



# The International Geosynthetic Society



[www.geosyntheticsociety.org](http://www.geosyntheticsociety.org)



Est. 1983

# The International Geosynthetic Society

The IGS is a learned society dedicated to the scientific and engineering development of geotextiles, geomembranes, related products and associated technologies.

## Mission Statement (Est. 2010)

The core purpose of the IGS is to provide an understanding and promote the appropriate use of geosynthetic technology throughout the world.



## Vision (Est. 2018)

The vision of the IGS is that geosynthetics be recognized to be fundamental to sustainable development by providing technological and engineering solutions to answer societal and environmental challenges.

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# History of the IGS



Dr. Giroud (center), seen here at the Paris conference in 1977, coined the terms “geotextile” and “geomembrane.”

- **1977** - The International Conference on the use of Fabrics in Geotechnics occurred in Paris, France. Today the event is referred to as the **First International Conference on Geotextiles**. During the conference Dr. J. P. Giroud presented a paper on the Valcros Dam in France, coining the words “geotextiles” and “geomembranes.”
- **1983** - The International Geotextile Society (IGS) is founded in Paris, France.
- **1994** - The IGS General Assembly approved the change of name to the International Geosynthetic Society.



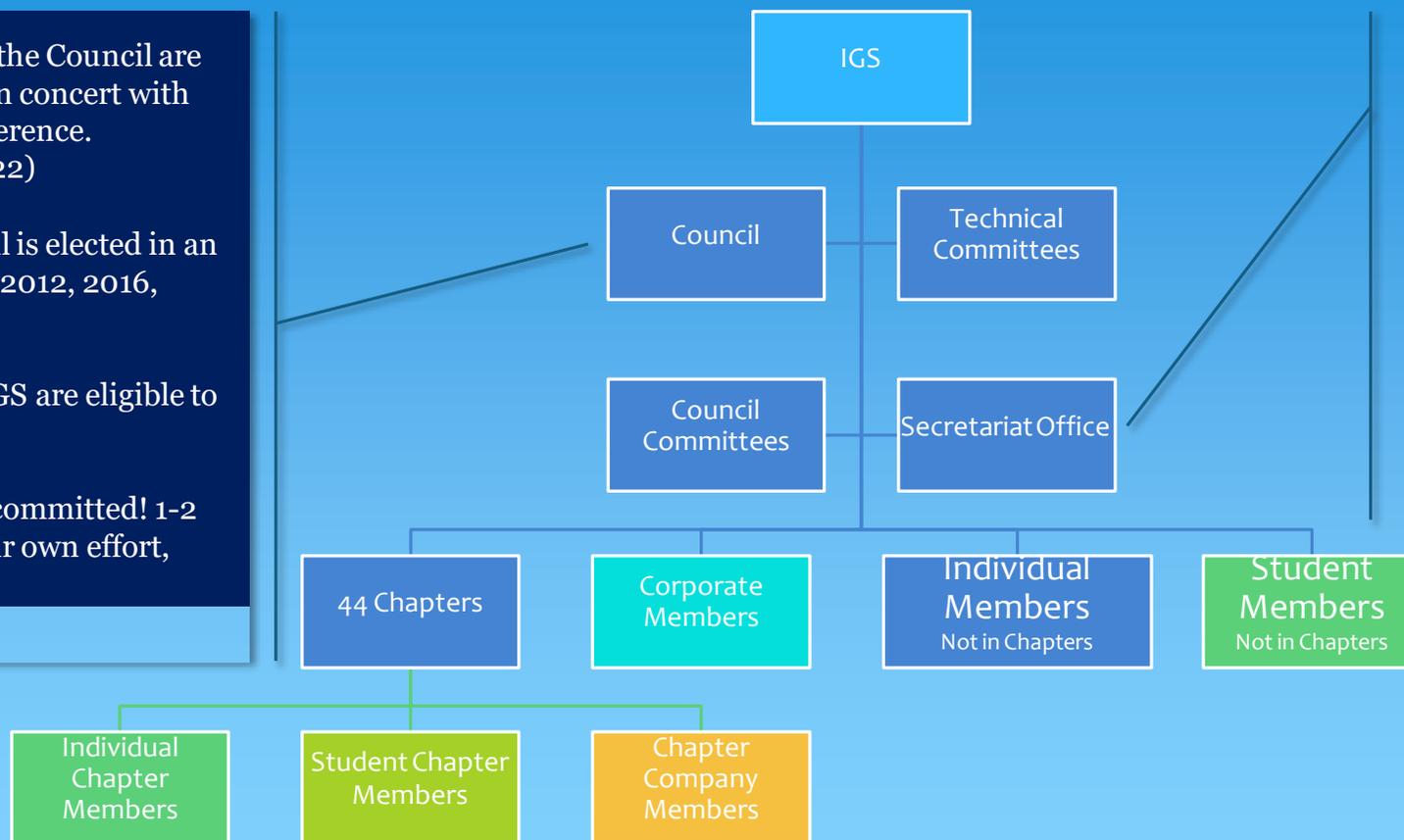


## **IGS Membership**

47 Chapters, +2,500 Individual Members, +450 Student Members & 166 Corporate Members

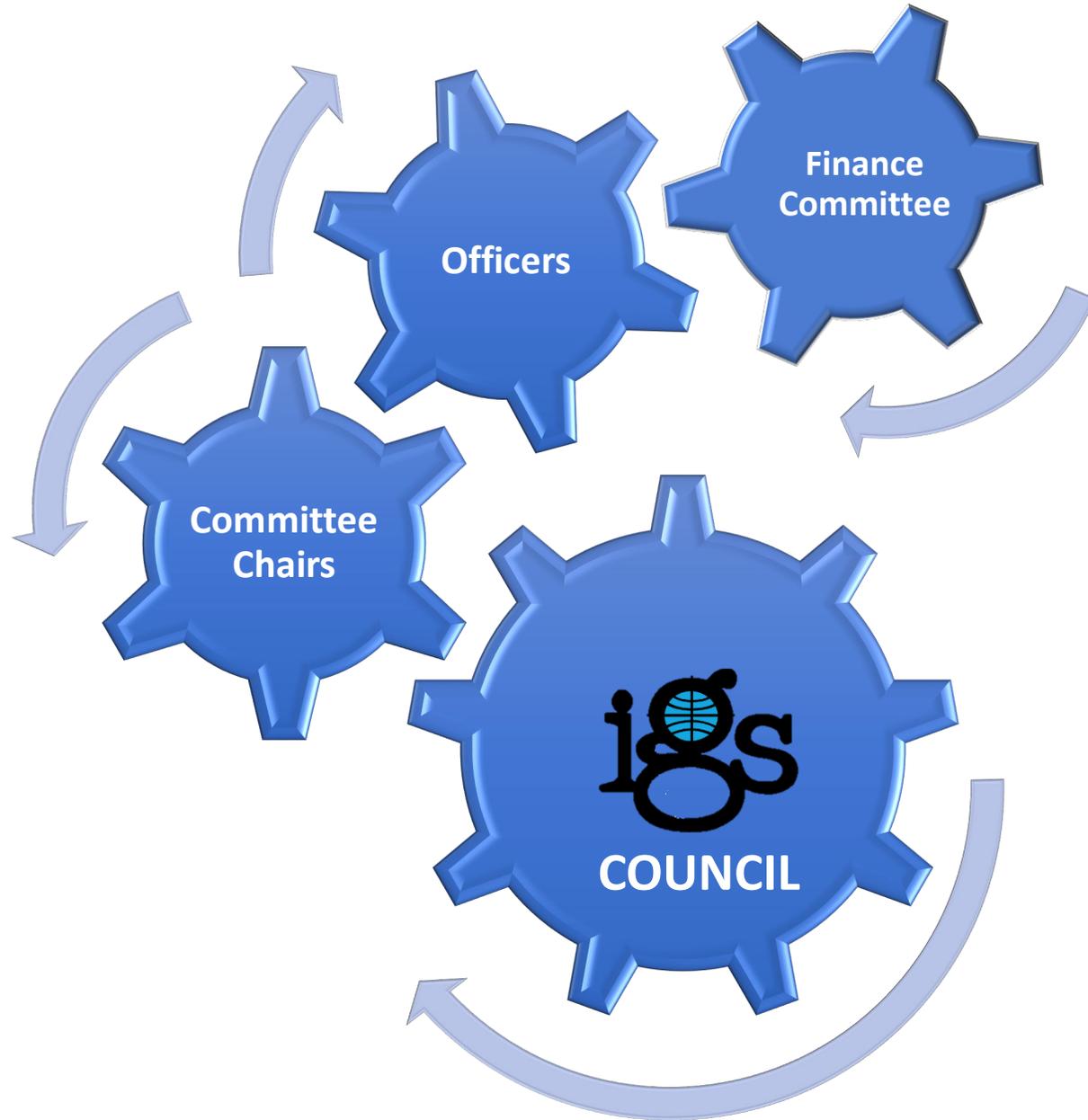
# How Is the IGS Structured?

