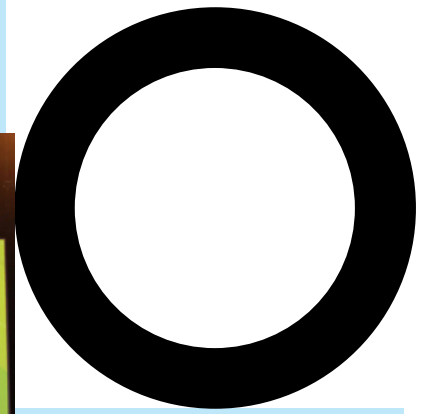


ITA INTERNAL NEWS



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BULLETIN N°18



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

Dear Friends

You haven't received any news for a few months. During this period, many activities took place, inside ITA as well as in collaboration with the ITA Member Nations. We held two ExCo meetings, one in Madrid, Spain in September and another one in Chuzhou, China in November at the occasion of the ITA Tunnelling Awards 2018.

The ExCo has been working on the strategic goals that have been set up in 2017 and a progress report will be presented to you in Naples. In order to always improve and benefit from past experience of WTCs, we have started a huge work of writing a guideline for WTCs as well as working on the process of choosing the location. We will present you this work in Naples as well.

As you have been informed, ITA has recruited a communication officer, who is now helping the Executive Director and the whole ITA staff for all communication means, website, social media, preparation of presentations... You will be able to meet her in May as well.

In September in Madrid, we had a fruitful meeting with AETOS board as well as a visit of the railway tunnel Atocha-Chamartin, that will allow direct link between South-West and North railway lines without changing stations.

Executive Council Members, the Executive Director and I participated in various conferences and meetings such as the Conference on Road Tunnels Operations and Safety organized by PIARC and ITACOSUF in Lyon - France,

the BTS Conference in London-UK, the SIG Conference organized by the Young member Group in Bologna-Italy.

In November, the ITA Tunnelling Awards 2018 took place in Chuzhou in cooperation with the 20th Chinese Tunnel and Underground Works conference organized by the Tunnelling Branch of CCES. It has been a real success, with an International day where Chinese and International experts presented interesting projects. The now traditional Awards conference and dinner with over 300 participants took place on the following day. One day later, technical visits were organized. This year, we got 70 very interesting entries coming from 20 countries. Among them, 9 have been awarded.

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-WTC2021

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End of November, Eric Leca, ITA first Vice President represented the Executive Council in Brussels, Belgium for a conference «Beyond Tunnel Vision».

In December, I was invited together with Olivier Vion to the FIDIC annual client conference in London, where a specific session on the FIDIC-ITA Emerald book on « Conditions of contracts for underground Works» took place. I had the pleasure to deliver a speech at the official dinner and we took part in a lively round-table discussion. The Executive Director of FIDIC will be in Naples where the Emerald book will be released.

Later the same week, together with Olivier Vion and Han Admiraal, we delivered a one-day training course in Nairobi, Kenya on «Underground Space use and Tunnel Project management». The training program was attended by #100 participants. It has also been the opportunity to discuss with public and private entities on the constitution of the Tunnel Association Kenya. This has been done since then and they will officially ask the ITA General Assembly to represent Kenya inside our association.

The preparation of the WTC in Naples is going full swing. The organizers have received over one thousand abstracts and around 700 papers have been selected for either oral or e-presentation. It is probably the highest number of papers that has ever been received for a WTC.

In addition to that the attraction of the WTC seems very high. The space of exhibition is been enlarged to allow new exhibitors to present their activities to the whole tunnelling industry.



The ExCo is finalising the preparation of the Open session which will focus on resilient tunnel and notably on maintenance strategies.

This year together with the Emerald book, several guidelines prepared either by WGs or Committees will be presented during the session on Tuesday morning. They are at the moment in the peer reviewing process.

This year will be a major election year, with change of President, Vice-Presidents, ExCo members as well as treasurer as Felix Amberg arrives at the end of his third term. It is the opportunity today to thank him for all the competent work and during the last 9 years for ITA, ITACOSUF as well as for the ITACET Foundation where he will continue as treasurer. At the moment we haven't received yet all the candidatures, but you will be informed in the beginning of March after the ExCo meeting planned in Brazil at the end of the month.

In order to take into account, the comments received during the past general Assembly in Dubai, the ExCo has been working on the governance as well as on different modifications of the statutes and By laws that will be presented to the General Assembly in Naples.

I encourage each of you to already register to WTC as more than 2,000 participants are expected to benefit the technical presentations as well as a huge exhibition with around 200 booths.

Tarcisio B. Celestino

ITA President 2016-2019