

Iran



Name: Iranian Tunnelling Association (IRTA)

Type of Structure: non-profit, open association

Number of Members: 799 (non-student) members, 445 student members, 190 corporate members

ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES DURING 2021 AND TO DATE

- Publishing the quarterly "Tunnel" Magazine
- Publishing the bi-annual "Tunnelling and Underground Space Engineering" Journal with Shahrood Technical University
- Holding six technical seminars

CURRENT TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

Construction of various metro lines in different cities in Iran continues. Progress in construction of Metro tunnels during 2021 includes: Advance of the Isfahan Metro Line 2 – the 600m western single tunnel with a diameter of 9m. Advance of the Isfahan Metro Line 2 – the eastern twin tunnels with a total 3500m length (1750m each) with a diameter of 6m (bored by EPBMs). Advance of the Mashhad Metro Line 3 – 120m long western single tunnel with a diameter of 6m. Advance of the Mashhad Metro Line 3 – 1,800m eastern single tunnel with a diameter of 6m (mechanised). Tehran metro Line 6 with a total length of 32km is in the completion stage with a total progress of almost 94%. Work of this project included the construction of 11km mechanized tunnelling and 21km of tunnelling using the NATM method. All tunnelling works have been completed. This line consists of 27 stations which are at almost 92% completion.

Road tunnels

Work on the second section of the Tehran-Shomal Freeway continued over the last year. As reported previously, this sector consists of 59 tunnels (in two directions) with a total length of tunnel being approx. 37km (northbound, southbound, and service tunnels). Through last year, the progress was:

- Northbound: Heading 10.4km, bench 8.5km
- Southbound: Heading 12.1km, bench 8.1km

FUTURE TUNNELLING ACTIVITIES

News have been announced by Iran's Ministry of Roads and Urban Development that the construction of an undersea tunnel between Iran and Qatar is being considered for evaluation. The idea of constructing this tunnel has been put forward during an official meeting. A joint committee will evaluate the costs and benefits.

EDUCATION ON TUNNELLING IN THE COUNTRY

Tunnelling as a specialized field of Study is being held at Postgraduate level (Master's Degree) in the following Universities:

- Amirkabir University of Technology
- Shahrood University of Technology
- Tarbiat Modares University
- Urmia University of Technology

Tunnelling is also taught to Bachelor level in the form of study modules in Mining and Civil Engineering fields. Other related courses in Geotechnical Engineering (Soil Mechanics, Rock Mechanics, Engineering Geology), Construction Management etc, are also offered at various universities.