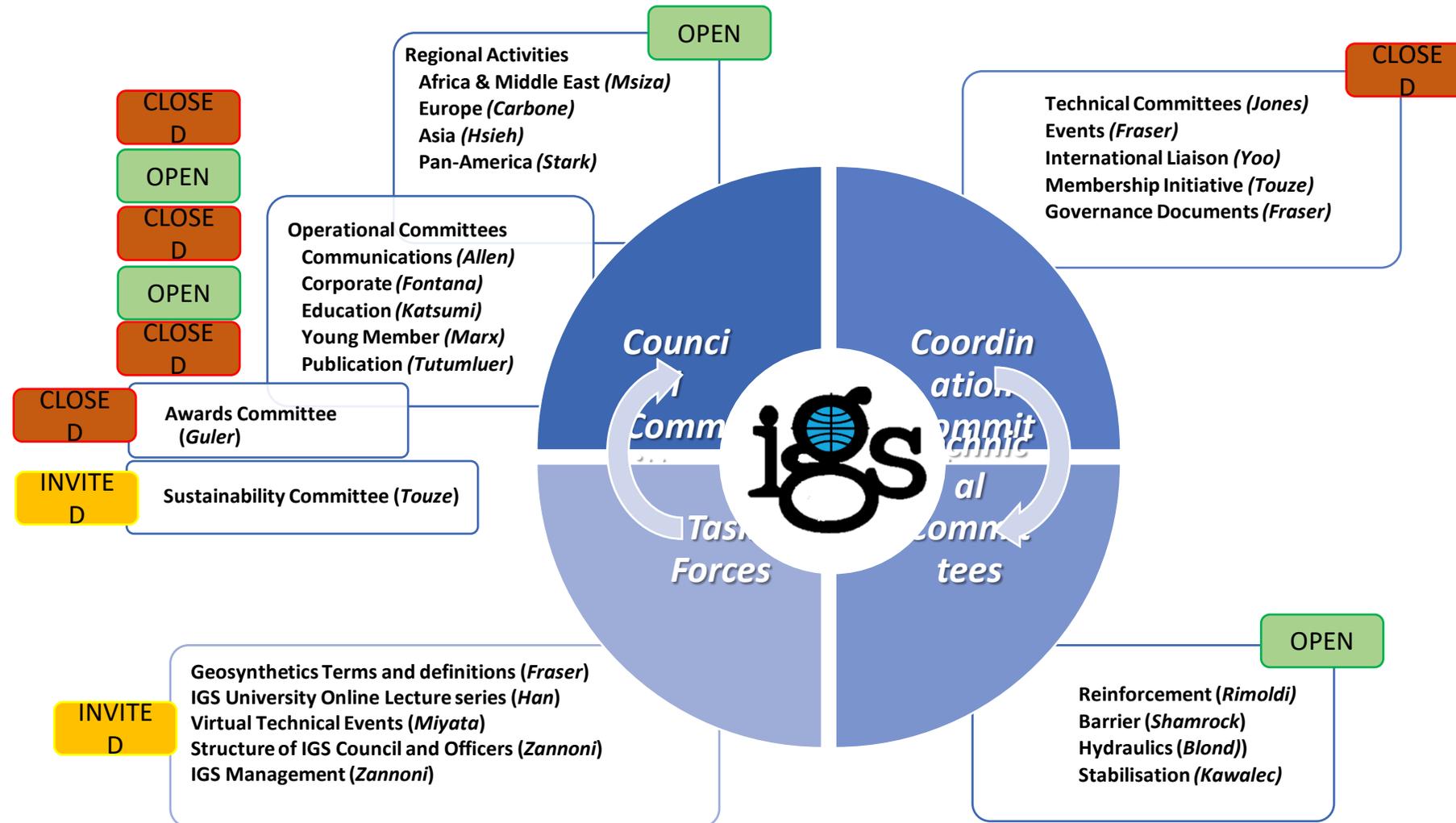
- IGS Officers and 1/2 of the Council are elected every 4 years, in concert with the International Conference. (2010, 2014, 2018, 2022)
- The other 1/2 of Council is elected in an alternate 4-year cycle (2012, 2016, 2020)
- ALL Members of the IGS are eligible to run for council!
- Council Members are committed! 1-2 Meetings per year, their own effort, time and money



- Secretariat Manager is a Full-Time “staff” serving the IGS.
- Office located in Austin, TX USA
- IGS does much of its work through passionate volunteers, keeping member costs low! The IGS has not increased membership dues in 30 years!







- OPEN** ALL IGS Members can join the meeting
- CLOSE D** ONLY IGS Council member can join the meeting
- INVITE D** The IGS members are invited and approved by the Chair

# Conferences of the IGS

## International Conferences

- Once every 4 years
- Hosted and Managed by a Chapter
- Next Conference: Rome 2022

## Regional Conferences

- Held every 4 years, alternate years to the International Conference
- Hosted by a different chapter each time
- Chapters bid for the event
- Chapters grow membership, involvement, community and geosynthetics success when they host either a regional or international IGS Conference
- Regional conferences leave the majority of the proceeds with the chapter!

### International

**2018**  
Seoul, South Korea  
**2014**  
Berlin, Germany  
**2010**  
Guaruja, Brasil  
**2006**  
Yokohama, Japan  
**2002**  
Nice, France

### European Regional

**2021\*** (postponed)  
Warsaw, Poland  
**2016**  
Istanbul, Turkey  
**2012**  
Valencia, Spain  
**2008**  
Edinburgh, Scotland  
**2004**  
Munich, Germany

### Asian Regional

**2021\*** (postponed)  
Taipei, Taiwan  
**2016**  
New Delhi, India  
**2012**  
Bangkok, Thailand  
**2008**  
Shanghai, China

### PanAm Regional

**2020**  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil  
**2016**  
Miami, USA  
**2012**  
Lima, Peru  
**2008**  
Cancun, Mexico

### African Regional

**2022\*** (postponed)  
Istanbul, Turkey  
**2017**  
Marrakesh, Morocco  
**2013**  
Accra, Ghana  
**2009**  
Cape Town, South Africa





