

Press Release,

**UNDERGROUND SPACE, FUTURE LEVER OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**  
**INTERNATIONAL TUNNELLING AND UNDERGROUND SPACE HOSTS A WORKSHOP**  
**FEBRUARY 14, 2020 – GENEVA**

On February 14, 2020 - International Tunnelling and Underground Space Committee on Urban Development (ITACUS) is organizing a workshop in Geneva to explain how underground space use can contribute to achieving the Global Goals for Sustainable Development and interacting with audience. The aim of this workshop is learning from cases on how to engage inside and outside the UN system.

The ITACUS Committee supports the Global Agenda as it contributes to the work achieved by UNISDR, the United Nations International Strategy for Risk Reduction and UN-Habitat, a voluntary based programme dedicated to improve sustainable urbanization. ITACUS Committee supports the vision of sustainable, social and economic development achieved by underground spaces use. Addressing issues of climate change and the UN Global Goals of sustainable development such as 'zero hunger' by utilizing subterranean spaces, both existing and new ones, is one of the ways to ensure future survival.

The workshop will be introduced by Han **Admiraal and Antonia Cornaro**, co-chairs of ITACUS who have sound the alarm earlier in 2019. Their warning for sustainable urbanization and long-term urban planning based on underground space use has emerged as an international topic.

**Admiraal** said: "The world faces unprecedented challenges and we need to make bold moves. As futuristic as it may sound, survival could lie in part in our ability to use the space beneath our feet."

Many discussions and examples will be brought to the attention of the audience and more particularly, the « **Underground Farms** » concept (2019 Winner of the ITA Tunnelling Award for Innovative Underground Space Use), which will be showcased by Klaus Wachter, Managing Director of Swiss Centre for Applied Underground Technologies : « *Underground farming offers the opportunity to produce food locally in urban areas – exactly where there is the demand. Consequently, there is no need to ship food all over the world.* »

**Practical Information:**

- MIE 2 - Maison Internationale de l'Environnement 2 Chemin de Balexert 9 - 1219 Châtelaine – Switzerland
- Free admission with prior registration- <http://tiny.cc/gcorhz> - [secretariat@ita-aites.org](mailto:secretariat@ita-aites.org) – <https://www.ita-aites.org>

## PROGRAMME

- Welcome by ITA President Jenny Yan and introduction of ITA-AITES by Olivier Vion, Executive Director
- Introduction to Urban Underground Space by Han Admiraal and Antonia Cornaro, co-chairs of the ITA Committee on Underground Space (ITACUS)
- Audience interaction by Marilu Melo, ITACUS Lead on Urban Integration focusing on how Underground Space ties in with the audience objectives/work
- Case study I: Underground Green Farming and Underground Data Centre – needs and potential for symbiosis by Klaus Wachter, Managing Director Swiss Centre for Applied Underground Technologies (2019 Winner of the ITA Tunnelling Award for Innovative Underground Space Use)
- Case study II: Underground Space as Renewable Energy Source, Azad Koliji, Head of group Tunnelling and Underground Works, BG Consulting Engineers
- Audience interaction by Marilu Melo focusing on what we can learn from the audience in term of outreach, engagement and collaboration