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Dissemination and outreach of geotechnical aspects of permafrost science to secondary education students in Greenland

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Greenland has shortage of skilled workers and engineers in comparison to country's development plans. We have been working with institutions of secondary education in Sisimiut, Greenland, on outreach events aimed at inciting youth's interest in engineering topics. We present two formats of outreach events prepared for two different audiences of students. In the outreach event for high school students (age 17 - 19), we held a classroom lecture, followed by a tour of an active construction site guided by an engineer. The lecture familiarized the students with the terms and concepts necessary to understand permafrost interaction with climate, with built structures, and the importance of understanding geotechnical ground properties. Active participation of the students was ensured by encouraging them to answer all the questions they were able to using their existing knowledge. In the outreach event for students of vocational education (machine worker and mine worker), we focused on demonstrating the applicability of field geophysical methods for assessing ground composition and presence of permafrost. The aim was to make the students informed conversation partners in discussion with colleague engineers. Both types of events have generated active participation and positive feedback from the students and their teachers. The year following the high school outreach, at least two of the participating Greenlandic students entered the engineering education in Sisimiut.