# Upcoming Conferences of the IGS

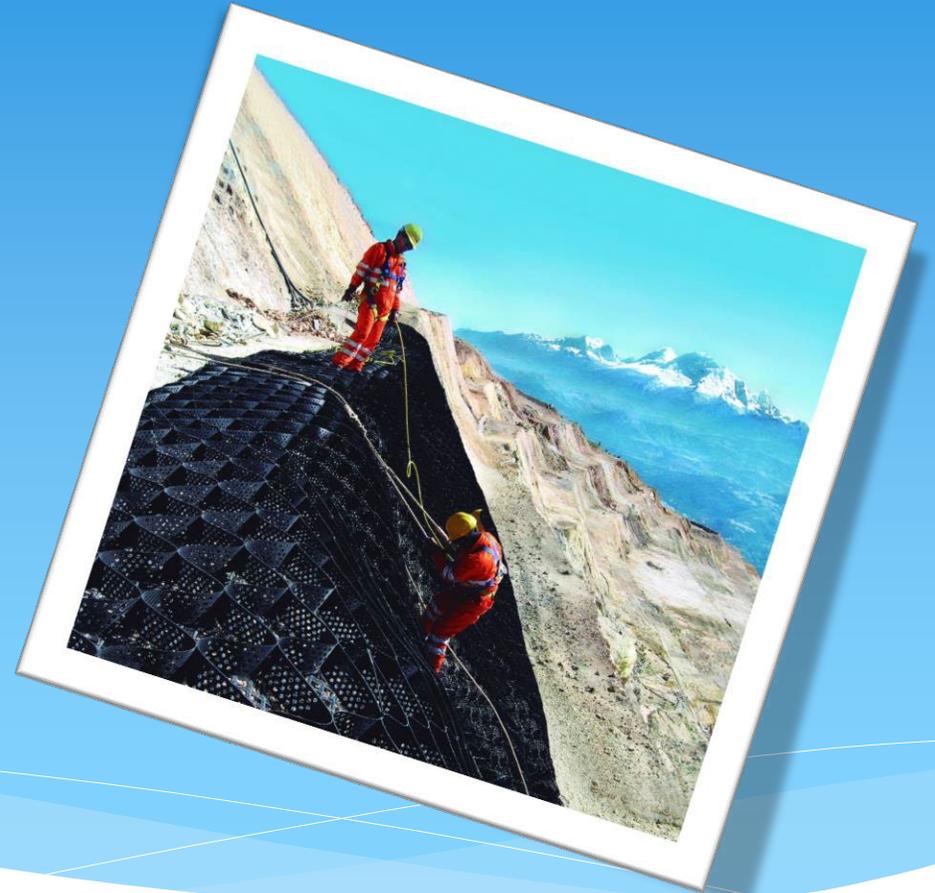
Save the date

- **September 19-22, 2021**
  - EuroGeo 7 – 7<sup>th</sup> European Regional Conference on Geosynthetics Warsaw, Poland
- **November 19-22, 2021**
  - GeoAsia 7 – 7<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Conference on Geosynthetics Taipei, Taiwan
- **February 21-24, 2022**
  - GeoAfrica 4 – 4<sup>th</sup> African Regional Conference on Geosynthetics Cairo, Egypt
- **September 18-22, 2022**
  - 12 ICG – 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Geosynthetics Rome, Italy



Each activity performed by the committees, council and leadership of the IGS represents an opportunity for the chapters and their members to participate and grow....

Lets examine some of these opportunities!



# Regional Activities Committees

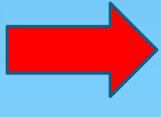
## Events & Initiatives

- **Regional Conferences** – held every 4 years in between the International Conferences
- **Student Paper Competition**
  - Student Paper Competition - EVERY Chapter may hold a contest and select a winning paper
  - The IGS gives each student winner \$1,000US to attend the conference + complimentary registration + the student presents their paper + their paper is published + the student is invited to all IGS events in the conference
  - Help to get students recognized and participating on an international level by creating a Chapter Committee on Student Awards & Mentorship



