
THE IGS

Chapter Chat

Issue 1 | Spring 2020

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International Geosynthetic Society



Foreword

A growing global network

Our chapter network is the lifeblood of the IGS. Passionate professionals in almost 50 countries around the world are engaging with their local chapters. Together, they are helping our members stay at the cutting edge of geosynthetic education, while building networks and skills and shaping the future direction of our industry.

In every continent our chapters are setting new standards in:

- Knowledge sharing
- Innovation
- Engaging young professionals and students with geosynthetics
- Events
- Design

This is an effort – both global and local – that deserves to be celebrated. With that in mind we launch *Chapter Chat*, the first issue of a regular newsletter, in which we hope to showcase the full breadth of chapter activities and initiatives.

We hope *Chapter Chat* will inform, educate and inspire. But we cannot do this without your help. If you would like to feature in a future edition or have a story idea, please email sarah@inquisitivetype.com with your details.

Happy reading!
IGS President
Chungsik Yoo



Algeria

Argentina

Australasia

Austria

Belgium

Brazil

Chile

China

China Taipei

Colombia

Czech Republic

Egypt

Finland

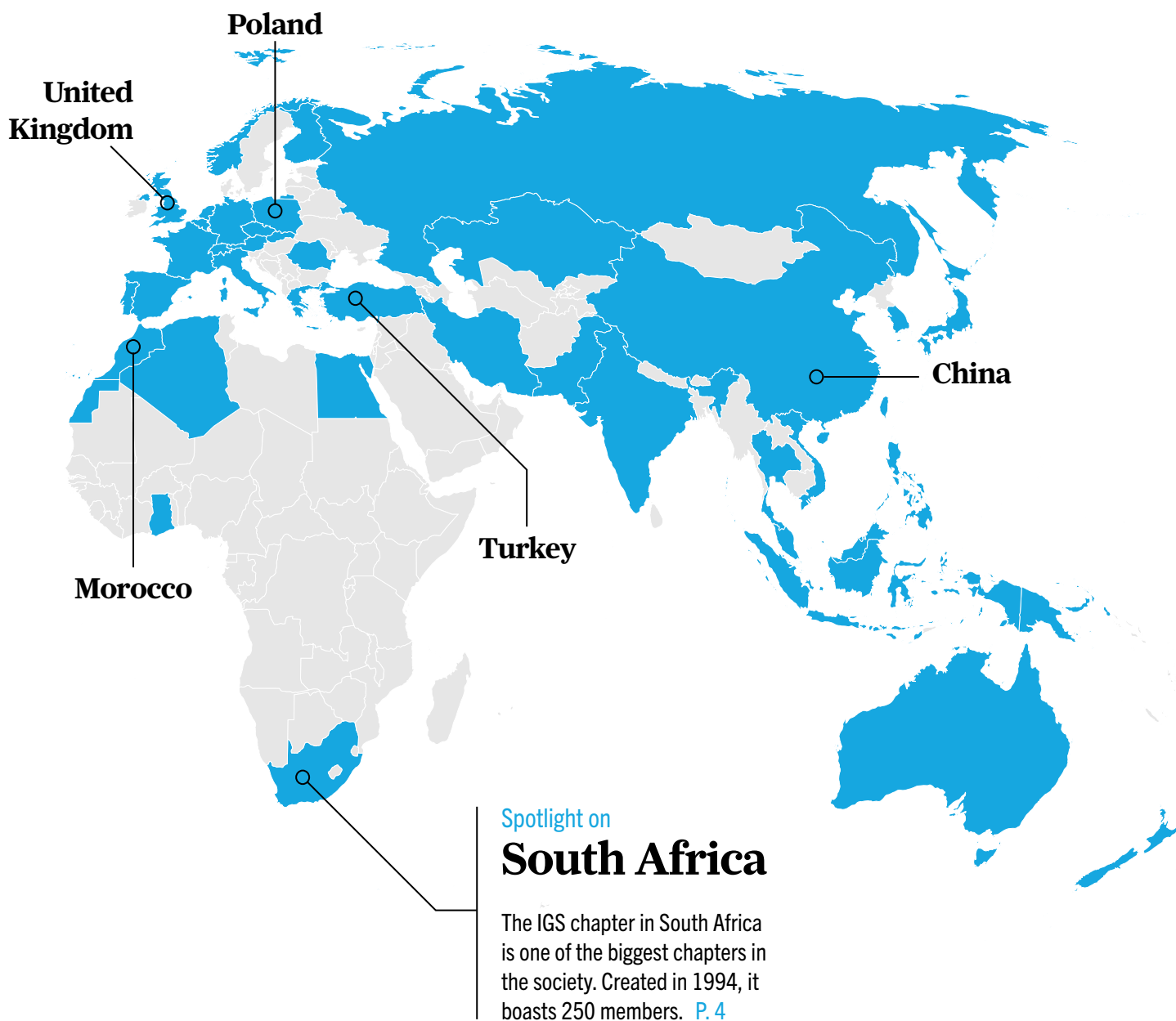
France

Germany

Ghana

Greece

Honduras



India	Korea	Norway	Portugal	Switzerland
Indonesia	Malaysia	Pakistan	Romania	Thailand
Iran	Mexico	Panama	Russia	Turkey
Italy	Morocco	Peru	Slovakia	United Kingdom
Japan	Netherlands	Philippines	South Africa	Vietnam
Kazakhstan	North America	Poland	Spain	

Spotlight on South Africa

The IGS Chapter in South Africa is known as the Geosynthetic Interest Group of South Africa, or GIGSA. It has been on the scene for 25 years and boasts 250 members, 40 of which are students.

Here Chapter President Johann Le Roux gives an insight into the chapter's activities, a flavour of the geosynthetics market in the region, and opportunities for the future.

When was GIGSA formed and what is the make-up of your membership?

"GIGSA was founded in 1994 by a group of suppliers, installers, consultants, a regulator and an academic. It currently has 250 members including 40 students, 10 educators, and 32 benefactor members."

Where are your members from and how do they find you?

"The bulk of our members are either suppliers, installers or consultants, but we have a big drive to get educators and regulatory bodies involved. The events that we host play a large role in the membership base that we maintain."

What are you proud of in the chapter?

