

Report of the activity of the Member Nations

Mr. President, dear delegates, dear friends,

The Italian Tunneling Association is looking forward to May 2019 when we will have the honor and the pleasure to welcome the ITA Tunnelling family to Naples for the WTC 2019.

I will have the opportunity to illustrate to you how the organization of the event is progressing, during the GA planned on Wednesday afternoon.

Meanwhile, I would like to give you some key informations on the activities carried on by the association. You can find further details in the Italy section of the ITA Activity Report 2017.

First I want to confirm that holy Barbara on the 4th of December traditionally represents the Tunneling Day in Italy. Our Industry celebrate this event in all underground work sites with engineers, miners, technician and their family. Furthermore, the Italian Tunneling Association celebrates the Tunnelling Day with a special conference every year on the 4th of December.

I am also proud of the fact that Italy is very active in educational program: the 11th edition of the master course in Tunneling and Tunnel Boring Machines, organized by Politecnico di Turin started in January. Prof Daniele Peila is the Director of such II Level Master Course.

Furthermore, other 3 Master courses in geotechnical engineering and tunneling are hold by the University of Rome La Sapienza, Milan Politecnico and Naples Federico II, every second year. This schedule gives the possibility to choose every year between 2 different master courses having Tunnelling as main subject in the Italian Universities.

We are also very proud to recall that Italian tunneling association has established since October 2016 a very active Young Member group and we are happy to inform you that the SIG YM group will hold the first YM international conference in Bologna on October 2018. I ask now Marco Ranieri that together with Giuseppe Gaspari has been elected by the young members as coordinator of the activities, to shortly present the title of the conference:

MR: Tunnelling 4.0: Digital Innovation, Automation and the application of New Technologies in Tunnelling and Underground Construction. As SIG YM Group we are in fact focus on the potential of innovation applied to Tunnelling and committed to support SIG and ITA towards the future of our Industry.

As last point I want to highlight that plans for investment in infrastructure in Italy are quite important and very often the new infrastructures are foreseen driven with long stretches underground.

I want to mention, as an example, the Brenner Base Tunnel which is driven under the Alps and will join Italy with Austria: all the tunnel civil works on the Italian side are under construction and the 2 main job sites are currently in full operation, ready to be visited from the ITA family during WTC 2019. I recall to you that when finished in 2027, the Brenner Base Tunnel will be the longest railway tunnel in the world with 64 km in length.

Another major Tunnelling job I would like to mention is Santa Lucia Tunnel, where an EPB machine with a diameter of about 16m is currently excavation an highway tunnel near Florence in a complex geology underneath the Appennine mountain chain.

Thank you for your attention.