

---

THE IGS

# Chapter Chat

---

Issue 2 | Summer 2020

---

SPOTLIGHT

## Survey Results

P. 4-5

---

ALSO

## Impact Around the World

P. 6-7

---

ALSO

## Chapter Focus: Australasia

P. 8-11

---



International Geosynthetic Society



## Foreword

# Adapting To A New World

The world has experienced a seismic change. Coronavirus has had a significant impact on both our colleagues and our industry. The IGS regional conferences have been postponed, the way we work has altered, and many infrastructure and engineering projects have been delayed. We are living in uncertain times.

But the geosynthetics community is strong and ready and willing to adapt. I have every faith we will find new ways to innovate and thrive in the months and years ahead. I know we will meet this challenge together.

In this edition of Chapter Chat we shine a spotlight on our chapters and their members' resilience in responding to new challenges. We also share the results of our annual Chapter Survey Report. Thank you to those 61% of chapters who responded and contributed. The survey is a valuable means for us to gather, understand and respond to your feedback.

We hope you enjoy this edition. If you would like to feature in a future publication or have a story idea, please email [tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org](mailto:tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org) with your details.

Happy reading!  
IGS President  
**Chungsik Yoo**



Algeria

Argentina

Australasia

Austria

Belgium

Brazil

Chile

China

China Taipei

Colombia

Czech Republic

Egypt

Finland

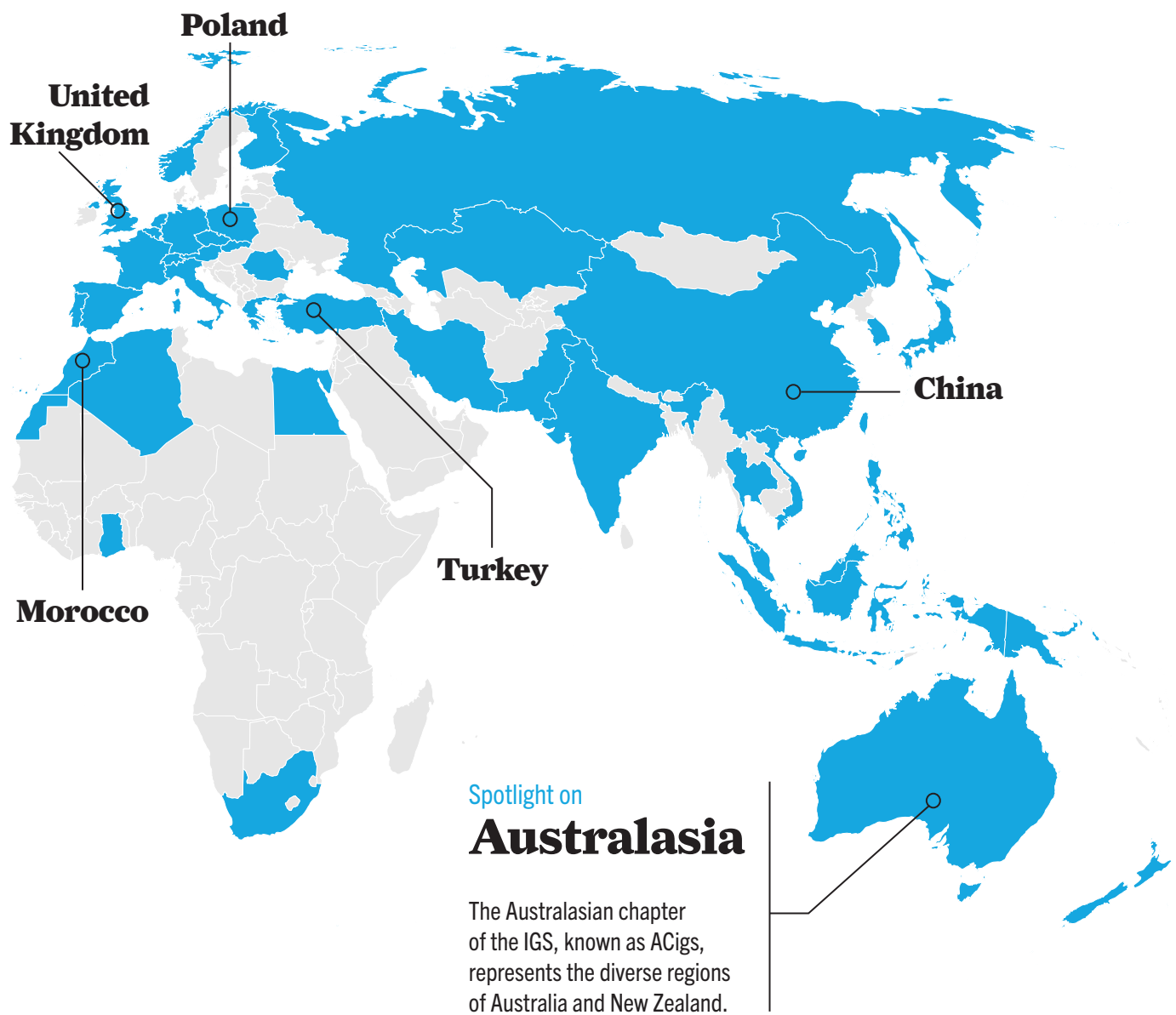
France

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 2019 Chapter Survey Report - Results

---

We were delighted to receive your completed chapter surveys for 2019. Your feedback helps us to help you to serve and grow your chapter's membership base. Your thoughts are vital and we thank you for taking the time to submit your surveys.

