

Background

NZGS

The New Zealand Geotechnical Society (NZGS) is the affiliated organisation in New Zealand of the International Societies representing practitioners in soil mechanics, rock mechanics and engineering geology. Full members of the NZGS must be affiliated to at least one of these societies:

- International Society for Rock Mechanics (ISRM)
- International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)
- International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG)

The NZGS is represented on the committees of these three organisations by an Australasian Vice President, who is normally nominated for a four-year period. We take turns with the Australian Geomechanics Society (AGS) to nominate a suitable candidate to represent the interests of both national groups. When the Australasian Vice President (VP) is based in New Zealand, this individual sits on the NZGS management committee. When the Australasian VP is based in Australia, the NZGS selects a local representative to support the VP and report to the NZGS.

The NZGS is a strong supporter of actions to help develop the skills and experience of our younger members. We run events in New Zealand and jointly with our colleagues in Australia and have a Young Professional Representative on the NZGS management committee. This position, selected from nominations, is focused on activities in New Zealand and Australia.

Young Professionals of the ISSMGE

The ISSMGE supports conferences, events and awards catered towards the growth and development of younger members. The ISSMGE also supports a Young Members Presidential Group. The mission of the YMPG is to engage the next generation of geotechnical engineers in the ISSMGE. This is accomplished through a wide network of liaisons and corresponding members around the world. The YMPG acts as the nexus of this network by:

- Enabling the sharing of knowledge and ideas
- Connecting groups with each other, and
- Facilitating communication between younger members and ISSMGE leadership.

The YMPG structure consists of a core team of ISSMGE members, 35 years of age or younger at the time of appointment. The structure is international in its composition, but core team members do not represent any region or member society. Members serve 2 year terms, renewable for an additional 2 years depending on activity and eligibility. The Chair is appointed by the ISSMGE President for a term of 4 years. As the NZGS-ISSMGE Young Professionals Coordinator you will liaise directly with the YMPG core team, but please note that you would not be part of the YMPG core team.

Role summary

As the NZGS-ISSMGE Young Professionals representative, you will be the focal point for our YGP liaison to the ISSMGE YMPG. The purpose of the role, to be filled by a younger NZGS member (35 years of age or younger at the time of appointment, in accordance with ISSMGE rules) is:

- To facilitate better linkages between young NZGS members and their international colleagues.
- To promote a wider understanding within the NZGS membership of the role and activities of the ISSMGE.
- To promote YGP activities and collaboration in the ISSMGE.
- To develop young NZGS members for future leadership roles in the NZGS and / or the International Societies.

- To support the Australasian Vice President (or the NZGS representative, where the Australasian VP is based in Australia).

The role is intended to sit outside the main NZGS management committee. Because this is a role focused on coordination and collaboration, there will be three reporting lines:

- To the NZGS management committee, through the Australasian Vice President (or NZGS representative, where the Australasian VP is based in Australia).
- To the NZGS management committee, through the NZGS YGP representative.
- To the young professional group within the International Society.

Tasks & Expectations

- Prepare a short report for each quarterly NZGS committee meeting. Your report may be combined with the report of the Australasian VP / NZ representative for ISSMGE.
- Attend regular (2-3 monthly) meetings with the NZGS YGP representative, and the Young Professional Coordinators for the other two International Societies (IAEG & ISRM) to coordinate activities and share ideas.
- Provide input to the ISSMGE reports for the NZ Geomechanics magazine (twice per year).
- Attend liaison meetings with the ISSMGE YMPG (every 1-2 months). This is a collaborative environment where all member society representatives catch up, debrief on what is happening, share ideas and upcoming events. There are three meetings to suit the time zones of most people.
- Encourage greater participation by young NZGS members in ISSMGE activities.
- Attend and participate where practical in face-to-face YMPG committee meetings. These may occur as part of ISSMGE events. The NZGS has a budget for reasonable travel expenses (but not time) which is owned by the Australasian Vice President. Pre-approval is required from the Australasian Vice President for any spending from this budget. If there is co-benefit (e.g. conference attendance), some cost sharing may be required.
- Coordinate, along with the YMPG committee and the local young members group, the organisation of YMPG events within the main ISSMGE events.
- Liaise with the Australasian VP to coordinate activities and share ideas.
- Represent the needs and interests of the NZGS Young Professional community in the YMPG committee and wider ISSMGE level.
- Advocate for and facilitate increased involvement of NZGS in ISSMGE activities.
- Keeping the YMPG up to date with what is happening within the member society (NZGS) and what is happening in our YGP space locally.
- Be active in the organisation of the Australia and New Zealand YGP conference held biannually, in close cooperation with the NZGS YGP representative.
- Promote the ANZ YGP conference within the YMPG to incentivise attendance of young members from other ISSMGE National Groups.
- Bring your own ideas and contribute to shape up the future of the ISSMGE.

Time Commitment

There is no formal time commitment for this role, however, the more you put in the more you get out. As a guideline, you should expect to dedicate a minimum of 12 to 16 hours per month, plus additional effort in the run up to the ISSMGE Conference and ANZ YGP Conference.

We ask that you commit to the role for a 2-year term.

For further information about the ISSMGE please contact Rolando Orense. For information about the NZGS please contact Christoph Kraus. Both can be contacted via ygp@nzgs.org.