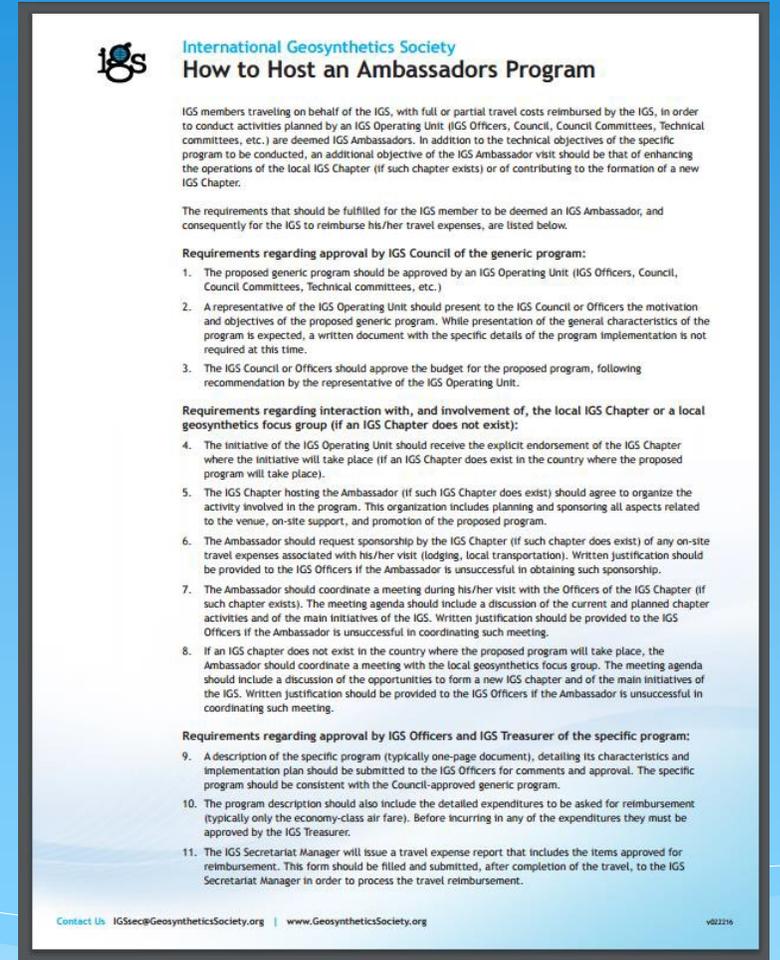
# IGS Ambassadors Program

- Helps foster improved communications between the society, regional council committees, and IGS Chapters.
- Allows for the sharing of future development plans and discussing ways to engage members of the geosynthetics community with the IGS on the regional, national, and international level.
- Ambassadors act as official representatives of the IGS while attending or actively participating in conferences, lectures, and other educational events.
- IGS Ambassador visit should enhance the operations of the local IGS Chapter or of contributing to the formation of a new IGS Chapter if one doesn't exist.

 **Request an Ambassador program by contacting your Regional Activities Committee (RAC)**



[www.geosyntheticsociety.org](http://www.geosyntheticsociety.org)



**IGS International Geosynthetics Society**  
**How to Host an Ambassadors Program**

IGS members traveling on behalf of the IGS, with full or partial travel costs reimbursed by the IGS, in order to conduct activities planned by an IGS Operating Unit (IGS Officers, Council, Council Committees, Technical committees, etc.) are deemed IGS Ambassadors. In addition to the technical objectives of the specific program to be conducted, an additional objective of the IGS Ambassador visit should be that of enhancing the operations of the local IGS Chapter (if such chapter exists) or of contributing to the formation of a new IGS Chapter.

The requirements that should be fulfilled for the IGS member to be deemed an IGS Ambassador, and consequently for the IGS to reimburse his/her travel expenses, are listed below.

**Requirements regarding approval by IGS Council of the generic program:**

1. The proposed generic program should be approved by an IGS Operating Unit (IGS Officers, Council, Council Committees, Technical committees, etc.)
2. A representative of the IGS Operating Unit should present to the IGS Council or Officers the motivation and objectives of the proposed generic program. While presentation of the general characteristics of the program is expected, a written document with the specific details of the program implementation is not required at this time.
3. The IGS Council or Officers should approve the budget for the proposed program, following recommendation by the representative of the IGS Operating Unit.

**Requirements regarding interaction with, and involvement of, the local IGS Chapter or a local geosynthetics focus group (if an IGS Chapter does not exist):**

4. The initiative of the IGS Operating Unit should receive the explicit endorsement of the IGS Chapter where the initiative will take place (if an IGS Chapter does exist in the country where the proposed program will take place).
5. The IGS Chapter hosting the Ambassador (if such IGS Chapter does exist) should agree to organize the activity involved in the program. This organization includes planning and sponsoring all aspects related to the venue, on-site support, and promotion of the proposed program.
6. The Ambassador should request sponsorship by the IGS Chapter (if such chapter does exist) of any on-site travel expenses associated with his/her visit (lodging, local transportation). Written justification should be provided to the IGS Officers if the Ambassador is unsuccessful in obtaining such sponsorship.
7. The Ambassador should coordinate a meeting during his/her visit with the Officers of the IGS Chapter (if such chapter exists). The meeting agenda should include a discussion of the current and planned chapter activities and of the main initiatives of the IGS. Written justification should be provided to the IGS Officers if the Ambassador is unsuccessful in coordinating such meeting.
8. If an IGS chapter does not exist in the country where the proposed program will take place, the Ambassador should coordinate a meeting with the local geosynthetics focus group. The meeting agenda should include a discussion of the opportunities to form a new IGS chapter and of the main initiatives of the IGS. Written justification should be provided to the IGS Officers if the Ambassador is unsuccessful in coordinating such meeting.

**Requirements regarding approval by IGS Officers and IGS Treasurer of the specific program:**

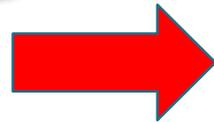
9. A description of the specific program (typically one-page document), detailing its characteristics and implementation plan should be submitted to the IGS Officers for comments and approval. The specific program should be consistent with the Council-approved generic program.
10. The program description should also include the detailed expenditures to be asked for reimbursement (typically only the economy-class air fare). Before incurring in any of the expenditures they must be approved by the IGS Treasurer.
11. The IGS Secretariat Manager will issue a travel expense report that includes the items approved for reimbursement. This form should be filled and submitted, after completion of the travel, to the IGS Secretariat Manager in order to process the travel reimbursement.

