

# 22<sup>nd</sup> ICSMGE



**SOCHIGE**  
CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL  
SOCIETY



**DECEMBER 3 - 7 2029**

**INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SOIL MECHANICS  
AND GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING**

**“GEOTECHNICS AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD”**

HOSTED BY  
THE CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY (SOCHIGE)  
SUBMITTED IN MAY 2026

*Innovation · Geotechnical Earthquake Engineering  
Mining Geotechnical Structures · Sustainability · Resilience*



[WWW.SOCHIGE.CL](http://WWW.SOCHIGE.CL)



**BID PROPOSAL**



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## CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY SPONSORS



# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) is honoured to present this Proposal to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in Santiago, Chile, in early December 2029.

Chile is internationally recognized for excellence in earthquake engineering and geotechnical practice, with infrastructure and major mining operations that have consistently demonstrated outstanding seismic performance. **It is also widely regarded as one of the most modern and safest countries in Latin America**, offering a reliable and high-quality environment for international events.

Hosting the ICSMGE in Santiago offers a unique opportunity to engage with this expertise while enjoying, during the Southern Hemisphere summer, access to world-renowned destinations such as Easter Island, Patagonia, the Atacama Desert, and Antarctica. The ICSMGE has never before been held in Chile, and the last time the conference took place in Latin America was in 1989 in Rio de Janeiro. With its political stability, strong institutions, and visa-free access for most countries, Chile provides an exceptional setting to bring together the global geotechnical community.

<b>Conference Title</b>	22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering
<b>Host City</b>	Santiago, Chile
<b>Venue</b>	Metropolitan Santiago Convention & Event Center, Vitacura area, Santiago
<b>Proposed Dates</b>	Monday, 3 December 2029 – Friday, 7 December 2029
<b>Host Organisation</b>	Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE)
<b>Conference Theme</b>	Geotechnics at the edge of the World
<b>Expected Delegates</b>	3,000 – 4,500
<b>Proposed Chair</b>	Dr. Christian Ledezma



PARQUE ARAUCANO AND NUEVA LAS CONDES DISTRICT, SANTIAGO  
15-MINUTE DRIVE FROM THE CONFERENCE VENUE

# 2. LETTERS OF INVITATION FROM THE PROPOSED CONFERENCE CHAIR AND THE NATIONAL CHAIR

Honorable Members of the ISSMGE,

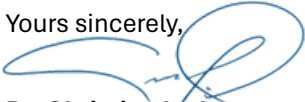
In my role as Proposed Conference Chair, I wish to formally express my strong commitment to Chile's bid to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering, and to the responsibility of leading this important international event should Chile be selected.

Geotechnical engineering in Chile has been shaped by extraordinary natural challenges, particularly major seismic events that have profoundly influenced research, engineering practice, and education. These conditions have fostered a close integration between field observations, analytical developments, and engineering decisions, positioning Chile as a meaningful setting for international exchange in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering.

The Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE), together with academic institutions and professional partners, seeks to host an inclusive and high-quality conference that promotes technical excellence, collaboration across regions, and the active engagement of young engineers and researchers. Special emphasis will be placed on knowledge transfer, education, and the connection between research and practice.

I am fully committed to working closely with the ISSMGE to ensure a rigorous scientific program, strong international participation, and a lasting professional legacy for the global geotechnical community.

Yours sincerely,



**Dr. Christian Ledezma**  
Chilean Geotechnical Society  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile  
cledezma@uc.cl

**PROPOSED CONFERENCE CHAIR  
22ND ICSMGE**



Dear Members of the ISSMGE and colleagues,

On behalf of the Chilean Geotechnical Society, I warmly invite you to support Chile's bid to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE).

Chile has never hosted an ICSMGE. For our country and for Latin America, this represents an important opportunity to contribute more actively to the global geotechnical community and to welcome the world to our region.

Over the past decade, the Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) has grown significantly, strengthening its international engagement and its capacity to organize major events. This is reflected in conferences such as the 16th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (2017), the Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (2024), and the upcoming Conference on Performance-Based Design in Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering (PBD-V, 2026).

Chile is widely regarded as one of the most modern and safest countries in Latin America. At the same time, our complex geology and extreme seismicity have required us to develop geotechnical engineering to a high level, driven by necessity and real challenges.

We are grateful to have the support of each and every geotechnical society across Latin America, with the exception of Brazil and Mexico which are presenting their own candidacies. With this strong backing, and through the active involvement of key figures from across the region, we humbly present this proposal as a shared regional effort.

We would be honored to welcome you to Chile.



**Mr. Rafael Iglesias, MSC DIC**  
Chilean Geotechnical Society  
presidente@sochige.cl

**NATIONAL CHAIR**



**PARQUE ALERCE  
2-HOUR FLIGHT FROM  
SANTIAGO**



**ANDES MOUNTAIN  
A 1-HOUR DRIVE FROM  
SANTIAGO**

# LETTERS OF INVITATIONS FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dear Members of the ISSMGE,

As we look toward the future of our profession, it is my great personal honor and privilege to invite you to join us in Santiago, Chile, for the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in December 2029.

Having followed the incredible legacy of our previous conferences, I am deeply inspired to bring our global community to the heart of South America. Chile is a land defined by its dramatic geography; our engineering has been forged by the necessity of resilience against powerful seismic forces and the majestic, complex terrain of the Andes. I am eager to show you firsthand how our local challenges have birthed world-class innovation in earthquake-resistant design and mining infrastructure.

But beyond the technical exchange, I want to personally welcome you to Santiago. It is a thriving metropolis where rich cultural traditions meet modern, state-of-the-art infrastructure. Our city offers extensive convention spaces and hotel rooms to ensure your stay is as comfortable as it is productive. From our renowned vineyards to the breathtaking landscapes of the Atacama Desert and Patagonia, I ensure that your experience outside the lecture halls will be just as memorable.

I am committed to making ICSMGE 2029 a significant benchmark in our history. I look forward to personally welcoming each of you to Santiago, where we will take a big leap forward together in the development of geotechnical Engineering.

**Dr. Cesar Pasten**

Chilean Geotechnical Society  
Universidad de Chile  
cpasten@uchile.cl



PROPOSED CO-CHAIR

Dear Members of the ISSMGE,

I would like to draw your attention to Chile's strong intention to host the 22nd ICSMGE in December 2029 in Santiago. As a Latin American country, we are confident the conference will offer a warm, dynamic, and welcoming environment, fostering close interaction within the international geotechnical community.

Chile provides a uniquely relevant geotechnical setting shaped by the subduction of the Nazca Plate beneath the South American Plate, which has formed the Andes Mountains and makes the country one of the most seismically active in the world. These demanding conditions have driven the development of advanced engineering practices and a strong record of resilient infrastructure.

Chile also offers exceptional diversity in geomaterials, including volcanic ashes, saline soils, residual soils, liquefiable soils, and coarse soils, all successfully used in major works. In addition, Chile hosts some of the world's largest tailings dams associated with its mining industry, providing invaluable experience in the design, monitoring, and safety of these critical structures.

Chile's location in the Southern Hemisphere allows the conference to take place during the austral summer, therefore, attendees will have the opportunity to explore some of the world's most remarkable landscapes, including the Andes Mountains, the Atacama Desert, the fjords and glaciers of Patagonia, and the unique cultural and natural heritage of Easter Island.

Dear colleagues and friends, we warmly invite you to Chile. If selected, we will deliver an outstanding 22nd-ICSMGE that reflects both the strength of our profession and the unique character of our country.

**Dr. Ramón Verdugo**

Chilean Geotechnical Society  
Founder Partner CMGI



PROPOSED CO-CHAIR



# PERSONAL INVITATIONS FROM THE ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Dear members of the ISSMGE,

I am writing to you to indicate my support for the proposal of the Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) for Chile to host the 22nd International Conference of the ISSMGE in the city of Santiago in December 2029.

As former Vice-President of the ISSMGE for South and Central America, I had the opportunity to visit on several occasions the South American countries and to realize the great variety of geological and geotechnical environments existing in these countries, from saline soils in northern Chile to volcanic soils in Ecuador and Costa Rica, tropical soils in Brazil, loess deposits in Argentina, and gravel deposits in Chile and Peru. This variety of soils was brilliantly commented on by Dr. James Mitchell in his lecture on Soils of America delivered during the Panamerican Conference of the ISSMGE that was held in Viña del Mar, Chile, in 1991. Since then, several other Pan American Conferences were held in South America, the last one in La Serena, Chile, in 2024.

During all these years, I have seen an important increase in geotechnical engineering in South America, especially in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, and Peru, and specifically in Chile important developments in geotechnical engineering applied to large mining structures, tunnel and metro engineering, and geotechnical seismic engineering.

The only International Conference of the ISSMGE that has been held in South America was in Brazil in 1989. The 22nd International Conference of the ISSMGE in Chile would take place 40 years after the conference in Brazil, and it would have an important impact in the several Spanish-speaking countries of South and Central America, as well as Mexico. The conference will be conducted in English with Spanish and Portuguese translation of the sessions.

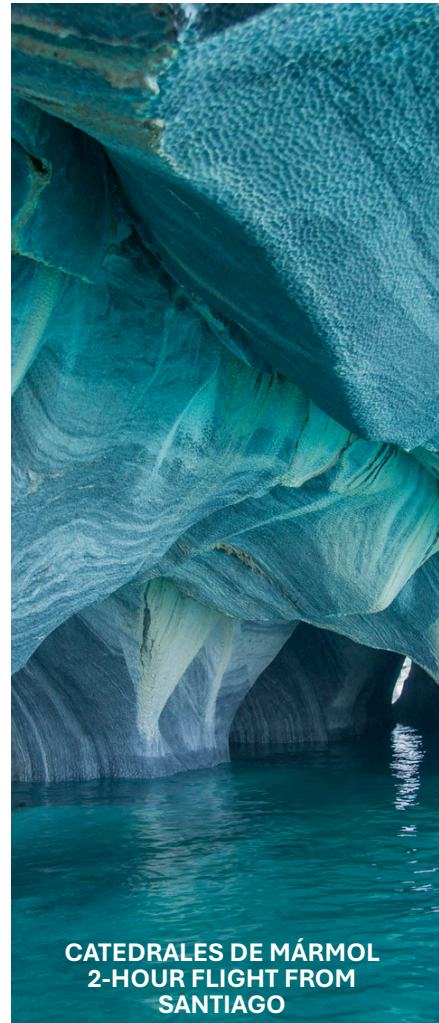
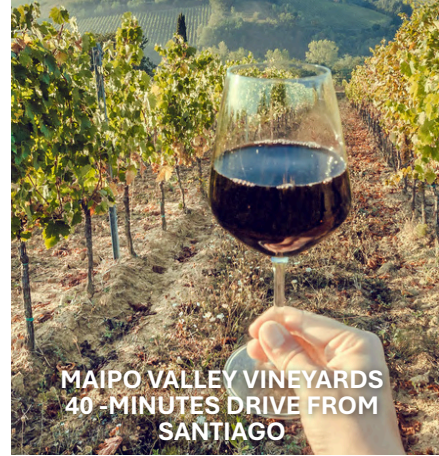
The conference is proposed to be held in Santiago, a modern city where many international conferences have been held in recent years, with many hotels, conference facilities, restaurants, modern shopping centres, and nearby attractions such as famous vineyards and views of the majestic Andes.

We look forward to receiving the members of your society in Santiago in December 2029.

**Mr. Luis Valenzuela, MSc**  
Civil Engineer MSc, DIC  
Geotechnical Consultant  
valenzuelapluis@gmail.com



**PROPOSED CHIEF ADVISOR**



# FULL SUPPORT FROM LATIN AMERICAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETIES

Chile's bid enjoys full support of the Latin American geotechnical community. As of April 2026, the Chilean Geotechnical Society has received formal letters of support from 9 of the 11 geotechnical societies of South and Central America. Including Chile's own society, this represents the support of 10 out of 11 societies in the region. The only exception is Brazil, which is submitting its own bid. This represents an extraordinary expression of regional confidence in Chile's organizational capacity.

