for a grant from the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) while writing my PhD Dissertation at Texas A&M University. This conference provided the opportunity to attend the lectures of some of the current 'Greats' in Geotechnical Engineering and for the chance to expand ones professional network globally. Also, the location of the conference was enticing to gain some new cultural experiences.

The Great Amphitheater was a focal point of grand occasions, beginning with the opening statements from the President of the conference and the President of the society. The musical accompaniment of the opening session was certainly unique and a delightful component to excite the attendees for the week ahead. Following this, the opportunity to hear the Terzaghi, Ishihara, and Menard lectures in a row gave the audience stimulating and technical knowledge. In particular, I enjoyed Dr. Calabresi's Tuesday lecture on "The role of Geotechnical Engineering in saving monuments and historic sites" for the Kerisel Honor Lecture. Historic preservation is a rising field across many disciplines and I found that this lecture specifically addressed the theme of the conference: Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics. Considering all of the Honor lectures in the Great Amphitheater, the theme of the conference was covered very well, from case studies to in situ testing methods, and numerical to physical models.

Outside the technical lectures and discussion groups, were plenty of opportunities for networking during the coffee breaks and lunch. With over 1,000 attendees, it was impossible to track down every colleague of interest, though the challenge of doing so was exciting! Fortunately, as a volunteer at the ISSMGE booth helping to disseminate information from each of the societies, I was able to visit with many colleagues and create new professional relationships. This provided the perfect opportunity to discuss up and coming events and topics as well as to gain invaluable advice as a new faculty member. Expanding my professional network internationally has allowed me to view some subjects with new perspective.

The final benefit of attending this conference was technical mixed with some culture. Because the conference began on Monday, this potentially provided attendees with just enough time to explore some of the sights of Paris. From an engineer's prospective, the opportunity to see and go up in the Eiffel Tower is a once in a lifetime experience. No picture does this structure justice, it is surprising how tall it is in person and a little daunting when looking down at Paris from the top. Also, the opportunity to briefly explore the Louvre, certainly one of the greatest museums in the World, was a sensational addition.

The benefits of attending the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering will support my new career in many ways. The knowledge gained through the lectures and technical sessions and the professional networking will supplement a budding career in academia for many years. I look forward to the 19th International Conference in 2017.

### (19) Suganya Kuppusamy, Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, India

18th ICSMGE was jointly organized by the French Society for soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering and ISSMGE. It's a once in four years event for the geotechnical community and this particular conference, 18th ICSMGE at Paris was so successful in contributing to the profession greatly. The theme of the conference was "Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics" and the lectures, workshops and discussion sessions were precisely justifying the theme.

The conference started on 2nd September with the 8th Terzaghi Oration rendered by Dr. Suzanne Lacasse. The presentation was focused on case histories involving slope failures and various examples illustrating landslide risk management. Three honour lectures namely Ishihara Lecture by Prof. Gazetas G., Ménard Lecture by Prof. Briaud J.-L. and Bishop lecture by Prof. Richard Jardine were delivered on the same day. The second day of the conference started with the Kerisel lecture presented by Prof. Calabresi G. on the role of Geotechnical Engineers in saving monuments and historic sites followed by McClelland lecture delivered by Prof. Mark Randolph. Prof. Shackelford rendered Kerry Rowe lecture and he highlighted the role of contaminant transport by diffusion and the need for understanding it in the field of Geo-Environmental engineering. Prof. Malcolm Bolton delivered Schofield lecture in which he explained the potential use of physical modelling in envisaging the field behaviour with suitable examples. Three

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

special lectures and two best presentations selected from IYGEC'13 were also presented during the plenary sessions. The discussion forum on innovation and practice was highly motivating.

On 4th and 5th of September there were oral presentations of papers in parallel discussion sessions on a wide spectrum of topics in Geotechnical engineering. Poster presentations organized in parallel also aided in interaction and knowledge sharing with the fellow participants. Workshops organized by the TCs of ISSMGE provided immense opportunity for widening knowledge in various topics of geotechnical engineering. On the last day of the conference a field visit was organized and it helped me in learning about the geology of Paris.

The participation in the conference has enabled me learn from the leaders of the profession. The contacts gained and the discussions I had with professionals in my area of research have improved my vision and equipped me with new ideas to explore on. I would like to express my sincere thanks to ISSMGE foundation for providing financial support for participating and presenting in the conference.