Contact Us [IGSec@GeosyntheticsSociety.org](mailto:IGSec@GeosyntheticsSociety.org) | [www.GeosyntheticsSociety.org](http://www.GeosyntheticsSociety.org) v02/216



Training events targeted at providing professors the materials and understanding to easily include geosynthetics in their UNDERGRAD Curriculum and some advance courses.

- Request through the Regional Activities Committee
- IGS Provides the curriculum and funds the speakers to travel to teach the EtE
- Meeting the mission of the IGS
- Typically a 2 day course
- Approximately 40 professors are accepted via an application process
- Chapters raise sponsorship resources and organize the logistics
- On-site attendee expenses are paid through funding of the EtE Program, Professors only need to pay their transportation to the event.
- Professors return to their universities with the ability to implement geosynthetic curriculum immediately into their courses.
- Course taught in local language
- Attendees are provided: presentations, sample books and collateral materials to use in their classrooms



**Start an Educate the Educators task group in the your chapter and help grow the acceptance of geosynthetics for every engineering student in your country!**

Educate the Educators   Austin, TX   July 28 - 29, 2016		
Geosynthetics Education Training Program		
SCHEDULE: Tuesday, 28 July		
TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
8:00 - 9:00	Registration and Introductions	Dr. Jorge G. Zornberg
9:00 - 9:30	<b>Session 1:</b> Overview of geosynthetics in undergraduate classes. Guidelines and University of the "Substituting the Education" program.	Dr. Jorge G. Zornberg
9:30 - 10:00	<b>Session 2:</b> Industry cases on types and use of geosynthetic materials.	Dr. Richard Bratman
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Session 3:</b> Industry cases on types and use of geosynthetic materials.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Session 4:</b> Incorporating geosynthetic materials into your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
11:30 - 12:00	<b>Session 5:</b> Undergraduate group projects, presentations and poster display.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
12:00 - 12:30	<b>Lunch</b> (bring your own lunch)	
12:30 - 13:00	<b>Session 6:</b> Industry cases on geosynthetics in non-transportation applications.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
13:00 - 13:30	<b>Session 7:</b> Industry cases on geosynthetics in non-transportation applications.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
13:30 - 14:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Session 8:</b> Incorporating geosynthetic materials into your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Session 9:</b> Incorporating geosynthetic materials into your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
15:00 - 15:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Session 10:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
16:00 - 17:00	<b>Session 11:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Session 12:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
17:30 - 18:00	<b>Session 13:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
18:00 - 19:00	<b>Session 14:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
SCHEDULE: Wednesday, 29 July		
TIME	ACTIVITY	SPEAKER
8:00 - 9:00	<b>Session 15:</b> Introduction cases on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
9:00 - 9:30	<b>Session 16:</b> Introduction cases on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
9:30 - 10:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
10:00 - 10:30	<b>Session 17:</b> Geosynthetics for stabilization of embankments.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
10:30 - 11:00	<b>Session 18:</b> Geosynthetics for stabilization of embankments.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
11:00 - 11:30	<b>Session 19:</b> Geosynthetics for stabilization of embankments.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
11:30 - 12:00	<b>Session 20:</b> Geosynthetics for stabilization of embankments.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
12:00 - 12:30	<b>Lunch</b> (bring your own lunch)	
12:30 - 13:00	<b>Session 21:</b> Industry cases on geosynthetics in non-transportation applications.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
13:00 - 13:30	<b>Session 22:</b> Industry cases on geosynthetics in non-transportation applications.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
13:30 - 14:00	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
14:00 - 14:30	<b>Session 23:</b> Incorporating geosynthetic materials into your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
14:30 - 15:00	<b>Session 24:</b> Incorporating geosynthetic materials into your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
15:00 - 15:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>	
15:30 - 16:00	<b>Session 25:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
16:00 - 17:00	<b>Session 26:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
17:00 - 17:30	<b>Session 27:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman
17:30 - 18:00	<b>Session 28:</b> Assessment based on geosynthetic materials in your curriculum.	Dr. Barry H. Overman



# IGS Events & Initiatives - Meeting the Mission

- **IGS Corporate Committee**

- Dedicated to recruiting and serving the IGS' corporate members and seeking new ways to structure corporate membership to best align with industry's corporations and their goals.
- Ensures all IGS Corporate Members are aware of their benefits
- Maintains practices and procedures to deliver the Corporate Member Benefits
- Develops new benefits and augment existing benefits to the Corporate Membership as needs and/or opportunities develop
- Grow the Corporate membership



# IGS Events & Initiatives - Meeting the Mission

- **IGS Communications Committee**
  - Dedicated to developing and disseminating news and information to the IGS membership
  - IGS News
    - Publish your Chapters' events to the 6,000+ international readers
  - IGS Website
    - Member Directory – Access to contact information to 1,000s of the worlds geosynthetics experts
    - Proceedings – Access to 17 (and growing) searchable & indexed proceedings from past IGS events. Valued at thousands of dollars available at no cost to members.
    - Technical Documents, developed by the Education Committee and the various technical committees this segment of the site will see significant growth in the next few years.



