

Appendix B: Organization of the Panamerican Committee on Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering

Organization for the Panamerican Committee on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering

Adopted at New Delhi, January 4, 1995

Amended at Guadalajara, October 30, 1995*

PREAMBLE

1. The first Panamerican Conference on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering was held in Mexico City, September 7-12, 1959. It was convened by an ad hoc committee under Enrique Tamez, Secretary.
2. At four year intervals since then, Panamerican Conferences have been held as follows:

Second	1963 Brazil
Third	1967 Venezuela
Fourth	1971 Puerto Rico
Fifth	1975 Argentina
Sixth	1979 Peru
Seventh	1983 Canada
Eighth	1987 Colombia
Ninth	1991 Chile
3. There have been no formal agreements or bylaws governing these conferences. All have been held by consensus of the North and South American Member Societies acting through their delegates in informal ad hoc sessions at the quadrennial International Conferences and Panamerican Conferences. These sessions have included also the discussion of Panamerican geotechnical concerns.
4. Each Panamerican Conference has been the responsibility of the host Member Society. Generally, the host Society has been responsible for raising funds, making local conference arrangements, and the publication of the Conference Proceedings. The host Society has been responsible for selection of the Conference theme, sessions, speakers, panelists, and page quotas for the proceedings. Usually the host Society has solicited suggestions and advice from the other member Societies and the two regional Vice presidents; however, there has been some non-uniformity in the procedures followed in these solicitations.
5. The ISSMFE Bylaws require that the regional Vice Presidents should promote Regional Conferences and approve such conferences in consultation with the ISSMFE Secretary General. This is more complex for the Panamerican Conferences since two regions of ISSMFE are involved.
6. At the ICSMFE in Tokyo in 1977, the official delegates of North and South America to the ISSMFE Executive Committee discussed the lack of guidelines for Panamerican activities.

The Vice Presidents for North and South America were requested to solicit suggestions from the Member Societies and to prepare a guide for future action.

7. Subsequent to the Tokyo Conference a proposed organization was drafted by the North American Vice President, Professor George Sowers. This proposal appears to have not been formally considered by the Panamerican Member Societies. At the Panamerican delegates meeting in Vina Del Mar Chile on August 2, 1991, it was agreed that the proposal should be amended and updated as necessary to accommodate developments since 1977 and submitted to each member society for review, comment, and possible adoption.
8. A second draft proposal was developed and sent to each Member Society for review in June 1992. As a result of these meetings and reviews, a Final Draft has been developed for action at the meeting of the Panamerican Member Society Delegates to the ISSMFE at the time of the XIII ICSMFE in New Delhi in January 1994.

PROPOSED ORGANIZATION

1. The name of the organization is the Panamerican Committee on Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering.
2. The organization shall consist of all current Member Societies of the International Society for Soil Mechanics and Foundation Engineering from north and South America as certified annually by the ISSMFE Secretary General.
3. The purposes of the Committee are to:
 - a. Promote cooperation in geotechnical engineering among the Member Societies.
 - b. Encourage joint action among the Member Societies on issues influencing geotechnical engineering in the Americas.
 - c. Sponsor Panamerican Conferences on Soil Mechanic and Foundation Engineering at four- year intervals.
 - d. Develop policies and guidelines that will assist in the organization of other conferences and technical committees, and will facilitate communication efficiently and effectively.
4. The Committee will consist of one delegate and one alternate delegate from each eligible Member Society plus the ISSMFE Vice President for North America and the ISSMFE Vice President for South America.
5. The officers will consist of the ISSMFE Vice Presidents for North and South America, serving as Co-chairman plus a Secretary appointed by the Co-chairmen. The Secretary must be conversant in Spanish and English. And preferably Portuguese. The Secretary shall serve concurrently with the Regional Vice Presidents, whose terms are established by the ISSMFE By-Laws. The Secretary shall act as the Panamerican Committee Coordinator and be responsible for necessary communication among the Member Societies between meetings and for the organization of the Committee meetings. Preferably the Secretary will be from the host country for the next Panamerican Conference.

6. The officers will not vote unless given proxy to vote on behalf of an absent delegation or to cast deciding votes in the event of a tie.
7. The Committee will meet at each ISSMFE Conference and at each Panamerican Conference. A majority of the Panamerican Member societies will constitute a quorum. Minutes of the Committee meetings will be published in the post-conference volume of the Panamerican Conference Proceedings. At the meeting held at the time of the ISSMFE, the Panamerican Committee will also include the incoming Vice Presidents for North and South America. The officers at this meeting will be the outgoing Vice Presidents and Secretary.
8. Vice Presidents shall solicit invitations for future Panamerican Conferences from the Member Societies in their Region at least six months prior to each Panamerican Conference. *Member Societies that wish to submit an invitation should respond to the Vice Presidents in writing at least three months prior to the next Panamerican Conference.* Each Member Society shall be informed of the results of this solicitation in advance of the Conference at which the selection of the next host Member Society is to be made.

Preliminary indications of intent to invite may be made at the ICSMFE 6 years in advance. Such indications are not to be considered binding.

9. Those Member Societies that have offered invitations to host forthcoming Panamerican Conferences may present them at the Committee meeting during each Panamerican Conference, and the Committee will vote at that time for selection of the next Conference venue.
10. The selected host Member Society will furnish the two Regional Vice Presidents the names of the Conference Organizing Committee members within six months following the Panamerican Conference at which their invitation to host the Conference has been accepted.
11. There shall be a Panamerican Conference Advisory Committee *to assure criteria as uniform as possible in the formulation of the technical and scientific programs of the Panamerican Conference, to give continuity to this procedure, to have the support of the Secretary General of ISSMFE and to assist the Conference Organizing Committee* ~~primarily in matters of the technical program, but also~~ in any other way that the Organizing Committee may request. The members of the Advisory Committee shall consist of a member designated by the host Member Society, the Vice Presidents for North and South America in office at the time of deciding on the venue, *the Vice Presidents for North and South America in office at the time of the Conference, the Secretary General of ISSMFE, the Secretary General of the Organizing Committee of the previous Panamerican Conference, and a member designated by the Organizing Committee.*
12. The Host Member Organizing Committee shall solicit suggestions from the other Member Societies for session and panel topics, Conference dates, and other issues relevant to the organization of the Panamerican Conference

13. The selection of the Casagrande Lecturer for each Panamerican Conference shall be made by a committee consisting of the two Regional Vice Presidents plus former Casagrande Lecturers. The choice of Lecturer will be in accordance with criteria agreed upon at the VIII Panamerican Conference, Cartagena, Colombia, and published in the Post-Conference Proceedings volume from that Conference. Each Vice President shall solicit suggestions from the Member Societies in his/her Region two years prior to the next Panamerican Conference. The Selection Committee shall reach a decision, and the proximate Vice President shall invite the selected lecturer at least eighteen months prior to the date at which the Casagrande Lecture is to be delivered.

*Amendments to Articles 8 and 11 in Guadalajara: Additions shown in *italics* and deletions shown with strike-through.