"We are very proud of the fact that GIGSA has a very young council which illustrates how healthy our industry is. The average age of our council is around 35. We are also proud to be one of the largest chapters of the IGS."

Tell us about some of the events you've held and what's coming up in 2020.

"We hold at least four events every year which include:

- Webinars
- An Education Week which includes the IGS two-day Educate the Educators (EtE) event
- A one-week training course for postgraduate civil engineering students held in association with the University of Cape Town.

"We also co-host events with voluntary bodies like the South African Institute of Civil Engineers (SAICE) Geotechnical Division and the Institute of Waste Management South Africa (IWMSA).

"We are very proud of the fact that GIGSA has a very young council which illustrates how healthy our industry is."

The Mentors Awards presented at the 1st Geosynthetics Conference for Young Professionals



"In 2020 we will continue with webinars, as well as host an evening lecture in March on feedback from the IGS Technical Committee on Barrier and Hydraulics Applications.

"We also have Education Week in July which will include an Educate the Educator (EtE) event and the 2nd Geosynthetic Conference for Young Professionals 2020."

How would you describe the level of adoption and understanding about geosynthetics in South Africa?

"Due to the regular events held by GIGSA, we believe that South African professionals have a high level of understanding about the geosynthetics industry. We believe that the broader civil engineering industry could operate at a higher level of adoption and we are addressing this through our focus at university level."

Where are the areas of most opportunity?

"There are many opportunities at government infrastructure level. South Africa has had

a difficult time with budget allocations for such projects but there are signs of slow recovery. There will be more opportunities at this level soon."

What does the industry need to do to 'grow the market'?

"A higher level of adoption of geosynthetics within the general civil engineering industry – our focus at university level is addressing this."

Where is the geosynthetics industry concentrated in South Africa?

"Manufacturers of geosynthetics are located mostly in Cape Town and Kwa-Zulu Natal. Suppliers and installers are well spread throughout the major cities of the country."

What type of products have good levels of adoption?

"The most common applications we find are geosynthetics in barrier systems and in mechanically stabilized walls/reinforcement. Adoption in roads and coastal applications is on the rise."

"We believe that the broader civil engineering industry could operate at a higher level of adoption."