The following latin american societies have confirmed their support:

Society	Country
Sociedad Venezolana de Geotecnia (SVDG)	Venezuela
Asociación Guatemalteca de Mecánica de Suelos e Ingeniería Geotécnica (AMSIG)	Guatemala
Asociación Costarricense de Geotecnia (ACG)	Costa Rica
Sociedad Argentina de Ingeniería Geotécnica (SAIG)	Argentina
Asociación Peruana de Ingeniería Geotécnica (APGEO)	Perú
Comité Nacional de Cuba de Mecánica de Suelos y Geotecnia	Cuba
Asociación Boliviana de Ingeniería Geotécnica (ABIG)	Bolivia
Sociedad Colombiana de Geotecnia	Colombia
Sociedad Geotécnica Paraguaya (SGP)	Paraguay

## SUPPORT FROM MAIN UNIVERSITIES IN CHILE

The letters of support are attached in Appendix A.

Chile's bid is strongly supported by the country's leading universities, reflecting the depth of academic excellence and geotechnical expertise available to support the organization of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICSMGE. These institutions play a central role in engineering education, research, and professional development in Chile, and their endorsement demonstrates the commitment of the academic community to the success of the conference.

Formal expressions of support have been received from the following universities:

- University of Chile
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile
- Universidad de los Andes
- Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María

Together, these institutions represent a broad and geographically diverse academic network, encompassing Santiago and key regional centers. Their support ensures a strong integration between academia, industry, and government, and reinforces Chile's capacity to deliver a technically outstanding and globally relevant ICSMGE.



**LAGUNA ESCONDIDA DE BALTINACHE- ATACAMA DESERT  
2 HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO**



**LAGUNA DEL SALAR - ATACAMA DESERT  
2-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO**



**COORDILLERA DEL SALAR - ATACAMA DESERT  
2-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO**



**VILLARICA VOLCANO - SOUTH OF CHILE  
1.5-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO**



**GLACIAR GREY - CHILEAN PATAGONIA  
3-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO**



**TORRES DEL PAINE - CHILEAN PATAGONIA  
3-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO**



# 3. WHY CHILE?

## SEISMIC COUNTRY

Chile is one of the most seismically active countries in the world, leading to advanced seismic codes. In addition, in 2030 Chile marks 70 years since the 1960 Valdivia earthquake, the largest instrumentally recorded earthquake in history. To commemorate this historic milestone, the conference will feature a dedicated exhibition on the 1960 Valdivia earthquake.

This exhibition will combine audiovisual material, historical records, and curated artifacts to provide an immersive account of the event and its lasting impact on geotechnical engineering. It will offer attendees a unique opportunity to connect past lessons with present-day practice.

As one of the world's great seismic laboratories, Chile has also faced massive shocks like Maule (2010, Mw=8.8) and Illapel (2015, Mw=8.4). These events have shaped national culture and driven Chile's building codes and seismic engineering to among the most advanced in the world.

## MINING AND ENERGY TRANSITION LEADER

As a global mining leader, Chile operates large-scale projects under demanding seismic and environmental conditions. This has driven major advances in complex infrastructure, slope stability, open pit and underground mining, tunneling, and tailings storage facilities design. In fact, Chile is home to one of the most extensive and advanced metro systems in Latin America (Santiago Metro), hosts some of the world's largest open-pit copper mines (such as Chuquibambilla and Escondida), and contains several of the world's largest tailings deposits.

Chile is also leading the energy transition in Latin America. Approximately 70% of its electricity generation comes from renewable sources, with around 40% corresponding to non-conventional renewables such as solar and wind, reflecting the country's rapid and sustained shift toward a cleaner energy matrix. This commitment to sustainability extends to urban infrastructure: **Santiago hosts the largest electric bus fleet in the world outside China, with over 4,000 electric buses in operation.**

## WORLD-CLASS TOURISM AND SUMMER WEATHER

Holding the conference in December offers summer conditions in the Southern Hemisphere with favorable weather. It also enables participants to experience world-class tourism, as some of the world's most acclaimed vineyards with six vineyards among the The World's 50 Best Vineyards, including the top ranked VIK vineyards. In addition, from less than 3 hours from Santiago, the Atacama Desert, Easter Island, the fjords of Patagonia, Torres del Paine National Park, and Antarctica can be visited.

## UNIQUE GEOLOGY

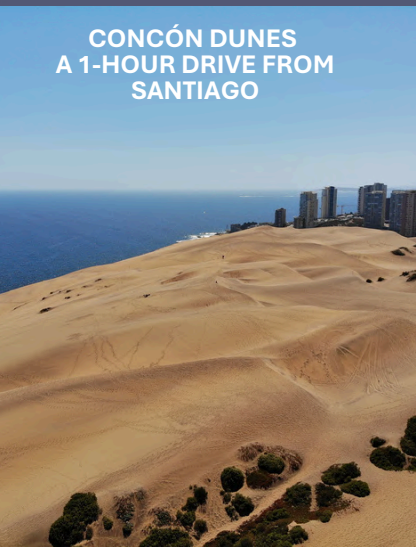
Chile has a unique geological setting, with more than 2,000 volcanoes and about 4,300 km of The Andes extending along the length of the country. Chile features a wide variety of soils, including volcanic ash, saline soils and expansive clays. These highly variable conditions foster innovation and state-of-the-art geotechnical practice.

## A TRUSTED HOST

Chile offers strong institutional and economic stability within the region, ensuring a reliable environment for international events. It also has proven experience in successfully hosting major conferences, including the 16<sup>th</sup> World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (2017), the Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (2024), and the upcoming International Conference on Performance-Based Design in Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering (PBD-V, 2026).



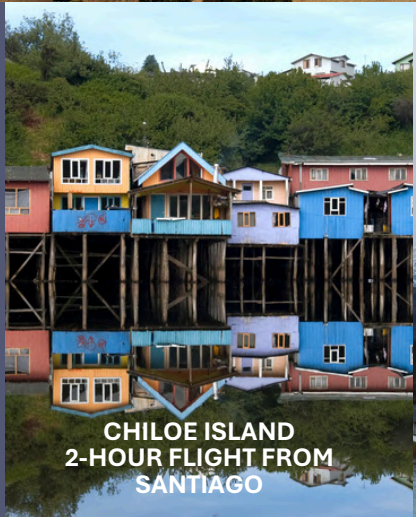
# CHILE CONNECTED



**CONCÓN DUNES**  
A 1-HOUR DRIVE FROM SANTIAGO



**RAPA NUI ISLAND**  
5-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO



**CHILOE ISLAND**  
2-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO



**LAGO GREY, TORRES DEL PAINE**  
3-HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO



# SANTIAGO: A MODERN CAPITAL

Santiago, the political, economic, and cultural heart of Chile, is a dynamic metropolitan city of over 7 million people. In recent decades, it has undergone a profound transformation, driven by sustained investment in infrastructure, urban development, public transportation, and global connectivity. Today, Santiago stands as a modern and efficient capital, seamlessly combining contemporary architecture, vibrant gastronomy, and a rich cultural identity — all framed by the dramatic backdrop of the Andes Mountains.

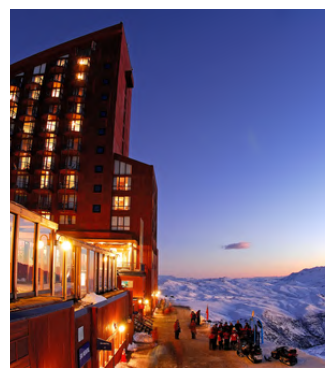
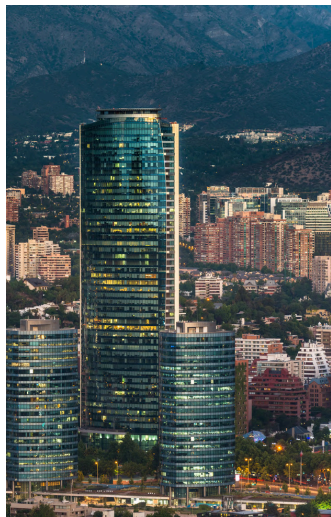
Santiago stands as one of the safest and most modern cities in Latin America, supported by strong institutions, high-quality urban services, and a highly developed transportation network. The city features the most advanced metro system in the region, with an extensive and continuously expanding network of lines, as well as a new world-class international airport that ensures seamless global connectivity. Visitors benefit from a clean, efficient, and well-organized urban environment, complemented by a welcoming and highly professional local community. For international delegates and their families, Santiago offers a secure, comfortable, and world-class destination for hosting a premier international conference.

## SEASONAL ADVANTAGE AND POST-EVENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CHILE

Holding the congress in December offers a unique seasonal advantage, as participants from the Northern Hemisphere can enjoy summer conditions while escaping the winter. With long daylight hours, pleasant temperatures, and clear skies, Chile provides an ideal setting for both professional engagement and social interaction.

Chile offers exceptional post-event travel opportunities across a remarkable range of landscapes. Attendees can explore the Atacama Desert—one of the driest places on Earth and home to world-leading astronomical observatories—experience the vibrant culture and vineyards of central Chile, or travel south to discover the pristine fjords and glaciers of Patagonia. For those seeking truly unique experiences, Chile also serves as a gateway to Antarctica, offering rare expedition opportunities.

This combination of a world-class scientific event with unforgettable travel experiences makes Chile a particularly attractive destination, enhancing both attendance and the overall impact of the conference.



# CONNECTIVITY AND TRANSPORT

## AIR CONNECTIVITY — ARTURO MERINO BENÍTEZ INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

Santiago's Comodoro Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport (SCL) is the busiest airport in South America outside Brazil and the main international gateway to the southern cone of the continent. The airport has undergone a major expansion and modernization programme, offering a modern, efficient, and well-connected facility for international travelers.

Key air connectivity facts:

- Direct flights to and from North America: Los Angeles, New York, Dallas, Miami, Atlanta, Toronto, Vancouver — with multiple daily services operated by LATAM, American Airlines, Delta, United, Air Canada.
- Direct flights to and from Europe: Madrid (daily), Paris (daily), London (daily), Frankfurt (several per week), Amsterdam, Rome, Lisbon — operated by LATAM, Iberia, Air France-KLM, British Airways, Lufthansa.
- Direct flights to Australia: Sydney (direct service operated by LATAM Airlines, approximately 13 hours).
- Extensive coverage of Latin America: Connections to every major city in the region, with multiple daily flights to Buenos Aires, Lima, Bogotá, São Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, Panama City, and beyond.
- Middle East and Asia: Connections via São Paulo, Madrid, or Miami to major hubs including Dubai, Doha, Tokyo, Beijing, and Singapore.

The airport is located 15 km from the city center (approximately 30 minutes by taxi, Uber, or bus service).

## VISA ACCESSIBILITY

Chile maintains visa-free entry for citizens of a wide range of countries. Nationals of the European Union, the United States, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Japan, South Korea, and most Latin American countries do not require a visa to enter Chile for short-term visits.

For participants from countries requiring a visa, the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs provides established procedures to facilitate entry. The organising committee will provide official invitation letters and support documentation to assist delegates with their visa applications.

### VISA-FREE COUNTRIES



## URBAN TRANSPORT IN SANTIAGO — A CITY AT THE FOREFRONT

Santiago has invested massively in public transport over the past decade and has become a global benchmark for sustainable urban mobility.

### METRO DE SANTIAGO — THE MOST MODERN METRO IN LATIN AMERICA

The Metro de Santiago is widely recognized as one of the leading metro systems in Latin America. With seven operational lines covering over 140 km of track and more than 130 stations, the Metro provides fast, safe, and affordable access to all parts of the city. At the time of the 2029 conference, three new lines (Lines 7, 8, and 9) will be under construction, extending the network by a further 60 km. The Metro operates with high frequency (trains every 1 minute during peak hours in the busiest line), air conditioning, and fully digital ticketing.

### ELECTRIC BUS FLEET — WORLD LEADER OUTSIDE CHINA

Santiago has made international headlines for operating the largest fleet of electric public buses in the world outside of China. With over 4,000 electric buses integrated into the Red network (Santiago's public transport system), Santiago carries millions of passengers per day on zero-emission urban transport. This represents one of the most ambitious and successful public transport electrification programmes in history, and is directly relevant to the conference theme of geotechnics supporting the energy transition. Delegates will experience this world-leading electric bus fleet when travelling around the city.

The combination of the modern Metro, the world-leading electric bus fleet, and an extensive cycling network makes Santiago one of the most sustainable and accessible convention cities in the developing world.



