

**ISSMGE FOUNDATION
REPORT ON CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE**

<p>Your Name: Andre Archer</p>	<p>Your Organization: University of Pretoria</p>	<p>Date of report: 04/02/2014</p>
<p>Conference Title: 8th International Conference on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics 2014 (ICPMG 2014)</p>	<p>Location of Conference: Perth, Australia</p>	<p>Dates of Conference: 13-17 January 2014</p>
<p>What you learned:</p> <p>Attending the ICPMG 2014 conference at the University of Western Australia was highly beneficial to my career as a researcher and engineer and overall was an extremely informative experience. The conference gave me the chance to evolve my awareness of the current research being conducted in the geotechnical field concerning physical modelling. One of the main aspects that struck me is how important participation in conferences is and that conferences such as the ICPMG 2014 provide ample opportunities to establish new worthwhile contacts with industry experts. The conference showed me the importance of on-going and constantly evolving research and that there is always room for more learning and continual improvement, regardless of how much experience you have as an individual. It was exciting to see that the future of physical modelling related research is bright and that there is so much more that the geotechnical community can achieve when experts from all over the world work in collaboration. The most important thing I learned is that as a young engineer, the confidence you gain from attending and presenting at international conferences is instrumental in making one a skilled and useful engineer and researcher.</p>		
<p>People you met:</p> <p>Prof Malcolm Bolton - University of Cambridge Prof David White – University of Western Australia Prof Sarah Springman - ETH Zürich Talia da Silva - University of Cambridge Anthony Tessari – University of Buffalo Prof Tarek Abdoun - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Luc Thorel - IFSTTAR Dr Andrew Brennen – University of Dundee Marianna Loli - National Technical University of Athens Dr Inthuorn Sasanakul - Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Christian Gauffre - Actidyn Prof Antonio Carraro - University of Western Australia Thayanan Boonyarak – Hong Kong University of Science and Technology Dr Paul Shepley - University of Sheffield</p>		

Main features of conference:

The conference was a good combination of technical and social events. The main technical sessions involved guest and keynote lectures which I found very educational as they were presented by some of the most renowned geotechnical professionals in the industry. Another great feature was the discussions after each session which gave an opportunity for the audience to ask questions to the presenters. The quality of the papers presented at the conference with the social events (such as the gala dinner) is one of the main reasons the conference was such a success. An interesting feature of the conference was the fact that lab technicians also attended and although they had their own program, they attended some of the technical sessions which illustrated the need for more interaction between the engineers and technicians. The main feature of the conference was the 1st Schofield lecture presented by Prof Malcolm Bolton titled: "Centrifuge modelling: expecting the unexpected". This inspirational lecture was a first for the ICPMG and one that will not be forgotten. The inspiring words of Professor Malcolm Bolton and his vast experience with physical modelling made the conference even more unforgettable.

Your comments on the conference:

The conference was very well organized and it was the perfect setting at the University of Western Australia with the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems (COFS) facility on campus. There was a good ratio between the technical sessions and social events. The technical quality of the work presented was very inspiring. On a more personal note I feel that the conference was very expensive to attend when combining all the costs of travel, the conference and accommodation. Overall the conference was an enormous success, building on the previous ICPMG conferences and a good stepping stone for future conferences.

Please attach short report (maximum 400 words) suitable for publication in the ISSMGE Bulletin:

**8th International Conference on Physical Modelling in Geotechnics 2014
(8th ICPMG)
13-17 January 2014, Perth, Australia**

The 8th ICPMG was jointly organised by the Centre for Offshore Foundation Systems (COFS) at The University of Western Australia and the ISSMGE TC104. The conference is held every 4 years and this conference was an enormous success, building on the previous ICPMG conference held at ETH Zurich. The setting for the conference was the beautiful campus of the University of Western Australia with the facilities providing a professional and comfortable atmosphere for all researchers attending..

The conference commenced on Monday 13 January 2014 with a welcoming reception and on the 14th the opening ceremony was held after which the technical sessions commenced. The conference program was divided into plenary sessions, usually having a keynote of guest lecture, which was followed by parallel sessions where the delegates could decide which session to attend based on their interests. The 8th ICPMG also coincided with the 1st Andrew Schofield which was established to recognise distinguished members of the physical modelling community. Professor Malcolm Bolton presented the 1st Schofield lecture which was titled: "Centrifuge modelling: expecting the unexpected". The lecture was captivating and Professor Malcolm Bolton's vast experience with physical modelling ensured that the audience was given fruit for thought and to look physical modelling from a new perspective.

The social events of the conference included the welcome reception, a gala dinner, a reception after the Schofield lecture and an afternoon of socialising at the picturesque harbour city of Fremantle. The social events were a good break from the technical sessions where the more relaxed and entertaining side of the delegates came out.

A tour of the centrifuge at COFS did not disappoint as they showcased their impressive facility and physical modelling capabilities. It is notable that the work put into this facility can only produce high quality research and it is an encouragement for the future of physical modelling, not only at COFS, but also for the rest of the world.

The participation at the conference provided me with the opportunity to confer with likeminded professionals from all over the world and gave me a whole new perspective on the geotechnical physical modelling industry. The conference was an enormous success and the confidence I gained from attending and presenting my work will definitely assist me in becoming a better geotechnical researcher. I would like to thank the ISSMGE Foundation for providing me with part funding to attend the conference.

Photographs from Conference:



Photo 1: Professor Malcolm Bolton presenting the 1st Schofield lecture



Photo 2: Myself presenting my paper