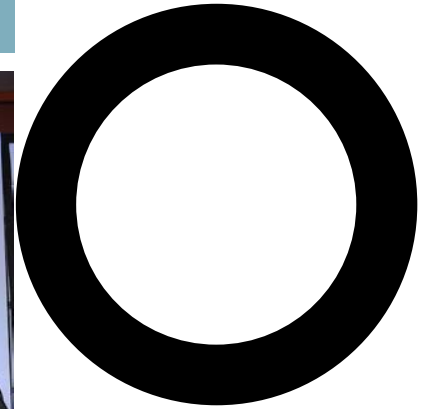


ITA INTERNAL NEWS



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BULLETIN N°14



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

Dear Friend

Since our last bulletin, the members of the Executive Council have been engaged in many activities. Of course, and we have already informed you about it, the Awards Conference and Ceremony held in Singapore has been a real success. This 2-day event, co-organized by TUCSS (Tunnelling and Underground Construction Society - Singapore) has gathered over 200 people for the conferences and 280 for the banquet dinner. It has been the opportunity to show to the whole community real success in tunnelling projects all over the world. More details are available on the dedicated web site. It is also for me the opportunity to thank once again TUCSS for the support and the very active involvement of the whole Singaporean tunnelling community in the awards. Few days ago, we just launch the 3rd edition. Nominations are being accepted until May 31st. We encourage you to promote the awards in your country and among your colleagues.

ExCo members continued their work on updating ITA strategic goals and actions. Our main purpose is to take into account the quick evolution of the Association as well as all the stakeholders. During our latest ExCo meeting in Mumbai we worked actively and we will be able to present the updated strategy in Bergen. Another topic that is now on ITA ExCo agenda is the ITA brand. We see a lot of ITA stakeholders but also sometimes bodies outside the family using our logo or name and we need to be more cautious on these different uses.

In October I had the pleasure to join the China Tunnel and Underground Works Congress 2016, along with its 19th Annual Conference at Southwest Jiaotong University (SWJTU) in Chengdu organized by the Tunnel and Underground Works Branch of CCES. Choosing "Challenges in Modern Tunnelling" as its theme, this successful international event recorded 1,261

attendees from well-known institutions and enterprises in the industry, with more than 250 participating in the training program before the congress. Endorsed by ITA, the congress invited a great number of prestigious experts and personalities as its distinguished guests to participate in this event and notably some ITA's former presidents Soren Degn Eskesen, In-Mo Lee, Martin C. Knights and Einar Broch. It was a pleasure to meet all them in Chengdu. After the Congress, Einar Broch and I were invited by Prof. Qiu Wenge (Southwest Jiatong University) and Prof. Shucui Li (Shandong University) for an interesting program of visits to their institutions and presentations of their research developments related to tunnel construction.

In January, at the eve of the annual George Fox conference in New York, the UCA of SME organized a dinner with all staff and volunteers who participated in the organization of the WTC 2016. I

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had the pleasure to be there with Olivier Vion and it was the opportunity also for ITA to thank every one and again to congratulate for the success of the WTC in San Francisco.

Three weeks ago, we had a meeting in Mumbai, India. This meeting has been preceded by a 2-day workshop as well as a 2-day conference. Both events were very well attended, with many more participants than expected and the necessity to add chairs in the conference hall. Several Executive Council members gave lectures in both workshop and conference as well as representatives of some of ITA Prime Sponsors (Normet, BASF, Bekaert Macafferri Underground Solutions, Sika). The tunnelling market is booming in India and the choice of Mumbai for this event was very wise as few days before the event 14 of the requested 17 TBMs for the Mumbai metro line 3 had just been ordered.

Last week I was in Dubai for the 4th Arabian Tunnelling Conference together with Olivier Vion and Davorin Kolic. Martin Knights (former ITA President), Han Admiraal and Antonia Cornaro (Chair and Vice-Chair ITACUS) were also participating in this event that gathered around 300 participants from all GCC Countries and other regions. In addition to the traditional conference, the Society of Engineers UAE, organized a Young Engineer Forum where ITACUS presented Think Deep as well as the new Young Professional Think Deep Program with the objective of organizing a YPTDP organized in Dubai before the WTC 2018.

The preparation of the WTC in Bergen is in full swing. The selection of papers is close to the end and the authors should be notified shortly. The Executive Council together with the Organizing Committee is working on the Open Session and we will be able to send you a preliminary program in the coming weeks. Interesting technical visits are being set up, before, during and after the WTC. For social events, it will be the opportunity to discover Bergen by the land and by the fjords. Registration is open and I warmly recommend you to register as soon as possible.

Before the WTC, the Executive Council will meet in Yangon, Myanmar, a country that joined ITA as a Member Nation in 2012. A one-day seminar will be organized with a large participation of ExCO members. I will then, together with the Executive Director go to Lagos, Nigeria, as the Tunnelling Association Nigeria is candidate to become an ITA Member Nation and has prepared a 2 days launching conference where all the present and future tunnelling community has been invited.

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 and looking forward to seeing you all in Bergen.

Tarcisio B. Celestino
ITA President 2016-2019