

ISSMGE Awards Recipients at the Paris Conference 2013

Jean-Louis Briaud, Francois Schlosser, Esve Jacobs

The Awards Ceremony took place on the 3rd of September in the main auditorium and was chaired by President Jean-Louis Briaud. In addition to the two existing awards (Kevin Nash gold medal, Terzaghi Oration), eight new awards were given in 2013.

1 KEVIN NASH GOLD MEDAL

The Kevin Nash Gold Medal is given every four years to a member of ISSMGE who has distinguished herself or himself through Service to the Society. The selection committee is made of all former Presidents of the Society who actually cannot receive that award. So Pedro Seco e Pinto as Past President organized a group made of William van Impe, Kenji Ishihara, Mike Jamiołkowski, Norbert Morgenstern, and Bengt Broms. This former presidents council selected as 2013 recipient Professor Heinz Brandl of Austria.

President Jean-Louis Briaud made the following address :

“When I think of Heinz Brandl the first thing that comes to my mind is class and distinction. Professor Heinz Brandl has made a significant number of remarkable contributions to the advancement of our field; compaction, geosynthetics, geothermal energy are but a few examples. But the main reason why I believe he was selected is because he helped so much ISSMGE and many member societies in Eastern Europe to develop, to become prominent, to set up regional conferences, and to talk to each other at a time where political tension did exist between countries in this part of the world. So it gives me great pleasure to give the 2013 Kevin Nash Gold Medal to Professor Heinz Brandl. Congratulations.”

2 TERZAGHI ORATOR – SUZANNE LACASSE

The Terzaghi Oration is the highest honor that our society bestows on one of its members for her or his contributions to the advancement of our field. The selection is the sole decision of the President after consultation with the members.

The Terzaghi Orator at the Paris Conference is Dr. Suzanne Lacasse. Born in Canada, she gets degrees from the University of Ottawa, Ecole Polytechnique in Montreal, and a PhD from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She then teaches at MIT and heads the soil mechanics laboratory for several years. She moves to the Norwegian Geotechnical Institutes and becomes NGI Director in 1991. Dr. Lacasse was President of CGS, the member society in Canada and is a Member of the National Academy of Engineering in the USA.

President Jean-Louis Briaud made the following address :

“Dr. Suzanne Lacasse worked in three different countries Canada, USA, Norway and every time rose to the top of the geotechnical world. She truly exemplifies the very best we have in geotechnical engineering. She represents the ideal blend of academician and practitioner, the perfect mix of theories and experiments, a demonstrated devotion to her profession, and all this with a friendly and approachable attitude. Please help me congratulate the ISSMGE 2013 Terzaghi Orator Suzanne Lacasse.”

3 ISSMGE AWARDS

3.1 Introduction address by President Jean-Louis Briaud

“In 2010, I noticed that the number of awards per member given by ISSMGE was much smaller than the number of awards per member given by many other notable societies. So we created an awards committee to study this problem and called it AWAC. The chair of AWAC was Francois Schlosser with Esve Jacobs as Secretary. AWAC studied the problem and came back to the Board with recommendations for the creation of 7 new awards and the Board approved the new awards. Nominations were sought about one year ago and AWAC selected 2 potential winners for each award. The Board made the final decision on who would be the winner among the two names proposed. I wish to thank Francois Schlosser, Esve Jacobs and the AWAC committee members for their excellent work. It was not easy as your committee started from the very beginning of the process; I think that the next group of AWAC members will certainly benefit from your pioneering work. I can add that there was a very stiff competition for all awards. I also wish to emphasize that since ISSMGE operates at the planet level, there is nothing bigger than these awards for humankind. In my mind these are the very top awards you can receive from your peers. The winners should be extremely proud of receiving such awards which are given only every four years”.

3.2 ISSMGE Young Member Award (2)

The ISSMGE Young Member Award is presented to up to 3 young members who are less than 36 years old on 31Dec2013, and have made outstanding contributions to the development of geotechnical engineering through their scientific and technical work. The selection is made in part on the basis of a paper published in the proceedings of the quadrennial conference.

Two young geotechnical engineers were selected to receive this award. They are Dr. Cholachat Rujikiatkamjorn (Thailand-Australia) and Dr. Greg Siemens (Canada).

Dr. Rujikiatkamjorn is from Thailand originally and obtained his PhD from the University of Wollongong in Australia in 2006. He received the Australian Geomechanics Society Thesis Award for his dissertation and later the 2012 Trollope Medal from the Australian Geomechanics Society. He has published extensively already and his work is in the area of soil improvement in general and wick drains for soft soils in particular. He is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Wollongong in Wollongong, Australia.

Dr. Siemens received all his degrees including his PhD from the University of Manitoba in Canada. His work is actually quite varied but it always has a hydraulic or hydration

component. He has been cited several times for the quality of his refereed journal contributions. While his home base duties are at the Royal Military College in Ontario he has adjunct appointments at the University of British Columbia, the University of Manitoba, and Queen's University.

