

## Young Members Arena

### On the borderline between geotechnical and earthquake engineering – a young members' partnership

About one year ago, in March 2018, the French Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (CFMS) encouraged its young members to get together and create a young members group. CFMS has assigned some initial goals for this internal working group, which were mainly focused on involving young French engineers in the geotechnical community, both nationally and internationally, so that they could gradually gain visibility and contribute with senior members.

Since the first call for volunteers this new community has shown a great potential for success. The young members were given the autonomy to decide how to manage and develop the group by themselves. The senior members, however, were active on supervising and providing meaningful advises during the first steps. Four poles of activities were created: "promotion and communication", "national and international relations", "technical and general events", and "relations with senior working groups and technical committees". A poll was used to pick a name and the majority voted for "*CFMS Jeunes*". All CFMS members under 35 years can be a part of the group and support it by proposing and organizing activities.

The results of the effort were noticeable after one year of committed work. The group is now integrated to the CFMS main web site and it has its own LinkedIn page, which is a handy tool to communicate with its almost 50 members, in addition to being accessible for non-members. Other efforts include the involvement of the young members on the process of scientific paper review and on the CFMS' senior working groups.

The most recent activity was a technical event organized in partnership with the young members of the French Association for Earthquake Engineering (AFPS *Groupe Jeunes*). This young members' association founded in 2011, is more mature and helped *CFMS Jeunes* with organizing this first event. The fruitful cooperation was made possible thanks to the active participation of members integrated to both societies. The access was free to the whole community, young and seniors. More than one hundred persons participated, 64% being young members.

The technical event entitled "*On the borderline between geotechnical and earthquake engineering*" lasted for a full day (April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019) and included six presentations, which were performed in the morning, given by doctorate students, researchers and young and senior engineers to tackle with the following subjects:

- Numerical modeling of seismic wave propagation in soils;
- Engineering methods for studying the risk of liquefaction under earthquake;
- The design of a contiguous retaining wall for seismic loadings;
- The design difficulties for works involving current geotechnics and seismic loads;
- The experimental study of the behavior of a group of piles under earthquake loads - centrifuge modeling;
- Semi-analytical modeling of the response of a pile under lateral cyclic loading;

As part of the event, the guests had option to choose betvisit renowned soil mechanics research laboratories (Navier Geotechnique, at Ecole des Ponts ParisTech, or SRO at IFSTTAR), or the construction site where an underground metro station linking an existing line with two new ones is being built in the afternoon.

There is no doubt that this event was a very important contribution to the geotechnical society. The young members are very proud of this action and are very motivated to keep on working on organizing new activities like this first one. They are currently preparing a new event, which will be dedicated to the subject "history and geotechnics".

If you think this is an inspiring beginning, join us and help us make an even better community!

## Young Members Arena (Con't)

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Figure 1. Conference organized by the CFMS and AFPS young members and visit to a soil mechanics laboratory



Figure 2. Visit to an underground metro station under construction

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