Photo 1 - Indian team at ICSMGE, Paris 2013

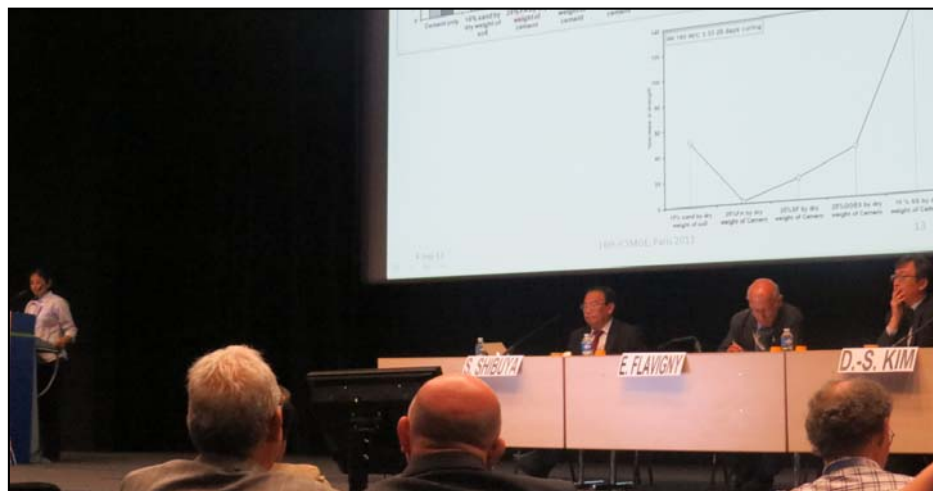


Photo 2 - During my presentation in TC 101, Session II (Strength properties and treated soils)



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 3 - With Prof. John Burland during the conference

### (20) Dr. Talal Awwad, Damascus University, Syria

The 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (18th ICSMGE) which took place in Paris, France was hosted by the French Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (CFMS). The main theme of the Conference was “Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics”. The five-day conference started with registration of the participants on the 2nd of September, 2013 and ended at 6th. The conference was flawlessly organized and relatively well attended.

The conference started on Monday September 2nd with opening session which was followed on 2nd and 3rd by Honour and Special Lectures in Great Amphitheatre. These important lectures was provided by Professors: S. Lacasse (Norway), G. Gazetas (Greece), J.L. Briaud(USA), A. Sim (France), R. Jardine (UK), F. Schlosser (France), G. Calabresi (Italy), M. Randolph (Australia), C. Shackelford (USA), V. Fluteaux (France) and M. Bolton(UK).

On Wednesday and Thursday September 4th and 5th, there were parallel sessions organized by the Technical Committees. These sessions took place in Blue Amphitheatre and other conference rooms in “Palace des Congres de Paris”. The presentations and questions in Technical committees were very interesting and covered wide diverse topics, such as Preservation of Historic Sites, Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering, Numerical Methods and Physical Modelling in Geomechanics, Transportation Geotechnics, Ground Improvement, Deep Foundations and many others. I made an oral presentation at ATC19 workshop on Historical Sites about Geotechnical Issues of Historical Buildings in Syria. Many questions came from audience of this ATC 19 workshop which was held under auspices of Prof. Yoshinori Iwasaki (Japan).

On Friday September 6th, there was a Workshop “Role of Geo-Engineering for Conservation of World Heritage” organized by ATC 19: Asian Regional Technical Committee for Cultural Heritage and Historical Site -which took place in World Heritage Centre, UNESCO. The opining lecture “World Heritage in Danger in Asian and Pacific Region” was provided by Mr. Fang Jing, Chief Asia and Pacific Unit, World Heritage Centre, UNESCO. I gave an invited lecture about The Role of Soil Improvement for Conservation of Syrian Historical Monuments.

This conference provided me an excellent opportunity to meet and talk to many professors from different countries and industry leaders in the field of geoen지니어ing. I was able to talk to many potential research collaborators and to be in touch with other researchers.

I would like to deeply thank ISSMGE Foundation for their award.

