

XV INTERNATIONAL ISM CONGRESS 2013

September 16 – 20, Aachen - Germany

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International Mine Surveying Congress aroused much interest

The biggest congress for mine surveying until now brought 540 participants coming from 27 countries to Aachens' convention center Eurogress from September 16 – 20, 2013. The technical sessions consisted of 140 international presentations, poster sessions and the pre-conference GMES4Mining. A high quality exhibition with 38 international exhibitors completed the congress. There were four social evening events each in a unique ambience. Technical tours to a hard coal mine, a lignite open pit mine, to the Emschergerossenschaft and to a gravel open pit mine were offered. Finally, the participants met again at a country style farewell nearby the lignite open pit mine Inden.

The international society of mine surveying (ISM) organized the XV International ISM Congress 2013 in Aachen, together with the German Mine Surveyors' Association (DMV e.V.) and the Institute for Mine Surveying, Mining Subsidence Engineering and Geophysics in Mining at the RWTH Aachen University (IFM). This year, the biennial national scientific conference Energy and Raw Materials 2013 (E&R 2013) was incorporated.

The congress provided an excellent basis for a transfer of scientific knowledge and expertise in the scope of work of mine surveying, mining and the raw materials industry as well as the neighbouring geo sciences. The congress took place under the patronage of Mr. Garrelt Duin, Minister of Economics of the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (NRW).

After Budapest (Hungary) in 2007 and Sun City (South Africa) in 2010, the international community of experts met in Germany this year. The next congress will be hold in Brisbane (Australia) in 2016. Germany was the host 34 years ago for the last time; so it was high time to come into the focus of international experts once again.

The 540 participants of the congress came from 27 countries from all over the world and represented almost all important nations with mining and raw material industries. The biggest delegation with 52 attendees came from Russia, followed by Kazakhstan with 22 and China with 18 attendees. In sum, 220 guests from abroad found their way to Aachen. The big interest of many students from Kazakhstan, Mongolia, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Austria, England, South Africa and Germany has to be emphasized in particular. More than 40 students attended the congress.

“The positive response surprised us. Within our planning we calculated with about 500 participants” said Congress Director Joachim Deutschmann. “The concept with short presentations, a high quality exhibition, varying evening events, a cultural program and

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technical tours, all embedded in a flexible cost model, fully confirmed our two years lasting preparations”.

The present ISM President, Prof. Dr. Axel Preuße, RWTH Aachen, opened the congress on Tuesday morning. Keynotes were given by Michael Geßner, Head of Department for Energy, Nuclear Engineering, Mining – Ministry for Economic Affairs, Energy, Industry and Handicraft of North Rhine-Westphalia and Dr. Jürgen-Johann Rupp, Vice President of the Association of Raw Materials and Mining (VRB e.V.).

Welcome speeches were given by Prof. Dr. Ernst Schmachtenberg, Rector of the RWTH Aachen University, Udo Stichling, President of the Umbrella Organization of Geoinformation (DDGI e.V.), Dr. Jens Rieken, Vice President of the Association of Geodesy, Geoinformation and Land Management (DVW e.V.), Prof. Gerhard Mayer, Manager of the Austrian Miners Association (BVÖ), Thomas Neu, presidium member to the GDMB Society of Metallurgists and Miners (GDMB e.V.) and Carsten Wedekind, Head of the German Mine Surveyors' Association (DMV e.V.)

“Summarizing, I can say we had compiled an attractive program of high quality” concluded ISM President Prof. Axel Preuße. Furthermore: “An important topic of the ISM is to guarantee the new generation of academics in the member countries of ISM which comprise more than 35. Through globalization, the universities too are growing together more and more.”

The three-day long scientific program consisting of 140 technical presentations and the high quality exhibition with 38 exhibitors gave an excellent overview of the performance of mine surveying in mining engineering, in the raw materials industry and commerce as well as in geo-sciences.

The exhibitors presented their latest products, services and results of research. The visitors learned about digital equipment of mine surveyors concerning satellite technology, geo information systems, surveying techniques and general services. In addition, they could inform themselves about unconventional gas production.

One highlight of the exhibition was the virtual visit of underground caverns in the booth of the company SOCON SONAR Control Kavernenvermessung GmbH, Giessen, Germany. The exhibition was completed by the presentations of the RWTH Aachen University, the Clausthal University of Technology, the TU Bergakademie Freiberg, the TFH Georg Agricola Bochum, the German Mine Surveyors' Association and the GDMB Society of Metallurgists and Miners.

The scientific contributions and the scientific program are the essential parts of a congress. The organizers expressed their thanks to all authors and speakers with due respect. The proceedings comprising more than 1300 pages have been published in two volumes and can

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be ordered either at the German Mine Surveyors Association (DMV e.V.) or at the Institute for Mine Surveying at the RWTH Aachen University (IFM) for EUR 30.00.

