



Minutes of TC218 –Quarterly Meeting (Conf. Call) – August 27, 2026

Date of Meeting

August 27, 2026

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM (UTC)

Conference Call – Microsoft Teams

ITEMS		<u>Led by:</u>
1	Introduction	
	- Call to order - Meeting recorded - Welcome and introductions. - Attendance – 27 (see the list at the end of the minutes)	Giulia Lugli
2	ICSMGE Vienna Conference and TC218 Activities	
	Shahriar reported on TC218 activities at the 21st ICSMGE in Vienna, leadership changes within ISSMGE, and the committee's contributions to broader ISSMGE initiatives. • Conference Outcomes: Approximately 3,000 participants attended the conference, which commemorated 100 years since Karl Terzaghi's landmark 1925 publication. ISSMGE announced the transition of leadership from Marc Ballouz to Lyesse Laloui for the 2026-2030 term. The next ICSMGE will be held in Shanghai in 2029. • Joint Special Session: TC218 and IGS TC-R successfully organized a joint session attended by over 40 participants. Nine presentations covered alternative fills, recycled materials, seismic performance, bridge abutments, design methods, constructability, quality assurance, and sustainability. ○ Session Materials: Presentation slides were compiled and distributed through the TC218 webpage and GeoWorld. The possibility of promoting selected content through LinkedIn was discussed. • TOC Meeting Outcomes: The Technical Oversight Committee encouraged all technical committees to actively participate in conferences, webinars, workshops, case histories, journals, virtual education initiatives, and the Time Capsule Project. TC218 has already contributed significantly to several of these activities. ○ ISSMGE Grants: Funding opportunities of approximately £500 to £1,000 are available for TC initiatives. The suitability of the marginal-fill booklet for grant funding will be investigated.	Shahriar Mirmirani



3	Reggio Calabria IGS TC-R Joint Workshop	
	Oliver Detert reported on the 5th Joint TC218 / IGS TC-R Workshop held in Reggio Calabria, Italy, from July 7-9, 2026. • Workshop Format: Hosted by Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria, the workshop featured a two-and-a-half-day program combining presentations and extensive technical discussion. The workshop was supported by Ivan P. Damians, Professor Morocci, and their teams. • Technical Program: Topics included seismic performance, reinforced soil case histories, design methods, numerical modelling, marginal fills, sustainability, geosynthetics testing, and basal reinforcement. • Participation: The event attracted 62 participants from more than 12 countries and included 24 papers and 19 speakers from industry and academia. The workshop was recognized as an excellent example of successful collaboration between TC218 and IGS TC-R. Content Sharing and Proceedings: The proceedings booklet was edited by Ivan Damians and Aníbal Moncada. It contains short summaries (extended abstracts) of the presentations, which will be published and shared via TC's platforms.	Oliver Detert
4	13th International Conference on Geosynthetics (Montreal)	
	Giulia Lugli provided an update on the upcoming 13th International Conference on Geosynthetics (13ICG) in Montreal. Daniele Cazzuffi presented updates related to IGS leadership and federation activities. • Conference Program: The conference will be held September 13-17, 2026, under the theme "<i>Legacy, Evolution and Revolution in Geosynthetics.</i>" Highlights include the Giroud Lecture, Rowe Lecture, Bathurst Lecture, technical sessions, technical tours, and social activities. • TC218/TC-R Meeting: An informal joint committee meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026. Members were asked to bring one or two proposals for future committee activities. • IGS Updates: Daniele summarized the upcoming IGS leadership transition and noted ongoing visa-related challenges impacting conference attendance. • External Representation: Updates were provided on participation within ISSMGE and the Federation of Four Sister Societies (The Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies - FedIGS), including future meetings in Delft and Lausanne. Updates from IGS: Daniele Cazzuffi begins his four-year IGS presidency at the conference, with Sam Allen remaining immediate past president, Laura Carbone as vice-president, Zhenyu proposed as treasurer, and Giulia Lugli proposed as general secretary.	Giulia Lugli Daniele Cazzuffi



