

CONFERENCES

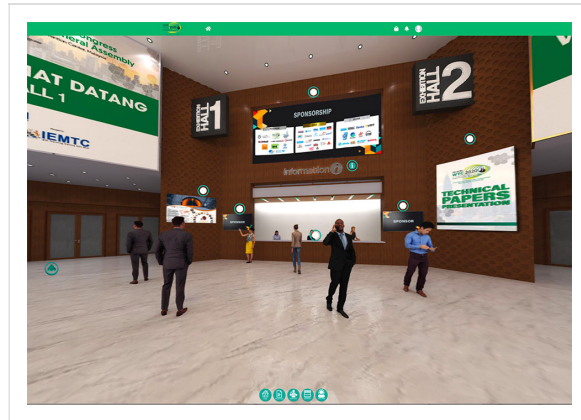
Virtual WTC 2020 as alternative to no WTC at all 17 Sep 2020

Shani Wallis, *TunnelTalk*

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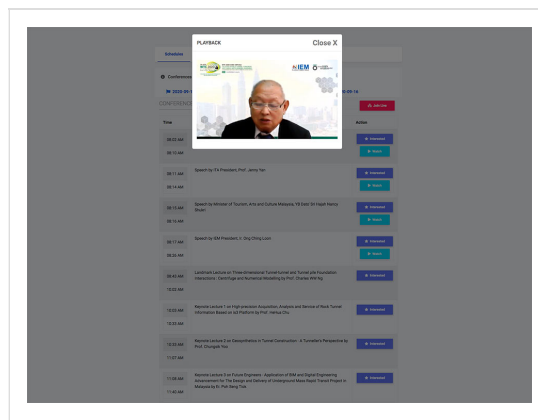
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After a slow start, and after the time taken to become familiar with the processes, attendees would have missed a lot had the congress ended as scheduled yesterday (Wednesday 16 September 2020). Fortunately, the organisers have extended online access for registered participants to the virtual WTC 2020 presentations for another week until 23 September 2020. This provides extra time to appreciate the presentations and connect with authors and exhibitors and maybe in a better way than had the delegations all dispersed for home after the Wednesday closing ceremony. Perhaps there is the ability to also buy access to the presentations during this extension by visiting the WTC2020.com website.



Lobby to the virtual congress

There was news also from the IEM organising committee chairman to the ITA General Assembly yesterday (Wednesday 16 September), that all refunds owed, due to the cancellation of the physical conference in May, and again of the postponed conference in September to the virtual alternative, will be paid and received by claimants by the end of September 2020. This is positive news after the serious discussions held on behalf of delegates, exhibitors and sponsors by the ITA (International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association) with the IEM (Institution of Engineers Malaysia) and host of the Malaysia Member Nation tunnelling society of the ITA) to secure a 70% refund for those who claim it, when at the start, no refunds of any kind were being offered. It is also positive news to report after poor management of communications with the industry through the months of uncertainty.



Virtual presentations of the opening ceremony

Many however are still not entirely satisfied with the outcome, suggesting that a 100% refund should have been offered and that participation agreements for individual delegates, exhibitors and sponsors were with IEM to manage and not with the ITA to negotiate. The ITA has stated that it was acting on behalf of the industry for the best outcome and waived its substantial revenues that would normally flow to the ITA from a WTC event, to secure at least the 70% refund. The refund issue may rumble on for some time yet and has brought into sharp focus the need to review the contracts ITA enters with the hosts of its World Tunnel Congress brand and series of events, an issue discussed during the ITA General Assembly yesterday.

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points of feedback from the industry.

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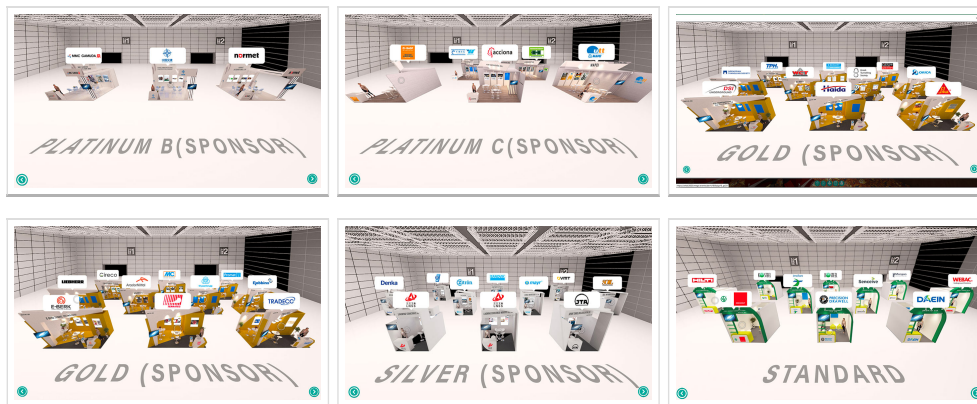
paper is essential as part of the full conference experience – either in person or virtually.