Now for the results! Please take a look at our graphs showing the figures in more detail. Our headline results were:

- 61% of chapters responded – 29 of 47 answered the survey.
- Brazil, France, Australasia, Chile and Germany were the top five most active chapters according to the range and number of activities organized.
- Conferences and lectures were the most popular kind of technical activity organized, both by chapters and in collaboration with others.
- Webinars were increasingly popular.
- 140 activities were planned by chapters for 2020.

Survey lead and IGS Vice President Nathalie Touze said the results were very encouraging.

She said: "The impressive number of technical activities summarized in Figure 1 were supported by more than 133 board/committee meetings including in-person and conference calls, held by the chapter officers and members.

"It is great to see how active chapters are. It helps us identify those that might need more support from the IGS, and to celebrate others who are leading the way for their members. It is encouraging to see chapters had prepared for a packed 2020 before Covid-19 affected plans. We hope to see many of these events replaced by webinars and digital conferences."

Nathalie added: "The chapters of the IGS have shown healthy numbers in terms of technical activities, which is of paramount importance for a learned scientific and engineering society.

"We hope the chapters will continue to promote the understanding of geosynthetics with a range of initiatives."

**"It is great to see how active chapters are. It helps us identify those that might need more support from the IGS, and to celebrate others who are leading the way for their members."**



IGS Vice President Nathalie Touze



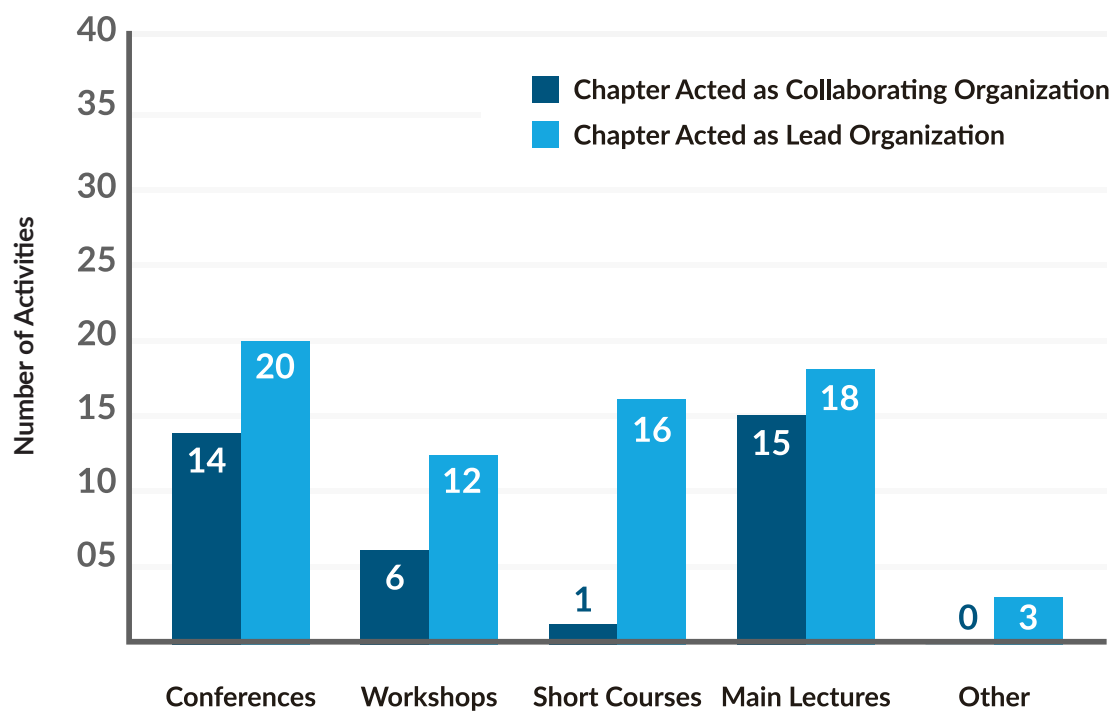


Figure 1:  
Total number of  
technical activities  
conducted by  
Chapters in 2019