TOBALABA STATION  
SANTIAGO METRO



LOS LEONES STATION,  
SANTIAGO METRO



REGIONAL RAIL NETWORK,  
SANTIAGO, CHILE



SANTIAGO'S CABLE RAILWAY



JAPANESE GARDEN OF SANTIAGO



WIND FARM, CHILE



SANTIAGO'S ELECTRIC BUS  
NETWORK



METRO, SANTIAGO



RAPÉL HYDROPOWER PLANT



FRANKLIN STATION  
SANTIAGO METRO



PLAZA CHACABUCO STATION,  
SANTIAGO METRO



SOLAR POWER PLANT,  
NORTH OF CHILE

## SANTIAGO WAS RECOGNIZED IN THE ICCA RANKING 2024 AS THE SECOND-LEADING DESTINATION IN LATIN AMERICA AND THIRD IN THE AMERICAS FOR MICE TOURISM (MEETINGS, INCENTIVES, CONVENTIONS, AND EXHIBITIONS).

A new international recognition places Chile in a privileged position within the meeting tourism industry at the continental level. According to the recent ranking 2024 of the [International Congress and Convention Association](#) (ICCA), the city of Santiago reached third place in the Americas (from Canada to South America) as a destination for international congresses.



### Santiago surpasses major cities on the continent

The news was announced today at the IMEX trade fair in Frankfurt, Germany, one of the most important events in the **MICE** segment. In the 2024 edition of the ranking, ICCA highlighted our country's capital, which surpassed major cities on the continent, such as Rio de Janeiro, Mexico City, São Paulo, Bogotá, Lima, and Toronto. Buenos Aires and Montreal occupied the top positions, respectively.

### Public-private collaborative work as the key to success

This achievement is largely due to the work of the ambassadors of Sernatur's Meet in Chile program, a key tool in promoting meeting tourism that has yielded significant success in attracting international conferences. Furthermore, the 98 events organized in Chile (including the 60 held in Santiago) were compiled by Sernatur in collaboration with private companies and convention bureaus throughout the country.

**Chile's new ranking in the 2024 ICCA ranking** reaffirms the country's commitment to strengthening its meeting tourism industry, a key sector for economic growth and international outreach.

## CHILE IS NAMED BEST INTERNATIONAL DESTINATION AT THE FIRST EDITION OF THE 2026 FORBES TRAVEL AWARDS

At the first edition of the [Forbes Travel Awards 2026](#), Chile was named Best International Destination. The awards recognise the destinations, companies, and initiatives shaping the present and future of the tourism industry.

**The country beat out top-tier** competitors such as the Alentejo region (Portugal) and Japan, solidifying its position as a global tourism leader and adding yet another global recognition that highlights its natural variety and the unique experiences it has to offer.

### Why did Chile win the award for Best International Destination?

Chile stood out for its unique appeal: landscapes of unparalleled diversity and a growing commitment to sustainable tourism. From the Atacama Desert to the glaciers and mountains of Patagonia, the country offers unique scenery, from the vibrant neighborhoods of Santiago to the lakes and volcanoes of the south, as well as the scenic routes of the Carretera Austral and Torres del Paine.

This natural wealth is complemented by a tourism infrastructure that prioritizes safe, environmentally connected experiences, offering unforgettable moments.

In addition to the recognition from Forbes, Chile also stood out in the 2026 TripAdvisor Travelers' Choice Awards, rankings based on millions of reviews and opinions from travelers around the world.

# Forbes

BAKER RIVER - CHILEAN PATAGONIA  
3 HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO

TORRES DEL PAINE NATIONAL PARK  
3 HOUR FLIGHT FROM SANTIAGO

CASABLANCA WINERY  
A 1-HOUR DRIVE FROM SANTIAGO

# 4. LETTERS OF SUPPORT GOVERNMENT AND INSTITUTIONAL

The 22nd ICSMGE bid has received strong and enthusiastic institutional support from the Government of Chile, from regional authorities, and from geotechnical societies across Latin America. This section presents the key letters of support received to date and reflects the breadth of backing that Chile's candidacy commands.

## SUPPORT FROM THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE AND REGIONAL AUTHORITIES

The Governor of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago (the highest democratically elected authority of the region) and the Territorial Development and Tourism Corporation of the Metropolitan Region (Santiago MICE, the official convention bureau of the city) have both formally endorsed Chile's bid in writing. These letters reflect the strong political and institutional will to welcome the global geotechnical community to Santiago.

**All letters of support from public institutions, private organizations, and universities are attached in Appendix B.**



GOVERNMENT OF CHILE



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (CHILE)



MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS (CHILE)



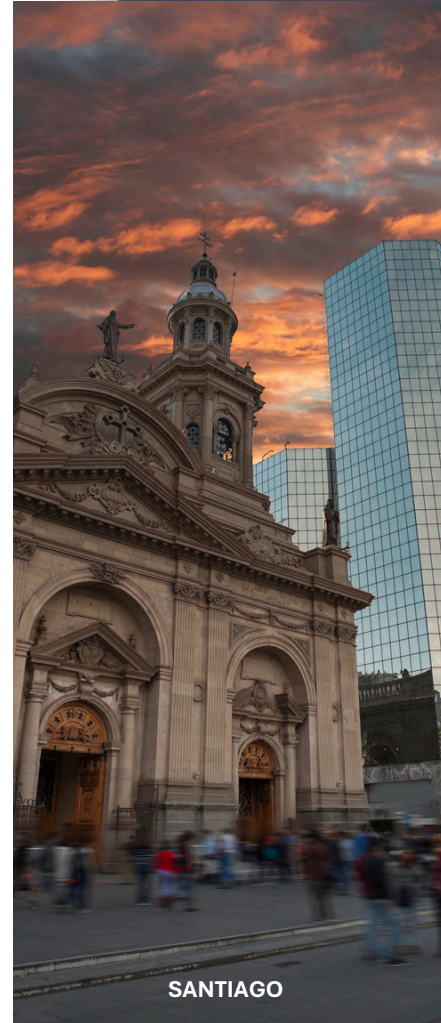
MINISTRY OF ECONOMY, DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM



GOVERNMENT OF SANTIAGO



CHILEAN AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION



SANTIAGO



SANTIAGO



CHILE'S GOVERNMENT HOUSE

## 5. HOST ORGANIZATION: CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY



**SOCHIGE**  
CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL  
SOCIETY

[WWW.SOCHIGE.CL](http://WWW.SOCHIGE.CL)

### ABOUT THE CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY

The Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) was established as the national representative body for geotechnical engineers in Chile in 1968 and is the official member society of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE) for Chile. SOCHIGE brings together academic researchers, practitioners, and industry professionals from across the country, united by a commitment to advancing geotechnical knowledge and its responsible application.

### STRUCTURE OF THE CONGRESS ORGANIZATION

#### MAIN ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Main Organizing Committee is responsible for the overall scientific vision, strategic direction, and institutional representation of the 22nd ICSSMGE. It brings together figures of international standing in seismic geotechnics, mining geotechnics, and geotechnical research, alongside the leadership of the Chilean Geotechnical Society.



**Proposed Chair**  
**Dr. Christian Ledezma**  
Pontificia Universidad Católica  
de Chile



**Proposed Co-chair**  
**Dr. Ramon Verdugo**  
International Geotechnical  
Consultant



**Proposed Co-chair**  
**Dr. Cesar Pasten**  
Universidad de Chile



**Proposed Chief Advisor**  
**Luis Valenzuela, MSc. DIC**  
International Geotechnical  
Consultant. Former  
Vicepresident of ISSMGE



**Proposed Member**  
**Rafael Iglesias, MSc. DIC**  
President of SOCHIGE



**Proposed Member**  
**Camilo Morales, MSc. DIC**  
Vicepresident of SOCHIGE



**Proposed Member**  
**Carolina Vergara, MSc.**  
Senior Geotechnical Consultant

## MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

The Local Organizing Committee will be responsible for the full logistical organization of the congress — including venue management, accommodation, registration, social programme, technical tours, communications, and on-site operations — and will also play an active role in the academic organization of the conference, contributing to the technical programme, paper review, session coordination, and outreach to the Chilean and Latin American professional community.

The committee has been assembled to reflect the breadth and depth of the Chilean geotechnical profession: it includes representatives from leading universities across different regions of Chile, major international consulting firms, mining companies, and government-linked institutions. Together, these members bring complementary expertise in earthquake geotechnics, mining, environmental geotechnics, numerical modelling, and infrastructure engineering.



SAN PEDRO DE LA PAZ  
SOUTH OF CHILE



TBM MACHINE. SANTIAGO METRO  
LINE 7 UNDER CONSTRUCTION.  
2025

<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Gonzalo Boada</b> , MSc, Treasurer, Chilean Geotechnical Society.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Nicole Correia</b> , MSc, Senior Geotechnical Mining Consultant, BHP.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Carolyn Diaz</b> , Senior Geotechnical Mining Consultant, WSP.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Dr. Daniella Escribano</b> , Assistant Professor. Universidad de Concepción.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Javiera Gonzalez</b> , MSc, Senior Geotechnical Mining Consultant, CMGI.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Dr. Jorge Macedo</b> , Associate Professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Dr. Claudia Medina</b> , Senior Geotechnical Mining Consultant, BGC.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Omar Nuñez</b> , MSc, Director, Chilean Geotechnical Society.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Dr. Esteban Saez</b> , Associate Professor. Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Dr. Matias Silva</b> . Senior Geotechnical Mining Consultant, GHD.
<b>Proposed Member</b>	<b>Virginia Sosa</b> . President of the Argentine Geotechnical Society.

The organizing committee combines deep academic expertise in earthquake geotechnics, laboratory and numerical modelling, mining geotechnics, and data-driven methods with practical experience from major infrastructure and resource projects across Chile and Latin America. This team has the vision, the network, and the organizational capacity to deliver a world-class ICSMGE.

## REGIONAL INTEGRATION AT THE CORE

The Chilean Geotechnical Society views this candidacy not only as a national initiative, but also as a broader opportunity to strengthen geotechnical collaboration across Latin America and with the international community. Chile has received strong support from geotechnical societies throughout the region, reflecting a shared interest in increasing participation, visibility, and long-term technical exchange within the global profession.

Holding the 22nd ICSMGE in Santiago would provide a valuable platform to connect experiences from developed and emerging economies facing common geotechnical challenges, including seismic risk, mining infrastructure, climate resilience, and sustainable development. In this spirit, the conference aims to foster collaboration between Latin America, Europe, North America, Asia, and Oceania, while contributing to a more diverse and globally connected geotechnical community.

### WRITTEN SUPPORT FROM LATIN AMERICA 'S GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETIES



# SUPPORT FROM THE INTERNATIONAL GEOTECHNICAL COMMUNITY



**Alejo Sfriso**  
Former Vicepresident of  
ISSMGE.  
Group Chair and Corporate  
Consultant  
SRK Consulting.

*"Dear colleagues at the Board of ISSMGE,*

*I have learned that the Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) is putting their name forward to host the next International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE). During my term as VP for South America and the Caribbean of ISSMGE, and since then, I witnessed the impressive growth and expansion of SOCHIGE, and that of the geotechnical engineering practice and research in Chile. They are at the forefront in geotechnical earthquake engineering and mine waste engineering and have an impressive number of large projects to showcase both in the mining sector and in tunnelling projects. The leaders in SOCHIGE are my friends. I know they have the capacity and commitment to do an excellent job in hosting ICSMGE, as they proved by hosting the Pan American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2024, which was a success and a very well attended event, and this is why I endorse their candidature to host the next ICSMGE."*



**Virginia Sosa**  
President of the Argentine  
Geotechnical Engineering  
Society (SAIG).

*"The candidacy of Chile to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) aligns with ISSMGE's goals of expanding global reach, broadening participation, and fostering an inclusive geotechnical community. Hosting the conference in Latin America would strengthen interaction across regions, generations, and professional sectors.*

*Chile offers strong conditions for an international ICSMGE, with significant geotechnical challenges, an active professional community, and proven experience in organizing major events. The coordinated involvement of Latin American societies further enhances diversity, representation, and technical breadth, providing a solid foundation for the conference's objectives and program."*



**J. Carlos Santamarina**  
Georgia Tech.

*"Why choose Chile for our next International Conference?"*

*Because few places on Earth test geotechnical thinking quite like Chile. It is a natural proving ground where complex sediments, fractured rock masses and extreme conditions challenge and sharpen our profession. From mining and tailings management to coastal geotechnics, energy systems, urban infrastructure, deep excavations and landslides, Chile is more than a venue; it is a full-scale field laboratory, where seismic design is not an academic exercise ... it is essential.*

