



GI Soil Improvement Technical Committee Meeting
3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, March 4, 2025, Room L012
Meeting Minutes

- I. Meeting called to order at 3:00PM by Armin Stuedlein
- II. Introductions
 - i. Self-introductions
 - ii. Committee Officers
 - Chair = Dr. Armin Stuedlein
 - Vice chair = Mr. Chris Woods
 - Secretary & webmaster = Dr. Jie Huang
 - Award committee = Dr. Allen Bowers
 - Technical conference paper chair = Dr. Aaron Gallant
 - Liaison with ISSMGE TC211 Committee = Dr. Vernon Schaefer
 - Past chair = Dr. José Clemente
- III. Approval of 2024 committee meeting [minutes](#). Any items to add to the 2025 agenda?
 - Motion to approve by Chris Wood, seconded by Jose Clemente. Motion Passed
- IV. Update from the G-I Board (Jie Han)
 - Call for nomination(s) of board members and board-level committee members
 - Called for suggestions of board members for the selection committee
 - G-I to form some new committees such as education committee
- V. Update from the G-I Technical Council Committee and G-I by Jie Han
 - 25th year Geostrata anniversary – celebration and call for contributions
 - Building/reinforcing coalition between G-I and other organizations such as DFI, USUCGER, etc.
 - G-I board to include younger board members (< 35 yrs)
- VI. Committee Charter Discussion and Finalization (due 4/15/2025); Charter to include:
 - i. Scope, purview, mission
 - ii. Core-Functions, Responsibilities, Activities, Products (past, current, and future goals)
 - iii. Impact, Collaboration on the GI and ASCE technical community
 - iv. Membership (including composition of members, outreach, and engagement)
 - v. Direction, Vision, and Outlook
 - vi. Position on these questions: “How does the committee add value to the GI technical community?” and “What do you want to achieve/accomplish/promote?”
 - Need members to review and provide feedback to Armin by March 31st



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VII. Committee [web site](#) – Jie Huang

- Jie Huang took over from Chris to manage committee website this January
- Website is updated to include a news tab to timely publish committee related news
- Will create a tab to post important publications related to soil improvement
- Call for content to be put on the committee website
- Armin: the G-I will adopt a new system for websites so the change on committee website can be held until we have a clearer picture of the new system

VIII. ASCE Web-conference – Chris Woods

i. 2024 Summary

- Chris provided a summary: well-received effort with significant and supportive feedback

ii. 2025 Proposal

- According to G-I's plan, call will be out soon and will wrap up by June
- Case histories will be welcome

iii. Geo-Institute and GeoCoalition Conference updates – Aaron Gallant

- GeoCongress 2026: paper review is a big deal and help will be needed from committee members
- Special topic/session: need input from committee members
- DFI magazine: building collaboration or coalition with DFI

IX. Past Project update

- i. Completed: Addition of Case Studies for “PVD and Fill Preloading” and “Excavation and Replacement” Technologies on GeoTechTools – Mr. Liang Chow (Armin reporting)
- ii. Completed: Addition of Ground Freezing Ground Improvement Technology to GeoTechTools –Prabir Kolay (Armin reporting)
- iii. Solidifying” Bio-mediated Soil Improvement methods in GeoTech Tools - Leon van Paassen (in cooperation with the Soil Properties and Modeling Committee) (Leon reporting)
 - Five case histories have been collected and will be added
- iv. Under Final Review: Updating Dynamic Compaction in GeoTechTools – Chris Woods Updating Dynamic Compaction in GeoTechTools (Chris reporting)
 - Final draft has been completed and will be sent to review soon
 - Expect to update website by August