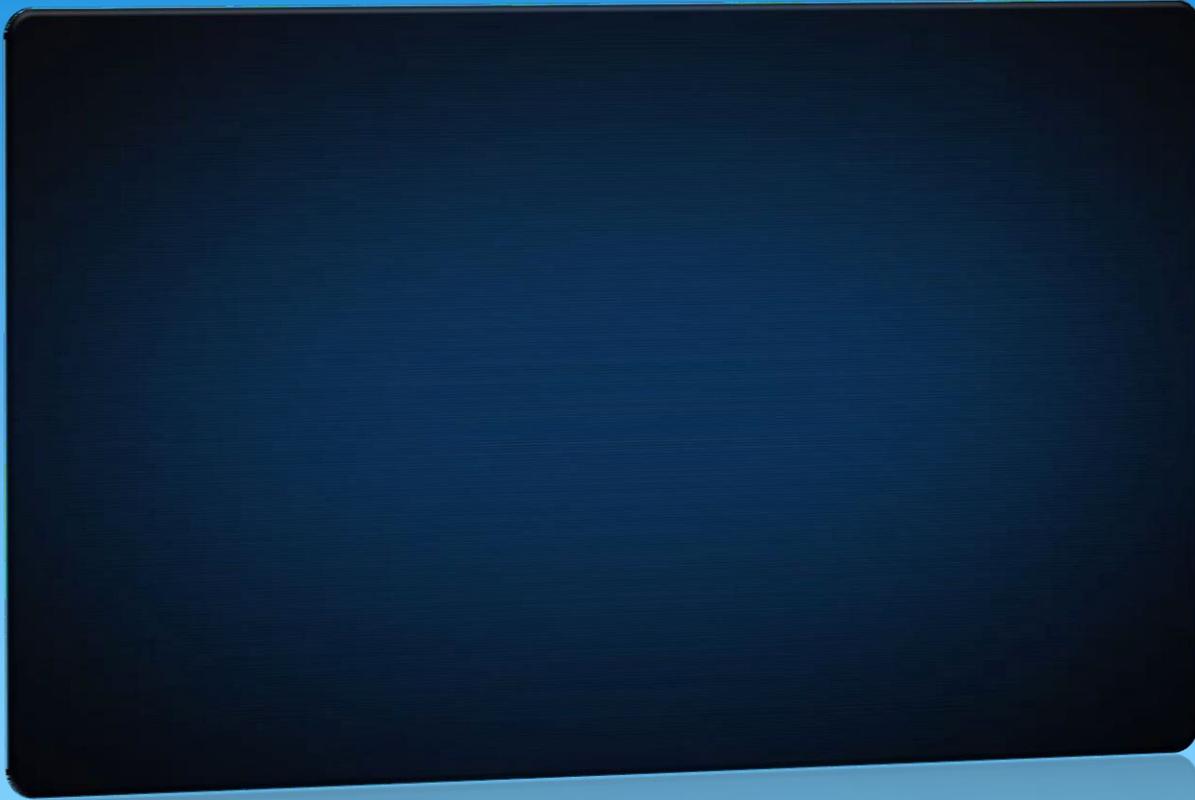
# IGS Events & Initiatives - Meeting the Mission

- **IGS Education Committee**

- Dedicated to developing educational materials such as webinars, one-pagers and videos to support the understanding of geosynthetics
- IGS Sustainability Video
  - IGS will work with any chapter who would like to have a translation made. The IGS will contribute with both effort and a \$500 US bursary toward the project. German, Portuguese, Korean, and French translations completed... **Who will be next?**



# IGS Video on Geosynthetics & Sustainability



Target Audience: Engineers, regulators, administrators, etc.

Purpose: To improve the comprehension of the value of geosynthetics among non-experts

This video and other translated version can be found on the [IGS Youtube Channel](#)



# IGS Events & Initiatives - Meeting the Mission

- **IGS Technical Committee (TC) Initiatives**
  - 4 TCs: Barriers, Stabilization, Hydraulics & Soil Reinforcement
  - Hold workshops in odd years to propel high-level development.
  - Development of collateral to support teaching
  - Creation of short-courses and technical sessions in activities in sister-societies events
  - TCs may be formed by a group of IGS Members with interest in addressing a topic or issue
  - Join a TC and work with your peers from around the world & move the technical understanding and use of geosynthetics forward internationally and nationally

**IGS TC-Reinforcement Workshop:**  
Research on Geosynthetic-Soil Interaction and Progress of Design Models for Geosynthetic-Reinforced Soil

**Register Now**  
New Registration

**Event Details**  
IGS TC-Reinforcement Workshop: Research on Geosynthetic-Soil Interaction and Progress of Design Models for Geosynthetic-Reinforced Soil  
Sunday 13th 2015  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm  
Edinburgh  
Scotland

**IGS TC-Reinforcement Workshop:**  
Research on Geosynthetic-Soil Interaction and Progress of Design Models for Geosynthetic-Reinforced Soil

**Summary**  
The International Geosynthetic Society (IGS) has established technical committees (TCs) for the exchange and improvement of knowledge and for increasing the experience of the field's experts. A series of workshops organized by these TCs has been planned on a biennial basis at the Technical Committee on Soil Reinforcement (TC-R) at the XVI European Conference on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering (ECSMGE) in September 2015 in Edinburgh, UK.