*Our Chilean colleagues also know how to host. Their strong track record includes the 16th World Conference on Earthquake Engineering (2017), the XVII Panamerican Conference (2024), and the upcoming International Conference on Performance-Based Design in Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering (2026).*

*And beyond the technical program, there is the warmth and hospitality of the Chilean people, a rich culinary tradition, and a country of extraordinary natural beauty, from the heights of the Andes to the Pacific coastline.*

*Let's meet in Chile, where the ground moves and so does our field!"*



**Mónica Bedoya**  
President of the Board of  
Directors of the Colombian  
Society for Geotechnical  
Engineering

*"On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Colombian Geotechnical Society, we express our strong support for the Chilean Geotechnical Society's bid to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in December 2029. We are confident that Chile's expertise, leadership, and experience will ensure an outstanding and successful conference, and we respectfully encourage the international geotechnical community to support Chile's candidacy"*



**Paulo Oróstegui**  
Oitec CEO  
Past President of the  
Chilean Geotechnical  
Society

*"Chile is a truly beautiful country, with incredible landscapes, world-class wine valleys and gastronomy, and all the infrastructure needed to successfully host an event of this magnitude! The Chilean Geotechnical Society has been preparing for many years for an opportunity like this, and today SOCHIGE is stronger than ever, led by an outstanding young Board of Directors full of energy, commitment, and enthusiasm. The congress will also have an exceptional central committee including Ramón Verdugo, Christian Ledezma, Cesar Pasten, Carolina Vergara, Daniela Pollak, and Luis Valenzuela. I sincerely invite the international ISSMGE community to support Chile's candidacy for the 22nd ICSMGE!"*



**Daniela Pollak Aguiló**  
Appointed Board Member, ISSMGE

*“Along the length of the majestic Andes mountain range, exceptional geotechnical conditions have fostered deep expertise across our profession. This is also an opportunity to connect the global community with the culture and identity of South America. With proven experience in hosting international congresses, we stand ready to welcome the world with both technical excellence and genuine warmth”*



**Sebastian Lobo Guerrero, PhD**  
Senior Geotechnical Consultant, Colombia

*“We are ready to support and work together with the Chilean Geotechnical Society on this important initiative. Chile already demonstrated in November 2024 its infrastructure and organizational capacity for an event of this level, as host of the Pan-American Conference. It also showed its strong ability to attract a large number of participants. This level of integration is not seen in all countries, and there is something truly special about Chile. It is also an outstanding tourist destination that attracts many visitors. For all these reasons, I believe Chile is the ideal location for this major event”.*



**Mario Terceros**  
Senior Geotechnical Consultant, Bolivia

*“The Chilean Geotechnical Society proposes Chile as host of the next ICSMGE (International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering). Beyond Chile’s strong expertise in seismic engineering and tailings dams, this candidacy highlights the value of regional collaboration. Latin America’s accumulated experience offers insights of global relevance, ensuring a high-level, internationally meaningful conference”.*



**Luis Raygada Rojas**  
President of the Peruvian Association of Geotechnical Engineering (APGEO)

*“In behalf of APGEO, and as part of the South American geotechnical community, we firmly support SOCHIGE’s candidacy to host the 2029 International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE).*

*Our region brings a unique diversity of challenges, knowledge, and talent that enrich global geotechnical practice. We strongly believe that Chile and South America are ready to welcome the world and to further strengthen global technical collaboration”*



**Jorge Macedo, PhD**  
Senior Geotechnical Consultant, Peru

*“Chile brings unmatched seismic experience and world-leading mining expertise as the largest copper producer globally. Hosting ICSMGE 2029 in Chile offers a unique opportunity to advance resilient geotechnical engineering and share lessons from complex real-world challenges. I strongly support Chile’s candidacy.”*



**Marcos Arroyo**  
Spain

*“Chile is a geotechnical engineer’s paradise. A huge mountain range raising fast from the sea across all possible climate zones has created a unique variety of soil depositional conditions and rock weathering profiles. Throw in one of the largest earthquake hazards in the world, some of the largest mining operations everywhere, a fast-developing offshore energy industry and an urban metropolis like Santiago and there is some for every taste. Chilean engineers are not just eminently capable, but also incredibly generous hosts. I am looking forward to a 22ND ICSMGE in Santiago”*



**Ikuo Towhata**  
Japan

*“Located on the Pacific Ocean side of the great Andes Mountains, Chile offers the international engineers and guests a great opportunity to gain experience in nature. From the engineering viewpoints, the visitors can directly learn the human efforts to cope with severity of nature. Typically, the gigantic earthquakes have been affecting Chilean community many times in the past. Charles Darwin was staying in Valdivia of Chile on February 20th, 1835, during his great voyage and experienced a gigantic earthquake of Mw=8.5. His diary states that the motion was “something like that felt by a person skating over thin ice that bends under the weight of his body”. He explored the effects of the gigantic earthquake and tsunami as well as the tectonic uplift in the coastal area. The more gigantic seismic event in 1960 still attracts the professional concern. Further, the ongoing climatic warming and “reduction in precipitation” in Chile must be seriously taken for the sustainability of the water supply for the increasing urban population. On the other hand, Chile has a long and great experience in construction and maintenance of huge tailings dams that is full of geotechnical and soil-mechanic suggestions. Further, the great Andes where geomorphology attracts your professional interest. With these in mind, I recommend you to have the next international conference in Chile and become “Darwin” by getting new information during the conference and exploring the nature. Moreover, do not forget to visit cultural sites in Peru and Bolivia after the conference.”*

# SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

The Scientific Committee will be composed of leading Chilean and international geotechnical engineers with expertise spanning all five conference themes. The committee will be responsible for the review and selection of submitted papers, the organization of parallel sessions, and the identification of keynote speakers. Invitations to serve on the committee will be extended to distinguished members of ISSMGE Technical Committees and to leading researchers from universities and research centers worldwide.

# ENGAGEMENT WITH ISSMGE TECHNICAL COMMITTEES

The 22nd ICSMGE will place the ISSMGE Technical Committees (TC's) at the heart of its scientific programme. The ISSMGE has more than 35 technical committees, each dealing with specific subject areas in the field of geotechnical engineering, ISSMGE and the Organizing Committee is committed to ensuring that the chairs and members of all relevant TCs are formally invited to contribute to the conference — both in shaping the technical programme and in organizing dedicated sessions, workshops, and TC meetings within the conference.

Of particular relevance to the Santiago programme are committees such as TC203 (Earthquake Geotechnical Engineering), TC208 (Slope Stability), TC221 (Tailings and Mine Wastes), TC309 (Machine Learning and Big Data), TC308 (Energy Geotechnics), TC307 (Sustainability), and TC204 (Underground Construction), among many others.

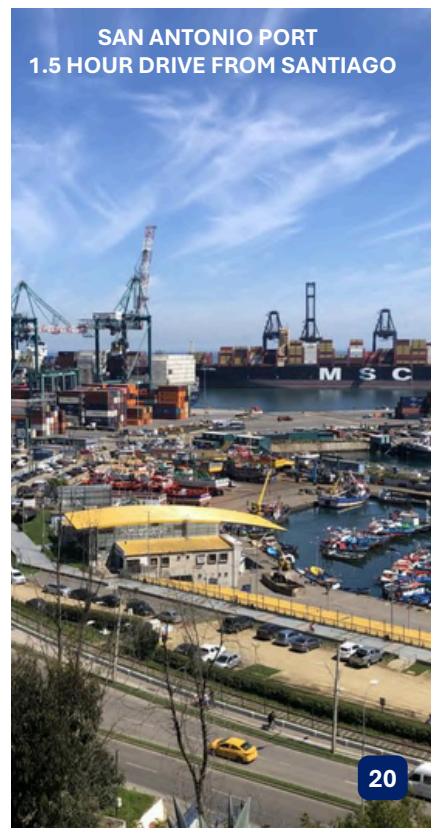
Among the key functions of TC's is to assist with the technical programmes of international and regional conferences organized by the ISSMGE. The Organizing Committee will dedicate specific programme slots for TC meetings and TC-organized sessions, and will coordinate with TC chairs to identify keynote speakers and session topics that reflect the most current state of knowledge in each area.

# INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD

An International Advisory Board, composed of current and past ISSMGE officers and distinguished members from all regions, will be constituted to provide guidance on the scientific programme, ensure geographical and institutional balance, and support the promotion of the conference within their respective regions.

# CONFERENCE MANAGEMENT

SOCHIGE will contract a professional conference management company with extensive experience in large-scale international scientific congresses to manage all logistical, financial, and communications aspects of the event. The selected company will work in close partnership with the organizing committee throughout the planning and execution phases.



# 6. CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES AND THEME

## CONFERENCE PROPOSED THEME

### "GEOTECHNICS AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD"

Chile sits at the edge — geologically, economically, and technically — of some of the most urgent challenges in modern geotechnical engineering. This theme captures Chile's unique identity as a place where theory meets extreme reality, where seismic risk, mineral wealth, climate variability, and social need converge.

## CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

- To advance the global state of knowledge in soil mechanics and geotechnical engineering through high-quality scientific exchange.
- To connect geotechnical engineering with the energy transition, emphasizing Chile's central role as a mineral and renewable energy powerhouse.
- To provide the global geotechnical community with direct exposure to world-leading practice in earthquake geotechnics and seismic risk management.
- To celebrate 70 years of lessons learned from the 1960 Valdivia Earthquake — the largest ever recorded.
- To strengthen cooperation across the different continents.
- To promote data science and artificial intelligence as transformative tools in geotechnical practice.
- To support young geotechnical engineers through dedicated programmes, travel grants, and mentoring.

## CONFERENCE THEMES

### THEME 1: GEOTECHNICS FOR THE ENERGY TRANSITION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE

Chile's extraordinary solar, wind, and geothermal resources, combined with its dominant position in copper and lithium production, make it the natural venue to explore how geotechnical engineering underpins the global green energy transition. Topics include foundations for offshore and onshore wind turbines, solar farm ground anchoring, geothermal energy extraction, and the geotechnics of lithium brine extraction.

### THEME 2: EARTHQUAKE GEOTECHNICS AND SEISMIC RISK

Chile is the world's most seismically active country. This theme will honour seven decades of learning since Valdivia 1960 and explore the latest advances in site response, soil liquefaction, slope seismic stability, underground structures under seismic loading, and performance-based earthquake engineering. The conference will include a special symposium: "Valdivia 1960 — 70 Years of Lessons".

### THEME 3: GEOTECHNICS FOR LARGE-SCALE MINING

Deep open-pit mining, large underground excavations, and the design of tailings storage facilities (TSFs) are among the most demanding geotechnical challenges in the world. This theme addresses rock mass characterisation, slope stability, ground support, TSF design and monitoring, and the geotechnics of mine closure and rehabilitation.

### THEME 4: DATA ANALYTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN GEOTECHNICAL ENGINEERING

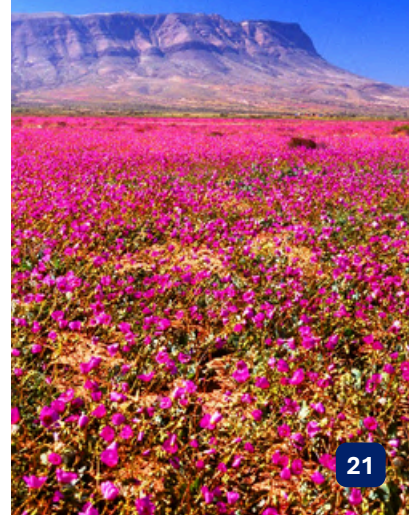
The integration of machine learning, data science, remote sensing, and digital twins is transforming geotechnical practice. This theme provides a global platform to showcase and critically evaluate the most important recent advances in data-driven geotechnics, from site characterization to real-time monitoring and predictive modelling.

### THEME 5: SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT GEOTECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure resilience in the face of climate change, natural hazards, and resource constraints requires innovative geotechnical solutions. This theme covers sustainable ground improvement, natural hazard mitigation, infrastructure adaptation, and the circular economy in geotechnical materials.