5	TC207 Collaboration Opportunities	
	Victor Ong, the chair of TC207, introduced the reactivated ISSMGE TC207 (Soil-Structure Interaction and Retaining Walls). • TC207 Activities: The committee now includes approximately 93 members and is establishing technical and professional task forces. • Technical Overlap: Examples of reinforced soil applications in Singapore demonstrated significant overlap with TC218 activities. • Joint Events: Opportunities for future collaboration, potentially including a joint activity associated with a future ICSMGE conference in Türkiye, were discussed. • Future Cooperation: Ideas included joint workshops, webinars, technical resources, and conference activities.	Victor Ong
6	Bridge Abutment Subcommittee Update	
	Mitul Dalwadi reported on the Bridge Abutment Subcommittee's activities. • Recent Activities: Five presentations were delivered during the Vienna conference. • Second Webinar: The subcommittee plans to organize a second webinar, with a planning meeting scheduled for October and delivery targeted for Q1 2027. • Participation Request: Members were encouraged to submit webinar topics, technical papers, articles, and ideas for future activities. • Future Outputs: Possible outputs include technical papers, guidance documents, Eurocode-related contributions, and regular subcommittee meetings.	Mitul Dalwadi
7	Marginal Fill Subcommittee and Booklet Development	
	Ratnakar Mahajan provided an update on the Marginal Fill Subcommittee and the technical booklet. • Booklet Objective: The publication is intended as a practical reference for projects where conventional granular fill is unavailable or limited. • LASSG Concept: The subcommittee proposed adopting the term <i>Locally Available Sustainable Soils and Geomaterials (LASSG)</i> in place of "Marginal Fill." • Booklet Structure: Sections include scope, international codes and standards, research synthesis, installation guidance, stabilization methods, case histories, and performance requirements. • Technical Content: References include guidance documents from several countries and topics such as field preparation, drainage, stabilization, testing, and	Ratnakar Mahajan



	performance criteria. • Review Schedule: Members were requested to review the circulated draft and provide comments. Revision of the next version is targeted for October 2026. Ratnakar Mahajan	
8	Social Media and Content Creation Initiatives	
	Hakan Ozcelik reported that publication of selected papers and case studies had been delayed due to personal and professional commitments. Hakan will review the meeting recording and continue coordination of social media and publication activities. Giulia Lugli offered support as required.	Hakan Ozcelik
9	Upcoming Conferences and Community Engagement	
	Giulia, Daniele, and Shahriar discussed upcoming conferences, including the 13th International Conference on Geosynthetics in Montreal and Geo Africa 2027, and encouraged members to register, submit papers, and consider organizing TC218 gatherings. • Geo Africa 2027 Call for Papers: Daniele highlighted the upcoming Geo Africa 2027 conference in South Africa, noting the June 30th deadline for paper submissions and the relevance of the event for the reinforcement community.	Giulia Lugli Daniele Cazzuffi Shahriar Mirmirani
10	Next Meeting & Closing Remarks	
	The next TC218 quarterly conference call is tentatively scheduled for December 3, 2026 at 6:00 AM UTC. A formal calendar invitation will be distributed closer to the meeting date.	Giulia Lugli
	Meeting adjourned at 12:00 AM (UTC).	



LIST OF ATTENDEES

- Chua Yuan Shen
- Daniele Antonio Cazzuffi
- Fabrizia Trovato
- Gabriela Padilla
- GOUW at Indogeotek
- Giulia Lugli
- Hakan Ozcelik
- Huabei Liu
- Joe Jiunn Lau
- Johnny Oriokot
- Joseph Meadows
- Michael Dobie
- Michalis Chikaras
- Mitul Dalwadi
- MOHAN KOLLI
- Nicolas Freitag
- Oliver Detert
- Oltion Korini
- Patricia Guerra-Escobar
- Ratnakar Mahajan
- Richard Bathurst
- Shahriar Mirmirani
- Tahir Yıldız
- Tingfa Liu
- Victor Ong
- Yuli Doulala-Rigby
- Maximilien Van Breusegem