3.3 ISSMGE Outstanding Young Geotechnical Engineer Award

The ISSMGE Outstanding Young Geotechnical Engineer Award is given to a young individual or to a team of young individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the practice or research in geotechnical engineering through one or more research or industrial projects. Young is defined here as less than 36 years of age on 31 December 2013.

The recipient of the 2013 ISSMGE Outstanding Young Geotechnical Engineer Award is Dr. Guillermo Narsilio (Argentina-Australia). Dr. Narsilio received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Cordoba in Argentina and his PhD degree from Georgia Tech in the USA. He has already won a number of awards including the 2009 Jack Morgan Award from the Australian Geomechanics Society. He has published already significantly for his age and is a Senior Lecturer at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

3.4 ISSMGE Outstanding Member Society Award

This international recognition in Geo-Engineering is awarded to recognize the most outstanding ISSMGE Member Society and to reward young and smaller Member Societies who are active.

The recipient of the outstanding Member Society Award is the New Zealand Geotechnical Society. Gavin Alexander is here from NZGS to receive the award on behalf of his member society. NZGS members regularly organize a number of conferences and workshops and seminars, they write guidelines and standards for their practitioners, and they contribute to various ISSMGE technical committees. They have 597 members for a population of some 4.5 million making it one of the highest ratio in ISSMGE.

3.5 ISSMGE Outstanding Technical Committee Award

The ISSMGE Outstanding Technical Committee Award is given to an ISSMGE TC which has demonstrated excellence in disseminating knowledge, establishing guidelines, supporting conferences, and interacting with other groups. There was a very tight competition between 10 TCs for this award!

The recipient of the ISSMGE Outstanding Technical Committee Award is the TC on Risk and Reliability (Chair: Prof. K. K. Phoon). This committee truly excelled in each one of the award categories and was very active throughout the last 4 years. The host country is Singapore.

3.6 ISSMGE Outstanding Paper in the International Journal of Geo-Engineering Case Histories Award.

The criterion for this award is the best paper in the on line ISSMGE Case Histories Journal during the last 4 years. The recipients are: Prof. John Burland, Prof. Mike Jamiolkowski, and Prof. Carlo Viggiani for their excellent paper on the Tower of Pisa. Their outstanding work for the Tower of Pisa has strongly highlighted our profession.

3.7 ISSMGE Outstanding Geotechnical Project Award

This international recognition in Geo-Engineering is awarded to a project that best illustrates superior geotechnical engineering skills and represents significant contributions to geotechnical engineering progress and society.

Projects from Australia, Hong Kong, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Korea, Tunisia, USA were submitted and the competition was very stiff. The winner is the Korean project entitled "Busan-Geoje Fixed Link Immersed Tunnel". Mr. Keunyoung Kim, Managing Director of Daewoo Engineering & Construction Co. Ltd was responsible for this huge project in connection with of the Korean Geotechnical Society, chaired by Professor Yeon-Soo Jang. This impressive immersed tunnel is part of a 2 Billion dollar project which took 6 years to construct. In short it is a 3.3 km tunnel resting at the bottom of the sea to connect the city of Busan to the Island of Geoje. The soil was 20 m of very soft marine clay which had to be improved by different methods to minimize the differential settlement. A combination of methods were selected including deep soil mixing columns, sand compaction piles, rock replacement and preloading. Many difficult geotechnical problems were overcome and the tunnel was completed in 2010.

3.8 ISSMGE Outstanding Public Relation Award

This international public relations recognition in Geo-Engineering is awarded to an individual or an organization who contributed outstandingly in promoting geotechnical engineering and showing its importance as a profession in life. The 2013 ISSMGE Outstanding Public Relation Award goes to Dr. Marc Ballouz of Lebanon. Dr. Ballouz got his Bachelor's degree in Lebanon and his Master and PhD degrees from Texas A&M University. He started his own geotechnical consulting and construction company in the mid 1990s, which has grown remarkably, and now has a worldwide presence. He has contributed in many ways to impact the image of geotechnical engineering worldwide through general magazine articles, YouTube videos, brochures, web site development, the time capsule, all this with his members of the Public Relations Committee.

3.9 ISSMGE Outstanding Innovator Award

This international recognition is awarded to an individual ISSMGE member (researcher, consultant, contractor) for innovations that have had a pronounced impact on geo-engineering practice, research and education. The term "innovation" is used broadly to describe any major, unprecedented achievements that led to a significant advancement in our profession.

The 2013 ISSMGE Outstanding Innovator Award goes to Dr. Dimitris Zekkos of Greece-USA. Dr. Dimitris Zekkos received his degree in Greece and his PhD from the University of California at Berkeley. He worked with Geosyntech for several years and is now a professor at the University of Michigan where his specialty is geoenvironmental engineering. As a student at Berkeley he started Geoengineer.org which has become the go-to site when you want information on geotechnical engineering. Then he started the International Journal of Geoenvironmental Case Histories (with a revolutionary way of disseminating the information: free for all on the internet) and more recently GeoWorld a professional exchange network for all geotechnical engineers worldwide.