ATACAMA DESERT IN BLOOM



# 7. TECHNICAL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE AND FORMAT

## PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

The 22<sup>nd</sup> ICSMGE will follow a rich, multifaceted programme structure designed to maximize scientific exchange, promote dialogue between academia and industry, and showcase the best of Chilean and global geotechnical engineering. The conference will take place over five full days (3–7 December 2029) at the Metropolitan Santiago Convention & Event Center.

## PROGRAMME ELEMENTS

- Terzaghi Lecture — the premier lecture of the ICSMGE, delivered by an expert of the profession.
- 8 Keynote Lectures — world-leading experts presenting the state of the art across the five conference themes.
- Special Heritage Lecture: 'Valdivia 1960 — 70 Years of Geotechnical Lessons' — a unique, once-in-a-generation tribute to one of the most important events in the history of the profession.
- Parallel Sessions — peer-reviewed paper presentations across all five conference themes, organised to allow delegates to follow their areas of interest.
- Technical Committee Meetings, a dedicated space for ISSMGE Technical Committees to meet, report, and plan.
- Workshops: focused, interactive sessions designed to foster in-depth discussion on emerging challenges and specialized topics in geotechnical engineering. Led by international experts and practitioners, these sessions will provide a platform for knowledge exchange, hands-on learning, and collaboration between academia, industry, and early-career professionals.
- Young Engineers Forum — led by the ISSMGE Young Member Presidential Group (YMPG), including a Geotechnical Competition, networking events, and a Career Fair.
- Poster Sessions — interactive poster presentations with authors available for discussion.
- Industry Exhibition — showcasing equipment, services, technology, and innovation from the global geotechnical industry.
- iYGEC (International Young Geotechnical Engineers Conference) — to be held at a university campus in Santiago immediately before the main conference (November 30 – December 2, 2029).

## PROPOSED PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

**Plenary sessions** are scheduled without overlap with other technical sessions, allowing all conference delegates to attend and participate in the same presentation or discussion. Technical themes will be organized into **parallel sessions**, enabling delegates to choose the streams and topics that best match their professional interests and areas of expertise.

	DAY 1 Sunday 2-Dec	DAY 2 Monday 3-Dec	DAY 3 Tuesday 4-Dec	DAY 4 Wednesday 5-Dec	DAY 5 Thursday 6-Dec	Friday 7-Dec
8:00	Council Meeting and Workshops	Registration				Technical Visits
9:00		Opening Ceremony	Plenary Session 4: TC Honour Lectures	Plenary Session 7: CAPG	Parallel Session 7	
10:00		Plenary Session 1: 70 Years Since the 1960 Valdivia Earthquake: The World's Largest in History				
11:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break	
12:00		Plenary Session 2: State of the Art Lecture	Plenary Session 5: Terzaghi Oration	Plenary Session 8: Bright Spark Lectures	Plenary Session 9: TC Honour Lectures	
13:00		Plenary Session 3: TC Honour Lectures	Plenary Session 6: State of the Art Lecture			
14:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	
15:00		Parallel Session 1	Parallel Session 3	Parallel Session 5	Plenary Session 10: Invited Lectures	
16:00		Coffee break	Coffee break	Coffee break		
17:00		Parallel Session 2	Parallel Session 4 / FedIGS	Parallel Session 6	Closing Ceremony and Awards	
18:00	Registration					
19:00						
20:00		Young Members Meeting		Gala Dinner	Cultural Evening Bafochi Folkloric Asamble	
21:00						



## 8. TECHNICAL TOURS

One of the most distinctive features of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICSMGE will be its technical tour programme. Santiago and the surrounding areas offer access to some of the most remarkable geotechnical and infrastructure projects in the world, all within a short distance of the conference venue (2 hours or less by car). Delegates will have the opportunity to experience first-hand the engineering feats that define geotechnics.

### TOUR 1: SANTIAGO METRO — NEW LINES UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Santiago's Metro system is the most modern and extensive in South America. At the time of the conference, three new metro lines will be under active construction in Santiago (Lines 7, 8, and 9), involving complex tunnelling through heterogeneous urban ground conditions, deep excavations, and ground improvement works in a seismically active environment. This tour will provide delegates with direct access to active tunnel construction sites, shoring systems, and station excavations. The opportunity to observe simultaneous construction of multiple metro lines in a major seismic zone is unique in the world.

### TOUR 2: EL TENIENTE UNDERGROUND MINE: ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST UNDERGROUND MINES

Located approximately 80 km south-east of Santiago in the Andes Mountains, El Teniente is the largest underground copper mine in the world, with over 4,500 km of tunnels and a production history spanning more than a century. This tour will take delegates underground to observe massive mining operations, ground support systems in fractured rock under high stress, and the geotechnical monitoring programmes that manage the stability of one of the world's most challenging subterranean environments. El Teniente is owned and operated by Codelco, the world's largest copper producer.

### TOUR 3: TAILINGS STORAGE FACILITIES NEAR SANTIAGO

Chile operates some of the world's largest tailings storage facilities, developed as part of its globally significant mining industry. The technical programme will include multiple TSF site visits, designed to accommodate a large number of delegates and maximize participation. These visits will cover facilities located within approximately 1 to 2 hours from Santiago, as well as selected large-scale operations further afield, providing delegates with an in-depth technical review of tailings dam design, construction, monitoring, and risk management. Topics will include geotechnical characterization of tailings, stability analyses under seismic loading, piezometric monitoring, and closure planning.

Candidate sites include TSF Ovejería in the Maipo Valley, high-altitude facilities associated with major operations such as Andina and Los Bronces, as well as Las Tórtolas TSF, one of the largest and most emblematic tailings storage facilities in Chile. For extended technical tours, large-scale facilities such as El Mauro and El Soldado, recognized for their scale and international relevance, will also be considered.

These visits will offer valuable insights into state-of-the-art practices in one of the world's leading mining countries.

### TOUR 4: SANTIAGO URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE AND GEOTECHNICAL HIGHLIGHTS

For delegates interested in urban geotechnics, this tour explores Santiago's urban infrastructure challenges: deep excavations in the city centre, foundation systems for high-rise buildings on complex alluvial and volcanic deposits, and seismic retrofit of existing structures. This tour will provide a comprehensive view of urban geotechnical practice in a seismically active city.

### TOUR 5: PORT OF SAN ANTONIO AND COASTAL INFRASTRUCTURE

San Antonio, located approximately 100 km west of Santiago on the Pacific coast, is Chile's largest cargo port and a major infrastructure facility. This tour will explore port geotechnics, quay wall design, soft ground improvement in a coastal environment, and tsunami risk management — critical topics given Chile's Pacific coastal exposure.



# 9. CONFERENCE VENUE: METROPOLITAN SANTIAGO

The 22<sup>nd</sup> ICSMGE will be held at the Metropolitan Santiago Convention & Event Center, located in the prestigious Vitacura district of Santiago — one of the city's most modern, safe, and well-connected neighborhoods. Previously known as Casa Piedra, the venue has recently been comprehensively renovated and rebranded as Metropolitan Santiago, operated by GL events, a globally recognized leader in event infrastructure management with experience across more than 20 countries.

## FACILITIES AND CAPACITY

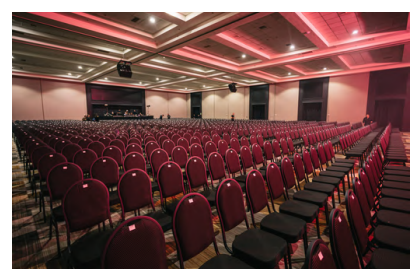
<b>Maximum Delegate Capacity</b>	Over 4,800 delegates
<b>Total Indoor Event Space</b>	Over 7,500 m <sup>2</sup> of flexible indoor event space
<b>Outdoor Landscaped Park</b>	16,500 m <sup>2</sup> of beautifully landscaped outdoor gardens
<b>Exhibition Foyers</b>	Spacious foyers ideal for exhibitions, posters, and networking
<b>Auditorium</b>	Large-capacity auditorium for plenary sessions and keynotes
<b>Break-out Rooms</b>	Multiple parallel session rooms of varying capacities
<b>Catering</b>	On-site catering and banqueting facilities for all event formats
<b>Technology</b>	State-of-the-art AV, simultaneous interpretation booths, high-speed Wi-Fi

The Metropolitan Santiago Center is purpose-built for large-scale international congresses, offering the full suite of facilities required for an event of the ICSMGE's scale: plenary theatres, parallel session rooms, dedicated exhibition halls, poster session areas, committee meeting rooms, a secretariat office, and extensive outdoor spaces for social and networking events.

## LOCATION AND SURROUNDINGS

The venue is located in Vitacura, Santiago's most prestigious and modern district, close to the Borde Río Gastronomic District — Santiago's finest dining zone, situated along the banks of the Mapocho River. This area offers an exceptional concentration of top-tier restaurants representing the best of Chilean and international cuisine, providing delegates with memorable dining experiences just minutes' walk from the conference venue. The Borde Río Gastronomic District is consistently ranked as the leading dining and entertainment area in Santiago, featuring an extraordinary variety of culinary options in a beautiful riverside setting.

Vitacura is also home to numerous luxury and business hotels, boutique shops, art galleries, and parks, making it one of the safest and most pleasant areas in Santiago for international visitors. The venue is easily accessible from the city centre and from all major hotels by taxi, rideshare, or public transport.



# 10. ACCOMMODATION IN SANTIAGO

## HOTEL INFRASTRUCTURE

Santiago boasts a mature and extensive hotel infrastructure, with an ample supply of 4-star and 5-star properties operated by major international chains to comfortably accommodate 4,000–5,000 international delegates without any difficulty. The city has experienced substantial growth in its hotel capacity over the past decade, with numerous new properties opening in Vitacura, Las Condes, Providencia, and the city centre.

Major international hotel brands present in Santiago include Hilton, Marriott, Intercontinental, NH Hotels, Ibis, Radisson, DoubleTree by Hilton, Holiday Inn, W Hotels, Sheraton, and Hyatt, among many others. Most of these properties are located within 10–20 minutes of the Metropolitan Santiago convention venue.

## HOTEL OVERVIEW BY CATEGORY

Category	Approx. Rooms Available	Distance to Venue	Avg. Rate (USD/night)
★★★★★ (5-star)	2,700+	5–15 min	USD 250–400
★★★★ (4-star)	5,500+	10–25 min	USD 130–220
★★★ (3-star)	2,440+	15–30 min	USD 70–120
Budget / Hostel	1,500+	20–40 min	USD 25–65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>~12,140+</b>		

The conference organizing committee will negotiate preferential room blocks and conference rates with a selection of recommended hotels at different price levels, ensuring that delegates from all regions and budgets can find suitable accommodation conveniently close to the venue. Shuttle services will be organized between the main hotel areas and the convention center



# 11. REGISTRATION FEES AND STUDENT SUPPORT PROGRAMME

## PROPOSED REGISTRATION FEES

The organising committee is committed to keeping registration fees competitive while delivering a high-quality conference programme. The proposed registration fee structure is as follows:

CATEGORY	EARLY BIRD	REGULAR	LATE
<b>ISSMGE Member</b>	USD 750 - 850 EUR 640 - 730	USD 900 - 1,000 EUR 765 - 850	USD 1,200 - 1,350 EUR 1,030 - 1,150
<b>Non-Member Professional</b>	USD 900 - 1,000 EUR 765 - 850	USD 1,150 - 1,250 EUR 980 - 1,065	USD 1,350 - 1,450 EUR 1,150 - 1,235
<b>Student</b>	USD 400 - 450 EUR 340 - 385	USD 500 - 600 EUR 430 - 515	USD 650 - 750 EUR 555 - 640

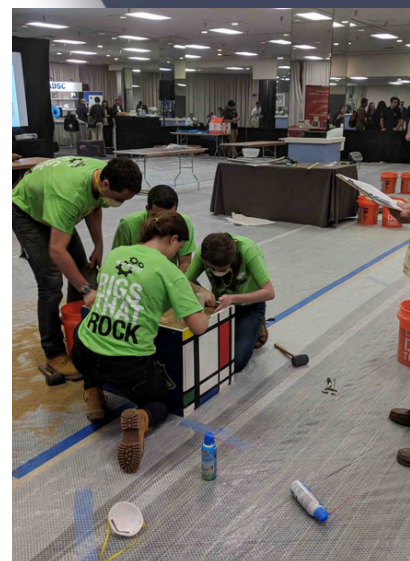
Registration fees will include access to all technical sessions, opening and closing ceremonies, welcome reception, daily lunches and refreshment breaks, conference materials, and access to the conference proceedings. The gala dinner and technical tours will be separately ticketed.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS AND SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The Organising Committee is committed to promoting the active participation of postgraduate students in the conference and to supporting the development of the next generation of geotechnical engineers. In this context, the Committee plans to provide at least 50 scholarships for postgraduate students who contribute to the technical programme through the presentation of papers.

