



ITA@NEWS #18

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WTC'07 in Prague

Latest News

On April the 26th, 1100 people were registered to participate in the WTC'07.

Open Session "New Financing Trends and Consequences on the Tunnelling Contracts".

The Open Session will take place on Tuesday May the 8th.

[Read the introduction by Yann Leblais, ITA Executive Council Member.](#)

It is important to bear in mind that the Open Session is a continuity to the previous one in Seoul WTC 2006, entitled "Risk Management on Tunnel Projects".

Nearly worldwide, the market is facing a new model for financing a part of the infrastructure projects: the Public Private Partnerships, or PPPs. It appears interesting to the ITA to give to the tunnelling community a look on what might change in the relationship between the stakeholders to the project, from the owner to the contractors and operators. The audience to the session might be composed largely by engineers or participants to the construction chain including owners.

In a classical public procurement model applied to the large infrastructure schemes, the things are quite well known and similar from a country to an other, even with some changes from the local regulations. Based on its needs, the owner defines the operational objectives and the program of investment for the infrastructure. He defines the construction parts to the project, here the tunnels, with the help of an engineer he appoints for. The engineer specifies the technical and economical description of the project and elaborates the terms of reference for a bidding procedure the contractors will answer to. The contractors are selected on the basic solution or an alternative and build the projects under the direction of the engineer. The liability scheme is strongly variable depending on the countries national regulation ; based on it, each player set in place the adequate cover of his own liability.

In a PPP scheme, some main changes occur in the relationship between the stakeholders. The public owner is asking for a combined technical, operational and financial answer to its needs. This answer is based on a level of definition of the project which might vary a lot depending on the local regulations and the ability of the owner, only to mention some of them. The answer is brought, through a competitive dialog procedure or similar, by a dedicated body (SPV: Special Purpose Vehicle) which gathers financial, design and construction, operational capacities, not forgetting the liability component. Most often, the SPV subcontracts the civil and equipment works, design and construction, to a SPC (Special Purpose Company) in charge of building the infrastructure. The SPV is liable not only for a construction target but mainly for an operational one and, both, for a long period of time. It appears quite clearly that the design and construction chain is deeply modified as well as the consequences in any failure in the operations in the life of the project.

Who is interested in such an evolution and why? Which are the roles of the stakeholders? Why are they different to a classical procedure? Who is liable for what? These are some questions the lecturers in the Open Session will throw light on.

The papers and presentations will be made by :

European Investment Bank - Henry MARTY-GAUQUIE

Financial Investor - VINCI Concession: Vincent PIRON

Contractor - Martin HOLFELDER – Bilfinger-Berger Bau

Engineering sector - Yann LEBLAIS

Contractual aspects - Arnold DIX

Re-Insurance sector - Wannick HEIKO (Munich-Re)

