
ITACUS invites you to become a member

The use of underground space is seen to be vital in a world where more than half of the population now lives in urban areas. Further concentration in mega-cities is a trend which cannot be stopped. The use of underground space can contribute to sustainable development, maintaining liveability and preparing the world for the impact of climate change. Creating awareness on the use of underground space in this respect is vital. Furthering the development of visions on urban underground space use and rational use of underground space through planning techniques is essential. The ITA Committee on Underground Space has been created specifically to bring together professionals from around the world to address these issues.

Membership benefits

ITACUS members can benefit from becoming part of a global network of experts who are prepared to share their knowledge and experience in order to further the awareness on underground space use and the planning of underground space use. ITACUS will hold an Open Meeting at least once a year during the World Tunnelling and Underground Space Congress. ITACUS will also be present at meetings of other organisations to conduct workshops.

ITA committee

ITACUS is one of three committees that have been setup by the International Tunnelling and Underground Space Association - ITA, to address issues that are seen to be of strategic importance for underground space use and tunnelling. The other committees are ITACOSUF addressing operational safety, and ITACET addressing education.

Participation

Participation in ITACUS is open to all professionals and experts representing organisations or institutions operating within the built environment that have an interest in the use of underground space and who are motivated to contribute to the aims of the committee. Specifically ITACUS is seeking membership from city governments and (air)port authorities.

Activities

In the years 2010-2011, the committee activities will continue to focus on setting up contact with other organizations which are active in the built environment from a planning perspective. ITACUS will also pursue activities to raise awareness on underground space use in general, both internal and external to the ITA. A variety of activities will be undertaken, not limited to but including round table discussions and workshops, joint activities and training sessions.



Overview of past activities and publications

ITACUS held its first meeting in Athens in 2007 and was launched in Amsterdam in 2008. The Committee also organized Open Meetings in Budapest, Shenzhen and Vancouver. The last Open Meeting was held during the WTC in Vancouver, Canada, in May 2010. An Annual General Meeting with the members of ITACUS was also organized in Vancouver, and such meetings will also take place during the forthcoming ITA WTC in Helsinki (May 2011).

Planned and future activities

A second White Paper on “Planning the use of underground space” was published during the Vancouver WTC. This paper can be downloaded from the ITACUS web pages. The Committee is also preparing a new White Paper on “Underground Space and Sustainable Development”, which is planned to be published on the occasion of the WTC 2011 in Helsinki. ITACUS has joined ITACET in its aims to further education and training. A proposal for a 2-day seminar outline has been formally approved by ITACET. Two international organizations have responded favorably to the first contacts: ISOCARP, active in the field of planning, and IFME, active in the field of Municipal Engineering. In the years 2010-2011 ITACUS will also contact ICLEI as a third Global Partner. The ITA Executive Council decided that the themes of the three next ITA Open Sessions will be dedicated to topics prepared by ITACUS.

Committee Steering Board

ITACUS is led by the Steering Board, which is formed by: Han Admiraal (chairman), Ray Sterling (vice-chairman), Jean Paul Godard (secretary-general), Shi Xiaodong, Illka Vähäaho, and Tetsuya Hanamura. The Steering Board has two ex-officio members: Martin Knight (ITA Executive Council tutor) and Amanda Elioff (ITA Working Group 20 Animateur).

Can you really afford not to join?

ITACUS is bringing together professionals and experts from around the world to discuss the future of underground space use and tunnelling. Can you really afford not to join this dialogue?

About ITACUS

ITACUS sees it as its mission to advance the awareness and thinking on the use of underground space through the creation of a worldwide dialogue. The committee will fulfil its mission in a pro-active manner, furthering the cause of underground space use within the context of societal needs, environmental concerns, sustainable development and climate change

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