

31 December 2009.

Presentations will be forwarded by the Secretariat to the Award Committee by 15 January 2010, and the Committee will meet by 31 March 2010 to finalize their decisions, draft citations and report.

Awards will be presented in Guarujá, Brazil, 23 - 27 May 2010 at 9 ICG.

The Two IGS Awards

• **The Young IGS Member Award**

This Award is for IGS Members who are less than 36 years of age on 31 December 2009.

• **The IGS Award**

A maximum of five IGS Awards will be granted. Each award will consist of a specially commissioned medal and a diploma.

Candidates

Each entry is restricted to a maximum of four persons, at least one of whom, must be an IGS Member. All IGS Members are eligible with the exception of the IGS President and Members of the Awards Committee. In the case of a group submission to the Young IGS Member Award, all members of the group must satisfy the age requirement. Any individual or group that is a candidate for the Young IGS Member Award is automatically considered for both award categories (unless requested otherwise by the candidate). However, a candidate may only receive one award for the 2006 to 2009 period.

Nominations

Candidate nominations must be typed in English on plain paper (i.e., not letterhead paper) and submitted to the IGS Secretariat (see address on page 40. The nomination should include:

- a clear statement of the considered candidate's contribution (e.g., if the contribution is a product, provide a clear definition of the product; if it is a paper(s), book, and/or report, provide a full reference for each; if it is a construction method, provide a clear description of the method and any references, etc.) and;
- a statement indicating the originality and significance of the candidate's contribution to the discipline (i.e., in the field of geotextiles, geomembranes, related products and/or associated technologies).

Nominations may be made by any IGS Member except for Awards Committee Members. Under the IGS Awards rules, any IGS Member can nominate himself/herself for any award. The Communications Committee, Education Committee, Corporate Members Committee, and IGS Chapters are invited to make nominations.

Nominated candidates will be contacted by the IGS Secretary and asked to agree to stand for an award and will be required to submit materials as directed by the

Awards Committee. All correspondence and activity related to nominations and award entries will be carried out in the strictest confidence by the IGS Secretary and the Awards Committee.

IGS Awards Committee

The Awards Committee was formed in September 2008 at the IGS Council meeting, which was held in conjunction with the *EuroGeo 4* conference in Edinburgh.

The Awards Committee comprises five IGS Members; one of whom serves as Chair. The Committee is appointed by the Council. The Members are selected so as to represent a broad cross section of geosynthetic-related technologies and experience. The IGS Secretary will attend all meetings of the Awards Committee as an observer and coordinator.

Additional Information

The full text of the IGS Awards rules can be obtained from the IGS Secretary, Peter Stevenson and the IGS webpage section "[Handbook, Part 4 Benefits and Awards](#)" in the "Membership only" section.

*Reported by
Daniele Cazzuffi, Chair of IGS
Awards Committee*

Summary Report of 2008 IGS Chapter Activities



**Jorge G.
Zornberg**

One of the activities that has been traditionally undertaken by the IGS Vice-President is addressing the needs of the IGS Chapters. Continuing with this tradition, I have coordinated a new initiative aimed at enhancing communications between the IGS Chapters and the IGS Council. Specifically, and starting in 2008, new guidelines have been developed and implemented to facili-

tate such enhanced communication. The heart of this new approach is the completion by the IGS Chapters of a new Standard Reporting Form. I am pleased to report that all active IGS Chapters have submitted an annual report. This provides a cross-cutting evaluation of the full body of IGS technical activities at international, regional and chapter levels. The reports show a truly impressive number of technical activities. These activities include, to name a few, multi-lingual national conferences, free short courses aimed at regulators, and lecture series focused on educating a new generation of geosynthetic professionals.

The IGS World

Interestingly, this initiative appears to be particularly timely since, as pointed out by Dr. Giroud in his recent article on "The Origins of the IGS and a Challenge for the Future" (IGSNews, November 2008), the priorities of the IGS are now different from those of the IGS pioneers. As Dr. Giroud worded it:

We, the pioneers, met our challenge which was to bring together all people interested in geosynthetics to create a discipline. Young members of the IGS, your challenge is to bring this discipline to the world, to disseminate information. Our challenge was to converge. Your challenge is to diverge.