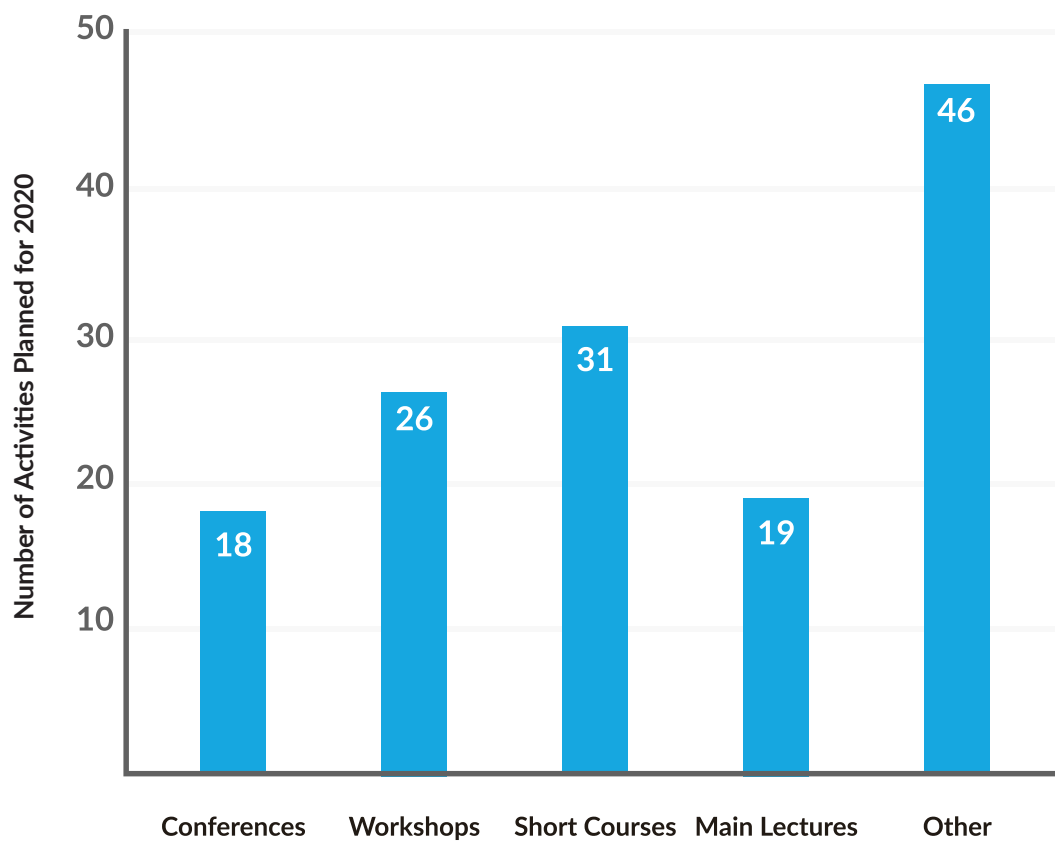


Figure 2:  
Planned activities  
for 2020

---

# 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.

---



---

## **SLOVAKIA**

The Chapter's biannual national conference returns next year, the 14th such event. Geosynthetics 2021 is organized by the University of Žilina's Faculty of Civil Engineering and is due to take place in February 2021.

---

---

## **NORTH AMERICA**

Quarterly webinars, Educate the Educators events, workshops on specialty topics and student paper competitions are just some of the initiatives being organized for North America members. The Chapter is also excited to be bidding to host the Pan American regional conference, GeoAmericas 2024, in Toronto.

---

---

## **FRANCE**

The French Chapter is gearing up for a three-day French-speaking conference in St Malo next Spring. Rencontres Géosynthétiques 2021 takes place on March 30-April 1. Visit [www.rencontresgeosynthetiques.org](http://www.rencontresgeosynthetiques.org) for more.

---



---

## HONDURAS

The Chapter is setting its sights on developing an Educate the Educators program by 2021 or 2022 and are keen to involve Dr Jorge Zornberg.

---

## AUSTRALASIA

ACigs has launched a photo competition for Young Members. It also plans to run job-shadowing opportunities post-Covid-19 and to continue its Meet the Professional evenings where students can quiz experienced engineers. The Chapter has been hosting webinars for all members, commonly attracting around 100 people per session.

---

## TURKEY

ISGPEG 2020 has been postponed to next year. Covid-19 concerns have prevented the event taking place this month. New dates will be posted on the conference website [www.isgpeg2020.org/en](http://www.isgpeg2020.org/en). New abstracts for next year are welcome, and must be submitted by November 25.

---

## PERU

The Chapter's inaugural GeoIngenieria 2020 conference, due to take place this August, has been moved to July, next year, because of Covid-19. The three-day event is now set to run July 12-14, 2021.

---

## POLAND

The Chapter is looking forward to hosting the postponed EuroGeo7 on May 16-19, 2021. Visit [eurogeo7.org](http://eurogeo7.org).

---

## CHILE

The Chapter is now on LinkedIn. Check out its new page [here](#).



---

Do you have chapter news? Email basic information to [tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org](mailto:tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org) to share your stories.

# IGS Chapter Focus:

## Australasia

*The Australasian chapter of the IGS, known as ACigs, represents the diverse regions of Australia and New Zealand. Here, chapter president Graham Fairhead shares his chapter's history and the fascinating use of geosynthetics across the territory.*

### **Please tell us a bit about ACigs.**

"Interest in a local Geosynthetics Society started in 1999, initiated by Fred Gassner. Fred had recently moved to Australia from South Africa where he was also one of the initiators of the South African Chapter. The Australasian Chapter was incorporated in 2002 under the leadership of Fred and Professor Malek Bouazza. Other early key supporters were Mike Sadlier and Martin Smith. The ACigs represents Australia and New Zealand and has around 100 members and 13 corporate members. We also reach out to Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands, which don't currently have chapters. Last year we were pleased to host delegates from those areas attending our 2019 Educate the Educators (EtE) event."