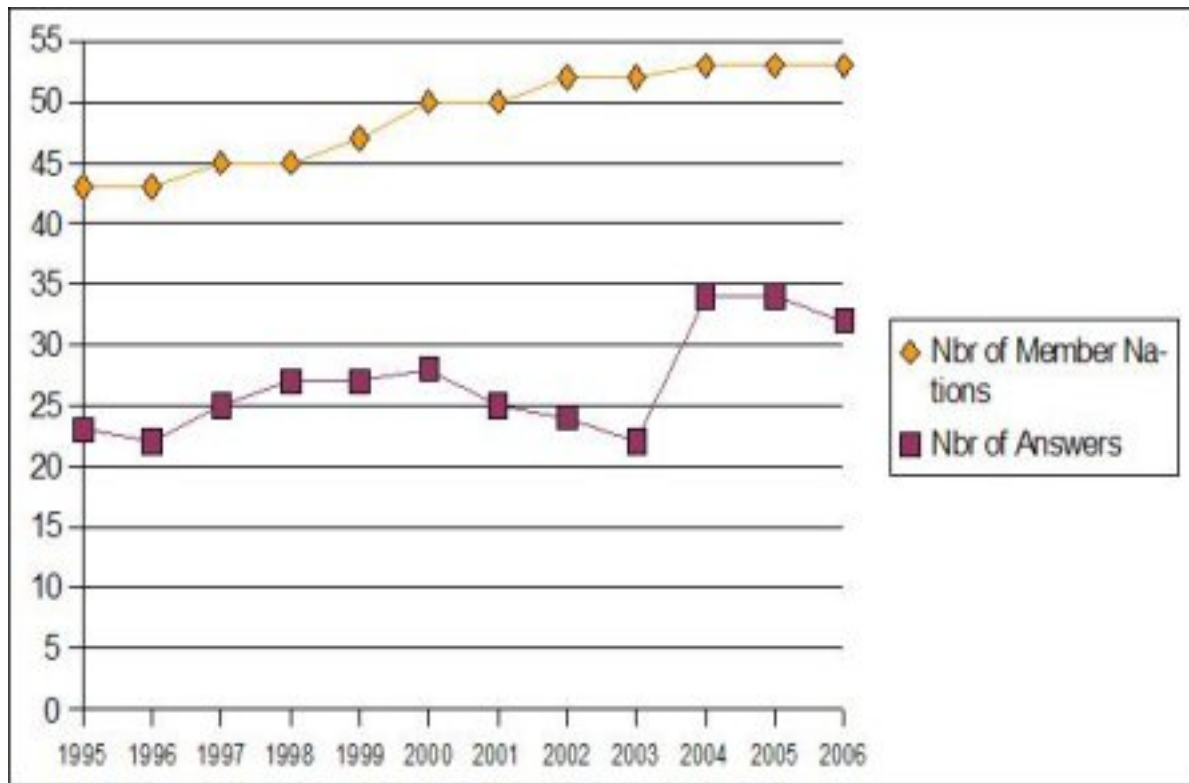
Czech representative - Emanuel ŠÍP, Ministry of Transportation

The papers will be available on the web site after the Congress. **You can already have a view in reading the abstracts of these papers.**

News from Member Nations

Annual Reports from the Member Nations

This year, 32 reports from Member Nations have been received.



The 32 reports will be soon available on the web site. We are sorry but we could only include 29 of them in Tribune. The others will be sent with Tribune as a separate shit. They are already available on the corresponding web page [Saudi Arabia](#), [India](#), [Slovakia](#).

Germany

Four members of "DAUB", the national German ITA committee from 21.3. to 29.3.07 went on a study trip to Tokyo and Kyoto, Japan, and Shanghai, China. The members of the group were: Joachim Naumann, German Ministry for Traffic, Construction and Urban Development (chairman of DAUB); Martin Herrenknecht, Herrenknecht AG; Axel Staeding, Duddeck & Partner Engineers; Markus Thewes, Institute for Tunnelling, Ruhr-University Bochum.

In Tokyo, the group was able to visit the Ministry of of Land, Infrastructure and Transport, the Metropolitan Expressway project, the Public Road Works Institute (PRWI) and the Trans Tokyo Bay Tunnel in operation. They also had a meeting with JTA President, Hiroshi Komori.

Koichi Ono, ITA vice president welcomed the group in Kyoto and with kind support of Engineers from the Hanshin Expressway project, took them to a tunnel and bridge construction site. The group, under the hospitable guidance, of Prof. Ono also visited Kyoto University and enjoyed beautiful Kyoto.



