



*Towards an  
improved use  
of underground  
Space*

*In Consultative Status, Category II with the  
United Nations Economic and Social Council  
<http://www.ita-aites.org>*

## **MINUTES OF THE MEETING COMMUNICATION 2007**

### **SATURDAY 5 MAY**

#### **Attending**

ITA President	Harvey Parker
ITA Secretary General	Claude Bérenguier
ITA Associate Editor	Olivier Vion
Elsevier	Keith Lambert
Tust	Jan Zhao
South Africa	Antony Boniface
Germany	Walter Chromy, Fritz Grübl, Roland Leucker, Alfred Haack
Australia	Arnold Dix
Austria	Harald Wagner
Belgium	Willy De Lathauwer
Brazil	Tarcisio Celestino
Bulgaria	Milena Mileva
Canada	Garry Stevenson, Francis Gagnier, Rick Lovat, Bill Steller
Korea (Republic of)	Gye-Chun Cho
Denmark	Jorgen Holst
Egypt	Salam, Ashraf Abu-Krisha
USA	John Reilly, Christian Ingerslev, Henry Russell
Finland	Pekka Sarkka
France	Yann Leblais
Hungary	Pal Kocsonya, Zsolt Balogh
India	Govind N. Mathur
Japan	Koichi Ono
Norway	Eivind Grov, Einar Broch, Jan K.G. Rohde, Thor Skjeggedal
Netherlands	Han Admiraal
Poland	Wojciech Grodecki
Romania	Sorin Calinescu, Arghiroiu Ovidiu
United Kingdom	Martin Knights, Donald Lamont
Russia	Mikhail Belenkiy
Sweden	Annica Nordmark, Thomas Franzen
Switzerland	Heinz Ehrbar
Czech Republic	Karel Matzner, Miroslav Novotny, Matous Hilar

## 1. OPENING SPEECHES

President H. PARKER welcomed the representatives of the Member Nations, the Animateurs of the Working Groups, and Keith LAMBERT from Elsevier for TUST.

He reminded that the preparation file of the meeting was sent to the Member Nations along with the notice to the General Assembly in Seoul (report of activity of the Executive Council - item 4 of the agenda).

[Encl.1](#) | The present minutes come with the Slide Show presented in session.

## 2. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

| The agenda was approved without amendments.

## 3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF 2006

| The minutes of the meeting held in 2006 were approved without amendments.

## 4. REPORT OF ACTIVITY

### 4.1 *Annual TRIBUNE*

| The Secretary General presented the results of the Annual TRIBUNE published on the occasion of the meeting held in Prague; he reminded that the distribution includes 10 copies free of charge for the Member Nations and for the Executive Council Members, 3 copies for the Animateurs and the Vice-Animateurs, and the Corporate Affiliate Members and 1 copy to Individual Affiliate Members

### 4.2 *ita@news*

| The Secretary General presented the state of publication of the letter prepared with Olivier VION; the letter comes out on the basis of 6 issues per year; every member of the Association is naturally invited to send some news about themselves to the Association.

| The letter is sent free of charge by @mail from the website to all the members (Member Nations, IAM and CAM) as well as all the people who gave their visiting card to the Secretariat. The letter is also sent to the non-members of the Association who ask for it, through their Member Nation or directly through the website after the agreement of their Member Nation. The letter is also available for consultation on the website. This year the @news has been distributed to 3,400 addressees.

| Those who will not want to receive the letter may also say so through the website.

| The participants are invited to send to the Secretariat the e-mail address of all the people likely to be interested in receiving the ita@news letter.

| The potential number of addressees is of 20,000!

### **4.3 WEBSITE**

The Secretary General presented the main results of the consultation of the site in 2006. The number of html pages is around 1,000. 875 pdf files representing 10,000 printable pages are available. The number of hits per month reached 500,000 compared to 380,000 last year (+30%) and the number of visits 25,000 compared to 17,000 (+50%).

In order to facilitate communication among working group members two new tools have been implemented: a mailing list allowing to send mails to the whole WG members at one time, to a regularly updated (by the secretariat) list and a ftp section allowing members of WG to exchange among them big files.

The new part “Underground Structures Worldwide” is under developing. A specific home page has been worked out, with a specific navigation tool. Some introductory pages have been written.