### **Tell us something about the make-up of your members.**

"Our membership varies, ranging from recent graduates to industry veterans, engineering consultants, academics, contractors and geosynthetic material suppliers. We benefit from having within our leadership group international



IGS members including Preston Kendall (Young IGS Council Member) and Jonathan Shamrock (TC Barriers Secretary) as well as former IGS Council members such as Warren Hornsey, Malek Bouazza and Mike Sadlier."

### **What are you proud of in the chapter?**

"We are really proud of the growth in membership and activities that we've achieved in the past four years. We have focused on providing benefits to members and the wider geosynthetics community. The leadership group is a cohesive team dedicated to

providing learning activities to promote the informed and beneficial use of geosynthetics."

### **What have you been doing in the chapter? Tell us a bit about your recent events.**

"Geography is a challenge for the Australasian chapter. To overcome this, we hold regular fortnightly video conference executive team meetings and quarterly face-to-face strategic reviews."





In 2019, we introduced regular webinars, which have proven successful in reaching Australia and New Zealand, and further afield including Asia, Africa, Europe and North America. The webinars are free and held around every six weeks. The support from expert presenters has been most encouraging, particularly those from overseas having to present at a convenient time to the Australia/New Zealand (ANZ) audience and an inconvenient time for them.

In February 2019 we held the first Australasian Educate the Educators event and an International Speaker Series in Auckland, Melbourne and Brisbane. Then in November that year we held an industry workshop to develop standards for Construction Quality Assurance (CQA) professionals to assist in ensuring high quality construction with geosynthetics. These concepts are now being discussed with regulators and approval authorities.

In March this year we concluded a Geomembrane Workshop in two cities, and we have recently launched our ACigs 2020 photo competition. We are re-scheduling the remainder of 2020's events due to Covid-19.

We always encourage members to participate in international IGS events. ANZ was well represented at the TC events in Barcelona earlier this year and (travel permitting) we have a number of papers being presented at the GeoAmericas 2020 conference in October."

#### **What sort of initiatives do you have available for younger members?**

"Young members are a recent focus for ACigs and we have Preston Kendall leading this activity. It is still early days but already we have launched a sponsored graduate study program (in 2020, three postgraduate students have been accepted into this programme) and have started a series of Meet the Professional activities where industry experts explain to students what a career in geosynthetics might look like.

In March we also held a networking event for young members in Melbourne following the geomembrane education event."

**"Geography is a challenge for the Australasian chapter. To overcome this, we hold regular fortnightly video conference executive team meetings and quarterly face-to-face strategic reviews."**

**Images show:** Australian and New Zealand delegates at the Barcelona IGS Barriers Workshop 2020. Left to right Siamak Paulson, Jonathon Shamrock, Graham Fairhead, Attila Marta, Professor Malek Bouazza, Amir Shahkolahi

Want to find out more?  
Visit ACigs [here](#).

**Nominations are being invited for the next Giroud Lecture speaker.  
Email IGS Secretariat Manager Terry-Ann Paulo at  
[tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org](mailto:tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org).**

---

**How would you describe the level of adoption / understanding about geosynthetics in Australasia?**

“It is varied, and largely depends on the sector and application. Roads, mining and landfill utilize geosynthetic solutions widely, and educational opportunities exist within the rail, coastal and sports sectors. Geosynthetics are commonly used in infrastructure projects, but the contribution geosynthetics could make to provide more environmentally-beneficial engineering solutions can be improved. There is much education and training to be done with the engineering community.”

**Where are the areas of most opportunity?**

“As with most countries, landfill containment is a well-established sector for geosynthetics and a lot of demand currently exists within the road infrastructure sector. Also, there are opportunities for geosynthetic growth across ANZ within the water sector as well as resource and energy infrastructure. The level of government infrastructure investment across ANZ post-Covid-19 will be interesting to see.”

**What does the industry need to do to ‘grow the market’ in your area?**

“Educate engineers, and particularly educate the academics (EtE) and students (the next generation of engineers). This is the fundamental way to increase the beneficial use of geosynthetics. There is also space for basic training as the young engineers are generally encouraged to further their learning.”



**Can you describe the geosynthetics marketplace in your region? And is there great opportunity in a certain country?**

“ANZ is part of Asia and close to China, so competition is fierce from the many Asian producers. However, there is still room for local and overseas players. Papua New Guinea and the Pacific Islands are seeing the presence of Chinese contractors, who tend to source from their home country.

There are many specialist installers (including landfill, rockfall, retaining walls etc), as well as a large community of environmental and geotechnical engineers who use geosynthetics to varying degrees. We also have several specialist geosynthetic laboratories and a number of universities including geosynthetics in their research programs.”

**Where is the geosynthetics industry concentrated in Australasia?**

“The use of geosynthetics tends to reflect the local nuance of infrastructure activity – roads, water and slopes in New Zealand, mining in Western Australia and north Queensland, urban road and rail infrastructure in Melbourne and Sydney, tunneling in Sydney and Brisbane, and rail in regional Australia.”

