



Международное Общество по маркшейдерскому делу
International Society for Mine Surveying
Internationale Gesellschaft für Markscheidewesen

XIV International Congress

Extract from President's Opening Address – 21 September 2010

Founding and Functioning of the ISM

Founding of the ISM

I must assume that many of our delegates do not know the history to the ISM, so as was done at the XIII International Congress in 2007 in Budapest I will provide some information on the founding of the ISM and its functions.

The concept of an International Meeting of Mine Surveyors emerged in the former Czechoslovakia. The intent of such a meeting was to establish a forum in which problems and challenges relating to the broad activities of mine surveying could be discussed, and science and technology shared.

The first meeting took place in Prague in 1969 and was attended by people from several countries. It was a success.

From this first meeting, the concept grew to that of establishing an international forum, which we now know as the International Society for Mine Surveying, or the ISM. However, this was not an easy task, as the delegates did not have the authority or national mandate to establish such a body.

The leader of the Hungarian delegation volunteered to organise the next international meeting in Budapest for three years hence in 1972. A Founding Committee was established from the delegates of the 1st meeting. A Working Commission was established to formulate the Statutes of the Society for presentation at the Budapest meeting.

So what was the 2nd International Mine Surveying Conference was held in Hungary, in Budapest in June 1972. It was attended by 437 mine surveyors from 20 countries, coincidentally, the same number of countries represented at this Congress.

On the 6th of June 1972 a Members Assembly was held at which the first Executive Presidium was elected from Austria, the Soviet Union, Sweden, West Germany and Hungary.

Since the 2nd International Mine Surveying Conference, the organisation evolved and matured. Statutes were agreed and introduced, Commissions (standing working committees) established, the 3 to 5 year cycle of Congresses was introduced, as well as regular meetings of the Presidium and Commissions.

What started as a small gathering of people to share knowledge and experience grew at its peak into an international organisation of 43 member countries, recognised by the United Nations (UNESCO), thanks to the vision and dedication of its volunteer members.

All of this took place in during the Cold War, a period where East and West were not particularly trustful of one another and contact was made extremely difficult by the politics of the day. But the drive of the members of the ISM to share knowledge won.

As I said at the 37th Presidium Meeting last year in Mongolia:

“No Borders, no politics, just a fraternity united by our profession”

I think this is a superb achievement and deserves a round of applause!

Functioning of the ISM

The ISM is an association of specialists in mine surveying or in the fields belonging thereto and is a permanent member of the World Mining Congress.

Its purpose is to:

- share knowledge through scientific congresses and publications;
- maintain active commissions in specific focus areas or specialist fields;
- co-operate with other international societies in the fields of mining, geodesy, geology, geophysics, rock mechanics, etc; and
- foster worldwide co-operation in mine surveying.

The Presidium (or Board) is comprised of the:

- President
- Two Vice Presidents
- Delegates of individual countries – nominated by their national associations
- Honorary Members
- Chairman of the Congress Organising Committee

There are six Commissions, each led by a Chairman

- Commission 1 – Education, Legal Issues, Web-presentation and History
- Commission 2 – Geometry of Mineral Deposits / Mineral Resource Management

- Commission 3 – Instruments, Mine Surveying Measurements and Mining Cartography
- Commission 4 – Rock and Ground Movements, Subsidence Damages
- Commission 5 – Environmental Planning
- Commission 6 – China Focus Group addressing all of the above, as well as economic transformations, sustainable development, land reclamation and new energy resources.

The Commissions submit annual work plans to the Presidium, and reports on Commission activities during the year under review. Commissions are the working heart of the ISM - the first line of professional engagement and knowledge sharing.

The Presidium acts as the Board of the ISM, directing the organisation and ensuring that work is done and that the organisation responds to the environment in which it operates.

The Congress Organising Committee and the Scientific Committee have the enormous task of making events like this possible and maintain the standard of scientific content that is shared.

M G Livingstone-Blevins

President

International Society for Mine Surveying

21 September 2010