
President's Corner: Anatomy of the 10ICG (Berlin 2014)



Jorge Zornberg

Dear Member of the IGS,

The 10th International Conference on Geosynthetics will take place in Berlin, Germany, from 21 to 25 September 2014 (www.10icg-berlin.com). The IGS German Chapter, the German Geotechnical Society (DGGT) and the IGS are extremely pleased to invite you to this celebration of geosynthetic technology. Every International Conference on Geosynthetics (ICG) has a myriad of activities, which I try to summarize below, that make this quadrennial event a special milestone in geosynthetics history. This will certainly be the case in Berlin, with the added important note that the event will be co-located with the 33rd Baugrundtagung (i.e. the German Soil Mechanics Conference) of the DGGT. As the biennial Baugrundtagung expects more than 1,200 participants, great synergy and interaction is anticipated between these events, especially in the co-organized, co-located exhibition. There will be opportunities for participants of the Baugrundtagung to join the 10ICG as well as to also participate Baugrundtagung presentations, which will be simultaneously translated to English. The special lectures from both events will include deliveries from key experts from both the geotechnical and geosynthetics professions. This is an opportunity to offer exposure to the geosynthetics industry to a very progressive group of engineers that may (or may not) have known (so far) about geosynthetics.

The conferences of the IGS have played a remarkable role in the development of geosynthetic products and their applications. Much of the information on material properties, testing methods, applications and design approaches that we use in geosynthetics engineering has been vetted through these conferences. Of particular importance are the International Conferences on Geosynthetics. This series has been a premier outlet of, and in many cases has indeed triggered, many of the advances in geosynthetics. Figure 1 illustrates the location of the various international conferences (see yellow stars, with the corresponding conference number). As illustrated in this figure, the international conferences of the IGS have been well distributed throughout the globe. The first ICG was held in Paris (France) in 1977, and was followed by the 1982 Las Vegas (USA) conference, the 1986 Vienna (Austria) conference, the 1990 The Hague (Netherlands) conference, the 1994 Singapore conference, the 1998 Atlanta (USA) ICG, the 2002 ICG in Nice (France), the 2006 ICG in Yokohama (Japan), and the most recent event (9ICG) held in Guarujá (Brazil) in 2010. The forthcoming Berlin conference will be the 10th Conference of the important series of ICG events.

The conferences of the IGS have played a remarkable role in the development of geosynthetic products and their applications. Much of the information on material properties, testing methods, applications and design approaches that we use in geosynthetics engineering has been vetted through these conferences. Of particular importance are the International Conferences on Geosynthetics. This series has been a premier outlet of, and in many cases has indeed triggered, many of the advances in geosynthetics. Figure 1 illustrates the location of the various international conferences (see yellow stars, with the corresponding conference number). As illustrated in this figure, the international conferences of the IGS have been well distributed throughout the globe. The first ICG was held in Paris (France) in 1977, and was followed by the 1982 Las Vegas (USA) conference, the 1986 Vienna (Austria) conference, the 1990 The Hague (Netherlands) conference, the 1994 Singapore conference, the 1998 Atlanta (USA) ICG, the 2002 ICG in Nice (France), the 2006 ICG in Yokohama (Japan), and the most recent event (9ICG) held in Guarujá (Brazil) in 2010. The forthcoming Berlin conference will be the 10th Conference of the important series of ICG events.



Figure 1. Location of the previous and upcoming International Conferences on Geosynthetics

Figure 2 shows the same information as in Figure 1, but in a more interesting way, as conceived by the organizers of the 10ICG. Inspection of this figure will reveal an interesting mixture of artistic, historic, and “geosynthetic” views of our field. You may discover the characteristic landscape of the various conference locations. Can you find the multiple geosynthetics uses in this figure?



Figure 2. Location of the previous and upcoming International Conferences on Geosynthetics (source: 10ICG Brochure).

The 10ICG will see a major display of technical and organizational activities of the IGS and the geosynthetics industry at large. This is where the next Giroud Lecture (to be delivered by Prof. Richard Bathurst) will be offered. Key activities and meetings of the IGS Technical Committees on Filtration, Reinforcement and Barriers will take place. The current (15th) IGS Council will finish its term and the new (16th) IGS Council will begin along with a new IGS President’s tenure. He/she will be the ninth IGS Council President in the Society’s history. Also of note, the IGS Awards will be granted, among many other activities, during 10ICG.

