



**GI Soil Improvement Technical Committee Meeting**  
**4:00 pm to 5:00 pm (EST), May 25, 2023, Virtual Meeting**  
**Meeting Minutes**

I. Committee Succession – J. Clemente

i. *Committee leadership to change after 2024 GeoCongress as follows:*

Role	Current	After 2024 GeoCongress	Background
Chair	José Clemente	Armin Stuedlein	Academia
Vice-Chair	Armin Stuedlein	Chris Woods	Industry
Secretary	Chris Woods	Jie Huang	Academia

- ii. *The intent is to establish a line of succession where there's rotation between practitioners and academicians.*
- iii. *Looking for members to step into leadership roles; being present and contributing are key factors to committee leadership.*
- iv. *Jie Huang offered to remain with awards subcommittee, but there are opportunities to serve in different capacities.*
- v. *Armin suggested drafting an internal committee document to formally spell out all leadership positions and the plan for moving forward.*

II. International Ground Improvement Conference – A. Stuedlein

- i. *Committee has been approached about developing an international ground improvement specialty congress in coordination with the ISSMGE TC211.*
- ii. *Committee would be run through the GI, but GI doesn't want to host more than three conferences in a year; 2025 is looking to be a landing spot.*
- iii. *Would be hosted in the U.S. and would hopefully get on a 10-yr rotation.*
- iv. *ASCE would support the event, advertise, utilize review systems, etc.*
- v. *Based on a fall 2025 schedule, abstracts would need to be due this fall. Better course of action is to solidify a plan of attack with TC211 and DFI to make a robust conference possibly at a later date once additional coordination has taken place.*
- vi. *The committee is looking for members who would be interested in helping organize such a conference. If you are interested, please reach out ASAP to Armin Stuedlein at [armin.stuedlein@oregonstate.edu](mailto:armin.stuedlein@oregonstate.edu) or José Clemente at [jlcllemen@bechtel.com](mailto:jlcllemen@bechtel.com).*

III. Committee Membership – J. Clemente

- i. *Good time to go through the current membership roster and obtain recommitments from those listed on the roster. Members should be engaged, participate, and contribute.*

IV. Web Conference (week of December 4-8) – Proposals due 7/31 – A. Stuedlein

- i. *ASCE Web Conferences will be held the week of December 4 through 8. Abstracts due 7/31 to Armin.*
- ii. *Last year, the focus was on case histories – do we have a theme in mind for this coming year's effort? Case histories always seem to be well received. Ground improvement for seismic mitigation could be another avenue.*
- iii. *Call for presentations is shown as Attachment B these minutes.*

V. Reviewers for New Soil Freezing GTT – C. Woods

- i. *Full draft of Soil Freezing documents have been prepared by Prabir Kolay and Joe Sopko, and through initial GTT review process with Dr. Vernon Schaefer.*
- ii. *Requesting 3 to 4 committee members with experience in soil freezing to form a subgroup to review and comment on the documents. Please reach out to Chris Woods at [chris@densification.com](mailto:chris@densification.com).*
- iii. *A final circulation to the committee would then occur for any final documents prior to publishing on the GTT site.*

VI. Special Projects Proposals – J. Clemente

- i. *Call for Special Projects proposals should be forthcoming soon; proposals to be due around September.*



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- VII. IFCEE 2024 – Mary Nodine
- i. Working towards having committees develop events, trivia, etc. rather than just have the regular technical sessions and committee meetings.*
  - ii. A proposal has been developed by the Subsurface Characterization Committee of DFI and ASCE's Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering committee. A copy of the proposal submitted by Mary is shown as Attachment C to these minutes.*
  - iii. Our committee is being requested to collaborate on this effort. Interested members are asked to reach out to Aaron Gallant ([aaron.gallant@maine.edu](mailto:aaron.gallant@maine.edu)) as the liaison to the conference to coordinate.*
- VIII. GeoCongress 2024 – Reviewers for SI papers – A. Gallant
- i. Request for reviewers for GeoCongress is on-going. Interested members are asked to reach out to Aaron Gallant ([aaron.gallant@maine.edu](mailto:aaron.gallant@maine.edu)) as the liaison to the conference to coordinate.*
- IX. June/July issue of GeoStrata – J. Clemente
- i. Upcoming GeoStrata is focused on Ground Improvement.*
- X. Other topics
- i. None*
- XI. Meeting brought to a close at 4:55pm EST by Jose Clemente.