The IGS Chapters possibly represent the most powerful promise to diverge the message of the IGS. Thanks to the effort of geosynthetics experts, an excellent body of technical information regarding geosynthetics exists. To continue this growth it is imperative that this information be delivered for use by practitioners and regulators. Clearly the IGS Chapters have the best ability to aid in the process. Where in the World are the IGS Chapters? **Figure 1**



Figure 1: The IGS World (IGS presence in the form of IGS Chapters)

Figure 1 shows the current presence of the IGS in the form of IGS Chapters. As shown in the figure, the IGS Chapters have the potential to convey geosynthetics knowledge to a significant fraction of the world.

Figure 2 shows the formation chronology of IGS Chapters since the beginning of the IGS on 10 November 1983. An interesting characteristic of the development of IGS Chapters is that their creation has followed a remarkably constant rate. More specifically, the number of IGS Chapters has grown at an approximately steady rate of 1.2 chapters per year, which is remarkable. The concept of IGS Chapters was introduced very early in the history of our society, with Japan taking the initiative of forming the very first chapter in 1985. This initiative was soon followed by North America (NAGS) and the UK, which formed the first chapters in the Americas and

Europe in 1986 and 1987, respectively. New chapters were continuously added to the IGS ranks and, by 1993 (the 10th anniversary of the IGS), a total of 10 chapters were already operating across Asia, Europe, and North America. By the end of the second decade in the life of the IGS, a total of 24 chapters had been formed (now in all five continents, see chapters in 'green' in **Figure 2**). And by 2008, the 25th anniversary of the IGS (and the reporting period being summarized herein), the number of IGS Chapters had reached 31 after a continued focus on increasing the IGS presence in developing countries. Since then, a brand new Argentinean chapter has already been formed in 2009.

The New Reporting Guidelines

The continued growth in the num-

ber of IGS Chapters certainly serves well the important IGS objective of promoting the good use of geosynthetics. Yet, a fluid communication between the IGS Chapters and the IGS could potentially be compromised by this very growth. Good communication between the IGS Chapters and the IGS is key to:

- 1) achieve the overall objectives of the IGS,
- 2) increase the IGS membership,
- 3) document the multiple activities of the society,
- 4) Provide an opportunity to learn from one another's successes, and
- 5) provide feedback to the IGS Chapters.

In order to facilitate the reporting and subsequent synthesis of the chapter activities, new guidelines were recently developed. The new process involves completion by each chapter of a Standard IGS Chapter

Reporting Form (see **Figure 3**). The form was designed to be purposely short and straightforward, as the main objective is to collect a complete list of IGS Chapter activities. Specifically, the goal is to collect a count of all activities from all chapters in every year. While the chapters are encouraged to add more detailed information, and in order to minimize the burden on the chapters, this is not required. The Standard Reporting Form includes sections to document all annual activities including: technical events, board activities, chapter membership and preparation for future activities. Finally, the Standard Reporting Form also requires documenting com-

