



# Tunnelling Association of India

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## Press Release

### 1. Meeting of TAI Executive Board

A meeting with TAI President, and Executive Board Members was arranged on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2014 at New Delhi to use the opportunity, to develop connections and to discuss the subjects relevant for ITA and TAI since India is an important market in the global tunnelling industry .



Prof. T. Ramamurthy, Chairing the TAI Executive Council Board Meeting

Due to last minute sudden engagement of President, TAI Mr. Mangu Singh, the meeting was chaired by Prof. T. Ramamurthy, Former Vice President, TAI and also Vice President – Asia, International Society for Rock Mechanics.

During the above meeting the following issues were discussed:

**Welcome :** On behalf of Tunnelling Association of India, Mr. V.K. Kanjlia, Secretary General (SG), TAI welcomed the Mr. Soren Den Eskesen, ITA President, Mr. Tom Melbye, President, Normet Group, Mr. *Mr. Benoit de Rivaz, NV Bekaert and* and other Executive Council Members of Tunnelling Association of India. While giving the brief introduction of Tunnelling Association of India, Mr. Kanjlia informed that was established in the year 1988 and TAI was registered as Society under Societies Registration Act 1860 in the year 1991.

**Membership:** SG informed that there are two categories of Membership ie. Individual and Institutional. from the Utilities, Developers, contractors, Metro Rail Corpn, Northern Railways, Highways and from the tunnelling industry. He informed that every year TAI organizes 4-5 Conferences/Workshop/Training Programmes besides Tunnelling Asia international conference bi-annually at New Delhi. These programmes are well attended by the professionals involved in tunnel and underground works. The following events are planned to be organized in this year:

1. Workshop on Segmental Lining – Issues and Challenges
2. Workshop on Sprayed Concrete in Underground Structures – Issues and Challenges
3. Workshop on Tunnelling in Himalayan Geology
4. Workshop on Tunnelling in Softground
5. Tunnelling Asia 2015 conference

**Publications:** TAI has brought-out no. of useful publications such as: Directory of Tunnel in India; History of Tunnels in India; Manual on Underground Works; Safe Working in Tunnels; Ventilation in Long Tunnels; Workshop/Conference proceedings; WTC 2008 conference proceedings



### **1. India's proposal to host World Tunnel Congress in the year 2018 at New Delhi**

Mr. KanjliaSG TAI informed that Tunnelling Association of India (TAI) is extending their most cordial invitation to ITA Community for hosting the 44<sup>th</sup> ITA-AITES General Assembly and World Tunnel Congress in September/October 2018 at New Delhi, India. He informed about the memorable 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly and World Tunnel Congress in the year 2008 at Agra successfully organized by TAI in which more than 1000 delegates from all over the Globe participated. Historically, India is among the foremost countries in the world to ensure sustainable life for future societies by providing necessary infrastructure to accommodate transportation, communication utility networks and complexes for handling, processing and storage of many kinds of materials. This pace of development is expected to increase in the next five years, ensuring that India remains one of the fastest growing tunnel markets in the world. In the pipeline there are atleast 130 tunnel projects covering over 1,500 km for the next five years which would entail a total investment of over Rs 1,370 billion. Application of new technologies besides use of sophisticated equipment for underground construction works would be warranted for execution of works in a cost effective manner conforming to sustainable development. With rapid growth of underground structures anticipated, there will be tremendous scope for evolution of new technologies and innovative construction practices. Keeping in view the large scale tunnelling works to be undertaken for metro, rail, road and the development of water resources/hydropower projects in the near future that too in the difficult geological conditions besides other underground structures being planned in the country, there is keenness to benefit from the global expertise and latest technologies. It is in this context that India looks forward to organize the World Tunnel Congress in the year 2018 at New Delhi, India. This will facilitate the flow of technology and also help in sharing the experiences of international tunnel and underground experts, working on various projects. Organizing the 44<sup>th</sup> ITA General Assembly and World Tunnel Congress in the year 2018 at New Delhi, India, if accepted by the Executive Council will give a boost to the activities of ITA in the developing countries like India. We assure the ITA fraternity a memorable event.

### **2. ITA Training Programmes - How best ITACET experts could be involved for training of Indian engineers on design, excavation and construction of tunnel and underground works at New Delhi**

TAI in association with ITACET has organized one training programme on Health and Safety in underground works during the Tunnelling Asia 2012 conference which was well attended by the young professionals. Since TAI has limited financial resources, ITA/ITACET may consider organization of the training programmes at regular interval with limited financial support to the speakers.

### **3. Involvement of more Indian Members in the activities of the different ITA Working Groups**

Since India has a major market for the tunneling industry, it is proposed to involve Indian professionals in the activities of the working groups.

### **4. To hold the ITA Executive Board Meeting in February 2015 at the time of Tunnelling Asia 2015 at New Delhi**

TAI has proposed to organize the Tunnelling Asia 2015 conference in the month of February 2015 at New Delhi. ITA President was requested to consider to hold the meeting of the Executive Board one day prior to the conference which also enables some of the ITA Executive Board Members to share their experiences with the participants and may lead to enhance the ITA activities in the country



Group photograph