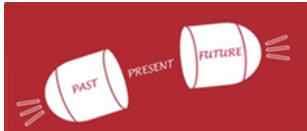


From the Board

Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) – Focus for the future 100 years



**Sukumar Pathmanandavel,
HTC Leader**

Arrangements are now being made for a physical time capsule cube of 1m x 1 m x 1m, to be assembled and sealed at the occasion of the 21st International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (21st ICSMGE), to be held in Vienna, Austria, in 2026. The time capsule will be housed in a technical museum where visitors can view it. However, once sealed, its contents will remain inaccessible until 2126, i.e., 100 years from when it was sealed.



Pictured from left to right, HTC Core Design Team Member, Associate Professor Emilio Bilotta, ISSMGE President (2022-2026), Dr Marc Ballouz, HTC Lead, Sukumar Pathmanandavel, and Professor Dietmar Adam, of TU Wien, Vienna, in the 21st ICSMGE exhibition booth, at the recently held ECSMGE24, Lisbon, Portugal. On the table is a “model” of a physical time capsule, assembled from 21st ICSMGE complimentary chocolate boxes.

What will they say?

By “they”, we mean geotechnical engineers and scientists of 2126 and later years. What will “they” say about our achievements in the second 100 years, in blue below, after sealing of the time capsule?

1920	1940	1960	1980	2000	2020	2040	2060	2080	2100					
Terzaghi era					Increasing specialisations					What will they say?				

To address this and other future focus thoughts, the Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) has been initiated and launched by the ISSMGE with the following three objectives,

Learn about each other, **Tell the world about us**, **Develop a future focus**

From the Board

Heritage Time Capsule (HTC) – Focus for the future 100 years



Various cohorts of the ISSMGE, including Member Societies, Technical Committees, Past Presidents/ Champions, Key Persons, Vice Presidents, Corporate Associates, and Board Level Committees, have contributed since 2020 to the development of a “virtual time capsule”, now housed in the HTC website, <https://htc.issmge.org/>. We are now at the half way point (50%) of potential contributions, as shown in the adjoining table.

Member Societies	57/90
Past Presidents/ Champions	12/17
Technical Committees	17/37
Corporate Associates	6/49
Vice Presidents	3/
Board Level Committees	2/
Key Persons	6/

The numbers in green indicate the number of contributors, totalling over 100, who have made HTC contributions, and those in black indicate the number of potential contributors for a cohort. The HTC team is working to increase the percentage of contributions in the remaining 20 months or so of this presidential term.

Each individual member of the ISSMGE can submit discoverer reports, to be hosted on the HTC website. The role of the discoverer report is to shine a spotlight on one or more contributions. The HTC website contains further details on the preparation of discoverer reports. The HTC Design Team can be contacted for help via the contact page of the HTC website: <https://htc.issmge.org/contact>.

Ideally, each of the contributions on the HTC website will have multiple discoverers. A discoverer report prepared to the current guidelines by Professor María José Camacho Cordero of Asociación Costarricense de Geotecnia (Costa Rica Member Society) can be viewed on the HTC website,

<https://htc.issmge.org/discovery/discoverers/maria-jose-camacho-cordero>. Discoverer reports can be promoted by sharing these reports on social media



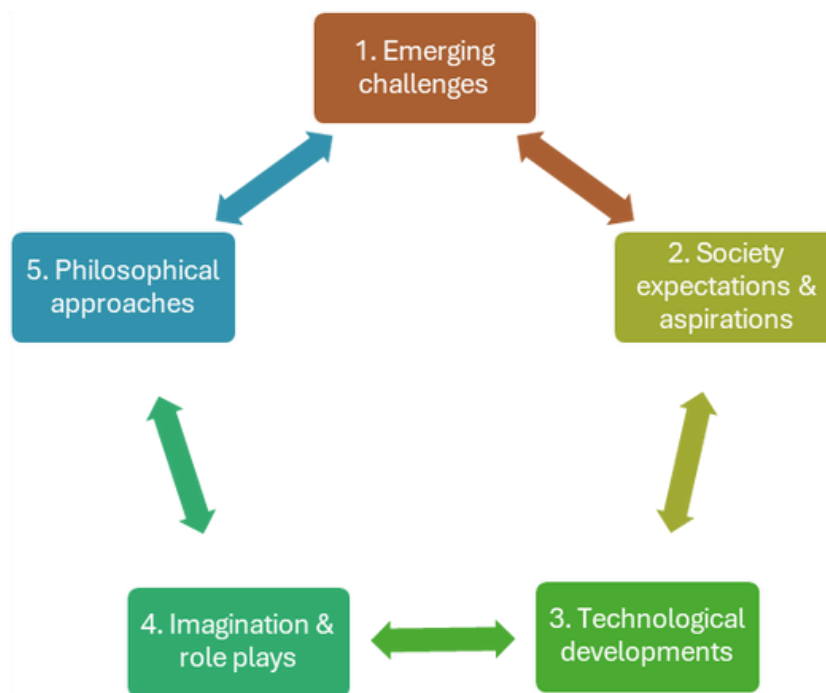
The critical task for the HTC team leading to 2026, is to develop a focus for the future. HTC sessions were started in 2023 at a number of ISSMGE and Member Society conferences and events to explain HTC concepts and encourage ISSMGE individual members to take part in the HTC work. The HTC sessions held and in planning are shown in the adjacent table. We expect to add more HTC sessions.

Year	HTC sessions (held and planned)
2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 17th ARC, Kazakhstan ANZ 2023, Australia Local chapter, New Zealand Local chapter, Australia
2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local chapter, Australia 3 Local chapters, New Zealand GeoShanghai 2024, China 18th EYGEC*, North Macedonia ECSMGE24, Portugal 18ARC, Algeria 15th YGPC*, Australia 10th AYGEC*, Indonesia 17th PCSMGE, Chile 2nd GeoMandu, Nepal
2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2nd Southern African Geotechnical Conference, South Africa 1st Geotech Asia, India 22nd NZGS Symposium, New Zealand

* Regional young member conferences



The following diagram shows the five elements that form a future focus framework. The HTC team will develop these elements with the help of the six ISSMGE regions, Africa, Asia, Australasia, Europe, North America and South America, and other ISSMGE cohorts to (a) help with deciding what should be placed in the physical time capsule, and (b) to prepare an ISSMGE strategy and action plan for the second 100 years of geotechnical engineering, to be re-assessed on a decade-by-decade basis.



Join us on this exciting journey

References

- Pathmanandavel, S., Bilotta, E., MacRobert C.J, Chung, C. (2024) HTC - Creating and discovering the ISSMGE Heritage Time Capsule, Proceedings of the XVIII ECSMGE, Lisbon, 26-30 August 2024
- Pathmanandavel, S., Bilotta, E., Bouazza, A., Shahien, M., Poulos, H. (2024) - The ISSMGE Heritage Time Capsule Project – Future Focus, Proceedings of the 18th ARCSMGE, Algiers, 6-9 October 2024 (in press)