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- X. Current Special Projects Update
- i. "Addition of Rigid Inclusions to GeoTechTools." Project leads: Jerold Bishop and Sonia Swift; Project Members: Chumin Jung, Lisheng Shao, Allen Bowers (liaison)
 - Jerold gave update: it has been going well and likely to finish report by October 25, and then update website
 - Slides by Jerold accompany meeting minutes.
 - ii. "GeoTool's update to Deep Mixing Method (DMM) Specifications and Case Histories, Design Guidance, and QC/QA information." Project Lead: George Onorato; Project Members: Lisheng Shao, Jeff Fippin, Juan Baez, Jason Bock, David Miller, Roberto Lopez, Mark Hampton, David Miller, and Mohammad Khosravi. (Chris Woods reporting)
 - Have been working updates on specs, QA/QC, design guideline and case histories
 - Draft report is expected by end of April
 - Website update by end of August
- XI. Possible Major Committee Thrust: International Ground Improvement Conference in the Middle East
- i. Update on exploration of feasibility
 - ii. Possible contributing institutional members
 - Jie Han provided background information of the effort to host a Ground Improvement Conference in the mid-east: 2013 in Singapore, 2017 in China, 2021 South Africa (cancelled due to COVID), Saudi Arabia prefer November this time
 - Soil Improvement needs to discuss how to play a role and if the schedule will fit in
 - G-I may not be able to support much due to short of staff and commitment to other conferences
- XII. FHWA Update – Silas Nichols
- XIII. DFI Update – Theresa Engler
- Theresa provided updates on DFI's strategic initiatives, activities, traveling lecturer, committee project funds, and DFI publications
 - Details can be found in the accompanying DFI Report
- XIV. Award Nominations – Allen Bowers
- i. 2025 Nominations:
 - Harry Schnabel Jr. Award – Tom O'Rourke (Awarded)
 - Wallace Hayward Baker Award – Dennis Boehm (joint nomination with ERS)
 - Martin S. Kapp Foundation Engineering Award – Guoming Lin (Joint nomination with EDSC)
 - Allen: it was quite a success even though we started a little late, Succeeded in one nomination out of three nominations.
 - ii. 2026 Nominations:
 - Begin process in May 2025
 - Nominations packages due 8/15/25



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- Seeking volunteers for awards sub-committee
 - Kord: the committee probably wants to consider other award nominations such as Seed, Peck, etc.
 - Jie Han: new Innovation award has been approved by board and has not come out yet.

XV. Upcoming GI Events

- i. [2025 Kansas City Geotechnical Conference](#) – Kansas City, MS, April 11, 2025
- ii. [2025 International Conference on Bio-mediated and Bio-inspired Geotechnics](#), Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ, May 18-20, 2025
- iii. [GeoExtreme](#) 2025, Long Beach, CA, November 2 – 5, 2025
- iv. [Geo-Congress 2026](#), Salt Lake City, UT, March 9-12, 2026

XVI. Upcoming International Events

- i. [International Symposium on Land Reclamation, Ground Improvement, and Coastal Protection](#), Singapore, 26 – 28 November, 2025. Hosted by Geotechnical Society of Singapore (GeoSS), sponsored by ICSMGE Technical Committees TC211, TC217.
- ii. [XXI International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering](#), Vienna, Austria, June 16 – 19, 2026
- iii. [15th IAEG 2026 Congress](#), Delft, The Netherlands, October 30-6, 2026

XVII. Announcements

XVIII. Update from ASCE Publications: Natalie Webster, Senior Acquisitions Editor for ASCE Publications (Did not attend or give update as planned...)

XIX. Other or New Business



GEO-INSTITUTE SOIL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

Scope and Charter

Scope and Mission

The mission of the Soil Improvement Committee (SIC) is to advance the state of engineering and construction practice in soil/ground improvement systems; facilitate technical innovations; to foster/promote technology transfer and technical education activities; to provide a forum for effective interaction between industry, government and academia; and to actively liaise with other groups interested in soil improvement, both within and outside of the Geo-Institute.

Core Functions and Responsibilities

The core functions and responsibilities of the SIC include ensuring the quality of technical content presented in the Geo-Institute Annual Meetings and corresponding proceedings, delivering timely communication of technical advances to the broader geotechnical and civil engineering and construction community, and planning, executing, and delivering technical initiatives to advance the practice of soil improvement in the industry.

