



MESSAGE FROM JINXIU (JENNY) YAN, ITA PRESIDENT

Dear ITA colleagues,

The health and safety of our colleagues are of the utmost importance to the ITA and the organizing committee of WTC 2020 (IEM). After considering the current development of Covid-19 worldwide, we have decided to postpone WTC2020 from 15-21 May 2020 to 11-17 September 2020. ITA and the organizing committee will work closely with you to ensure a successful WTC in Kuala Lumpur this September!

Nowadays, underground space plays an essential role in sustainable development, especially in the urban area. So, we had organized several activities on this topic over the past months. For instance, on February 14, ITA and ITACUS organized the first Workshop on Underground Space 2020 in Geneva. Mr Sheng Fulai, the economist from UNEP, joined us and shared with us his opinion on an integrated approach to the development of tunnelling and underground industry in delivering the SDGs. Moreover, he invited ITA to contribute to the Sustainable Infrastructure Guideline of UNEP.

Another important activity was participating in WUF10 (World Urban Forum), which was organized and convened by UN-Habitat on sustainable urbanization. ITACUS was inspired by the visits of many high government officials to the ITA stand at WUF10, and the "Growth Below" video presented by ITACUS won "top emerging ideas" award at the UN-Habitat Better Cities Film Festival, which was a part of WUF10.

This year, we will continue to stay actively involved in the UN SDGs and other sustainable development goals around the world, so as to make the role of ITA and the underground industry in sustainable development be widely acknowledged from a higher level, such as the UN, the decision-makers, the investors and other related international organizations.

Last but not least, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly congratulate Russian Tunnelling Association on its 30th anniversary!

Yours sincerely,

Jinxiu (Jenny) Yan

President of ITA 2019-2022