On the first day of the congress week, a workshop of the project group GMES4Mining was held. The 30 participants worked on innovative satellite techniques ready to observe the ground surface during all phases of mining activities. The GMES4Mining project is supported by funds from the EU and the Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia (Ziel2.NRW). The annual meeting of the Association of Mining, Geology and Environment (VBGU e.V.) was another added value. Its members met in Aachen and attended the ISM congress after their meeting.

The attendees of the ISM 2013 / EuR 2013 congress appreciated very much the attractive program. The conference was especially supported by the main sponsors TRIMBLE NAVIGATION Ltd.; Sunnyvale, USA, Esri Deutschland GmbH; Kranzberg, Germany, DMT GmbH & Co. KG; Essen, Germany, LEICA GEOSYSTEMS AG; Heerbrugg, Switzerland, MAPTEK; Edinburgh, UK and RIEGL Laser Measurement Systems GmbH; Horn, Austria.

“The success of such an international congress decisively depends on the support by sponsors and the commitment of the exhibitors”, said Norbert Benecke, responsible for sponsoring within the ISM organization team. “Our vision was to create a connecting forum to inform and entertain all participants in a pleasant and informal manner. The good sponsoring and the excellent exhibition led to make our vision real. Great thanks to all companies and institutions which are well-disposed towards mine surveying.

The organizers could win the scientist, entrepreneur and inventor Eduard Heindl for the opening evening in the venerable coronation hall of the town hall of Aachen. His presentation on the topic: “Hydraulic Hydro Storage, a solution for the energy storage problem using mining technologies” aroused special attention and has been the reason for further discussions.

The welcome speech from the city of Aachen was given by Mayor Mrs. Margrethe Schmeer. She emphasized the importance and special characteristics of the city in the past, present and future in an entertaining and warm manner. In particular, she pointed out the deep relation between the RWTH Aachen University and the Aachen mining region and the profession of mine surveying.

To conclude the evening, the Eschweiler Scharwache 1882 e.V. put on a picturesque, musical and carnival performance. The scene and the magnificent uniforms filled the 300 guests in the hall with enthusiasm.

Traditionally, the highlight of every mine surveyors' congress is the mine surveyors' evening which took place at Rahe castle on the outskirts of Aachen this time. In this very nice ambience, 400 guests met in a casual atmosphere with tasty food in order to refresh old or establish new personal and professional contacts. A wind ensemble and the choir of the Saar Miners Choir from Saarbrücken accompanied the evening. The musical trip around the world

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delighted the national and international guests with its high artistic quality. The sound of the “Glückauf” miners’ song was heard on time at daybreak, which, however, did not mark the end of the evening.

On the last meeting day, member assemblies and presidium meetings of ISM and DMV filled the schedules. During the ISM presidium meeting, Prof. Axel Preuße handed over the presidency to his Australian colleague Dr. Andrew Jarosz, Australian Institute of Mine Surveyors (AIMS). The new vice president will be Prof. Anatoli Okhotin, Irkutsk State Technical University, Russia. The previous vice president Michael Livingstone-Blevins, Institute of Mine Surveyors of South Africa (IMS) has retired from the presidium. During the members’ assembly of the German Mine Surveyors’ Association, the previous board under the chairmanship of Carsten Wedekind has been confirmed in office. Congratulations to all mandate holders and may they have the right touch for the next term of office.

As is generally known, mining is not just a one man matter – so in the evening, 240 ladies and gentlemen came together in the Hotel Quellenhof in Aachen for a gala dinner, which was the cultural highlight. The guests talked, ate, drunk and danced in a festive atmosphere accompanied by live music. During the evening, Mrs. Andrea Hoberg, Mr. Jörn May and Mr. Markus Mathey were honored as prizewinners of the Oskar-Niemczyk-Foundation. The Young Authors’ Award of the ISM was given to Mr. Markus Mathey.

The “Glückauf” miners’ song and miners’ schnapps built the bridge to the next day with technical tours to the hard coal mines Prosper Haniel and Auguste Victoria, to the open-cast lignite mine Inden, to the EmscherGenossenschaft and to the Buir Gravel Open Pit of Rheinische Baustoffwerke. The day and the congress ended in harmony with a farewell BBQ in “Haus Barbara” nearby the open pit mine Inden, RWE Power.

The XV international ISM congress 2013 and the conference Energy and Raw Materials 2013 in the city of Aachen were very successful. The participants experienced a high quality technical and social program. All those who were involved and in particular the 15 members of the organization team under the leadership of Prof. Axel Preuße and Congress Director Joachim Deutschmann deserve special thanks.

The congress reached its goals: there was an intensive exchange of expertise in a global setting. Germany proved itself to be an excellent host country and personal networks have been extended and intensified.

Glückauf

Dr. Peter Goerke-Mallet
Joachim Deutschmann