

The Student and Young Members Presidential Group (SYMPG) is made up of younger (less than 35 years old) geotechnical engineers with the general aim of determining what the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) can do to be more attractive to the next generation by letting them interact directly with the President.

In establishing the SYMPG, the President of the ISSMGE (Jean-Louis Briaud) wanted people involved that were: *"bright, innovative, and interested in ISSMGE and the progress of their profession, as well as having demonstrated their energy in participating in professional activities. They will have the opportunity and privilege of meeting directly with the President on a one to one basis about four times a year. Therefore their opinions and thoughts will receive first class attention for the future of our society. I am very hopeful that such a committee will inject youth and energy in ISSMGE and further develop the idea of the Young Engineers Conferences"*.

The membership of the SYMPG includes three representatives from each region of the ISSMGE. In addition, a grade of “corresponding members” has been established to increase involvement with ISSMGE. Corresponding members receive news about the SYMPG and are able to participate in, and influence, the discussions and directions of the SYMPG. It is planned that each national society will have a number of corresponding members, who will ultimately be eligible to replace the current representatives from their region when their terms expire.

The SYMPG has established subgroups that are investigating ways to allow young members to engage more in the Society and make a unique contribution to its activities. The focus areas have included: the ISSMGE website; communications between the ISSMGE and younger members; young members’ involvement in technical committees; developing and increasing the membership of students and younger practitioners in the ISSMGE; organizing young geotechnical engineers conferences under the authority of ISSMGE; creating motivation mechanisms for students or young members as a means of increasing awareness and promotion of the ISSMGE; developing student and young member activities at ISSMGE conferences; and collaboration with industry and institutes of higher learning.

If you are under 35 years old and interested in becoming a corresponding member of the SYMPG please contact Professor Michael Davies via email:
michael.davies@auckland.ac.nz

For more information about the ISSMGE please refer to the website (<http://www.issmge.org>). If you are interested in becoming a member* of the ISSMGE please contact the Secretary of AGS (secretary@australiangeomechanics.org).

* Note that the Australian Geomechanics Society (<http://australiangeomechanics.org/>) provides its members with four issues of the journal, Australian Geomechanics, each year and offers membership of the international societies for soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering (ISSMGE), rock mechanics (ISRM) and engineering geology and the environment (IAEG) as required. The basic AGS membership fee provides membership of one international society of a member’s choice. For a small additional subscription, members may join two or all three societies.