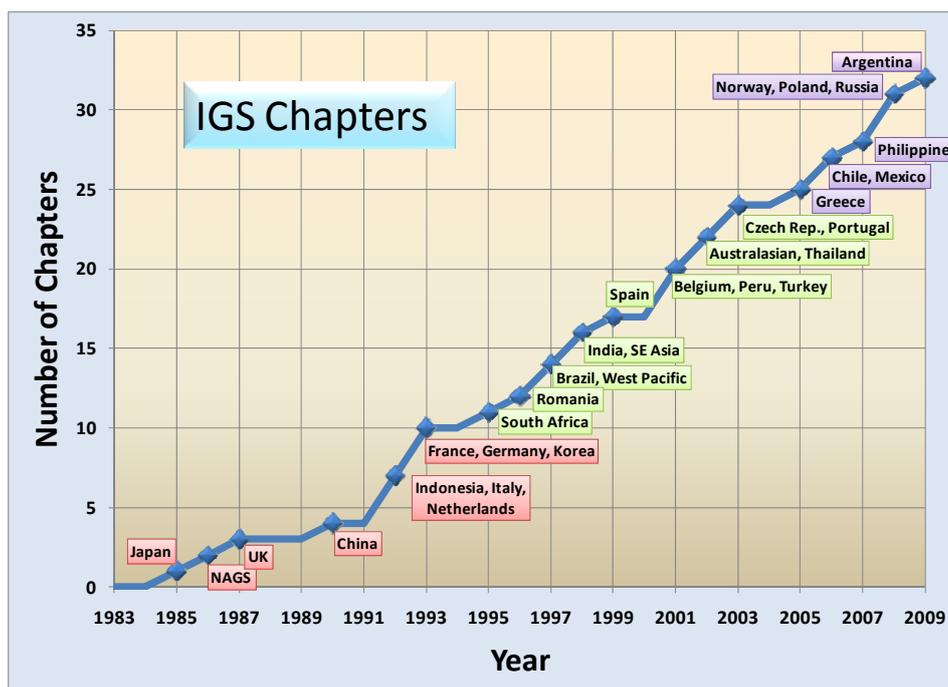


Figure 2: Chronology of the formation of IGS Chapters.

		Your Chapter's Name Here 2008 Chapter Report		Your Chapter's logo here
Standard IGS Chapter Reporting Form		Last revision: Sept 2008		
<p>Purpose: The objective of this form is to facilitate communication between the IGS Chapters and the IGS. Completion of this form satisfies current requirement of annual IGS Chapter reporting. Chapters are encouraged to submit supplemental documentation complementing the information provided in this form. Please submit the report for each year by January 31 of the subsequent year via email to igssec@aol.com.</p>				
Technical Activities				
1) Has your chapter conducted any of the following activities, as the lead organization? If yes, please indicate how many. <small>Note: Please detail the name, dates, # attendees, and additional information on these major activities in a separate page.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Conferences. # <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops. #	<input type="checkbox"/> Short courses. # <input type="checkbox"/> Main lectures. # <input type="checkbox"/> Other. #		
2) Has your chapter conducted any of the following activities, as a collaborative organization? If yes, please indicate how many. <small>Note: Please detail the name, dates, # attendees, lead organization, and additional information on these collaborative activities in a separate page.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> Conferences. # <input type="checkbox"/> Workshops. #	<input type="checkbox"/> Short courses. # <input type="checkbox"/> Main lectures. # <input type="checkbox"/> Other. #		
3) Briefly summarize the main objectives of the chapter activities for the year of this report.				
Board Activities				
4) Composition of the Chapter's Board. <small>Note: Please detail in a separate page if major changes or elections took place during this calendar year.</small>	President: Secretary: Treasurer:	Other: Other: Other:		
5) Describe the type and frequency of Board meetings. <small>Note: Please indicate the approximate number of board meetings.</small>	<input type="checkbox"/> In-person. # <input type="checkbox"/> Conference calls. #	<input type="checkbox"/> Other. #		
Membership				
6) List the number of members for the year of this report.	Ind. members: Student members:	Corporate members: Chapter company members:		
7) Briefly describe if the chapter is conducting specific actions aimed at increasing the number of members.				

Activities Planned for Next Year			
8) Is your chapter planning to conduct any of the following activities, either as a lead organization or as a collaborative organization? If yes, please indicate approximately how many. <small>Note: Please detail the name, expected dates, expected # attendees, and additional information on these activities in a separate page.</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> Conference. # <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop. #	<input type="checkbox"/> Short courses. # <input type="checkbox"/> Main lectures. # <input type="checkbox"/> Other. #
9) Briefly summarize the main objectives of the chapter activities for next year.			
Communications			
10) Summarize relevant interactions with the members of your chapter. <small>Note: Please detail in a separate page any major changes in the communication strategies of your chapter.</small>		<input type="checkbox"/> Webpage update <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletters. #	<input type="checkbox"/> Other.
11) Summarize any relevant interactions of your chapter with other IGS chapters (e.g. within your region) or with the IGS.			
12) Would your chapter like to convey any specific comment or request to the IGS? Please summarize			
Contact information of the preparer of this report			
Name:		Telephone:	
Position:		E-mail:	
We appreciate your effort in completing this form. Please e-mail completed annual report (form and any attachments to: igssec@aol.com			
 International Geosynthetic Society			

Figure 3: Standard IGS Chapter Reporting Form

munications within the chapter and offers an opportunity to address issues or concerns to the IGS.

The annual reporting by IGS Chapters is expected to provide a channel for identification of activities worthy of recognition by way of the IGS-News, official IGS communications or nomination for IGS achievement awards. More importantly, the sharing of information will aid IGS Chapters in developing and improving technical activities by providing a forum for collaboration. Finally, it will also help the IGS to allocate resources and improve focus on activities of particular importance to the chapters.