**What type of products have good adoption / less adoption?**

“HDPE membrane, nonwoven geotextiles and biaxial geogrids are widely used. In recent years, demand for geocomposite drains has increased.”

---

Want to find out more? Visit ACigs [here](#).

---

**Are there any notable facts about the market or the chapter?**

“For a relatively small population base, ANZ is pretty advanced with the use and understanding of geosynthetics. For example, Victoria has the world’s highest level of landfill regulation, which has encouraged installers and producers to lift their level of quality and consistency, and New Zealand demands design consideration of seismic activity in all designs.

As a result, our ACigs membership base includes recognized world experts and some great research activities, including award-winning research into remediating hydro-carbon spills in Antarctica.”

**Are there any notable projects in the region that have used geosynthetics?**

“There are many ANZ world-class infrastructure projects where geosynthetics have been used – including many that have won industry awards. New Zealand had the Christchurch and Kaikoura rebuilds where the complexity, scale and speed of the project were managed exceptionally well, with plenty of geosynthetics utilized.

The large Australian resource jobs (eg Gove, Wheatstone, Olympic Dam etc) are all significant in their own right for scale and technical complexity. Gas and specifically Coal Seam Gas in Queensland experienced an enormous investment recently which requires high-quality water storage assets which were built using complex designs and geosynthetic barrier systems.

Included in these is the supporting rail and port infrastructure built on tricky geotechnical conditions, for example, the Port of Brisbane

expansion and Cape Preston causeway built on exceptionally weak soils.

There are many tunnels being built across Australia, including the recent Melbourne tunnels where PFAS-contaminated soils are being disposed of with geosynthetics. PFAS is Per/Polyfluoroalkyl Substances.”

**Is there anything else you’d like to say about geosynthetics use in Australasia?**

“Whilst some sectors simply value price over quality or transparency of quality products, other sectors value technical expertise and quality. Materials acceptance testing is probably a stand-out area of focus in Australia with designers increasingly setting demanding requirements, lifting the bar on a global basis. This not only drives product quality improvements but also evolution of test methods.

We are a remote location with a relatively low population, but there is a level of geosynthetic sophistication and engineering expertise that we are very proud of.

Our ANZ geosynthetic footprint includes manufacturers, laboratories, academics and researchers, designers, contractors and CQA testing companies, as well as geosynthetic media (web newsletter Geosynthetic News Alerts (GNA) is produced in Australia). It is this rich mix of participants that keeps the geosynthetic community stimulated and curious.”

---

**“There are many ANZ world-class infrastructure projects where geosynthetics have been used – including many that have won industry awards.”**

---

---

**Image shows:** Boyd Ramsey, member of the IGS Council, giving a keynote lecture at the ACigs Geomembrane Workshop series earlier this year



---

# IGS Chapter Focus:

## France

---

*Our French Chapter has been a long-time champion of geosynthetics use and understanding. Chapter President and IGS Vice President Nathalie Touze shares the group's work so far and ambitions for the future.*

### **When was your chapter formed?**

"The French 'chapter' was founded in 1979, before the IGS officially existed. It should therefore not be a surprise that the first conference on geotextiles took place in Paris! We joined the IGS as an official IGS chapter in 1993."

### **How many members do you have?**

"The French chapter has six corporate members, plus 130 individual members from 75 different companies, universities or public institutes and 13 retired or student members."

### **What is the range of members?**

"The youngest members are PhD students, and the oldest member is certainly Jean-Pierre Giroud, (whose IGS membership number is '1') but it would not be correct to give his age! We have manufacturers, designers, installers, controllers, testing labs, universities, public research institutes and professional associations, like certification body ASQUAL (Association Qualité)."

### **What are you proud of in the chapter?**

"There are many things we are pleased to have pioneered, provided and developed. These include:

- Being heavily involved in standardization at national, European and international levels, and offering financial support to fund those involved in public research or testing institutes to attend the corresponding meetings.
- Certification of geotextiles and related products since 1990 and geomembranes since 1996 under the ASQUAL umbrella.
- Coordination of the French chapter (CFG) with other national associations such as AFAG (the French association of geomembrane installers), AFPGA (French association of geotextiles and related products manufacturers) and APRODEG (French association of geomembrane manufacturers).
- Mirroring the structure of FedIGS, coordinating the French chapter with the French societies for soil mechanics, rock mechanics, and engineering geology. Building a strong collaboration with a national journal, *Revue Française de Géotechnique*, in which a French version of the Giroud Lecture was published. You can read it [here](#).
- As the leading French-speaking

country, supporting the development of geosynthetics in French-speaking Africa and especially North Africa with strong interactions with the Moroccan chapters and a Tunisian interest group that should soon form a chapter.

- Sharing for free all material (especially guidelines) on the IGS website and translation into English of the most recent ones to make them available to the community at large."

