23rd European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference

In September 2014 Brian Shiel and Martin Timoney, both from NUI Galway, represented Ireland at the 23rd European Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference (EYGEC) held in Barcelona, Spain. Nearly 50 delegates, both researchers and practitioners, from across Europe attended the conference presenting on a variety of geotechnical themes.

The papers presented covered a wide range of topics including piling, tunnelling, ground improvement, numerical modelling, rock stability, geothermal applications and geotechnical risk management, with results from laboratory experiments, numerical analysis and field projects presented. A number of very interesting keynote lectures were also given and included “Slope stability in sanitary landfills” by Prof. Cesar Sagaseta, “Progressive failure in over-consolidated clays” by Prof. Antonio Gens, “How to build confidence in numerical analysis” by Prof. Lidija Zdravkovic and “Building a large tunnel next to Sagrada Familia” by Prof. Alberto Ledesma.

Congratulations to Audrey Huckett (France) on winning the best overall paper for her experimental and numerical work on the design of geosynthetic reinforcements overlying sinkholes (see page 133-136 of the proceedings). The proceedings for the conference have been made freely available to download on the conference website at: https://www.etcg.upc.edu/congressos/eygec-2014/proceedings

The young geotechnical engineers conferences provide a great opportunity to meet and socialise with other like-minded geotechnical engineers. The Keynote lecturers and conference organising committee were also very keen to mix and interact with the delegates and discuss their research topics throughout the conference. At EYGEC Barcelona, there was a very friendly and relaxed atmosphere during the conference sessions which provided an ideal opportunity for the delegates to present on their work, create new contacts and make new friends. A number of events and social outings were also organised to keep us entertained and both the Spanish Cooking night and conference dinner were very enjoyable occasions. By the end of the conference talk among the delegates had turned to the ECSMGE conference in Edinburgh in 2015, who was attending and when we would meet again.

Finally, the Irish delegates are very grateful to the Geotechnical Society of Ireland for providing them with the opportunity to attend and present at the conference.

Irish Delegates:


Martin Timoney, NUI Galway; Strength verification of soil-cement columns; a scale laboratory investigation of the Push-In Resistance Test, pages 137-140.
Figure 1 Brian Shiel presenting his paper

Figure 2 Martin Timoney presenting his paper