The IGS Council and Officers are also required to report back to the IGS Chapters on the general activities of the society. This has been typically conducted through communications in IGSNews, informational e-mail to the IGS Membership, and communications through the Regional Activities Committees. In addition, a summary report (this document) will now be prepared annually to synthesize

the chapter activities and to address needs, issues or concerns raised by the IGS Chapters.

The Activities of IGS Chapters Conducted in 2008

So how many technical activities have been conducted by IGS Chapters in 2008? An astonishing number! The task of reviewing the many IGS Chapter Reports, while daunting, was extremely rewarding. The review put into perspective the IGS' tremendous infrastructure and its ability to disseminate

knowledge about geosynthetics. The reports from each of the IGS Chapters have been consolidated into a single file and may be downloaded by going to:

<http://geosyntheticssociety.org/2008ChapterReport.pdf>

Figure 4 summarizes the total number of technical activities conducted in 2008 by IGS Chapters. These include activities where the chapter acted either independently or as collaborating organization. As shown in the figure, a total of **18 technical**

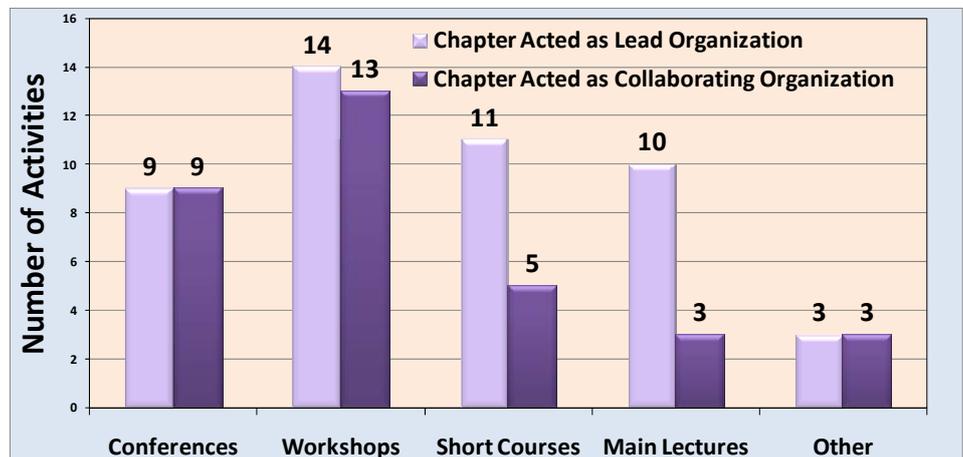


Figure 4: Number of technical activities conducted by IGS Chapters in 2008

conferences were organized by IGS Chapters in 2008. This is a truly significant number of national events, particularly considering that several of the IGS Chapters have a comparatively small number of members. Conferences conducted in 2008 by IGS Chapters acting as the lead organization include three IGS Regional Conferences: GeoAmericas 2008, **Cancún**, Mexico, GeoAsia 2008, **Shanghai**, China, and EuroGeo4, **Edinburgh**, UK. In addition, IGS Chapters led the organization of national conferences held in **Metz**, France (aimed at transportation agencies in France and Luxembourg), **Perugia**, Italy (focused on geosynthetics for soil reinforcement), **Kobe**, Japan (23rd Symposium on Geosynthetics), **Seoul**, South Korea (which was the venue of not one, but two conferences in 2008: the Spring and the Fall Geosynthetic Conferences), **Istanbul**, Turkey (3rd National Geosynthetics Conference), and **Pingtung**, Taiwan (3rd National Geosynthetics Conference).

The IGS Chapters also reported a total of **27 workshops** conducted in 2008. A sampling of the workshops includes those held in **New Delhi**, India (focused on geosynthetics in erosion control), **Syracuse**, USA (geosynthetic advancements in soil reinforcement applications), **Lima**, Peru (applications of geosynthetics in mining), **Bucharest**, Romania (geosynthetics in railway infrastructure), **Gauteng**, South Africa (workshop on lessons learned in GeoAmericas 2008 and EuroGeo4), and **Valencia**, Spain (geosynthetics in hydraulic applications). The chapters also reported a total of **16 short courses** conducted in 2008, including a basic geosynthetics short course in **Sao Paulo**, Brazil (the pilot of an itinerary short course planned to be offered six times per year), **Valparaiso**, Chile (on design and construction involving geomembranes), and **Hyderabad**, India (introductory course on geosynthetics). This brief summary is only a small fraction of the many activities conducted by the chapters, but it provides a flavor of their variety, both in geographic location and in technical emphasis. These technical activities have been complemented with a total of **170 reported board meet-**