Attachments: Attachment A – Attendance List

Attachment B – Web conference 2023 call for presentations

Attachment C – IFCEE 2024 proposal submitted by Mary Nodine



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**Attachment A – Attendee List**

Chris Woods  
Armin Stuedlein  
Mary Nodine  
Jose Clemente  
Gary Taylor  
Daniel Alzamora  
Rich Lamb  
Pavan Akula  
Dr. Mohamed Ezzat Al Atroush  
Angel Gutierrez  
Juan Rodriguez  
Lisheng Shao  
Liang Chow



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**Attachment B – Web conference 2023 call for presentations**



**Call for Presentation Abstracts**  
**8<sup>th</sup> Annual Live Streaming Web Conference**  
**December 4-8, 2023**

**Presentation Abstracts due 15 July – send to**  
**[Armin.Stuedlein@oregonstate.edu](mailto:Armin.Stuedlein@oregonstate.edu)**

The Geo-Institute Soil Improvement Committee (SIC) is pleased to announce a **Call for Presentation Abstracts** for the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Live Streaming Web-Conference** to be held **4 to 8 December 2023**. During the web-conference week, ten technical sessions will be run for approximately 2 hours (Monday – Friday from 11 AM – 1 PM EST and 2 PM – 4 PM EST). Based on guidance from the G-I, the session is envisioned to comprise five presentations with 20 minutes per presentation, with 20 minutes allotted for panel Q&A. The SIC plans to submit a proposal for one session; this Call for Presentation Abstracts will allow the committee leadership to review and select presentations to provide the most compelling session that will attract our G-I member audience.

The topic of Ground Improvement for Liquefaction Mitigation has been selected during the May 2023 Soil Improvement Committee Meeting. **Please consider preparing an abstract for a presentation on your recent work in this critical area.** Submissions should include the proposed title, an abstract of approximately 300 words describing the technical presentation, a separate speaker biography, speaker affiliation, and contact information. Authors of selected abstracts will be asked to prepare slides for the presentations. No technical accompanying paper is required.

Please send your abstract to Armin Stuedlein at [armin.stuedlein@oregonstate.edu](mailto:armin.stuedlein@oregonstate.edu) by **15 July 2023**.



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**Attachment C – IFCEE 2024 proposal submitted by Mary Nodine**

**GeoTechTools Trivia Extravaganza!**

GeoTechTools (GTT) is an online resource to learn about ground improvement methods and design. GTT serves a broad audience, from general contractors and owners looking at options for improving a project site, to aspiring geotechnical engineers who are looking for a case study to dig into, to a seasoned senior engineer who wants to learn about new and innovative ground improvement approaches. The value of GTT within the engineering community continues to grow with recent contributions, including a sustainability module by the ASCE Sustainability in Geotechnical Engineering committee, development of subsurface conditions modules by the DFI Subsurface Characterization Committee (SCC), and updates to several modules by the ASCE Soil Improvement Committee. At this committee event, we want to highlight these recent contributions while facilitating an opportunity for the engineering community to learn more about GTT with a fun, interactive, and lightly competitive trivia contest.

This GTT trivia event will be organized by the DFI SCC and the GeoInstitute Sustainability and Soil Improvement Committees. It will be open to all IFCEE attendees. Attendees will compete in teams in a “pub trivia” format to answer questions whose answers can be found on GTT. Teams will be given time to work together to find the answers on GTT. Many of the questions will come from information in the recently added modules (listed above). We plan to encourage participant and audience engagement by having bonus point questions that require a representative from each team to answer “lightning questions” or family feud style survey questions. A family feud style question would involve surveying IFCEE attendees ahead of time with a question such as “What is the most fun ground improvement method to implement on a project” and then see if teams can guess one of the top 5 responses. Attendees can organize their own teams or be placed on a team by the organizers. Collaboration between students/young professionals with seasoned professionals will be encouraged. At the conclusion of the event, attendees will have learned about the many offerings on GTT, met other IFCEE attendees, and been exposed to some of the activities of the organizing committees.

Some example trivia questions are:

- From the cost estimator in GTT, what is the estimated equipment mobilization cost for jet grouting?
- What is the average cost of historical micropile load proof tests?
- Name one of the two engineers that appear in the photo in Deep Dynamic Compaction.