These scholarships are intended to facilitate participation from a diverse international cohort of students, with particular consideration given to candidates from developing and emerging economies. The initiative aims to strengthen global knowledge exchange, encourage high-quality research contributions, and foster long-term engagement within the geotechnical community.

Selection will be based on academic merit, the quality and relevance of the submitted paper, and the applicant's overall contribution to the conference. Further details regarding eligibility criteria, application procedures, and timelines will be included in the full conference documentation.



# 12. SOCIAL PROGRAMME AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

## WELCOME RECEPTION

The Welcome Reception will be held on the evening of Monday, 3 December 2029, at the Metropolitan Santiago Convention Centre itself, in the spectacular outdoor landscaped park area. This unique venue — a beautifully lit garden setting at the foot of the Andes — will give delegates their first taste of Chilean warmth and hospitality. Chilean wines, traditional foods, and live music will set the tone for the week ahead.

## GALA DINNER

The Gala Dinner, held on Wednesday, 5 December 2029, will take place at one of Santiago's most prestigious venues in the Borde Río gastronomic district. This will be the conference's premier social event, celebrating the achievements of the global geotechnical community and the successful conclusion of the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICSMGE. The dinner will feature an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding contributions to the profession.

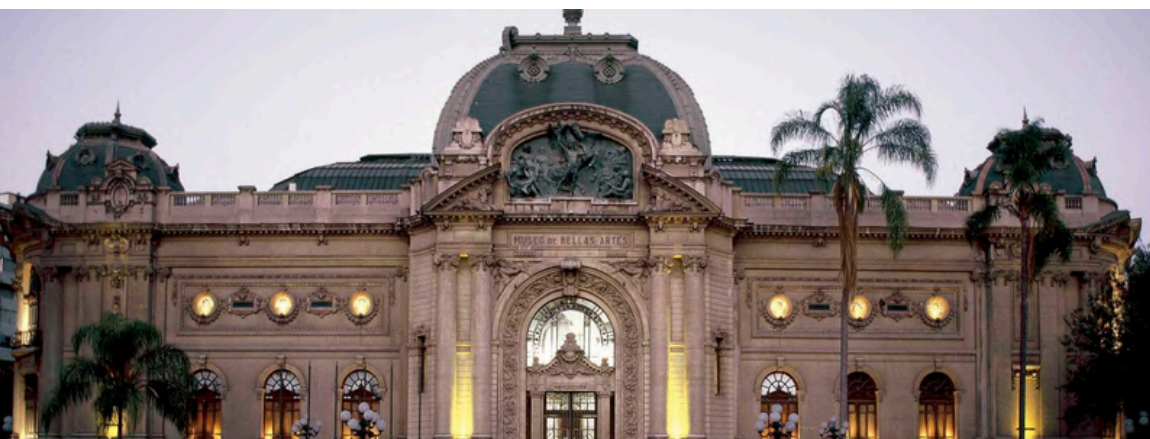
## CULTURAL EVENING, HERITAGE DINNER AND CHILEAN FOLKLORE PERFORMANCE

On Thursday, 6 December 2029, delegates will be invited to a cultural event at a prestigious heritage venue in Santiago, celebrating Chilean culture through music, dance, art, and gastronomy. The evening will feature a special performance by BAFOCHI (Ballet Folclórico de Chile), one of the country's most renowned and long-standing folkloric ensembles. This vibrant show will present a journey through Chile's cultural heritage, showcasing traditional music, dance — including cueca — and costumes from different regions of the country.

Chilean folk traditions will be complemented by a heritage dinner highlighting the best of contemporary Chilean cuisine, widely regarded as one of the most exciting emerging food cultures in Latin America. Together, the performance and dining experience will offer delegates an authentic and memorable immersion into Chilean identity, combining artistic excellence with cultural storytelling.

## ACCOMPANYING PERSONS PROGRAMME

A rich programme will be offered for accompanying persons, including guided city tours, visits to artisan markets, wine tasting at nearby wineries, cooking classes featuring Chilean cuisine, and excursions to the Andes and Pacific Coast. All activities will be coordinated by a professional social programme committee and offered at competitive rates.



# 13. PRE- AND POST- CONFERENCE TOURS

Chile is a country of extraordinary geographic and cultural diversity. From the driest desert on Earth to the world's most spectacular sub-Antarctic wilderness, from world-class vineyards to the remote mysteries of Easter Island, Chile offers delegate experiences that are truly unforgettable. The following pre- and post-conference tours will be organized:

## TOUR A: CASABLANCA AND SANTA CRUZ WINE VALLEYS

Chile is one of the world's great wine-producing nations, and two of its finest wine regions are conveniently located near Santiago. The **Casablanca Valley**, famous for its elegant Sauvignon Blancs and Chardonnays, lies just 60 km from the city. The **Colchagua Valley**, centered on the historic town of Santa Cruz, is renowned for its powerful Cabernet Sauvignons and is consistently rated among the top wine regions in the world. This tour combines visits to both valleys, with winery tours, premium tastings, and a gourmet lunch in the Colchagua Valley. An optional visit to the Museo de Colchagua in Santa Cruz is included.



## TOUR B: VIÑA DEL MAR AND THE PACIFIC COAST

Chile's beautiful Pacific coastline is just 90 minutes from Santiago. This tour visits **Viña del Mar** — known as the 'Garden City' of Chile — one of the most elegant seaside resorts in South America, famous for its beautiful beaches, casino, botanical gardens, and vibrant cultural life. The nearby city of Valparaíso, a UNESCO World Heritage site, offers colorful hillside neighborhoods, bohemian street art, and historic funicular railways. This tour provides a perfect half-day or full-day escape from the city.



## TOUR C: TORRES DEL PAINE — PATAGONIA

**Torres del Paine National Park** in Chilean Patagonia is one of the most spectacular wilderness destinations on Earth. This two-to-three day extension tour takes delegates to the far south of Chile, where granite towers soar above turquoise glacial lakes, condors circle overhead, and the wind howls with elemental force. **Torres del Paine** is consistently ranked among the world's top five national parks and offers some of the finest trekking, kayaking, and wildlife observation on the planet. Delegates will never forget the experience.



## TOUR D: SAN PEDRO DE ATACAMA — THE ATACAMA DESERT

The Atacama Desert in northern Chile is the driest desert on Earth — and also the world's most productive copper and lithium mining region. **San Pedro de Atacama** is a charming oasis town nestled among salt flats, volcanic landscapes, geysers, and spectacular rock formations. This extension tour (two to three days) combines extraordinary natural landscapes with visits to lithium production facilities in the Salar de Atacama, offering a unique perspective on the geotechnics and engineering challenges of the world's most important lithium resources. The Atacama also offers world-class stargazing, with some of the clearest skies on the planet.



## TOUR E: EASTER ISLAND (RAPA NUI)

For delegates wishing to combine the ICSMGE with a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience, Easter Island (Rapa Nui) — located 3,700 km west of the Chilean mainland — is **one of the most remote and mysterious inhabited places on Earth**. Famous for its iconic moai statues, Rapa Nui offers extraordinary cultural heritage, breathtaking Pacific scenery, and a profound connection to Polynesian civilization. Direct flights operate from Santiago in approximately 4 and a half hours.



## TOUR F: ELQUI VALLEY — ASTRONOMY AND DARK SKIES EXPERIENCE

The Elqui Valley, located in northern Chile, is one of the world's premier destinations for astronomical observation, renowned for its exceptionally clear skies, low humidity, and minimal light pollution. This two-day extension tour will offer delegates a unique opportunity to explore the intersection of science, nature, and culture. The program includes visits to internationally recognized observatories, guided stargazing sessions with professional equipment, and lectures on astronomy and astrophysics. Set within a dramatic landscape of mountains, vineyards, and traditional villages, the Elqui Valley provides an unforgettable experience under some of the darkest skies on Earth.



## TOUR G: ANTARCTICA EXPEDITION EXPERIENCE

For delegates seeking an extraordinary and rare adventure, Antarctica offers a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience. Expedition cruises depart from Punta Arenas, in southern Chile, providing access to the Antarctic Peninsula over a journey of approximately 5 to 7 days. These expeditions allow visitors to navigate through the Southern Ocean, witness vast ice formations, glaciers, and unique wildlife including penguins, seals, and whales, and land on selected sites under strict environmental regulations. Chile serves as a key gateway to Antarctica, and this tour offers a remarkable opportunity to experience one of the most remote and pristine environments on the planet.



# 14. SPONSORSHIP AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT

## GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

The Chilean Government, through ProChile (the national export and investment promotion agency) and CORFO (the Chilean Economic Development Agency), has expressed strong interest in supporting the bid and the conference itself. The Ministry of Public Works (MOP) and the Chilean Copper Commission (Cochilco) are also expected to be key institutional supporters, given their central roles in the country's infrastructure and mining sectors.

## INDUSTRY SPONSORSHIP

Chile's mining and infrastructure sectors provide an exceptional sponsorship environment for the ICSMGE. Major companies operating in Chile — including Codelco (the world's largest copper producer), SQM and Albemarle (lithium production), BHP, Anglo American, Antofagasta Minerals, Engie Chile, Enel Chile, and the principal infrastructure concessionaires — are expected to be principal and gold-level sponsors. The organising committee anticipates a total industry sponsorship exceeding USD 400,000.

The Chilean Geotechnical Society currently counts more than 20 corporate sponsors, including companies such as WSP, Arcadis, Geoquest, Soletanche Bachy, Geobrugg, and ConeTec, among others, reflecting strong and sustained industry engagement with the Society.

## ACADEMIC AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Chile's leading universities — the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, the Universidad de Chile, Universidad Técnica Federico Santa María and the Universidad de Los Andes — will provide academic support, hosting facilities for side events, student volunteer programmes, and institutional promotion. Chile's Association of Engineers (ING) and the Chilean Chamber of Construction (CChC) will also provide organisational and promotional support.

## CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY CURRENT SPONSORS

The Chilean Geotechnical Society enters this bid with an already well-established network of corporate sponsors, reflecting its strong standing within the Chilean geotechnical and construction industry.

As of the date of this proposal, its active sponsors include a distinguished group of international companies such as Arcadis, ConeTec, Fugro, Geobrugg, Geokon, Geoquest, Ischebeck Chile, Netafim Chile, Soletanche Bachy Chile, Terratest, and WSP Chile.

This network is complemented by leading Chilean firms, including CMGI, EmaGeo, Ferrara, Gensis, Geocom, Geotecnia Ambiental, Geotecnia Patagonia, IDIEM, Oitec, One Geotecnia, and Shimin.

This broad and diverse base of corporate support — spanning global industry leaders alongside highly specialized national companies — demonstrates the confidence that the industry places in the Chilean Geotechnical Society as an institution and provides a strong foundation upon which to build the sponsorship programme for the 22<sup>nd</sup> ICSMGE.



GOBIERNO DE  
**CHILE**



# 15. GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT CHILE



## OFFICIAL NAME

Republic of Chile

## CAPITAL CITY

Santiago



## POPULATION

Approx. 20 million (2024)

## AREA

756,102 km<sup>2</sup> (continental territory)



## LANGUAGE

Spanish (English widely spoken in business and tourism)

## CURRENCY

Chilean Peso (CLP); USD and major credit cards widely accepted

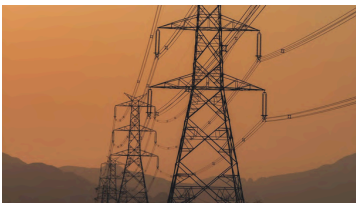


## TIME ZONE

GMT -4 (summer, October–March) / GMT -3 (winter)

## CLIMATE IN DECEMBER

Warm Mediterranean summer; average temperature 25–35°C in Santiago



## ELECTRICITY

220V, 50Hz (European-style round pin plugs)

## SAFETY

Santiago is one of the safest capitals in Latin America; low crime rates in tourist and business areas



## INTERNET

4G and 5G widely available; fast Wi-Fi standard in hotels and venues. Chile has one of the fastest internet speeds in the world and consistently ranks among the top 5 countries globally in fixed broadband performance.



