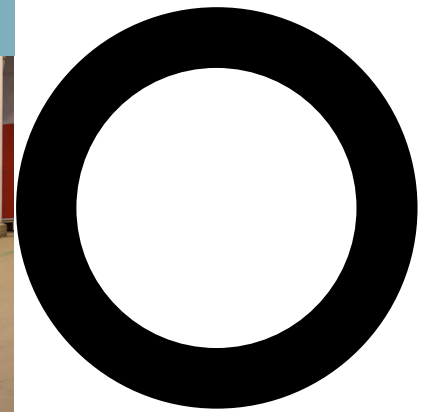


ITA INTERNAL NEWS



@SANDVIK-Tampere



OCTOBER 2016,
BULLETIN N°13

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

Dear Friend

After the break the ITA activities started again on a very rapid pace. The organization of the second edition of the ITA Tunnelling and Underground Space Awards is being pursued. All together 99 entries have been received in the 9 categories for the awards and the panel of Judges selected the finalists which have been unveiled mid-July. At the moment the judges are voting among the finalists to determine the winner of each category. The finalists and the winner will be celebrated during a one-day conference and a banquet on November the 11th in Singapore. On the day before a symposium organized with the Tunnelling and Underground Construction Society Singapore (TUCSS) will take place about underground development and technology. Information to book your seat at the conferences and dinner is available on the website (awards.ita-aites.org).

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. As an example it has been discussed during the Open Session in San Francisco on the expectation of the owners. It is also important to take into account that more than 50% of the tunnelling market is in Asia and that in the middle term future the demand of underground structures will grow very fast on the African continent. Our objective is to be able to present an updated strategic plan in front of the ITA general Assembly next June in Bergen.

All Executive Council members are motivated to make ITA the best possible association for the benefits of its Members and the whole tunnelling community. The overall activity has grown a lot in the past decade and we are working to find more efficient ways

of working during our meetings but also to make the participation of ITA in different events more effective.

All of us are enthusiastic and ready to work together for the benefit of ITA. In Bergen at the General Assembly, 3 positions of ExCo members will be available and therefore I encourage every one ready to bring its capabilities and dynamism to ITA, to be candidate for becoming an ITA Executive Council Member.

A few days ago, the ExCo held a meeting in Tampere, Finland at the invitation of both the Finnish Tunnelling Association (MTR-FTA) and the Company Sandvik, specifically from Timo Laitinen, representing the ITA Prime Sponsors inside the ExCo. We had the opportunity to hold a very fruitful meeting with the board of FTA. ExCo members were surprised to hear that Finland is having the second world longest tunnel (120 km); a water tunnel

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ITA EXECUTIVE COUNCIL 2016-2019

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Salma ALMAAMARI (UAE) – WTC 2018

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WG3 : Arnold DIX
WG5 : Donald LAMONT
WG6 : Henry RUSSEL
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WG11 : Jonathan BABER
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ITA YOUNG MEMBERS GROUP :

Chair :Sindre Log

EXPERTS

Pekka NIEMINEN: Prime Sponsors
Zaw Zaw AYE : South East Asia
Michael BELENKIY : CIS Countries
Rick LOVAT : ITA Brand
Daniele PEILA : Training and Education
Harald WAGNER : World Bank



from the Lake Päijänne to Helsinki. It was also interesting to share with them the actions they have towards the decision makers and how this initiative can be enlarged towards other ITA Member nations.

In Tampere we visited the Sandvik factory and especially we had the pleasure to be shown the Test Mine Gallery, a network of 4 kms of galleries used for testing material and process as well as for training purposes.

On the day before, several ExCo members visited another ITA Prime Sponsor, Bekaert Maccaferri Underground Solutions (BMUS). After a fruitful meeting where ITA and BMUS shared their expectations and way forward of partnership, the members could visit one of Bekaert factories where fibres for the tunnelling industry are produced.

Beginning of September, I had also the pleasure to go to Delhi for a workshop on “ Best practices for safe cross passages – Investigation, design and construction » organized by the Tunnelling Association India and the Central Bureau of Irrigation and Power (CBIP).

Timo Laitinen, from Sandvik is getting a new position in his company, less related to tunnelling activities. It is the reason why, after consulting the other Prime Sponsors and the Executive Council, he has proposed to be replaced as representative of the Prime Sponsors by his colleague Pekka Nieminen. I want to take the opportunity to thank

again Timo for all the good work done together and welcome Pekka.

The preparation of the WTC in Bergen is in full swing. Seven hundred and sixty height abstracts have been received. They are presently being reviewed by 100 reviewers; each abstract being reviewed by 2 different reviewers. The acceptance notification will be sent to authors in the coming weeks. The submission deadline for papers will be mid-January 2017. In parallel, the WTC Organizing Committee is working hard on the different topics of organization including social events, pre and post-congress tours, as well as the specific ITA activities like the WG meetings, the General Assembly and the different meetings for committees and other activities. The registration will be open soon.

In the coming months, before our next ExCo meeting in Singapore, the activity will be very intense with many conferences taking place all over the world, UK, Canada, Italy and 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