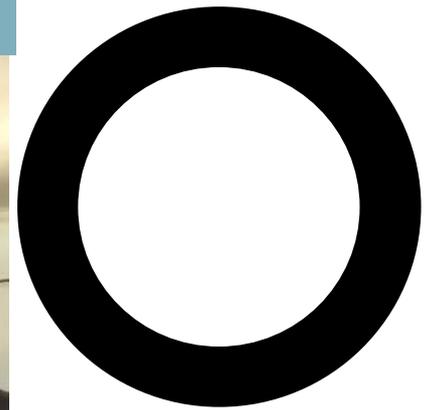


ITA INTERNAL NEWS



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TO ITA MEMBER NATIONS, ITA WORKING GROUPS AND COMMITTEES, PRIME SPONSORS & SUPPORTERS.

Dear Friend

The WTC 2016 in San Francisco has been a real success. With more than 2300 participants it is the highest attendance we have ever had in a WTC. I take this occasion to thank once more the UCA of SME for the organization. During the week of the WTC, in addition to the traditional technical activities, ITA members have participated in many meetings and many ideas came up for the future of our Association.

Immediately after the WTC, I had the pleasure to chair the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Council, whose main purpose was to establish a roadmap for the coming years.

Even though most of the goals of the strategic plan conducted by the previous ExCo have been successfully achieved, it is clear that the plan needs to be revisited in order to further facilitate the

actions of Working Groups and Committees and to meet the needs of the Member Nations and Sponsors. The meeting had time limitations for the new plan to have been fully detailed. Guidelines were discussed and it was agreed that improving communication is always an important goal. Discussions were also directed towards finding means of making information not only available, but also easier to find when needed for running different groups.

On the other hand, even though the satisfaction survey with generally positive results has been digested just one year ago, it is clear that the reaction time for new needs may require not only formal surveys, but improved and simpler communication channels.

Even though it may seem to be the ExCo's role to run the Association and to come up with all improvements needed, we are also open to listening to suggestions. It is important to realize

that only by enforcing an effective two-way communication scheme between all of us, ExCo and non-ExCo players, can the Association reflect the optimum balance that will result in maximizing our goals. Those are increasing the use of underground space, improving the records of operational and construction safety and improving the technical level of underground construction engineering by enhancing large-scale and efficient knowledge sharing mechanisms.

A few days ago, the ExCo held another meeting in Copenhagen at the invitation of our Past President, Søren Degn Eskesen and of the Danish Society for Tunnels and Underground Works (DFTU).

During this meeting we continued to review the actions planned for each strategic goal and to develop new ways and actions when it is felt necessary.

ITA SECRETARIAT :

Olivier VION – Executive Director – olivier.vion@ita-aites.org - +33607846706

Claudia CLIVAZ – Executive Assistant – secretariat@ita-aites.org - +41216932310

Christiane NUSSLER – Accounter – c.nussler@ita-aites.org - +41216933964

Sonia SALLES – ITAtech secretariat – secretariat-itatech@ita-aites.org - +33695871385

Anette SCHMIDT – Marketing – marketing@ita-aites.org



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ITA YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP :

Chair :Sindre Log

EXPERTS

Timo LAITINEN: Prime Sponsors
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This meeting has also been the opportunity to meet with the newly elected chair and vice-chair of the Young Member Group, Sindre Log and Lasse Vester, who presented their vision and plan for the coming year.

Taking advantage of the WTC 2016 experience, the ExCo Task Force continues working on how to better organize the WTC for the benefit of the host Member Nation, ITA and all the participants. The goal is to make some proposal at the next General Assembly.

The organization of the second edition of the ITA Tunnelling and Underground Space Awards is being pursued. At the moment we are collecting the entries in the 9 categories and the finalists will be unveiled in July. We are also working with TUCSS, Tunnelling and Underground Construction Society Singapore, for the organization of the seminar that will take place on November the 10th, just before the awards conference and diner on the 11th. The theme of the seminar will be innovation and productivity.

End of May, I had the pleasure to be invited to the 4th International Symposium on Tunnels and Shafts organized in Mexico by AMITOS, delivering a lecture on "Why go underground? Why modern countries and cities are going underground?" Another keynote lecture was given by Randall Essex (USA) on GBR for underground construction. The symposium was well attended and very successful.

On the Monday, following the ExCo meeting in Copenhagen, the DFTU organized a one-day seminar with two main topics: Aspects of conventional tunnelling and metro development and construction. Around 90 people participated in this seminar and most of the lectures were given by ExCo members on the two themes

As usual, as soon as a WTC is over, the next one is getting in full speed. The deadline of the call for abstracts has been extended until July 1st and I recommend you to encourage the tunnelling community in your country to submit abstracts for this congress, which will take place in one year from now in Bergen (Norway). Venue for the congress and for social events are now booked and the program is being established.

After the summer/winter break is over, the activity will be very intense with many conferences taking place all over the world, in Singapore, UK, Canada, Italy, China. This will be the opportunity to meet you and share with all of you on the future of ITA.

Once again I would like to thank all of you for the support. All the members of the Executive Council and myself are devoted to make ITA the most efficient association for sharing the knowledge and promoting the use of underground space.

I wish you all the best for the coming months.

Tarcisio B. Celestino
ITA President 2016-2019