



International Society for  
Soil Mechanics &  
Geotechnical  
Engineering

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The ISSMGE is the pre-eminent professional body representing the interests and activities of Engineers, Academics and Contractors all over the world that actively participate in geotechnical engineering.

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## For Immediate Release

Professors Jean-Louis Briaud contributes to International Seminar in Dominican Republic to help Haiti and the region.



Professor Jean-Louis Briaud is President of ISSMGE, the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering and Buchanan Chair Professor at Texas A&M University. He recently travelled to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic (10– 14 April, 2010) to contribute to an International Seminar organized by Luis Carpio, President of the Dominican Republic National Society of ISSMGE, with the help of Pedro Pinto, Past President of ISSMGE. A number of very prominent experts from around the world donated their time and presented lectures regarding best practices for earthquake foundation and structural engineering. These experts included Jose Roesset (USA), Luis Carpio (Dominican Republic), Michele Maugeri (Italy), Pedro Pinto (Portugal), Braja Das (USA), Jose Izquierdo (Puerto Rico). The lecturers visited Port au Prince, Haiti, during the seminar, a visit that Briaud says had a significant impact on him. “The devastation was gut wrenching and underlines the fact that as engineers we must recognize that we do not build structures which have zero risk of collapse while continuing to work on decreasing such a risk.” They met two engineers in Port au Prince, Joselyne Barthelemy and Francoise Brisson. Jean-Louis Briaud told them about the ISSMGE Foundation which has funds to help geotechnical engineers enhance their knowledge. While this ISSMGE effort is only a small contribution to progress, it was uplifting to hear some of the comments by the participants which appreciated the visit by such a talented group of experts.