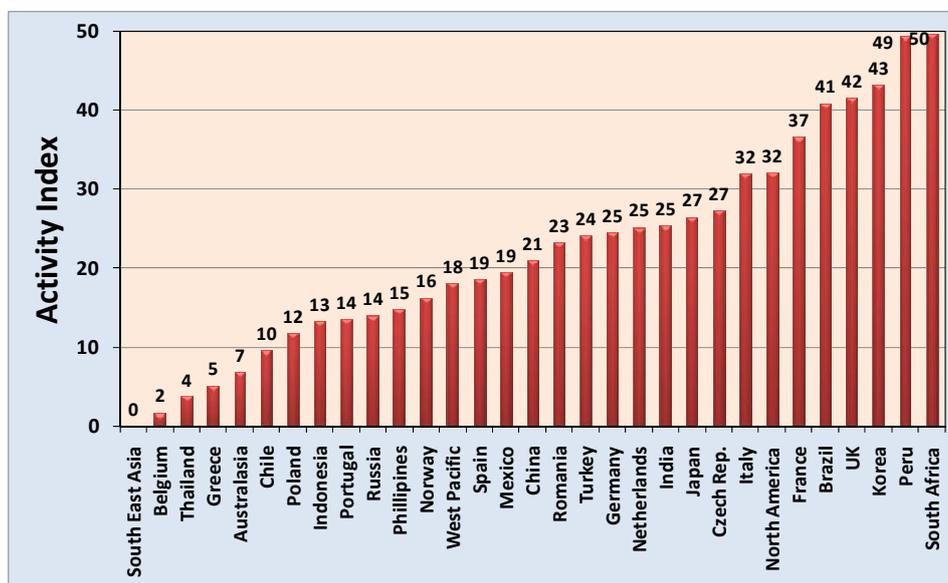


Figure 5: "Activity Index" (or number of Main Lecture Equivalents) conducted by each IGS Chapter in 2008

ings (in-person, conference calls), and **59 major communication activities** (newsletters, web page updates).

What have been the most active IGS Chapters in 2008? This is a difficult question to answer because of potential inaccuracies in the reports and, more importantly, because of the range of criteria that could be defined to assess the technical activities. Yet, I felt it was important to define a *qualitative* index to assess the productivity of the IGS Chapters, as measured by their technical activities. This may help identifying IGS Chapters that are worth recognition as well as those that may benefit from help in coordinating future activities. More importantly, each chapter may potentially learn from the experience of other chapters and undertake a new range of activities.

Figure 5 shows a measure of the level of activities conducted by each of the IGS Chapters in 2008. Specifically, the "Activity Index" was defined as a weighted average of the self-reported technical activities. Since there are innumerable ways of attributing weights, I will just admit that the process is not scientific and just one of the many that could have been used. Yet, the selected process has one merit: it is consistent. Specifically, conferences are worth more than workshops, which in turn are worth more than main lectures. Also, activities conducted by chapters acting as the lead organization are worth more than those conducted by chapters acting as a

collaborating organization. As a reference, a main lecture conducted by an IGS Chapter acting as a lead organization carries a weight of 1.0. In other words, the Activity Index shown in Figure 5 could be thought of as the number of "main lecture equivalents" that have been organized by each IGS Chapter in 2008. The top score goes to GIGSA (the South African chapter), which shows an Activity Index of 50. That is, our South African colleagues have coordinated technical activities in 2008 equivalent to the effort of having organized a main technical lecture every single week of the year. *Kudos for GIGSA!* The Peruvians, South Koreans, Britons, and Brazilians also deserve a pat in the back for a job well done in 2008. While the approach used to calculate the Activity Index is certainly subjective, an important finding can be drawn from inspection of Figure 5 that is expected to be insensitive to the weighting approach. This is that the level of activities is significantly uneven among the various IGS Chapters. Consequently, a possible course of action for the IGS to take is to help homogenizing the level of activities among IGS Chapters by providing assistance to those chapters that have shown inactivity in 2008.