### **Tell us about some of your chapter activities.**

"Our regular events include:

- A biennial technical day.
- A biennial three-day French-speaking conference started in 1993. The last one took place in Nancy, a city with a long history of textiles and geosynthetics. The next one will be in [St Malo](#). All papers are made available for free online since proceedings went digital in 2006.
- Producing and updating many guidelines to promote the proper use of geosynthetics."

### **Do you have a Youth section? If so, what sort of initiatives do you have available for younger members?**

"A Youth section is something we are working on creating. It's important younger voices lead on initiatives



and actions. In the meantime we do offer younger members discounts on conference registration fees. We also promote our younger members' PhD work to the public by announcing when the defences are going to take place.

It is great exposure for the student and offers opportunities for employment. For an example, see our website page [here](#). In addition, from this year, we want to produce videos of the PhD thesis defences. Indeed, because of the Covid-19 crisis the defences have to take place through online tools. This year we are funding a second student to attend EuroGeo7, in addition to the opportunity available through the IGS Student Award."

#### **How would you describe the level of adoption / understanding about geosynthetics in your region?**

"There is still some progress to be made, especially through education, but we're working on it through the development of courses for professionals. The French contracting bodies and the designers are aware of the advantages of the use of geosynthetics, even if courses are still necessary to ensure there is the relevant awareness for those new to the world of geosynthetics."

#### **Where are the areas of most opportunity?**

"We're really excited with several projects in the pipeline. These include the [Canal Seine Nord Europe](#), a project to link the Oise River with the Canal Dunkerque-Escaut, and the [Grand Paris](#) project, which is four new Metro lines for the Olympic Games 2024. Additionally,

European regulations that make geosynthetics use mandatory in landfills, in particular geomembranes, offer us opportunities."

#### **What type of products have good adoption / less adoption?**

"Geomembranes, in relation to the regulation on waste, and geosynthetic materials for road construction as it is a major market with geogrids and geotextiles."

#### **Are there any notable facts about the market or the chapter?**

"Research and development, knowledge and feedback are driving the manufacturers to adapt more and more geosynthetics solutions to specific products and functions, in better line with sustainable development and environment preservation."

#### **Are there any notable projects in the region that have used geosynthetics?**

"There are many different projects; it's hard to choose. Among the first projects, 50 years ago is the Valcros Dam on which various papers were recently published. There is also some literature on past projects of reinforced walls. We have a long history of geosynthetics use in France."

#### **Is there anything else you'd like to add about geosynthetics use in your area?**

"I think being aware of the main civil engineering contractors and their project managers is key to the development and improvement of geosynthetics. It is definitely an area for improvement and progress."



IGS Vice-President and France Chapter President Nathalie Touze

**Group pic:** The board of the French Chapter, which in 2002 organized the 7th International Conference on Geosynthetics

---

# IGS Chapter Focus:

## Portugal

---

*The geosynthetics market in Portugal may be smaller than others, but its impact in our global industry is significant. Chapter President José Luís Macado do Vale shares his chapter's achievements.*

### **When was your chapter formed?**

"The IGS Chapter of Portugal was formed in 2001 and belongs to the Portuguese Geotechnical Society (SPG) as a Technical Committee."

### **How many members do you have?**

"We have 39 individual members, including students, and one corporate member."

### **What is the range of members?**

"The IGS Chapter of Portugal consists of consultants, suppliers, researchers, academics and students."

### **Why are you proud of the chapter?**

"We are mainly proud of our achievements in the promotion of several technical and scientific events to disseminate knowledge in the field of geosynthetics. We hope that the scope and quality of the works presented contributed to the technical updating of our engineers, academics, researchers and students as well as helping to improve construction practices."

### **What have you been doing in the chapter? Tell us about some of your events.**

"The current board of directors (2016-2020) has regular meetings and organizes technical and scientific events. Annually, it hosts workshops on different topics. For example:

- Construction and rehabilitation of railway infrastructures (2017).
- Reinforcement of soft ground (2018).
- Waterproofing of hydraulic works (2019).
- Coastal erosion control (due to take place in March 2020 but postponed due to Covid-19).

It also collaborates on the organization of several geotechnical seminars and conferences in Portugal. It promotes important collaboration with universities to disseminate geosynthetics knowledge. In 2015, a successfully two-day Educate the Educators (EtE) event was organized in Lisbon.

Finally, it is worth highlighting the publication of a book on geosynthetic applications, called "Geossintéticos em Engenharia Civil. Dimensionamento, instalação e casos de obra." (Geosynthetics in civil engineering. Design, installation and case studies). The goal is to make it available online by the end of the year."

### **What sort of initiatives do you have available for younger members?**

"We participate in the Young Geotechnical Award of SPG, which is designed to reward works that contribute to the progress of technical and scientific knowledge and to the resolution of problems in the field of geotechnical specialties, including geosynthetics."

The IGS Chapter of Portugal also promotes the participation of students at national events through free or reduced registration."

### **How would you describe the level of adoption about geosynthetics in your region?**

"It is quite good. Geosynthetics are used in several applications, such as landfills, roads, railways, tunnels, erosion control, etc. Nevertheless, as new products are arising, the understanding of their potential is a work in progress."