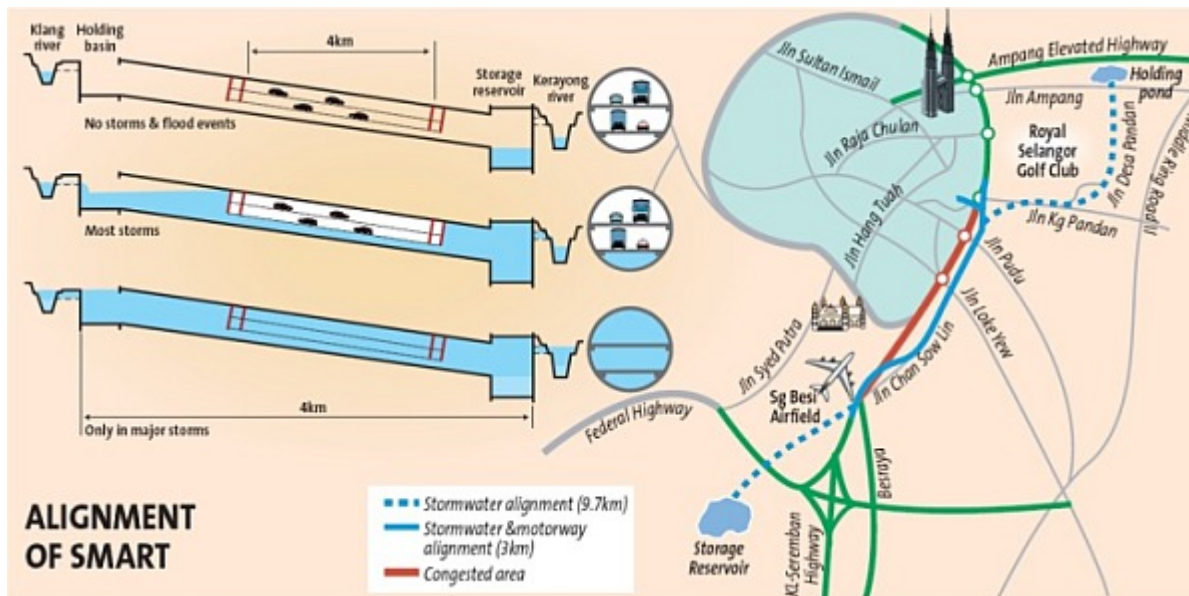
In Shanghai, the group visited the Chongming tunnel project, where currently two Herrenknecht Mixshields, the largest in the world, are under operation. Further, a visit to the very impressive Sutong bridge project across the Yangtze river took place. All members of the delegation were deeply impressed by the extraordinary Asian tunnelling projects they were able to visit. The group would like to express their deep gratitude for the wonderful hospitality they experienced from their hosts in Tokyo, Kyoto and Shanghai!

Malaysia

On March 17th and 18th, the ITA Secretary general visited Malaysia where the Tunnelling and Underground Space branch of the IEM (Institution of Engineers in Malaysia) organized a workshop during it he presented the lecture on "Why Go Underground in urban areas";



David PARKS from Mott Mac Donald, in charge of the SMART project contributed to the discussion in giving the last information on the project; he also organized a site visit on Saturday 18th. The Road Tunnel (3km) will open early April 2007 and the breakthrough for the water Tunnel will be soon celebrate, maybe before the end of March.



This visit was also the occasion of a meeting with the Board members of the IEM – Tunnelling and Underground Space Branch on the development of the relationship with ITA including the preparation of a page concerning SMART for the Underground Worldwide.



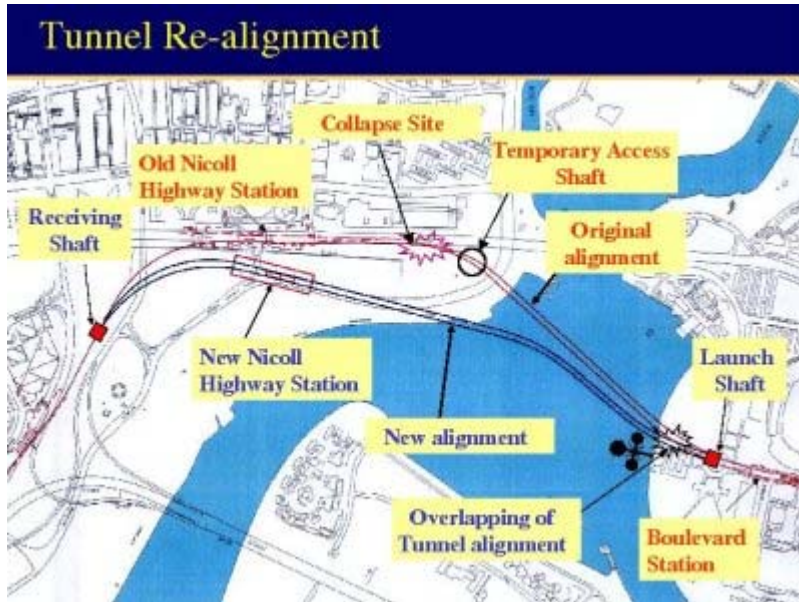
The proceedings on the "International Conference & Exhibition on Tunnelling and Trenchless technology" organized by the IEM, on March 2006 are now [available on the web site](#).