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of the pandemic on the industry, the development of AI and robotics in construction, where developments might progress in the future, procurement strategies for mega projects and the disconnect between the civil works and the M&E works on major metro and transportation projects, and outlook for the underground construction industry if governments decide to delay schedules for new projects and infrastructure investments.

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Exhibitors of the virtual exhibition halls with the others below



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A personal disappointment is that there are no desks or booths for the media at the congress. This is an agreement between the industry media and the ITA in its annual WTC series but was overlooked for the virtual alternative.

All in all, the virtual event was the best possible perhaps under the circumstance and credit is owed to the technicians who made it happen. We all feel the loss however of not being able to attend the event as it was planned and in person in Kuala Lumpur. As a previous visitor to Malaysia and Kuala Lumpur on many occasions, it is a wonderful city and country and we all missed the regular annual opportunity to meet friends and colleagues and manage business connections and network with like-minded professionals from around the world. As well as a significant financial loss to the IEM and to the ITA, it is a loss to the international community and to the opportunity we all enjoy at a WTC to mix business with social enjoyment and leisure.

This too will be missed next year as the WTC 2021 in Copenhagen, Denmark, in May has been cancelled and moved to April 2022. The decision, tabled at the ITA General Assembly and agreed by the 74 Member Nations of the Association, considered the uncertainty about the control of the coronavirus pandemic a risk that required an early decision to take cancellation action earlier rather than later and further advanced into the physical staging processes. The ITA will instead stage virtual events of its own during the year and anticipate that a gathering at the WTC 2022 in Copenhagen will be possible.

Until then we continue to work from our home offices, look back on WTC Naples last year as the most recent industry wide gathering, and manage to stay connected across the virtual highways as best we can.

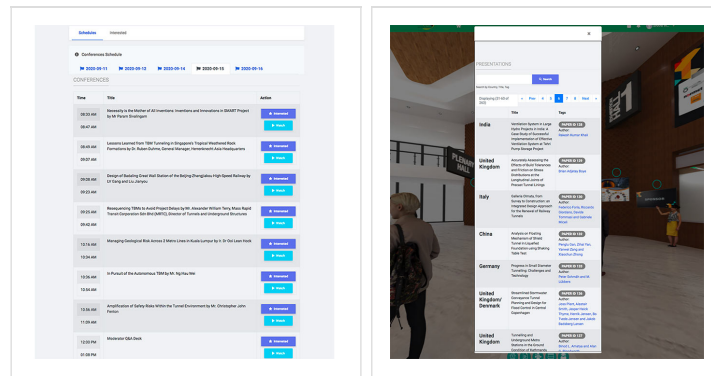
References

WTC 2020 ready for virtual experience – *TunnelTalk*, September 2020

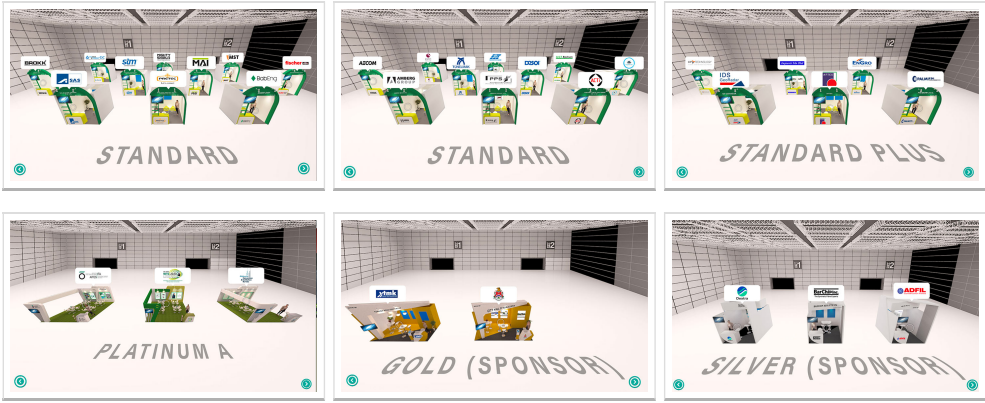
A new era begins for ITA at WTC2019 at Naples, Italy – *TunnelTalk*, May 2019