A GIGSA Educate the Educators event

For more information about GIGSA, please visit <http://gigsa.org>.

South Africa also has a very active Youth Council. Read our interview with the council at geosyntheticssociety.org.

IMPACT AROUND THE WORLD

Our chapters and their members are informing
the debate and innovating across the globe.
Here are some updates from our global network.



CHINA

The Chinese Chapter will host the 10th Chinese National Conference on Geosynthetics in conjunction with the Southwest Jiaotong University, in association with China Technical Association on Geosynthetics. The theme of 'Use of Geosynthetics in China Western Development & Belt and Road Construction' will be explored at the five-day event in Chengdu.

PERU

Mining and hydraulics are two areas of growth potential for geosynthetics in South America. The chapter has also identified opportunities in pavement optimization to extend lifecycles and reduce cost, and openings in the railway network for forthcoming years. The chapter is currently looking ahead to GEOINGENIERIA 2020, its 5th National Congress event.

CHILE

Relaunched in March, last year, with a new board at the helm, the Chile chapter has had new life breathed into it, including a packed events calendar. In March, the chapter is hosting an Educate the Educators event, with the Chilean Geosynthetics Congress planned for later in the year.

TURKEY

Organized in honour of the country's leading geosynthetics scientist Professor Erol Güler, ISGPEG 2020 will be held in June in Istanbul. The two-day event is themed 'Innovative Solutions for Geotechnical Problems'. For more, visit www.isgpeg2020.org.

POLAND

Flagship IGS event EuroGeo 7 – the 7th European Geosynthetics Congress – meets in the city of Warsaw in September. The Chapter has been busy organizing a packed schedule, set to be delivered in the historic Palace of Culture and Science. See eurogeo7.org for more.

NORTH AMERICA

The chapter's inaugural Geosynthetics Conference 2020: Case Studies event takes place in March in North Charleston, focused on sharing in-depth real world examples of geosynthetics in action. The region is also looking forward to GeoAmericas 2020 in Rio de Janeiro in April.

MOROCCO

Geosynthetics and Sustainable Development will be in the spotlight when the Morocco Chapter, known as the Moroccan Committee of Geosynthetics, hosts a two-day seminar in Tangier, in March.

UNITED KINGDOM

The UK is gearing up for the 6th National Geosynthetics Symposium in May, this year being held at the Etihad Stadium in Manchester. Containment systems and brownfield remediation will be in the spotlight at the event on May 12 and 13. Exhibition and sponsoring packages are available.

BRAZIL

The chapter has been hard at work preparing for GeoAmericas 2020 – the 4th Pan-American Conference on Geosynthetics in April. The huge event is expected to attract more than 1,000 delegates and some 47 exhibitors. There is still time to get your ticket! Visit geoamericas2020.com.

SOUTH AFRICA

The active chapter is set to host an evening lecture in March on feedback from the IGS Technical Committee on Barrier and Hydraulics Applications. Plus, an Education Week in July and the 2nd Geosynthetic Conference for Young Professionals 2020 are among events keeping members busy this year.



Do you have chapter news? Email basic information to sarah@inquisitivetype.com to share your stories.

Want to form a Chapter?

Here's how...

Creating an IGS chapter in your own country has many rewards. It allows you to nurture a new geosynthetics community, shape events tailor-made for your local audience and their interests, focus on the issues important to your region, and contribute to advancing the understanding and development of geosynthetics worldwide.

But what do you need to do to start your own chapter? How much does it cost and what support can the IGS offer?

Here are the basics to get you started.

1. Choose a name.

This might simply be your country name, as in 'the UK Chapter', or perhaps something more specific such as South Africa's 'Geosynthetic Interest Group of South Africa'.

2. Assemble your membership.

There are three options here. Chapters must have at least 20 individual members, 15 individual members and one corporate member, or 10 individual members and two corporate members.

Start by inviting current IGS members in your region to join – the IGS Secretariat will have a list if you need it. If these members join in your formation year, there are no additional fees – in fact the IGS will provide a \$15 credit per member. However, those who join

post-formation will incur a fee so ensure you put forward a convincing case for members in your region to sign up early!

Full fee information for individual and corporate members is available in a guidance pack. Email tpaulo@geosyntheticsociety.org for yours.

