

Seminar for Continuous Professional Education

The Swiss Tunnelling Society, ITA-AITES and the ITACET Foundation jointly organized the traditional World Tunnel Congress training session held this year in the beautiful city of Geneva.



This year the conference addressed a more specialized topic than usual during the WTC Training session: "Ground Improvement, Pre Support & reinforcement".

The training session took place at the CICG (Centre international de conférences) in the heart of the international administrative area of Geneva and was efficiently administered by MCI company on behalf of the WTC organizer.

The training session was well attended, not only by professional already active in the domain of Tunnelling and looking for high level information, but also by engineers

and geologists looking forward, for themselves or their company, to work in the field of tunnelling.

The training session was inaugurated jointly by Mr Felix Amberg, chairman of the organizing committee of the WTC13, Mr Georg Anagnostou in his quality of technical director of the training session and Mr Claude Bérenguier, executive director of the ITACET Foundation.



In his effort to promote knowledge in the field of underground works, the organizer STS and the Foundation agreed a special rate for students. Twenty students from Geneva, Zurich and Lausanne took advantage of this rate, including them, 130 persons from thirty different countries attended the course.

To match our very international audience, eighteen internationally renowned experts were selected by the ita-aites itacet committee and the itacet Foundation to give a total of sixteen hours of lectures. A short presentation of the lecturers is available in the training session promotional leaflet, download it from the Foundation website: www.itacet.org

The course aimed to present the state of the art of design and execution of auxiliary measures such as grouting, ground freezing or forepoling. To achieve these objectives, the lecturers highlighted the theoretical and practical aspects of the wide catalogue of auxiliary measures.

Each session started with a presentation providing the audience with a generic introduction to design and pre-support techniques who were detailed further on.

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Theoretical information were completed by several lectures introducing the basic principles of the execution, notably installation, handling and material.

Furthermore, international case studies were presented, among them works under Big Ben in London (C. Menkiti), through fault zone during the Gothard Base Tunnel construction (H.Ehrbar pict. left), during SSDS-Project construction in Hong-Kong (E. Grøν) and during construction of railway tunnels in Bologna (G. Cassani)

For each topic, lecturers also Highlighted the most critical danger occurring during realisation phases and explained

counter measures or preventive action.

In direct relation with the theme of the training session, delegates from companies Basf, Mapei and Basler & Hoffman, all of them sponsor of the WTC13, were invited to give a short lecture including references to their products and methods applied to recent and high demanding cases.

A very interested audience followed the two-day course, very pertinent and precise questions were asked to the lecturers leading to interesting discussion.



Certificates of participation to the training session were handed to the participants by Mr Piergiorgio Grasso in his quality of Vice-president of the ITACET Foundation.

The training session concluded on a very positive feedback from the attendees and the lecturers, the next ITA-AITES WTC training session will be held in São Paulo, Brazil, in May 2014.