See article and video reports of all previous WTC events from Agra, India in 2008 in the *TunnelTalk* Archive

Exhibitors of the WTC 2020 virtual congress exhibition



List of technical presentations and the open session programme followed by a moderated Q&A panel session with the authors



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Programme Outline

Day	Time (MYT)	Details
Friday 11 Sep 2020	13:30 - 14:00	Registration / Log in
	14:00 - 20:45	ITACET Training Course (Refer to ITACET Programme)
Saturday 12 Sep 2020	07:00 - 09:30	Registration / Log in
	09:30 - 17:00	SYTA Symposium (Refer to SYTA Programme)
Sunday 13 Sep 2020	07:00 - 09:00	Log in
	09:00 - 23:59	Countdown Timer
	07:00 - 08:00	Log in & Virtual Opening Address
	08:05 - 08:15	Welcome Speech by WTC2020 Organising Chairman, Ir. Dr Ooi Teik Aun
	08:20 - 08:30	Speech by ITA President, Prof. Jenny Yang
	08:35 - 08:45	Speech by Minister of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia, YB. Datu Sri Hajah Nancy Shukri
	08:50 - 09:00	Speech by Guest of Honour, Ir. Ong Ching Loon, President, The Institution of Engineers, Malaysia (IEM) and declaration opening of the Digital Congress & Exhibition
		Digital Exhibition Platform opens to Delegates and Exhibitors
	09:05 - 09:25	Break
Monday 14 Sep 2020	09:30 - 10:45	Landmark Lecture on 'Three-dimensional Tunnel-tunnel and Tunnel-pile Foundation Interactions: Centrifuge and Numerical Modelling' by Prof. Charles WW Ng
	10:50 - 11:20	Keynote Lecture 1 on 'High-precision Acquisition, Analysis and Service of Rock Tunnel Information Based on 3D Platform' by Prof. Mehrez Zhe
	11:25 - 12:00	Keynote Lecture 2 on 'Geosynthetics in Tunnel Construction - A Tunnel's Perspective' by Prof. Chengshu Yao
	12:05 - 12:40	Keynote Lecture 3 on 'Future Engineers - Application of BIM and Digital Engineering Advancement for The Design and Delivery of Underground Mass Rapid Transit Project in Malaysia' by En. Puh Seng Tiek
	12:40 - 14:00	Break
	14:00 - 23:00	Technical Paper Presentation
	07:00 - 08:30	Log in
		1. Necessity is the Mother of All Inventions: Inventions and Innovations in SMART Projects by Mr Parul Sudhigum
		2. Lessons Learned from TBMs Tunneling in Singapore's Tropical Weathered Rock Formations by Dr. Ruben Duhme, General Manager, Herrenknecht Asia Headquarters
		3. Design of Bafaling Great Wall Station of the Beijing-Zhangjiakou High-Speed Railway by LV Gang and Liu Jiaming
		4. Resequencing TBMs to Avoid Project Delays by Mr. Alexander William Terry, Mass Rapid Transit Corporation Ltd (MTRCL), Director of Tunnels and Underground Structures
Tuesday 15 Sep 2020	10:30 - 11:00	Break
		1. Managing Geological Risk Across 2 Metro Lines in Kuala Lumpur by Ir. Dr Ooi Lean Hock
	11:00 - 13:00	2. In Pursuit of the Autonomous TBM by Mr. Ng Hui Hui
		3. Amplification of Safety Risks Within the Tunnel Environment by Mr. Christopher John Fenton
	13:00 - 14:00	Break
	14:00 - 23:00	Technical Paper Presentation
	07:00 - 08:30	Log in
	08:30 - 18:30	Technical Paper Presentation
Wednesday 16 Sep 2020	07:00 - 09:00	Log in
	09:00 - 13:00	ITA General Assembly
		a. Summary of WTC 2020 Organising Chairman Summary Report
	18:30 - 18:45	b. Handover Flag and Video of Copenhagen WTC 2021
		c. Closing Ceremony of Congress / End of Congress
Thursday 17 Sep 2020	19:00 - 23:00	ITA EXCO Meeting
		End

