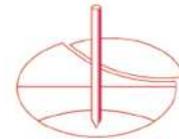


## Technical Oversight Committee (TOC)

Pierre Delage, TOC Chair

Kenichi Soga, TOC Secretary

International Society  
for Soil Mechanics and  
Geotechnical Engineering



ISSMGE

Champs, 25/04/2014

To the Presidents and Secretaries of Member Societies,

Some of you may know that I have been appointed as Chair of the Technical Oversight Committee (TOC) by ISSMGE President Roger Frank, following Suzanne Lacasse who was the first TOC Chair between 2009 and 2013 under Jean Louis Briaud's Presidency.

This message is to inform you about some recent issues with respect to TC activities. As you know, the role of Member Societies is to provide 2 qualified members to actively participate to the TC technical activities when the TC field appears of interest to the Member Society. Also, some Member Societies support the activities of the TC when the TC is chaired by one of its members.

I would like now to briefly introduce some issues dealing with TC activities for the 2013 - 2017 term that have been discussed during the ISSMGE Board meeting in London on 18 March 2014.

### **TOC Composition**

It has been decided the TOC to be now composed of the Vice-Presidents (VPs) of the regions together with 6 other personalities of the 6 regions. The VPs will hence follow more closely the activities of the TCs of his/her region and they will also act as Board liaisons. The composition of the TOC is as follows:

- Africa: Fatma Baligh (VP) and Samuel Ampadu (Ghana), 1 TC
- Asia: Ikuo Towhata (VP) and Madhira Madhav, 7 TCs
- Australasia: Mark Jaksa (VP) and Michael Pender (New Zealand)
- Europe: Antonio Gens (VP) and Giulia Viggiani (Italy), 14 TCs
- North America: Paul Mayne (VP) and Gabriel Auvinet (Mexico), 6 TCs
- South America: Jarbas Milititsky (VP) and Luis Valenzuela (Chile), 2 TCs

Kenichi Soga kindly accepted to follow on as TOC Secretary.

The TCs activities are governed by Guidelines that are presently discussed and updated within the TOC prior to being approved by the ISSMGE Board. They will be available on the ISSMGE website in the near future.

### **Recent decisions**

Some issues have already been discussed:

(a) The limitation to two of the 4 years term of TC Chairs (resulting in a 8 year maximum period) has been approved by the ISSMGE Board. In fact, many TC Chairs have changed since September 2013, following this rule: 101 (Lab), 102 (in-situ), 104 (Physical mod.), 106 (Unsaturated), 202 (Transp.), 211 (Ground improvement), 214 (Soft soils), 301 (Historic), 306 (Education).

Chairs who have already completed two terms have been asked to organise with their TC members the election of a new Chair. The new Chair should then be proposed by the Member Society to the Vice-president of the region (TOC member) to be afterwards submitted to the approbation of the TOC and, finally of the ISSMGE President.

(b) Membership: an improvement of the membership management will be conducted through a more adapted website based on a single database to be filled and kept up to date by TC officers and by the Member Societies. This TC reporting website will be created soon.

The TC membership is as follows:

- 4 members nominated by the TC Chair who also selects the TC secretary, with voting right;
- 2 members nominated by Member Societies interested in the TC activities, with voting right;
- no limit in number of corresponding members nominated by the Member Societies who may attend meetings and participate to the TC activities, with no voting right.

To achieve more efficient and fruitful TC activities, Chairs have been invited by the TOC to check their member list and to invite the Member Societies either to replace sleeping members (never seen at meetings or never responding to e-mails and requirements) by more active members or to cancel their participation. It is not in the interest of TCs to have a very long list of inactive members.

We request that Member Societies actively interact with TC Chairs to check and update if necessary the present TC member lists.

It is also now agreed that any Member Society can substitute one or two of its members, at any time, in any TC.

I would like to thank all Member Societies for their participation to the constitution and, when relevant, to the support of TCs. The TC technical and scientific contributions are known to be among the most important and successful ISSMGE activities.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Delage', with a horizontal line drawn through the middle of the signature.

Prof. Pierre Delage  
TOC Chair