

# Reprise of Giroud Lecture “Healing the World: A Geosynthetics Solution”

## Speaker:

Dr Nathalie Touze, Antony Regional Centre, Irstea, France.

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday, 03 December 2019
<b>Location:</b>	The Geological Society of London, Burlington House
<b>Arrival / Start Time:</b>	18.00 for 18:30
<b>Refreshments:</b>	Tea / coffee and snacks will be served

## Synopsis:

There seems to be no consensus about whether the world is currently going through an unprecedented crisis. Clearly the conditions of life have greatly improved since the 17<sup>th</sup> century in terms of food quality and quantity, water quality, life expectancy, poverty, violence, environment, freedom, social equality, education, etc. The good old days were terrible!

However, a number of unacceptable situations remain in our world and improvements are still urgently needed. The world is a complex organism, experiencing numerous troubles: economic and financial crisis, environmental crisis, agricultural crisis, sanitary crisis, psychological and identity-related crisis, crisis of values and sense, political crisis, etc. When faced with such a systemic crisis, the solution must be global. How can geosynthetics and the geosynthetics community contribute to the resolution of these crises and help heal the world?

Technology is usually emphasized but will not be enough. What values should we expect now from the International Geosynthetics Society (IGS), 35 years after its creation? The objective of this Giroud lecture is to analyze the recent lectures and papers in geosynthetics to see what the evidence says about our contribution today to supplying water quality to all, feeding the world, protecting our environment, mitigating natural disasters, bringing economic solutions, and connecting people to help them to learn to live together according to universal human values.

## About the Speaker:



IGS Vice President, Dr. Touze has been conducting research on geosynthetics for the past 25 years, with particular emphasis on environmental applications. She is the head of two regional centers of Irstea in a French public research institute, which has been at the forefront of geosynthetic research since 1972.

She has authored about 200 papers and serves or has served on a number of national technical committees especially for the use of geosynthetic clay liners and geomembranes. Her experience has been acknowledged in the field of standardization and she has served as convenor of WG4 (hydraulics) in ISO TC 221 and CEN TC 189. She is currently president of the council of the French Chapter of IGS. She has been elected on the IGS council twice (2010-2014 and 2014-2018).

Dr Nathalie Touze was a Keynote Lecturer at the Eurogeo 4 and Eurogeo 5 conferences. She was also an invited lecturer at the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Geotechnics in 2014 (Melbourne, Australia) and this year earned the honour of presenting the 6<sup>th</sup> Giroud Lecture at the November 2018 11<sup>th</sup> quadrennial IGS Conference in Seoul.

**Next IGS UK Event.** Joint Evening meeting with University of Manchester  
**Title / Speaker:** TBC  
**Date / Time:** TBC  
**Venue:** University of Manchester – Venue TBC

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