Activities and Products

The main activity of the SIC from which all other actions flow down is the all-member committee meeting through which updates from the Geo-Institute, related professional societies, domestic and international workshops and conferences, and committee initiatives are communicated. Members of the SIC ensure the quality of technical content by serving as session chairs for the GeoCongress and organizing reviews of submitting conference publications. The SIC helps to communicate technical advances in soil improvement by helping to organize and deliver lectures and panel sessions by its members to the profession (e.g., local ASCE Geo-Institute chapters; regional conferences, ASCE and GeoCoalition conferences), including technical workshops, international scan tours, and GeoStrata articles. The ASCE December WebConference series is a regular high-visibility venue for delivering technical content to the profession and represents a signature SIC activity. The SIC is dedicated to proposing and executing special projects to support the Geo-Institute Mission, including providing continuous updates to the GeoTech Tools platform. The members of the SIC are particularly active in recognizing leaders in both the field of soil improvement and the larger geotechnical engineering community through active nomination of individuals for ASCE awards.

Impact and Collaboration

The SIC strives to deliver meaningful technical information to the profession through its activities, products, and collaboration. The SIC is dedicated to strengthening its collaboration with the DFI



GEO-INSTITUTE SOIL IMPROVEMENT COMMITTEE

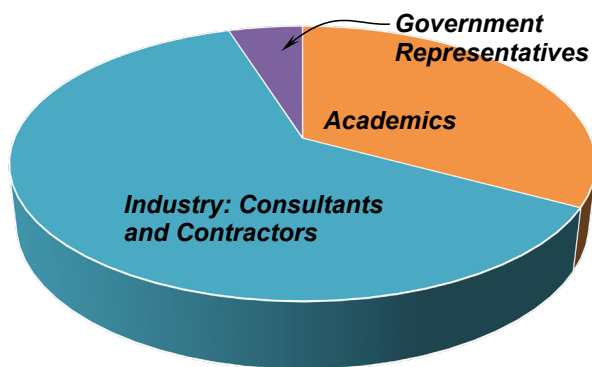
Scope and Charter

Ground Improvement Committee through coordinating technical initiatives and activities; recent examples of such collaboration include the formation of teams to update the Deep Soil Mixing technology and develop a new Rigid Inclusion technology for GeoTech Tools with members drawn from the SIC and DFI Ground Improvement committees. Our nomination activities regularly lead to our nominees receiving ASCE awards, including the Hayward Baker, Martin Kapp, Harry Schnabel Jr., and other awards.

Membership and Engagement

The members of the SIC are drawn from engineering and construction industry, academia, and governmental regulatory agencies. With nearly 100 members, approximately 60% are representatives from industry, 33% are drawn from universities, and the remainder represent governmental agencies. Our committee recognizes the strong value added by our industry and governmental representatives who facilitate and promote the transfer of technology to the profession and help the committee reach a broader audience.

2025 Composition of SIC Membership



Vision and Outlook

The SIC endeavors to serve as the ASCE Geo-Institute resource of choice for actively advancing the soil improvement community within and without the ASCE, serving as technical leaders and liaisons to the broader engineering and construction community, and advancing technical excellence in ground improvement technologies. With the increasing challenges of urban construction and the threat of natural hazards, the SIC membership is well-poised to develop and introduce impactful technologies to promote delivery of sorely-needed improvements to civil infrastructure both nationwide and internationally.

SPECIAL PROJECT: RIGID INCLUSIONS GEOTECH TOOLS PAGE

PROGRESS REPORT



Project Team

Lisheng Shao (Malcolm Drilling)

Allen Bowers (GeoPier)

Chulmin Jung (Mott MacDonald)

Kenneth Kniss (Keller-North America)

Co-Chair - Sonia Swift (Menard)

Co-Chair - Jerold Bishop (Kiewit Infrastructure)

- with added support from each organization -



PURPOSE – CONDENSE RIGID INCLUSIONS TECHNOLOGY INTO A WEB PAGE

- Primer – For geotechnical engineers with no prior knowledge.
- Complete – To cover/reference the complete design process
- Clear – For non-engineers to grasp the concepts, applications and expectations (architects and building officials).

This will be RI 101 to RI 205

SCOPE

NOT CONFINED TO TRANSPORTATION

RI USE RANGES FROM EMBANKMENT
SUPPORT TO TALL/LARGE RIGID
STRUCTURES

SCOPE (CONT.)

- Knowledge gaps
- Ratings for RI technology.
- Load transfer process.
- RI failure mechanisms and limitations.
- Best practices for design and construction
- Best practices for Load Transfer Platforms (LTP).
- Interaction between the RI system and the structure.
- Mitigation of settlement.
- Testing and quality control protocols.
- Investigation and design and implementation of RIs.
- Construction management impacts.