## HEALTHCARE

Excellent private healthcare available in Santiago; international-standard hospitals nearby

## GDP PER CAPITA

~USD 17,000 (2024); upper-middle income economy; OECD member

## COST OF LIVING (INDICATIVE PRICES IN DECEMBER 2029)

Espresso / Coffee	USD 2–3
Restaurant meal (mid-range)	USD 15–30
Taxi / Uber (airport to Vitacura)	USD 20–30
Metro ticket (single)	USD 0.80–1.20
Bottle of an excellent Chilean wine	USD 10–20
Beer	USD 3–5

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

Santiago is consistently ranked among the safest major cities in Latin America. The Vitacura and Las Condes districts, where the conference venue and most recommended hotels are located, are particularly safe and well-maintained. Chile has a strong rule of law, independent judiciary, and professional security forces. International delegates can move around Santiago freely and safely.

## HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

No specific vaccinations are required to enter Chile. The country has an excellent public health system, and Santiago has multiple international-quality private hospitals and clinics. The conference organizing committee will maintain close contact with Chile's Ministry of Health and will provide all relevant health guidance to delegates well in advance of the conference.



# CHILEAN GEOTECHNICAL SOCIETY SPONSORS



## CHILE · SANTIAGO · 2029

BID proposal to ICSMGE - Santiago 2029

### MORE INFORMATION

For further information about the bid, please contact:

**Dr. Christian Ledezma**

Conference Chair, 22nd ICSMGE Santiago 2029

Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE)

Email: [icsmge2029@sochige.cl]

Website: [www.sochige.cl]



**GEOTECHNICS AT THE EDGE OF THE WORLD**



# APPENDIX A

Letters of support from other Latin American societies



## Asociación Costarricense de Geotecnia

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February 19, 2026

ACG-03-2026

**Dr. Andrew McNamara**

**Secretary General**

**International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)**

*Subject: Support for SOCHIGE's Candidacy to Host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (22nd ICSMGE, 2030)*

Dear Dr. McNamara,

On behalf of the Asociación Costarricense de Geotecnia (ACG), I am pleased to formally express our full support for the candidacy of the Sociedad Chilena de Geotecnia (SOCHIGE) to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (22nd ICSMGE) in 2030.

SOCHIGE has consistently demonstrated strong technical leadership and institutional maturity within the geotechnical community of Latin America. Its sustained contribution to professional development, academic collaboration, and knowledge dissemination has positioned it as a key reference in the region and an active contributor to ISSMGE initiatives and activities.

The successful organization of PANAMGEO 2024 — the XVII Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering — held from November 12 to 16, 2024, in La Serena, Chile, clearly evidenced SOCHIGE's organizational capacity and technical rigor. The event brought together a broad international audience, maintained high scientific standards, and provided an effective platform for regional and global collaboration. Its execution demonstrated the logistical capability, institutional coordination, and professional commitment required to host an event of global scale.

From our perspective as a member society in the region, Chile offers a robust academic, professional, and engineering environment, as well as extensive experience in geotechnical

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Teléfono 2103-2413  
e-mail: [acgeo@cfia.or.cr](mailto:acgeo@cfia.or.cr)

Apartado 2346-1000 San José – Costa Rica  
sitio web: [www.civiles.org/acg/index.htm](http://www.civiles.org/acg/index.htm)  
[www.geotecniacr.com](http://www.geotecniacr.com)



## Asociación Costarricense de Geotecnia

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challenges related to seismicity, infrastructure development, mining, and slope stability. These conditions contribute to a technically meaningful and globally relevant setting for the ICSMGE.

For these reasons, the Asociación Costarricense de Geotecnia strongly endorses SOCHIGE's proposal and expresses its confidence in their ability to successfully organize the 22nd ICSMGE in 2030, ensuring both technical excellence and broad international participation.

We appreciate your consideration of this support and remain available to collaborate with ISSMGE and SOCHIGE in initiatives that strengthen the geotechnical community worldwide.

Sincerely,

Chris Muñoz Cardoza

**President**

**Asociación Costarricense de Geotecnia (ACG)**

**[acgeo@cfia.or.cr](mailto:acgeo@cfia.or.cr)**



**SOCIEDAD VENEZOLANA DE GEOTECNIA (SVDG)**  
COLEGIO DE INGENIEROS DE VENEZUELA, AVENIDA PRINCIPAL PARQUE LOS CAOBS,  
CARACAS - VENEZUELA.  
REGISTRO DE INFORMACION FISCAL: RIF N° J-00199910-8  
Teléfonos: 058 (212) 571 38 24 y 572 07 34.  
Correo Electrónico: [civ.svdg@gmail.com](mailto:civ.svdg@gmail.com)  
[www.svdg.site](http://www.svdg.site)

Mr. Rafael Iglesias  
President  
Sociedad Chilena de Geotecnia (SOCHIGE)

Caracas, February 20<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Subject:** Letter to Support SOCHIGE's Candidacy to Host the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering – 2030

Dear Mr. Iglesias,

On behalf of the Venezuelan Geotechnical Society (SVDG), and acting as its President, I am pleased to express you our full support for the candidacy of the Chilean Society of Geotechnical Engineering (SOCHIGE) to host the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering – 2030 (ICSMGE-2030).

We at SVDG recognize SOCHIGE's strong academic and professional trajectory, as well as its continuous contributions to the advancement of geotechnical engineering in the region. In the meantime, SVDG also acknowledges the active SOCHIGE involvement within the international geotechnical community. We at SVDG are confident that SOCHIGE possesses the technical expertise, institutional strength, and organizational capacity required to successfully host an event of this global significance.

Moreover, we at SVDG are convinced that holding this conference in South America represents a unique opportunity to further strengthen the international visibility and leadership of geotechnical engineering in our region, including closer collaboration and cooperation with the other professional societies in America and worldwide.

For all those reasons expressed above, the Venezuelan Geotechnical Society fully endorses SOCHIGE's candidacy for the ICSMGE-2030 and wishes you the best in conducting this very important event.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Heriberto Echezuría', is centered below the text.

Ing. Heriberto Echezuría  
President

SVDG-DOC-004



**SOCIEDAD ARGENTINA DE  
INGENIERÍA GEOTÉCNICA**  
ASOCIACIÓN CIVIL

**Buenos Aires, 19<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**Mr.  
Rafael Iglesias  
President  
Sociedad Chilena de Geotecnia (SOCHIGE)**

*Subject: Letter of endorsement for the Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) to host the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2030*

Dear Mr. Rafael Iglesias,

As President of the Argentine Geotechnical Engineering Society (SAIG), a civil association, I am pleased to express our support for the Chilean Geotechnical Society's (SOCHIGE) candidacy to organise the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2030.

SOCHIGE has established a distinguished record in fostering the development and dissemination of geotechnical engineering knowledge throughout South America. The Society has consistently demonstrated both technical excellence and organizational capability through the successful delivery of major scientific events, most notably the XVII Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (XVII PCSMGE), held in November 2024. This conference brought together leading specialists from across the continent and beyond, strengthening regional integration and international collaboration within our discipline.

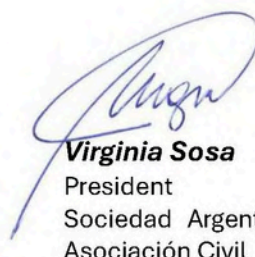
In addition, SOCHIGE maintains an active presence within the global community, contributing to scientific and professional advancement through publications, seminars, and collaborative projects.

We believe that SOCHIGE's experience in organising relevant continental conferences, combined with its institutional commitment and professional network, makes it the ideal entity to lead a global event.

Hosting the 22<sup>nd</sup> International Conference in South America would be a valuable opportunity to raise the international profile of South America in the field of geotechnical engineering and foster cooperation among professional societies worldwide.

Therefore, SAIG fully supports SOCHIGE's candidacy and wishes it success in this important project.

Yours faithfully,



**Virginia Sosa**  
President  
Sociedad Argentina de Ingeniería Geotécnica-SAIG,  
Asociación Civil

Sociedad Argentina de Ingeniería Geotécnica – SAIG, Asociación Civil  
Adolfo Alsina 1441. Piso 5°. Dto. 503  
C1088AAK - C.A.B.A.  
Argentina



# Asociación Peruana de INGENIERÍA GEOTÉCNICA

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Letter N° 00283-2025-2027/APGEO

Miraflores, 13 February 2026

Mr.

**Rafael Iglesias**

President

**Sociedad Chilena de Geotecnia (SOCHIGE)**

Subject: Letter of Support for SOCHIGE's Candidacy to Host the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering - 2030

Dear Mr. Iglesias,

On behalf of the Peruvian Association of Geotechnical Engineering (APGEO), and in my capacity as its President, I am pleased to express our full support for the candidacy of the Chilean Society of Geotechnical Engineering (SOCHIGE) to host the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering - 2030.

APGEO highly values SOCHIGE's strong academic and professional trajectory, as well as its continuous contributions to the advancement of geotechnical engineering in the region and its active involvement within the international geotechnical community. We are confident that SOCHIGE possesses the technical expertise, institutional strength, and organizational capacity required to successfully host an event of this global significance.

We firmly believe that holding this conference in South America would represent a unique opportunity to further strengthen the international visibility and leadership of geotechnical engineering in our region, while also fostering closer collaboration among sister professional societies worldwide.

For these reasons, the Peruvian Association of Geotechnical Engineering fully endorses SOCHIGE's candidacy and wishes you every success in this important endeavor.

Yours sincerely,

Luis Raygada Rojas

President

Peruvian Association of

Geotechnical Engineering

APGEO



**The National Technical Committee for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering of Cuba**




February 23, 2026

Rafael Iglesias Alvarez de Araya

Presidente

Sociedad Chilena de Geotecnia

Dear Colleague, The National Technical Committee for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering of Cuba wishes to express its support for the Chilean Geotechnical Society in its aspirations to host the GeoEng 2030 Conference. The Chilean Geotechnical Society successfully held the Pan-American Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2024, and is therefore considered to have sufficient organizational capacity to host the GeoEng 2030 Conference. We wish them success in their endeavors and reaffirm the support of the National Technical Committee for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering of Cuba.

  
Firmado digitalmente por  
Gilberto Julio  
Quevedo  
Sotolongo (FIRMA)  
Fecha: 2026.02.23  
13:23:20-0500'

Dr. Sc. Gilberto Quevedo Sotolongo

President of the National Technical

Committee for Soil Mechanics and

Geotechnical Engineering of Cuba

Sucre, 3 of March 2026

Mr. Rafael Iglesias

**President of the Chilean Geotechnical Society,**

**Subject:** Letter of endorsement for the Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2030

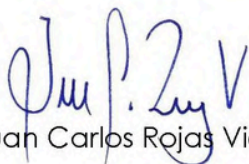
On behalf of the Bolivian Association of Geotechnical Engineering ("Asociación Boliviana de Ingeniería Geotécnica"), it is a great honor to express our enthusiastic support for the Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCHIGE) as candidate to organize the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE).

Chile's geotechnical engineering community has consistently demonstrated excellence through groundbreaking research, outstanding academic programs, and significant contributions to major infrastructure projects across Latin America and the world. The Chilean Geotechnical Society is recognized for its commitment to advancing the science and practice of soil mechanics, fostering collaboration, and promoting technical innovation. The country's vibrant community of professionals and researchers is well-prepared to deliver a conference of the highest international standards.

We are confident that Santiago, with its rich cultural heritage, modern facilities, and welcoming atmosphere, will provide an ideal setting for the ICSMGE. The leadership and organizational experience of SOCHIGE ensure that participants will benefit from a dynamic scientific program and valuable networking opportunities.

The Asociación Boliviana de Ingeniería Geotécnica fully endorses the candidacy of the Chilean Geotechnical Society (Sochige) and looks forward to a successful and memorable 22nd ICSMGE in Chile.

Sincerely,



Juan Carlos Rojas Vidovic

On behalf of the Bolivian Association of Geotechnical Engineering  
("Asociación Boliviana de Ingeniería Geotécnica")

cc. Archivo.