The task force chaired by André Assis will take contacts with the WGs and the Member Nations in order to see and explain how each of them can contribute to the implementation of this part.

### **4.4 TUST**

Keith LAMBERT presented the results for 2006 as well as the programme for 2007.

In 2006, TUST published 6 issues (700 pages). A double issue +CD (Vol 21, 3-4) is dedicated to the proceedings of the WTC'06 in Seoul (203 papers). No WG reports have been published in 2006.

The subscription rate for ITA Members increased from 73€ in 2005, 75€ in 2006 to 77€ in 2007.

The Secretary General pointed out that we are in the process of renewing the agreement between ITA and Elsevier for TUST. Up to now, the proposed agreement could not be signed due to legal clauses that ITA cannot accept. A final proposal will be elaborated during the congress days.

### **4.5 Training and Workshops**

In 2006, a training session for young professional was organized in Seoul, with around 100 participants. The presentations are available on the web site.

During 2006, ITA organized two workshops on Fire Protection, one in London (sponsored by UGC-BASF) and one in Warsaw (sponsored by the ITA-COSUF).

## **5. PREPARATION OF THE ACTIVITY 2007**

### **5.1. USE OF THE WEBSITE**

As mentioned here above, the Executive Council concentrated their efforts from 2003 to 2006 on the renovation of the website.

***What remains to be done is:***

- To improve the page of the site of every Member Nation;
- To produce and publish the pages of the “Underground Worldwide” part; in particular the carrying out of the Streaming Video will enable to better illustrate the corresponding pages;
- To create Restricted areas to the ITA members temporary or permanently; see hereafter;
- Continue to develop new pages such as: UN, EU;
- To think about the multilingualism of the site, and notably its French version.

***Restricted Member Area***

- The Secretary General presented the evolution on the creation of restricted area in the web site in order to bring added value to ITA Members.
- Presently all pages and all information available on the web site are public. The ITA Members have no specific privileges.
- In a transition phase, the implementation of a restricted area could allow ITA members to have access to a restricted part through a password, with specific contents available there only (temporary or permanently).
- Later on the website could have different types of access to specific contents for different types of “clients” or “subscribers”.
- This proposition didn't raise any objection from the participants.
- It has been agreed that this latest option will be implemented when the UWW part of the web site will be operational, as it will constitute the main part dedicated to the general public.
- Works on “specific contents for specific clients” will be continued by the ITA.

**5.2. INVOLVEMENT OF THE MEMBER NATIONS**

**Encl. 2**

- a) The Secretary General reported that 36 Member Nations appointed their correspondent for the Communication (website, [ita@news](mailto:ita@news), TUST); he reminded the usefulness to proceed to this appointment.
- b) Progress on the survey on the journals of the MN; the Secretary General reminded the questions raised:
  - to publish the summaries of the journals of the Member Nations in the website?
  - to establish the reciprocity of publication between the journals of the Member Nations?

- c) The Secretary General also reminded that the Secretariat would like to develop its activities with the support of the Member Nations; these activities may be:
- of a technical nature: follow-up of the activity of the WG, preparation of position papers,...
  - of an “administrative” nature: website, [ita@news](mailto:ita@news), Documentation, Bibliography, creation of files,...
  - of a prospective nature: relations with the UN, with the European Union, with the Sister Organizations,...
  - ITA will specify to Member Nations which kind of help is needed

### **5.3. RELATION WITH THE SPECIALISED PRESS**

A lot of Publications specialized in Underground Works are closely linked to ITA Member Nations; however, several of them, totally or partly specialized in Underground Works, are independent from these Member Nations. (see slide show)

### **5.4. COMMUNICATION TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC**

ITA will co-organize a conference for the general public on the subject “Alpes 2020 – New Tunnels -Tunnel Challenges” in June in Paris.

### **5.5 TRAINING 2007**

The training course for young professionals has been organized in Prague, 4 & 5 May. More than 100 participants, 38 of them coming out of Czech Republic attended the very high level course.

A workshop on fire protection will be organized in October in the USA.

The Secretary General  
Claude Berenguier

The Associate Editor  
Olivier Vion

**Encl. 1:** Slide show

**Encl. 2:** List of Member Nations Correspondents for communication