**ITACET Training Course
INNOVATIONS IN TUNNELLING - Geotechnical Engineering and Project Management***

Friday, 11 September 2020

Session	Malaysia Time	UTC Time	Details
	14:00 - 14:15	06:00 - 06:15	Welcome and Opening by Robert Geller - ITA-CET Committee Chairman
51	14:15 - 15:00	06:15 - 07:00	Overview of Mega Underground Infrastructure Development in Malaysia by Khoo Chee Min
52	15:00 - 15:45	07:00 - 07:45	Challenges Related to Ground Water on Underground Works by Ooi Lean Hock
	15:45 - 16:15	07:45 - 08:15	Break
53	16:15 - 16:45	08:15 - 08:45	Underground Sustainable Solutions for Urban Planning by Wout Broere
54	16:45 - 17:30	08:45 - 09:30	A Guide for Young Professionals - Navigating the Legal Professional Landscape as a Tunnelling Professional in a Big and Diverse World by Arnold Dis - ITA Vice President
55	17:30 - 18:15	09:30 - 10:15	The Reuse of Tunnel Excavation Material - Challenges by Robert Geller - ITA-CET Committee Chairman
	18:15 - 18:30	10:15 - 10:30	Break
56	18:30 - 19:15	10:30 - 11:15	Tunnelling Health and Safety - Moving Forward by Donald Lamont - WGS
57	19:15 - 20:00	11:15 - 12:00	Specific Funding Sources for Underground Structures by Harald Wagner
58	20:00 - 20:45	12:00 - 12:45	Innovations in Conventional Tunnelling by Nasir Muzfar - WG19

Virtual presentations of the opening ceremony

1st Symposium for Young Tunnellers of Asia (SYTA)

Saturday, 12 September 2020

Time (UTC+8)	Details
09:30 - 10:10	Log in/Registration
10:10 - 10:15	Welcome Address by SYTA Organising Chairman, Dr Boon Chia Weng
10:15 - 10:20	Address by IEM WTC2020 and TUSTD Chairman, Ir. Dr Ooi Teik Aun
10:20 - 10:25	Address by ITA Chair
10:25 - 10:50	Presentation 1: Excavating in Weak Ground, where Risk of Landslide is High by T. Suzuki
10:50 - 11:15	Presentation 2: Features of Urban-Ring method adopted for construction of underground structures by Y. Suenaga
11:15 - 11:25	Break
11:25 - 11:50	Presentation 3: Challenges in Tunnelling - UGC02 Mumbai Metro Line -3 by A.K. Chaudhary
11:50 - 12:15	Presentation 4: Tunnelling in Granites: Case study of a highway project in Afghanistan by A. Chauhan
12:15 - 12:30	Presentation 5: Construction of INA metro station over operational twin tunnels by V.K. Sattawan
12:30 - 13:30	Break
13:50 - 14:15	Presentation 6: A Comparison of Empirical and Numerical Approaches for Estimating Rock Support Pressure on Tunnel Lining by F.K.L. To
14:15 - 14:40	Presentation 7: On blow-out in tunnelling and a case study in Ho Chi Minh Metro Line 1 by M.N. Vu, N.T. Dung
14:40 - 15:05	Presentation 8: Ground Vibration Study in Karstic Limestone Formation for Controlled Blasting Works in Klang Valley by N. Ravichandran
15:05 - 15:15	Break
15:15 - 15:40	Presentation 9: Design of steel fiber reinforced concrete segment with curved radial joints by S.S. Nimal
15:40 - 16:05	Presentation 10: Tunnelling in an urban environment and managing 3rd party interfaces in London by D. Bandopadhyaya
16:05 - 16:50	Future Plans for 2nd SYTA by ITA Steering Board
16:50 - 17:00	Closing Remarks
17:00	End of 1st SYTA, log out.

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<https://www.tunneltalk.com/Conferences-17Sep2020-WTC-2020-digital-experience.php>

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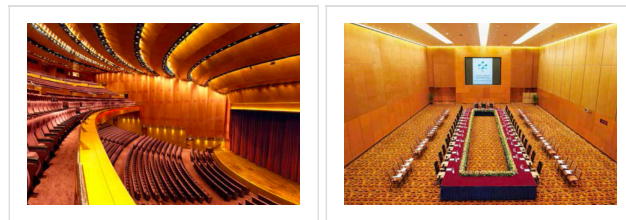
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Preparing for a virtual WTC 2020 as plan C – *TunnelTalk*, May 2019

A new era begins for ITA at WTC2019 – *TunnelTalk*, May 2019

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