Bogotá D.C., February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Dear Members of the Executive Committee of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE),

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Colombian Society for Geotechnical Engineering, we are pleased to formally express our strong support for the bid submitted by the Chilean Geotechnical Society to host the 22nd International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE), scheduled for 2030.

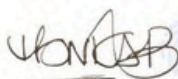
We believe that Chile offers outstanding technical, academic, and institutional conditions to host an event of this magnitude. The recognized trajectory of its geotechnical community, its active participation within ISSMGE, and its proven experience in organizing high-level international conferences and technical events provide solid assurance of the academic and logistical success of the Conference.

Furthermore, we consider that holding this important event in Latin America would significantly strengthen regional cooperation, promote intercontinental knowledge exchange, and contribute to the advancement and visibility of geotechnical engineering in our region, in alignment with the strategic objectives of ISSMGE.

From Colombia, we particularly value the technical and academic leadership demonstrated by the Chilean Geotechnical Society and have full confidence in its ability to deliver an inclusive, innovative, and high-impact conference for the international geotechnical community.

We therefore reiterate our institutional endorsement of this candidacy and look forward to continuing to strengthen cooperation within ISSMGE and among our sister societies.

Yours sincerely,



MONICA F. BEDOYA  
M.  
2026.03.02 11:07:34 -  
05'00'

**Mónica Fernanda Bedoya Martínez**  
**President - Board of Directors**  
**Colombian Society for Geotechnical Engineering**



Asunción, Paraguay  
February 25, 2026

**To:**  
The Executive Committee  
International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)

**Subject:** Letter of Support for the Chilean Bid to Host the 20th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2030)

Dear ISSMGE Members of the Executive Committee,

On behalf of the Paraguayan Geotechnical Society (SPG), I am pleased to formally express our full support for the bid submitted by the Chilean Geotechnical Society to host the 20th International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE 2030) in Santiago, Chile.

We consider this candidacy to be of great significance not only for Chile, but for the entire Latin American geotechnical community. Hosting ICSMGE 2030 in South America would represent a major milestone for our region and an important opportunity to strengthen technical collaboration, academic exchange, and professional integration within ISSMGE.

The Chilean geotechnical community has demonstrated strong technical leadership, organizational capability, and active participation within ISSMGE over many years. We are confident that Santiago provides the infrastructure, expertise, and institutional support necessary to successfully organize an event of this magnitude and international relevance.

Furthermore, we strongly value the regional vision behind this bid, promoting the active participation of leading experts from across Latin America in both scientific and organizational roles. We believe this collaborative approach will enhance the global impact of the conference and reinforce the presence of our region within the international geotechnical community.

The Paraguayan Geotechnical Society stands ready to support this initiative and contribute to its success in any capacity deemed appropriate.

We respectfully encourage the ISSMGE Executive Committee to give favorable consideration to this proposal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Juan Nicolás Zabrodiec', is positioned above the printed name.

Juan Nicolás Zabrodiec  
President  
Paraguayan Geotechnical Society



ASOCIACIÓN GUATEMALTECA DE MECÁNICA  
DE SUELOS E INGENIERÍA GEOTÉCNICA

Guatemala, March 16, 2026

Dear Sir  
**Rafael Rodríguez**  
**Chilean Geotechnical Society - SOCHIGE**

On behalf of the Guatemalan Association of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (AMSIG), we extend our warm greetings and express our full support for SOCHIGE's bid to host the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering in 2030.

We are confident that SOCHIGE's extensive professional experience and technical expertise will ensure a high-quality event that meets and exceeds the expectations of all participants. Additionally, the possibility of holding the conference in a Latin American country brings the event closer to our region and strengthens opportunities for participation among Latin American professionals and organizations such as ours.

We sincerely hope that your candidacy is successful and wish you the very best in this endeavor.

Sincerely,

**Ing. Andres Herrera**  
**President**  
**AMSIG**



# APPENDIX B

INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNMENT SUPPORT LETTERS



UC | Chile

Santiago, Chile, April 12, 2026

DI-2026-312

Dear Sirs,  
International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)  
Present

REF: Institutional Sponsorship Letter for the bid to host ICSMGE 2029

Dear Sir or Madam,

In my capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile, I am pleased to express our full support and institutional sponsorship for Chile-SOCHIGE's bid to host the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE), to be held in 2029.

Our Faculty maintains a longstanding commitment to excellence in research, and this sponsorship is aligned with our mission to lead technological and scientific development, fostering international collaboration to address the global challenges of engineering.

It is important to note that this sponsorship does not entail financial contributions, direct funding, or the provision of materials or infrastructure by the Faculty of Engineering of the Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Thank you for your attention.

Yours sincerely,

Prof. Loreto Valenzuela  
Dean, School of Engineering  
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Santiago, April 22, 2026

International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering  
ISSMGE

REF: Letter of Support for the Bid to Host the 22nd ICSMGE 2029

In my capacity as Dean of the Faculty of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (FCFM) at the University of Chile, I am pleased to express our full support and institutional endorsement of the bid submitted by the Chilean Geotechnical Society (SOCIETY) to host the International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in 2029.

Our Faculty has a longstanding commitment to excellence in research, and this endorsement is aligned with our mission to lead scientific and technological development while fostering international collaboration to address the global challenges of engineering.

It is important to note that this endorsement does not entail any financial contributions, direct funding, or the provision of materials or infrastructure by the FCFM.

Yours sincerely,

Francisco Javier  
Martínez Concha  
6.460.797-9  
06/05/2026 - 19:50  
 UNIVERSIDAD  
DE CHILE  
ESTE DOCUMENTO CONTIENE FIRMA ELECTRÓNICA AVANZADA  
<https://ceropapel.uchile.cl/validacion/verificador>  
CV: krwds8k3rcy7addkccb3mdsga

Professor Francisco Martínez  
Dean



Santiago, March 2026

**Dear Mr. Marc Ballouz,  
President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)**

As SERNATUR National Director, it is my pleasure to officially endorse Chile bid to host **ICSMGE 2030**.


Chile is the perfect country for meeting tourism, throughout the Chilean territory there are diverse destinations that meet the necessary characteristics to hold world-class congresses and conventions. It offers an excellent infrastructure, convention centers and a wide range of hotels, advanced digital technology, and a network of professional services in all cities from the north to the south of the country.

The importance that Chile has given to travel safety as a fundamental support for development has led the country to be recognized as one of the safest in Latin America. Always worrying about this aspect and the importance it implies when choosing a destination and organizing a Congress, providing the best experience to the visitor.

Throughout the Chilean territory there are several destinations that meet the necessary characteristics to hold world-class congresses and conventions. They can find from extensive national parks that allow an authentic connection with nature; to large, organized cities that offer their services. Chile offers 4,000 kilometers of coastline, the incredible Andes Mountains, and an unbeatable range of tourist activities and unique experiences. No other country can match Chile's 100 national parks and nature reserves: the Atacama Desert with its clear skies famous for star gazing, the mystical Rapa Nui culture, the lakes and volcanoes in the south and the breathtaking scenery and glaciers in Patagonia, among other tourist attractions. Also recognized for its fresh authentic cuisine and world-famous wine, perfect accompaniments to any business-leisure experience. In addition, Chile has a great air and land connectivity, having one of the most modern airports in Latin America. For all this and more, Chile has received numerous international awards, to name a few: "Best Business Tourism Destination in Latin America 2017" - Business Destination Magazine; "World's Leading Green Destination 2022" – "World's Leading Adventure Tourism Destination 2021" – awarded by The World Travel Awards.

For all these reasons and many more, we consider Chile to be the perfect host for this International Congress and we would like to offer our utmost effort and support in making the event a great success.

Yours Sincerely,

  
**CRISTÓBAL BENÍTEZ VILAFRANCA**  
SERNATUR National Director





Santiago, March 2026

**Mr. Marc Ballouz,  
President of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)**

**Dear Mr. Ballouz,**

As Undersecretary of Tourism for Chile, it is my pleasure to officially endorse Chile bid to host **ICSMGE 2030**.

Chile is indeed an ideal destination for international congresses and the number of international visitors that we receive continues to break records year-on-year. We offer excellent infrastructure for meetings, first-class convention centers and hotels, advanced digital technology, and a professional service network in all the main cities from north to south. The Chilean economy is stable and balanced and has registered positive sustainable growth over time. According to The Economist Intelligence Unit, Chile offers the best environment in South America for business and is among the top 20 countries worldwide.


Safety in travel has always been an important consideration when organizing large international meetings and choosing host destinations. In this aspect Chile has an impeccable reputation, according to the Safe Cities Index, Santiago is one of the safest cities in Latin America.

As a natural complement to business, Chile offers 4,000 kilometers of coastline, the incredible Andes mountains and an unbeatable array of tourism activities and experiences. No other country can match Chile's 100 national parks and reserves, the Atacama Desert with its clear skies famous for star gazing, the mystical Rapa Nui culture, the lakes and volcanoes in the south and the breathtaking scenery and glaciers in Patagonia. The many awards that Chile has received internationally are a testament to these distinctive qualities. To name a few "Best International Destination 2026" - Forbes Travel Awards; "World's Leading Green Destination 2023" – "World's Leading Adventure Tourism Destination 2025" – World Travel Awards. Chile is also recognized for its fresh authentic cuisine and world-famous wine, perfect accompaniments to any business-leisure experience.

For all these reasons and many more, we consider Chile to be the perfect host for this International Congress and we would like to offer our utmost effort and support in making the event a great success.

Yours Sincerely,



  
**MARÍA PAZ LAGOS VALDIVIESO**  
Undersecretary of Tourism

Santiago, March 2026

**Dr. Marc Ballouz**

President

International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)

As Governor of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago, the highest democratically elected authority of the region, it is my great honor to express my strong support for Santiago's candidacy to host the **International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in 2030**.

The Metropolitan Region of Santiago is proud to be a leading hub for science, innovation, and international collaboration in Latin America. Hosting a congress of the prestige and global relevance of ICSMGE would represent an outstanding opportunity to bring together experts, researchers, and professionals from around the world to exchange knowledge and advance the development of geotechnical engineering.

Santiago has extensive experience hosting major international congresses and large-scale events. The city offers modern infrastructure, excellent air connectivity, a safe and vibrant urban environment, and a dynamic academic and professional community that actively contributes to global scientific dialogue.

From the Government of the Metropolitan Region, we strongly support initiatives that promote international collaboration, knowledge exchange, and sustainable development. In this context, we would be honored to welcome the global geotechnical engineering community to our region.

For these reasons, I am pleased to extend the institutional support of the Metropolitan Regional Government for Santiago's candidacy to host the **2030 International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE)**.

We sincerely hope that Santiago will be selected as the host city, and we look forward to welcoming delegates from around the world to our region.

Yours sincerely,



**Claudio Orrego Larraín**  
Governor of the Metropolitan Region of Santiago

Santiago, March 2026.

**Dr. Marc Ballouz**

President

International Society for Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ISSMGE)

On behalf of the Territorial Development and Tourism Corporation of the Metropolitan Region, and as General Manager of the organization that hosts **Santiago MICE**, the official convention bureau of the city of Santiago, it is my pleasure to express our full support for Santiago's candidacy to host the **International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE) in 2030**.

As a public-private non-profit organization dedicated to strengthening the economic and tourism development of the Metropolitan Region, we strongly support initiatives that position Santiago as a leading destination for international congresses and scientific exchange.

Santiago offers outstanding infrastructure for large-scale events. The city features more than **90 hotels with over 17,000 rooms**, as well as convention and exhibition centers capable of hosting **more than 60,000 delegates and over 100,000 square meters of meeting and exhibition space**.

In addition, Santiago benefits from excellent international and domestic connectivity, modern urban infrastructure, and a reputation as a clean and safe city. Delegates will also enjoy a *diverse range of cultural, gastronomic, and nature-based experiences*, making Santiago an ideal destination for both the congress and memorable pre- and post-event activities.

For these reasons, we are proud to extend our institutional support for Santiago's candidacy to host the **2030 International Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ICSMGE)**.

We sincerely hope that Santiago will be selected as the host city, and we would be honored to welcome the global geotechnical engineering community to our destination.

Yours sincerely,

**Nicole Saez Pañero**  
General Manager

Territorial Development and Tourism Corporation of the Metropolitan Region