SCHEDULE

It is understood this is a One Year Effort.

Original expected Start time – End of September 2024.

Actual start time – 16 November 2024.

Projected Draft Submittal to GeolInstitute

13 Oct 2025 (for review)

3 Nov 2025 (Return with comments)

Likely Finish - Final Accounting – Nov 2025

Final Submittal – Dec 2025



FINDING COMMON GROUND®

TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES UPDATE – MARCH 2025

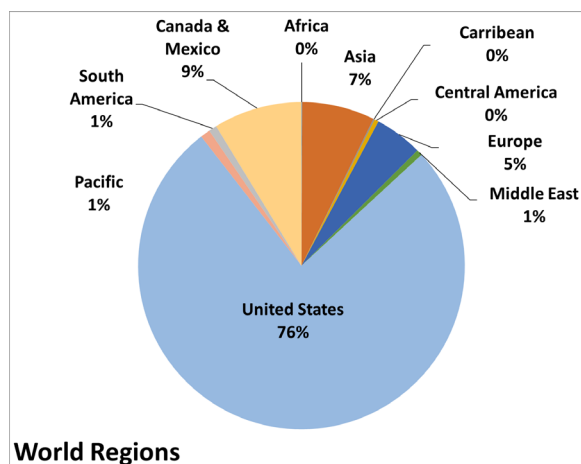
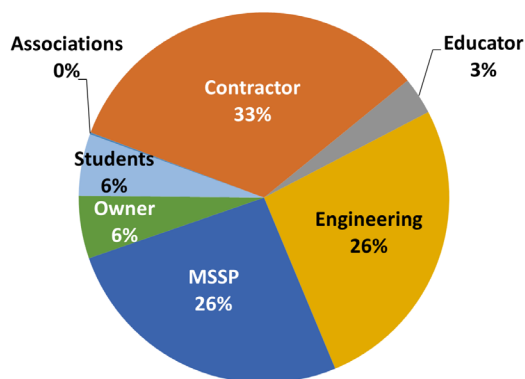
DFI President: James Johnson, Condon-Johnson & Associates, jjohnson@condon-johnson.com

DFI Executive Director: Theresa Engler, tengler@dfi.org

DFI Director of Technical Activities: Matthew R. Glisson, P.E., mglisson@dfi.org

DFI INFO: DFI website at www.dfi.org, nearly 4,000 members in about 50 countries.

Organization Types



DFI STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- Industry Awareness and Advancement: Highlight industry career opportunities to attract talent to our members.
- Corporate Membership Growth: Increase DFI's network of professionals to further build our thriving community.
- Themed Conference Vision and Planning: Create impactful, engaging and forward-thinking events on timely topics.

DFI COMMUNITIES ACTIVITIES

- Over 580 active members involved in: 29 DFI Technical Committees, 2 working groups (risk and working platforms) with multiple North American associations, 6 EFEC-DFI task groups (**New in 2025: EFEC/DFI NDT Guide Task Group**), Geo-Coalition and U.S. Levee Safety Coalition.
- Host Geo-Industry Technology Users Groups: Cone Penetration Testing (CPT), Measurement While Drilling (MWD), and Geophysics.
- Midyear Committee Week (April 28 to May 2): All DFI committees meet online; meetings are open to everyone in the industry. See [schedule](#) and register to attend meetings of committees to which you don't currently belong.
- 7 committees are organizing webinar series for a total of 17 webinars in 2025. Visit [here](#) for more information! (90 minutes for presentation and questions; Free to all with no PDH certificate or \$70 with a PDH certificate).
- Visit [Communities](#) webpage and check out [Deep Foundations Magazine](#) for more updates.

DFI TRAVELING LECTURER

- The 2024-2025 lecturer is Matthew E. Meyer, P.E., BC.GE. See remaining lecture dates [here](#).
- Series runs September 1 to August 31 of the following year with nominations accepted continuously.
- Next lecturer will be announced in May or June. Visit [Traveling Lecturer](#) webpage to learn more.

