

Summary of WTC ITACUS open session “Think Deep – to create an urban underground future”

ITA Committee on Underground Space (ITACUS) inspires professionals to think deep



A lively session consisting of keynote presentations, interviews and interaction with the public, was presented and moderated by Itacus during the WTC 2015. Catching videos were used to introduce the various themes. The just published joint ISOCARP – ITACUS publication containing five case studies on underground space use was handed over to ITA President Søren Eskesen and presented by one of its authors, an urban planner/ designer from London, Elizabeth Reynolds. The publication is the result of a two-year cooperation between planners and engineers. It aims at demonstrating to planners the value of underground space as part of the urban environment.

Another part of the session centered on exciting solutions to our changing and evolving environment with contributions on getting politicians to “tunnellising” our central urban areas and to dealing with complex infrastructures by enabling projects through value designed solutions.

The ITACUS Steering Board members responded to questions on current trends in underground space development with insights from Stockholm, Paris, Helsinki and Singapore. They also reflected on cross sector collaboration and how that contributes to ITACUS’ aim towards an urban underground future.

ITACUS then publicly announced three new initiatives:

- Joint activity group on urban underground resilience
- Joint activity group on urban underground freight
- Setting up of ICARUS, the International Centre for Applied Research Underground Space, an underground innovation lab dedicated to further develop and enhance the knowledge on creating habitable and safe underground environments