Chapter membership offers opportunities to socialise, network and have fun – like members of Australia's ACIGS pictured here!

“Did you know the IGS will give you a financial credit for each Corporate member in your chapter for every year that member remains with the IGS?”





3. Compile chapter by-laws.

This will stipulate your relationship to the IGS, purpose, the geographical scope of your membership, election terms and process and membership fees. Your proposal will then be reviewed by the IGS Officers and, after any amends, they will recommend to the IGS Council the chapter is approved. Formation is then voted for at the next IGS Council Meeting. There is a handy template available in the guidance pack to get you started.

4. Hold a formation meeting and establish officers.

Once your chapter has been confirmed, you must formally adopt your by-laws at your first meeting. It's also the time to appoint your officers. Tenure can be for a limited term on an ad-hoc basis or by election.

5. Pay membership fees.

This is an annual fee made to the IGS based on the number of chapter members. Currently it is \$30 per member per year. The IGS doesn't require charges for student members, but you may wish to levy a small fee to fund bespoke events, for example. You should consider this when setting your chapter membership fees.

6. Submit your documentation to the IGS.

The IGS Officers will review your submission, formally recommend your formation and request Council approval. Confirmation should follow!

Throughout the process, the IGS is on hand to offer advice on making the best of chapter life for all involved.

Good luck!

“Did you know chapters are free to charge their own membership fees as long as the IGS’s annual minimum \$30 per member is met? This flexibility will help you fund local activities of value to your members.”

Spread the word on geosynthetics in your community like IGS Brazil, which co-hosted an event featuring speakers Dr Jorge Zornberg, Dr Natalia Correia, Dr Fernando Portelinho and IGS Vice President Dr Nathalie Touze at the Federal University of São Carlos

For the full guidance package or further enquiries, contact Terry-Ann Paulo at tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org.

Remember to submit the minutes from your first formation meeting to the IGS no later than 60 days before the Council meeting in which you wish your chapter to be approved.

IGS Officers on tour!

The IGS Officers love visiting the society's chapters. These visits are always valuable opportunities to swap ideas and practices, as well as gain feedback and views from members. Here's a round-up of recent appearances.

IGS President Chungsik Yoo recently visited IGS Colombia where he learnt about their efforts to re-launch their chapter, and gave a keynote lecture. Chungsik, pictured top right, learnt about new chapter initiative including the launch of a new training element, its strategies for academic work and commercial success stories.

Members benefited from a lecture by Chungsik, which explored 'Geosynthetics Solutions for Walls and Slopes under Extreme Weather Conditions' at a sponsored event in Bogota organized by IGS Colombia and the Colombia Society of Engineers.

Meanwhile, Vice President Nathalie Touze, pictured bottom right, has been spreading the word on geosynthetics' role in tackling some of the world's toughest socio-economic, environmental and resource challenges in a series of worldwide talking spots.

Her prestigious Giroud Lecture titled 'Healing the world: a geosynthetics solution' debuted at the 11th International Conference on Geosynthetics (ICG) in Seoul,

Korea, in 2018. Since then she has taken her talk to chapter members in IGS Brazil, during the Regeo & Geossintéticos 2019 conference, and IGS Chile, before bringing it to London where she spoke at the UK Chapter's annual meeting in December.

One of the IGS's highest distinctions, the Giroud Lecture recognizes exceptional achievement and influence in the field of geosynthetics. It is delivered every four years during the opening of the ICG.

Don't worry if you missed hearing the talk as Nathalie is set to continue her tour this year. The current schedule is:

- IGS Morocco's seminar on sustainability, Tangier, March 5 (in French)
- IGS Switzerland, Geneva, April 2 (in English)
- IGS Tunisia, October, location and date TBC (in French)

The IGS officers will continue getting involved in chapter life this year. Make sure you share your thoughts, concerns and ideas during these important visits.



Are you a chapter President who would like to organize an officer visit? Email IGS secretariat manager Terry-Ann Paulo tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org with your request.

Growing the IGS impact

It is a proud moment for the IGS when members feel inspired to start their own chapter. Growing our presence around the world is key to developing best practice, advancing the debate on geosynthetics, and nurturing the next generation of global industry professionals. This year we're excited to announce we are working on the formation of several new chapters.