### **Where are the areas of most opportunity?**

"Railway rehabilitation, subway line construction, environmental remediation, and costal erosion control will be the areas of most opportunity in the near future in Portugal."



---

### What does the industry need to do to 'grow the market' in your area?

"More knowledge = bigger market! Engineers need to understand geosynthetics' functions and the advantages of their use. We believe that the level of geosynthetics use on projects is largely correlated with the level of knowledge that engineers have on them. Therefore, a continuous updating by the industry of the highest level of research, development and innovation to educators, consultants and construction companies is one of the most effective actions the industry can promote to impact on its own results."

### Where is the geosynthetics industry concentrated in your region?

"Actually, the geosynthetics industry in Portugal is not huge, but there is a strong relation with Spain where some important industries are located. Also the most relevant brands from the European manufacturers are well represented."

### What type of products have good adoption / less adoption?

"In Portugal, nonwoven geotextiles, geogrids, geotube units and geomembranes are the most used in the construction industry. Woven geotextiles, geocells and superficial erosion control mats have less adoption."

### Any notable facts about the market or the chapter?

"Portugal has a small market. Nevertheless, strong efforts are made to increase the implementation of geosynthetics in public and private works."

### Any notable projects in the region that have used geosynthetics?

"There are some recent interesting and notable projects in Portugal using geosynthetics. Some examples:

- Dams and Reservoirs: Paradela Dam rehabilitation, new Pico da Urze Dam, new Cerro da Mina Reservoir and Pracana Dam.



- Non-Hazardous Waste (NHW), Hazardous Waste (HW) and Inert Waste (IW) Landfills: NHW Landfill of Alta Estremadura (Leiria), NHW Landfill of Meia Serra (Madeira Island), NHW of Beja, HW of CIRVER, IW of Celtejo.
- Roads, railways and ports: embankment stabilization at the historic Tua railway, rehabilitation of North and East railways, new N14 road bypass, new Norwest ecotrail network, new Setúbal Ro-Ro port.
- Environmental remediation: sludge dewatering in Tagus River clean-up at Vila Velha de Ródão; environmental rehabilitation of the former mining area of São Domingos.
- Coastal erosion control: Ofir dune core reinforcement and towers protection; Amorosa beach and old town protection.



**Main picture:** an environmental remediation project in Tagus River (Vila Velha de Ródão) where a Geotube® system was used as a dewatering technology, located in the Natura 2000 Site and Unesco World Heritage-listed natural park

**Above:** An erosion control protection project made with geotextile tube at Ofir beach, northern Portugal

---

Find out more about the IGS Chapter of Portugal [here](#).

---

# IGS Chapter Focus:

## Thailand

---

*The Thailand Chapter of the IGS will soon celebrate two decades of Society membership. Chapter President Suksun Horpibulsuk shares trends in the Thai market for geosynthetics, and highlights priorities for the group.*

**When was your chapter formed?**

“The chapter was approved by the IGS Council on 2002.”

**How many members do you have?**

“We have two corporate members and 19 individuals. Most of the members are academics and engineers.”

**What are you proud of in the chapter?**

“Since the Chapter has been established, we have carried out many activities with the educational, industrial and construction sectors. We organize a short course on the applications of geosynthetics once a year. Also, we have been technically supported by Suranaree University of Technology to establish a complete Geosynthetics Laboratory for certifying the quality of geosynthetics. This laboratory plays a key role in the support of geosynthetic applications in Thailand.”

**What have you been doing in the chapter?**

“Every year the chapter has been organizing a short course on geosynthetics, and in the future, we



plan to increase chapter activity with training courses given by geosynthetics experts.”

**Do you have a Youth section?**

“We do not have a youth section yet but we are looking into creating one.”

**How would you describe the level of adoption / understanding about geosynthetics in your region?**

“In Thailand, geosynthetics have been widely-used in civil engineering applications. Technical knowledge about geosynthetics is increasing.”

**Where are the areas of most opportunity?**

“At present, Thailand has a mega project to expand transportation infrastructure (e.g. high speed railway, double track railway), and geosynthetics are heavily involved here.”

**What does the industry need to do to ‘grow the market’ in your area?**

“The industry needs to promote new products to suit more versatile applications, and it needs to collaborate with the educational sector to develop a specification for design and construction of projects using geosynthetics.”



**Can you describe the geosynthetics marketplace in your region? Is there great opportunity in a certain location?**

“The geosynthetics market in Thailand has been steadily increasing. The use of geosynthetics products has been widely accepted, especially Prefabricated Vertical Drain (PVD), which is popular to improve the soft clay in the central region of Thailand.”

**Where is the geosynthetics industry concentrated in your region?**

“Most geosynthetics industries are located in the central region of Thailand, and the most produced products are geotextiles.”

**What type of products have good adoption / less adoption?**

“The main products (i.e. geotextile, gabion box-mattress box and geogrid) are well adopted in Thailand. Geocomposites (e.g. geonet and GCL) have less adoption than the main products.”

**Are there any notable facts about the market or the chapter?**

“The geosynthetics market in Thailand has been expanding every year, and market trends are still good due to the mega-construction projects planned for the country.”