The Perceived Needs of IGS Chapters

The Standard Reporting Form offered an opportunity for the chapters to convey requests or concerns to the IGS. Unfortunately, this was the one field in the Standard Reporting

Table 1: Specific Comments from IGS Chapters to the IGS

Chapter	Comment/Request	To Be Addressed by:
IGS Brasil	The IGS should require that Corporate members have personnel with specialization on geosynthetics. This is to avoid that companies technically unqualified become IGS corporate members with the sole objective of promoting themselves.	IGS Corporate Committee
French Chapter	The IGS should work on international rules (recommendations)	IGS Technical Committee
NAGS (North American Chapter)	As the number of geosynthetics conferences continues to grow, there is a need for the IGS and the regional chapters to work with other geotechnical organizations to minimize the total number of geotechnical conferences, while maximizing participation.	IGS Strategic Committee
Portuguese Chapter	Preparation of short courses, by experts of international reputation, which could be carried out in different countries, upon request of the interested Chapters. Topics of interest include, for example, application of geosynthetics on high speed railways, application of geosynthetics on landfill covers, or geosynthetics durability.	IGS Education and European Activities Committee
Romanian Chapter	Support for our activity of disseminating information in Universities.	IGS Education and European Activities Committees
GIGSA (South African Chapter)	We would encourage the IGS and its Chapters to participate in GeoAfrica in September. We have had a good response to paper submissions and hope that delegates from all over the world will register and attend for a unique African geosynthetic experience.	African Activities Committee
UK Chapter	We fully support the recent initiative to revise the membership finance interface.	Council

Form that received a comparatively small number of responses. This is possibly because chapters may have suspected that their issues or concerns may go unanswered. The plan, however, is to specifically address each and every one of the issues raised by the IGS Chapters and to encourage future exchanges of type. **Table 1** lists the specific comments from IGS Chapters.

The chapters that posed the questions listed in Table 1 have already been contacted to provide possible clarifications. Several of the issues listed in Table 1 will be addressed during the committee meetings that will take place in September (during the GeoAfrica 2009 Conference). However, some of the issues are

already being addressed by the IGS. Specifically, and in response to inquiries by the Portuguese and Romanian chapters (IGS support to technical activities), it should be pointed out that chapters could work with the corresponding IGS Activities Committees on receiving help to organize national technical activities. Some Regional Activities Committees have focused, for example, on helping chapters that have been recently formed. Also, in response to the comment by the UK chapter (on the benefits of online membership registration), I should point out that the online membership interface is now fully functional and available (without any charge) to chapters interested in collecting membership dues

online. Finally, in response to the comment by GIGSA (regarding support in promoting GeoAfrica 2009), there have been several activities aimed at making our very first African Conference a major success.

An issue that has been often listed as a major objective by several of the IGS Chapters is the need to identify strategies to increase the number of individual members. I am personally involved, with the help of Council Member Elizabeth Peggs, on a new initiative aimed at sanitizing and evaluating our historical membership data. This is because insight into past membership trends is expected to provide opportunities for future membership increases in each IGS Chapter. Also, courses of action aimed at increasing the IGS membership have recently been the focus of much of the discussion by our Strategy Committee and have led to actions such as the new online membership registration. More initiatives to address this important issue are being currently evaluated and the Council will deliver on these soon.

Closure

The IGS Chapters have also reported on a healthy number of technical activities planned