Singapore

From March 14th to 16th, The ITA Secretary general visited Singapore where the TUCSS (Tunnelling and Underground Construction Society (Singapore), the Singapore Representative to ITA, asked him to present the role of ITA in promoting Underground Space and Safety in Construction; more than 40 participants attended the presentation and many questions were asked concerning the role Singapore can play inside ITA.

This visit was also the occasion of a meeting with the Board of TUCSS where the development of the relationship between TUCSS and ITA was discussed. TUCSS will provided members for the WG and intends to invite WTC 2013; TUCSS also intends to host regional seminar and training session end 2007 or early 2008 under sponsorship of ITA on a topic to be chosen at the occasion of its 10th anniversary.

The Secretary General also visited the realignment of the Metro line after the collapse on the Circle Line.



You can download the presentation prepared by Land Transport Authority (LTA) at this occasion.

UK

Donald Lamont, HSE, BTS Committee member and ITA WG5 Animateur, has been awarded a PhD by Aston University for a study of data in HSE's compressed air database, entitled "Decompression illness and its regulations in contemporary UK tunnelling – an engineering perspective". The database was established in 1994 and contains information on 32 contracts involving around 2,300 men with around 120,000 exposures giving rise to over 400 cases of DCI since 1984.

Donald's study, which was funded by HSE, looked at the incidence of DCI using a number of measures; work patterns and the human response to DCI – acclimatisation, tolerance of DCI, tolerance of DCI and susceptibility to DCI; means of reducing DCI incidence with and without oxygen decompression and potential changes to the 1996 Work in Compressed Air Regulations.

Vietnam

On March 12th and 13th, The ITA secretary general visited Vietnam where the ITST (Institute for Transportation Science and Technology from the Ministry of Transport), the Vietnamese representative to ITA organized a seminar ; the Secretary General presented the lecture on « Why Go underground in urban Areas » on behalf of the ITA Executive Council ; presentations were also made by Vietnamese specialists on different aspects concerning the Metro in Hanoi (see hereafter) and Ho Chi Minh and on Maintenance and Repair. **You can download the presentation made by Dr Bui Duc Chinh from the ITST.**

More than 100 Vietnamese specialists participate to the seminar.

This visit allows the Secretary General to meet with the Board of the ITST in order to discuss about future cooperation including the preparation of a workshop in March 2008 on the construction of the Metros in the Vietnamese cities and about the enlargement of the Vietnamese national group.



In order to ensure a sustainable development the main Vietnamese cities, Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh will build metro systems.

In Hanoi, a pilot line will be built soon. The Owner of the Hanoi Metro Pilot Line Project is The Hanoi Metropolitan Rail Transport Project Board (HRB), under the Hanoi People's Committee (HPC). The total length of the double track metro line is 12.5 km plus 0.2 km of access road to the depot complex at Nhon town. The main line from Nhon depot to the Central Railway Station consists of an elevated bridge section of 9.8 km long and an underground tunnel section of 2.9 km which involves 4 underground stations. A second phase of the project will include more 2.5 km of underground tunnel in the inner city area from the Central Railway Station to the Hanoi Opera House.

You can download the presentation done Mr Luu Xuan Hung, Vice Director of HRB.



News from Working Groups

WG 12 - Shotcrete Use publication

The report "Shotcrete for rock support a summary report on the state of the art" is now available on the web site.