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**IGS International Geosynthetic Society**  
**GEOSYNTHETIC BARRIERS:**  
Applications & Benefits

**Geosynthetic Barriers**  
Containment of fluids is one of the major functions provided by geosynthetics. Geosynthetic barriers (GGBs) prevent liquid migration, prevent erosion, prevent infiltration, prevent gas migration, prevent leachate migration, prevent groundwater contamination, etc.

**Overview**  
There are three general types of geosynthetic barrier systems in the geosynthetic family of materials: Geosynthetic Membrane Barriers (GMBs), Geosynthetic Clay Liners (GCLs), and Geosynthetic Clay Composites (GCCs). Each material group has its own unique characteristics and applications.

**Key Features and Benefits**  
• High strength and low permeability  
• Long service life  
• Easy to install and maintain  
• Cost-effective  
• Environmentally friendly  
• Versatile applications

**Contact Us**  
IGS@geosyntheticssociety.org  
www.geosyntheticssociety.org



# IGS Events & Initiatives - Meeting the Mission

- **IGS Council Coordination Committees (CC) and Task Forces (TF) Initiatives**
  - 5 Coordination Committees – Technical Committee Coordination, Events, International Liaison, Membership Initiatives, Governance Documents
  - 5 Task Forces – Geosynthetics Terms and Definitions, IGS University Online Lecture Series, Virtual Technical Events, Structure of IGS Council and Officers, IGS Management
  - Formed by the Council when deemed necessary and a Task Force Chair is appointed.
- **IGS Young Members Committee**
  - Members under 36 years of age
  - Supporting the integration of young members throughout the IGS
  - Working with translations
  - Working with International and Regional Conferences
  - Supporting Young Member & Student activities





- **Honorary Membership** - Honorary Membership may be bestowed by Council upon a limited number of persons on the basis of distinguished position, scientific achievement, outstanding service to the Society, or major contributions to the promotion of geosynthetics and their applications.
- **The Giroud Lecture** - The Giroud Lecturer is chosen by the IGS Council and the lecture is presented at the International Conference on Geosynthetics.
- **IGS Awards/Young IGS Member Awards** - given only every 4 years at International Conferences this is the IGS' highest award and is based on technical achievement
- **IGS Service Award/IGS Young Member Service Award** – this award is given out to IGS members in recognition of their commitment and dedication to the society and the greater good of the geosynthetics discipline.
- **IGS Chapter Achievement/Service Award** – Elected by the Chapter and given at the appropriate regional conference. This is a non-technical award and is given for exemplary service to the Chapter.
- **IGS Corporate Member 20 Year Award and 30 Year Award** – Given to Corporate Members who have given continuous support through membership for 20 and 30 years.

# What does IGS membership offer?

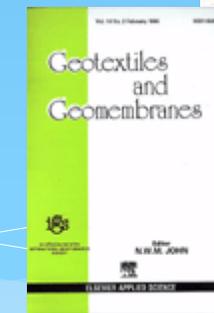
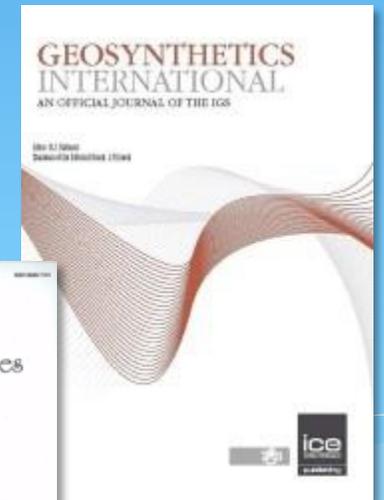


- A valuable investment for anyone interested in the engineering and geosynthetics industry.
- Helps support the aims of the IGS by contributing to the advancement of the art and science of geotextiles, geomembranes and related products and of their applications and providing a forum for designers, manufacturers and users, where new ideas can be exchanged and contacts improved.
- A unique way to become increasingly informed, involved and influential in the field of geotextiles, geomembranes, related products and associated technologies.



# Benefits of Joining the IGS

- Online access to the IGS Membership Directory, published yearly, with full addresses, telephone, email and fax numbers of members
- Subscription to the IGS News newsletter, published 3 times a year
- Online access to the 19 IGS Mini Lecture Series for the use of the membership
- FREE Access to Geosynthetics International and Geotextiles & Geomembranes, valued at over \$1,000 US
- Discount rates for any IGS publications and at all international, regional or national conferences organized by the IGS or under its auspices
- Eligible to be granted an IGS award



# Additional Benefits for Corporations Joining the IGS

- A detailed listing in the IGS Member Directory.
- Opportunity to post your company's full-page profile in an issue of the IGS News.
- Permission to use the IGS logo at exhibitions and in promotional literature.
- Priority booth selection and discounted rates on booth and attendee fees at all exhibits organized by the IGS or under its auspices.
- Opportunity to join IGS committees and task forces
- All corporate members receive an IGS Corporate Membership Plaque that is annually updated to highlight continuing support and activity in the field.





# Get Social With Us!



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Like Us On Facebook!

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[www.geosyntheticsociety.org](http://www.geosyntheticsociety.org)