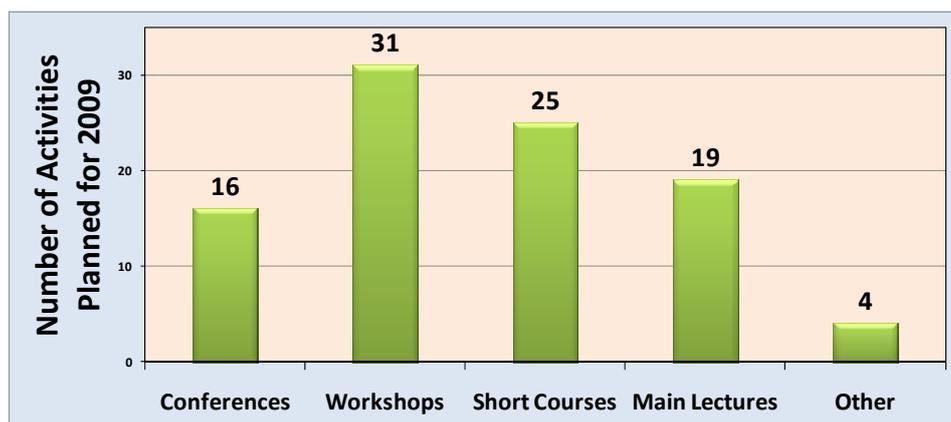


Figure 6: Number of technical activities planned by IGS Chapters for 2009

for 2009. Figure 6 summarizes the number of conferences, workshops, short courses and main lectures being planned for the next year. According to this information, the level of activities is expected to continue to be significant, which is very encouraging. I should note that one of the fields in the Standard Reporting Form asks to summarize the main chapter objectives for the next year. It will be very useful to keep this information in mind during preparation of the 2009 IGS Chapter Reports and, hopefully, most of the objectives will be met.

In summary, new guidelines have been implemented for annual communications between the IGS Chapters and the IGS. The response by

the chapters to this initiative has been simply superb, as shown by number and quality of the annual reports. Several clear facts can be identified after synthesizing the information in the Chapter Reports. Specifically, the overall level of activity of the IGS Chapters is very high as clearly illustrated by a total of 80 technical events reported by the chapters for 2008. Another important observation is that, in 2008, the level of activity has been quite uneven among chapters; this deserves particular attention. This reporting exercise also offered an opportunity for chapters to bring issues or concerns to the attention of the IGS, and all issues have or are being addressed or evaluated. This type of exchange is expected

to improve communication between the IGS Chapters and the IGS for the benefit of both. Finally, with 95 technical events reportedly being planned for this year, 2009 promises to be an equally (or even more) active year for the IGS Chapters.

I am looking forward to continued, rich communication exchanges between the IGS Chapters and the IGS. Comments from chapters and individual members on this initiative are encouraged and welcomed!

*Reported by
Jorge G. Zornberg
Vice-President of the IGS*

Conference Reports

Rencontres Géosynthétiques 2009 2 - 3 April 2009, Nantes, France

The 7th francophone conference of the French Chapter of the IGS, *Rencontres Géosynthétiques 09*, was held on 2 and 3 April 2009 under the auspices of the IGS in Nantes. It was the first time that the conference was held in the west of France. The conference was very successful with approximately 360 participants,

The conference was opened by Daniele Cazzuffi, IGS Past-President, Jean-Pierre Magnan, President of the IGS French Chapter CFG, and by Nathalie Touze-Foltz, Co-chair of the Conference Scientific Committee.

This conference, which is held every two years, provides the opportunity to disseminate information to the French-speaking public on the state-of-the-art geosynthetics practice particularly for individuals not familiar with the use of geosynthetics, with a focus on:

- updated applications of geosynthetics for various hydraulic applications and environmental protection,
- the long-term behaviour of earthworks including geosynthetics, and
- standardization and quality control policy.

Also, the participation of practitioners was encouraged since presentation of case histories was as usual a substantial part of the program.

Specific sessions were dedicated to:

- Landfills and geosynthetics lining systems,
- Roads and railways,
- Reinforcement structures,
- Hydraulic works.

Training Course and Exhibition

On the 1st of April, one day before the conference a training course was held with an audience of 58 people. This course provided essential background information on geosynthetics and their use in civil engineering works. In addition, a successful technical exhibition was held during the conference with 37 different companies or public research laboratories presenting the latest geosynthetic products, technologies and research activities, which enabled the exchange of information between individuals in the private sector and academia.

Proceedings

The proceedings include 57 papers reviewed by two members of

the Scientific Committee. 42 papers out of those 57 papers were orally presented. The other 15 papers were presented under poster form. Many of the authors were young and new to the geosynthetics field, which bodes well for the future of the CFG and the IGS. The proceedings are available in hard copy and electronically and can be obtained by contacting the secretariat of the French Chapter of IGS (www.cfg.asso.fr).

Closing Banquet

The *Rencontres Géosynthétiques* Conference has a great reputation for its traditional banquet in a wine-producing area, this time around the Muscadet wines; the "Château de la Poterie" provided the opportunity to gather all participants and their companions in a friendly atmosphere to enjoy dinner and a glass of local wine.

*Reported by
Nathalie Touze-Foltz
Co-Chair of the Scientific Committee
"Rencontres Géosynthétiques 09"*