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo1 - During ISSMGE Council Meeting on September 1st, where I attended as the official representative of Order of Syrian Engineers and Architectures (OSEA)



Photo 2 - ISSMGE Board (2009-2013) at Closing Ceremony of 18th ICSMGE



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 3 - At ATC 19 -Historical Sites workshop in UNESCO with International Geo-Brains



Photo 4 - During time of Gala Dinner with new President of ISSMGE Prof. Roger Frank



## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)

(21) Yelbek Utepov, L.N. Gumilyov Eurasian National University in the City of Astana, Kazakhstan

The 5th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (5th IYGEC), "Advances in Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering", was a very successful and unique experience. The conference was held at National School of Bridges and Roads (Ecole des Ponts ParisTech), Paris, France. There were more than 140 young participants from France, Kazakhstan, USA, UK, China, Japan, Germany, Canada, Korea, Russia, Singapore, Malaysia, Sweden, India, Taiwan, Italy, Austria, Australia, Norway, Spain, Belarus, Lebanon, Sudan, Turkey, Romania, Ukraine, Portugal, Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, South Africa, Brazil, Finland, Vietnam, Ireland, Iran, Egypt, New Zealand, Greece, Serbia, Argentina, Slovakia, Belgium, and Slovenia. This superior diversity of the participant pool has provided an excellent networking opportunity between young geotechnical engineers, world class experts, and those famous and leading scholars in the field.

According to the 5th IYGEC programme, I have been involved in participations in the first two days of the 18th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (18th ICSMGE), "Challenges and Innovations in Geotechnics". The conference was held at the Paris International Conference Centre (Palais des Congres de Paris). The conference was attended by many participants. Most of them are well known professors and scientists from all over the world.

As a young geotechnical engineer and student, participation in these great events was a brilliant way for me to make contacts with leading and rising scholars in the geotechnical engineering society. I deeply appreciated the International Society of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) for providing me with this great opportunity to demonstrate leadership, build network, and exchange beneficial knowledge.

In short, I strongly believe that the benefits of attending these conferences are not limited to the time spent during the conference, but more decisively will be the strong connections that were built and bounded during the time I spent with all young rising participants, world class experts, and established scholars.

Finally, I have to express my deepest gratitude and appreciation to Prof. Askar Zhussupbekov (President of Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society, Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan) for his valuable support, encouragement, and guidance, without which the current study would not have been accomplished.

Once again, I must also acknowledge and thank the nomination of the Kazakhstan Geotechnical Society (KGS), as well as a generous grant from ISSMGE that enabled me to present my research in the 5th IYGEC. I would like to express sincere appreciation to the inspiration and encouragement for young geotechnical engineers of ISSMGE.

## REPORTS TO ISSMGE FOUNDATION ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE (CONTINUED)



Photo 1 - The opening ceremony of the 5th IYGEF



Photo 2 - Yelbek Utepov (Ph.D. Student, Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan) giving his talk entitled "Simulation of single pile loading test in a centrifuge to predict its behaviour in real case" during the section-3 of Modelling (3c) with about 50 participants. This photo was taken on August 31, 2013.

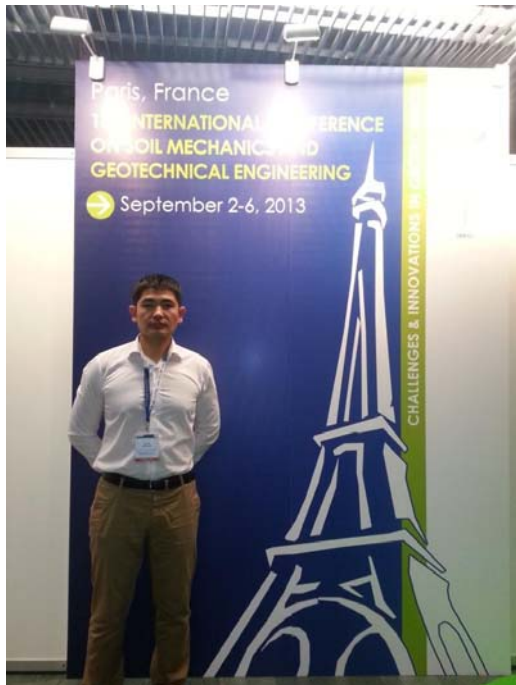


Photo 3 - Yelbek Utepov (Ph.D. Student, Eurasian National University, Astana, Kazakhstan) near the board of the 18th ICSMGE



Photo 4 - Memorable photo of Kazakhstan and USA delegates, participants of the 18th ICSMGE