This State-of-the-Art Report tries to present the current states of shotcrete technology in different countries. The report has been produced by compiling information requested to the ITA National Groups

It is divided in three parts :

- **Working Group report**
- **Contributions of the Member Nations**
- **Foreword of the previous animateur of the WG, Knut Garshol.**

All **publications of the WG 12 "Shotcrete Use"** are available on the web site.

ECTP - Focus Area Underground Construction

ECTP FAUC Meeting in Warsaw March 2007

Tomas Franzén, SveBeFo, participant in FAUC and Swedish National Delegate to ITA, who represented ITA during the Warsaw meeting sent us the following short report . Preparations for the currently launched 7th Framework Programme of the European Union (FP 7) were based on "Technology Platforms" which were formed in several fields of technology, one of them the European Construction Technology Platform (ECTP). Members of the ECTP, representing most EU nations, prepared a Vision 2030 for the construction sector and a Strategic Research Agenda, as a basis for R&D fields to be incorporated in the FP 7. A subgroup of the ECTP, "Focus Area Underground Construction", also met several times during a couple of years to specify common R&D interests in this field. The last meeting was held in Warsaw last March with participants representing eight nations. A draft document ("Implementation Activity Plan") was discussed, presenting specific topics as a basis for continued efforts towards the EU Commission to include our field in future calls (next planned for December). Discussions also raised the issue of mutual interests between FAUC and ITA and it was stated that exchange of information would be of great value as ITA has a lot of information available at its web site and through contacts with its secretariat and by contacting specialists involved in ITA Working Groups and Committees. The WGs on the other hand should be aware of FP 7 as a tentative resource for funding of R&D, based on proposals to be prepared by consortia interested in performing R&D based on funding of their own (industry resources) and EU funding (normally 2/3 – 1/3 respectively).

Thesis

A new page has been added in the ITA web site. It is dedicated to thesis done by students in the frame of academic courses endorsed by ITA. ([go to this page](#))

For the moment are available thesis on:

- Collapse in Tunnelling, Master Thesis by Timo Seidenfuss, Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences, EPFL and ITA
- Collapse in Tunnelling, causes and repairs, Engineer Diploma Work, by Miriam Stallmann, Stuttgart University of Applied Sciences.
- TBM and Lining - Essential Interfaces, Post Graduate Master, by Nguyen Duc Toan, Politecnico di Torino

News from Prime Sponsors

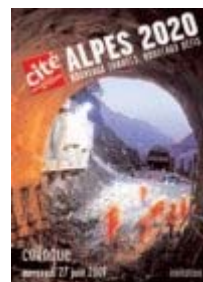
ITA is very pleased to announced that **Swiss Tunnelling Consultants**, from Switzerland joined as the tenth Prime Sponsor of ITA. Have a look to their [web site](#).



Future Events

Alps 2020 - New Tunnels - New Challenges

A few days after the inauguration of the Lötschberg tunnel in Switzerland, the first of the four large tunnels to be built in the Alps, ITA in collaboration with AFTES and Transalpine is organizing a colloquium on the challenges for designers and contractors in building these large infrastructures. The Colloquium will include a conference, given by Peter Teuscher, CEO of BLS (Lötschberg tunnel) and two round-tables. [Read more](#).



Relationships with United Nations Organization

The United Nations is organizing on the 10-11 May in New York (Trusteeship Council Chamber, United Nations) an informal debate on CIVILIZATIONS AND THE CHALLENGE FOR PEACE: OBSTACLES AND OPPORTUNITIES, for which all NGOs are welcomed to attend. Download the [background note](#) and the [programme](#).



News from Sister Association

IRF - International Road Federation

ITA has been invited to participate in the Ministerial Session of the 1st Black Sea and 4th Silk Road Conference organized by IRF and YTMK, which is the representative organization of Turkey in ITA. This conference will take place in Istanbul on May 14-16. ([read more](#))

PIARC - World Road Association

[On-line registration](#) to the Congress Paris 2007 is now available.

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