

Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique

4th iYGEC in Alexandria, Egypt by Kent Bannister and Suzanne Powell

From October 3rd to 6th 2009, the 4th International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (iYGEC) was held in Alexandria, Egypt in conjunction with the 17th International Conference for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE). With the financial assistance of the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique and the Canadian Geotechnical Society (CGS), Suzanne Powell from Queen's University and Kent Bannister from Manitoba Hydro were selected by the CGS to attend the conference and represent Canada. Suzanne was the Local Chair of the 2nd Canadian Young Geotechnical Engineers and Geoscientists Conference (cYGEGC) held in Gananoque, ON in 2007. Kent is the Co-chair of the upcoming 3rd cYGEGC to be held in Waterton National Park, AB in 2010.

The 4th iYGEC was attended by 84 delegates from 44 countries, split almost evenly between academia and industry. The first two days of the conference consisted of technical presentations by the delegates. Social events were held each evening. Through presentations, conversations and the sharing of ideas, the delegates learned about societal and political challenges that influence geotechnical work around the world. The intimate conference setting promoted the collaboration and building of professional relationships outside the technical sessions. Delegates were then invited to attend the first two days of the ICSMGE, including "State-of-the Art" and "Special" lectures. The iYGEC delegates were given the option, at their cost, of registering for the remaining days of technical presentations at the ICSMGE.

Delegates of the 4th iYGEC were asked by the ISSMGE to prepare a presentation summarizing the current state-of-practice of young geotechnical engineering. The presentation provided a collective vision of the young engineers as to the future of geotechnical engineering. This also gave an opportunity for the young engineers to make recommendations for the progression and future of young members within the ISSMGE. Three representatives from the iYGEC were selected to present our shared vision during the second day of the ICSMGE; Suzanne Powell was one of the three presenters chosen amongst the conference delegates. A summary of the iYGEC delegate's presentation was prepared and submitted for publication in the December 2009 issue of the *ISSMGE Bulletin*.

Through attendance at both the 4th iYGEC and 17th ICSMGE, contacts and friendships were forged that will prove beneficial for the duration of our careers. We would both like to thank the Canadian Foundation for Geotechnique and the CGS for providing us with this unique opportunity. The experience was one that we will never forget!