**Are there any notable projects in the region that have used geosynthetics?**

“Yes, Suvarnabhumi International Airport (Bangkok Airport). This airport was located on soft and thick Bangkok clay. PVDs were used to improve the engineering properties of soft clay before the airport could be constructed.”

**Is there anything else you'd like to say about geosynthetics use in your chapter region?**

“Geosynthetics are becoming more accepted for construction projects in Thailand. In the future we plan to increase understanding about geosynthetics in the marketplace.”

**“The geosynthetics market in Thailand has been expanding every year.”**



Images show: Thailand Chapter President Suksun Horpibulsuk, and participants at one of the Chapter's short courses on geosynthetics



---

## News

# Sustainability On The Agenda In Athens

---

The sustainability benefits of geosynthetics use will be in the spotlight during a keynote lecture at a prestigious conference next year.

Professor Neil Dixon, a former IGS Council Member and chair of the UK Chapter, is set to address delegates of EUROENGEOT, the 3rd European Regional Conference of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG), in Athens, Greece, in April, next year. The event was due to take place this September but has been postponed due to the Covid-19 disruption.

His lecture, entitled 'Delivering sustainable infrastructure: Global challenges, geosynthetic solutions and counting carbon', champions the use of geosynthetics in ground engineering solutions to help tackle worldwide sustainability challenges.

Prof Dixon explained: "The aim of the keynote is to highlight the global challenges that we all face, including the need to deliver sustainable infrastructure that improves the lives of the poorest groups in society.

"The lecture will inform engineering geology professionals and academics about the sustainability benefits of using geosynthetics in ground engineering solutions. It will encourage behaviour that can make a difference."

Prof Dixon is Professor of Geotechnical Engineering in the School of Architecture, Building and Civil Engineering at Loughborough University, in the UK.

He has more than 35 years of experience in geotechnical engineering research and practice and has given keynote lectures at regional and international IGS conferences.

The IGS and IAEG are members of The Federation of International Geo-Engineering Societies. Known as FedIGS, it allows member societies to interact, collaborate and promote shared interests. The IAEG's keynote invitation to the IGS is an example of the desire of both societies to spread the understanding of these important topics.

Prof Dixon said: "This is an opportunity for me to represent the IGS and engage with professionals from a wide range of backgrounds. I look forward to many stimulating discussions, identifying opportunities for future collaborations, catching up with old friends and making new friends."

The postponed EUROENGEOT is due to take place on April 8-12, 2021.

Visit [euroengeo2020.org](https://euroengeo2020.org) for updates.

**"I look forward to many stimulating discussions, identifying opportunities for future collaborations, catching up with old friends and making new friends."**



Professor Neil Dixon

# PREPARING THE GROUND FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE

HOW GEOSYNTHETICS HAVE BEEN SERVING  
SOCIETY FOR HALF A CENTURY

## HAVE YOU SEEN OUR NEW SUSTAINABILITY EBOOK?

The IGS's eBook on sustainability and geosynthetics is a key resource to absorb and share. The online publication, 'Preparing the ground for a brighter future' discusses the positive benefits and impact geosynthetics have in addressing global challenges.

Easily digestible for both experienced practitioners and those new to the industry, it can be downloaded [here](#).

WE ARE MORE INTERCONNECTED AND INTERDEPENDENT  
THAN EVER BEFORE. CONSEQUENTLY, OUR INDIVIDUAL  
AND COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY HAS INCREASED  
ENORMOUSLY.

Potočník 2017

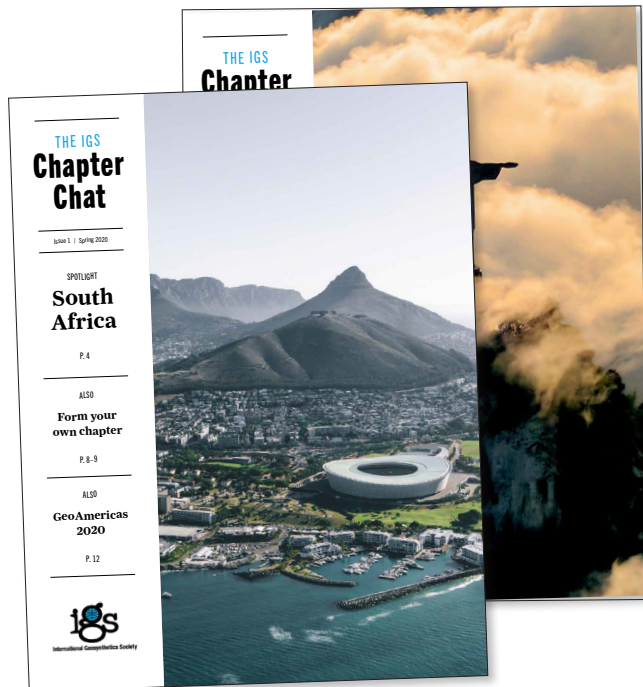




## THE IGS WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

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 [tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org](mailto:tpaulo@geosyntheticssociety.org).



For updates, visit [eurogeo7.org](http://eurogeo7.org).