The highlight of the conference will certainly be its technical contributions. While the themes of the conference cut across the many areas of geosynthetics and their affiliated applications, the conference organizers have identified three timely areas of emphasis:

- Geosynthetics for mitigation of natural disasters
- Geosynthetics for implementation of energy-efficient solutions
- Cost benefits of geosynthetic solutions

Stay tuned for upcoming information on these specific aspects in the technical program of the 10ICG.

Some of the important deadlines regarding the submission of technical contributions to the conference are noted in the inset box. The deadline for receiving abstracts has recently passed and we are pleased to report that a record-high number of 480 abstract submissions have been received by the 10ICG Organizers. This is an early indicator of the great feast of geosynthetics technology that will take place in Berlin. The reviewing process will be conducted next, and early releases of the upcoming technical program will be issued to

For information on the technical contributions and submission of abstracts go to:
www.10icg-berlin.com

Important deadlines are:

- **31 July 2013: Deadline for receipt of abstracts (*)**
- **1 December 2013: Communication of Abstract Acceptance**
- **28 February 2014: Deadline for first draft of papers**
- **31 May 2014: Deadline for final version of papers**

(*) Abstracts receipt is already closed.

provide continued information on the upcoming technical activities. Some special workshops and training lectures are also being planned, which constitute additional opportunities for participation. If you have special ideas/wishes on such lectures or want to potentially offer a contribution, please contact the organizing team of the 10ICG.

The technical program will include a number of educational training lectures, where the most qualified experts on different aspects of geosynthetics and geosynthetic applications will deliver state-of-the-knowledge lectures. These training lectures are expected to be delivered to address the needs of both geosynthetic experts and novices. Key aspects of geosynthetics in transportation, mining applications, waste containment, hydraulic projects, energy-related systems, pavements, and disaster mitigation will be covered by the training lectures. The 10ICG will place special focus on the major contributions that the two official journals of the IGS, *Geotextiles & Geomembranes* and *Geosynthetics International*, have made throughout the years to the geosynthetics industry and to the engineering community at large.

Finally, 10ICG will offer unique social events, including those in a magnificent exhibit hall which, because of the particularly suitable layout of the conference venue, will be fully integrated with the multiple activities of the technical program. The main feature among the conference social activities will be the gala dinner at a "surprise location," which has been closely guarded by the conference organizers.

We look forward to your participation in the technical activities of the 10th International Conference on Geosynthetics in Berlin, September 2014.

Jorge G. Zornberg, Ph.D., P.E.
IGS President

tel: +1(512) 232 3595
e-mail: zornberg@mail.utexas.edu

General Information for IGS Members

Summary of 2012 IGS Chapter Activities



Russell Jones

The use of the standard reporting form for chapter reports allows IGS to understand the activities being carried out at local, regional and international level. This summary report for the year 2012 again shows an impressive number of technical activities being undertaken around the world. Out of the 36 chapters asked to submit a report, 5 chapters did not submit a report by 16 June 2013.

Figure 1 summarises the total number of technical activities carried out in 2012 by IGS chapters. These include activities where the chapter acted either independently or as a collaborating organisation.

It can be seen from the figure that the IGS chapters were involved with:

- 25 technical conferences;
- 21 workshops;
- 26 short courses; and
- 12 main lectures

These technical activities were supported by 223 reported board/committee meetings (in-person and conference calls), which shows the effort being put in by the chapter officers and members.

An assessment of the most active IGS chapter has again been carried out and it should be noted that this is based on the number reported by the chapters. It is felt that this is a worthwhile exercise not only to identify chapters that are

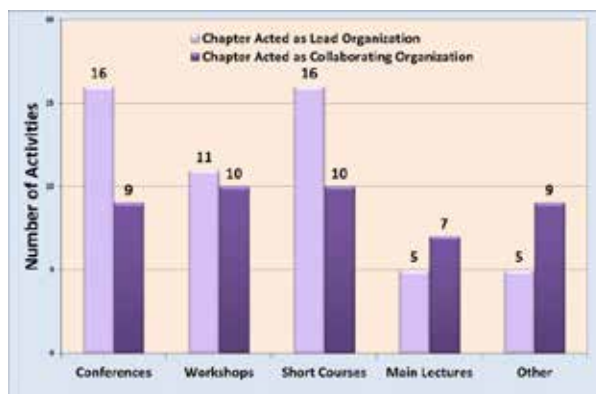


Figure 1: Number of activities carried out in 2012 reported by the chapters of IGS