We expect to confirm the creation of IGS Tunisia and IGS Slovenia later this year. And we're excited to welcome the first chapter in the Middle East – IGS Saudi Arabia, which is currently at the member invite stage of their formation process.

The impact and involvement new chapters can have in the growth of the IGS cannot be underestimated. An excellent example is IGS Egypt, which only formed in 2018 and is now to be host nation for the next GeoAfrica convention next year.

GeoAfrica 2021, the 4th African Regional Conference on Geosynthetics, will take place in Cairo between October 11 and 14. The Egypt chapter, known as IGSE, has themed the event 'Geosynthetics in Sustainable Infrastructures and Mega Projects' as a reflection of the huge growth in and future potential for geosynthetics use in these applications in the region. IGS Egypt is a great example of how a chapter can make a global impact in a short period of time, playing an integral role in shaping the debate in their region.

Watch this space for more new chapter news. If you're motivated to join the chapter family, advice on creating your own IGS affiliate can be found on pages 8 + 9.

Educate the Educators Inspiring the next generation – worldwide

Our Educate the Educators (EtE) program continues to go from strength to strength.

EtE aims to improve university teaching about geosynthetics by educating professors; thus enabling them to integrate lessons about geosynthetic technology into their curriculums. The end result is more students becoming aware of geosynthetics before they enter the engineering industry.

Since the first EtE event in North America in the 1990s, EtE has grown globally through the support of local chapters. Any national chapter can run an EtE event; chapters work with the IGS Education Committee to put on an event. In each program the IGS Education Committee helps organize the educational portion including the

speaker sponsorship, while the local chapter manages the running of the event, including attendee selection, fundraising and logistics.

Chapters due to host EtE events this year include Chile, Taiwan, Romania, Colombia, and South Africa. In 2021 Honduras will also host an event.

Could you host an EtE event? For more details, and how to submit a request for an EtE event, visit www.geosyntheticssociety.org/initiatives/educate-the-educators.

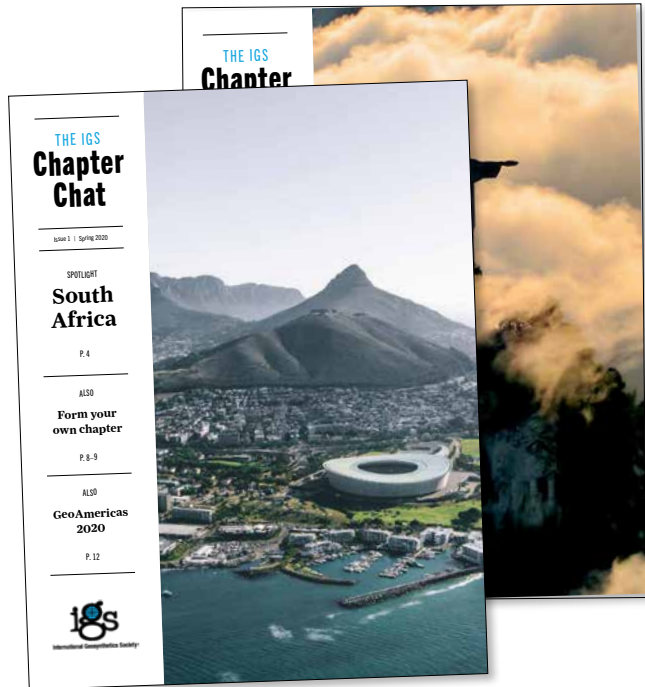
The IGS's Australian chapter, ACIGS, hosted its first EtE in February, last year. Highlights included seven formal lectures from visiting professors, industry speakers, factory tours and demonstrations



THE IGS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Share your news, activities, initiatives and ideas with us for a chance to feature in a future edition of *Chapter Chat*.

Reach a wider audience by emailing brief details in the first instance to sarah@inquisitivetype.com.



GeoAmericas 2020

4th PAN AMERICAN CONFERENCE ON GEOSYNTHETICS
26-29 APRIL 2020 • RIO DE JANEIRO • BRAZIL

GEOSYNTHETICS SOLUTIONS FOR A FAST-CHANGING WORLD

For the full programme, visit geoamericas2020.com.