DFI COMMITTEE PROJECT FUND

- About \$1.6 million awarded for research and other committee projects since 2012.
- [Committee Project Fund](#) webpage summarizes current and completed projects and provides links to publications.
- 2025 funds awarded to five projects submitted by Driven Pile, Ground Improvement, Helical Piles & Tiebacks, Subsurface Characterization for Deep Foundations, and Sustainability Committees.
- Proposals invited for DFI committees' consideration by September 1; DFI committees submit on December 1.

DFI PUBLICATIONS

- **Recent publications-free downloads:** [Data Management Guide Specification for Basic Grouting Projects](#), [EFFC/DFI Carbon Reduction Guide](#), [EFFC/DFI Circular Economy Guide](#), and [Spanish translation of Helical Pile Design Guide](#).
- **Upcoming Publications:** Consensus publication on GBRs; guidance publication on foundations for electric power transmission structures; EFFC/DFI guides on water, climate adaptation and resilience, and gender equality and reduced inequalities; update to micropile guide specification; and more.
- [Deep Foundations Magazine](#): published six times per year, digital edition free to all online, DFI members receive print copies on request.
- [DFI Journal](#): published twice a year. Special issue on revisiting the classics by Bengt Fellenius in 2025. Submit your article at www.editorialmanager.com/dfi.
- [DFI Publications Store](#): offers a wide variety of technical resources, many free for download. Recent conference proceedings include presentation recordings and the ability to earn PDHs.
- [DFI Podcasts: Broadcasting Common Ground](#) The series *Interviews with the Industry* continues in 2025. Past series available for viewing/listening: *Morgan's Mentors*, *Interview with a Trailblazer*, *Deep Dive*, *Game Day (live at DFI Annual Conference)*, *Rumble* and *Interview with a Survivor*.

UPCOMING EVENTS

This year is DFI's 50th Anniversary – Celebrate with us in Nashville this October!

| | | |
|------------------------|--|---------------------|
| March 6, 2025 | Impact Webinar | Online Webinar |
| March 27, 2025 | New York City Ports and Marine Engineering Seminar | New York, NY |
| April 11, 2025 | What's Shaking Webinar | Online Webinar |
| April 10, 2025 | IT\$ Money Webinar | Online Webinar |
| April 22, 2025 | EFFC/DFI Carbon Reduction and Circular Economy Webinar | Online Webinar |
| April 24, 2025 | Deeper into Data Webinar | Online Webinar |
| April 28 – May 2, 2025 | Midyear Committee Week | Virtual Meetings |
| May 7-8, 2025 | Helical Piles-Tiebacks-Anchors Tradeshow and Educational Seminar | Durham, CT |
| May 21-23, 2025 | DFI/EFFC International Conference on Deep Foundations and Ground Improvement: Geotechnics Reimagined | Bruges, Belgium |
| May 29, 2025 | Sustainability Webinar | Online Webinar |
| June 18-20, 2025 | SuperPile 2025 | Cleveland, OH |
| July 24, 2025 | International Grouting Webinar | Online Webinar |
| August 5-7, 2025 | S3: Slopes, Support and Stabilization (DFI49) | Madison, WI |
| September 8-10, 2025 | DFI India 14th Annual Conference on Deep Foundation Technologies for Infrastructure Development in India | Gujarat, India |
| October 20-23, 2025 | DFI 50th Annual Conference on Deep Foundations (DFI50) | Nashville, TN |
| November 6-7, 2025 | SMIG 7th International Symposium on Deep Foundations and Soil Improvement | Mexico City, Mexico |
| November 12-13, 2025 | Shotcrete Short Course | Georgetown, KY |

DFI STUDENT ACTIVITIES

- Free Student Memberships: apply [here](#) and submit your resume for viewing by DFI Corporate Members.
- Annual [Student](#) and [Young Professor](#) Paper Competitions. DFI51 Call for Abstracts opens this summer.
- DFI50 includes university and high school student programming.

DFI EDUCATIONAL TRUST – www.trust.dfi.org

- Awarded \$2.2 million in scholarships since inception to more than 550 students at almost 100 universities.
- Application period for 2025 Student Scholarships and Women in Deep Foundations professional development grants opens April 1, 2025.
- 21 Student Travel Grants to DFI Conferences available this year through the Paul DeBruyn Fund.

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