

International Society for Mine Surveying
COMMISSION No. 5
"Mining and Environment"

MEETING IN TAIAN (CHINA)

During the 27th Presidium meeting in China 8.9.1999

The following programme was accepted :

1. Opening, presentation and apologies for absences
- 2.. National reports about the activities
3. Special papers oriented generally to the topic of the commission No. 5
4. Discussion
5. Organisational agenda
6. Conclusion

1. Opening, presentation and apologies for absences

Present : J. Chwastek	- Poland
T. Pivac	- Australia
Yu Chang Xing	- China
G. Mayer	- Austria
K. Baratosi	- Hungary
P. Hopkins	- United Kingdom
M. Gilov	- Russia
J.. Fafejta	- Czech Republic
Apology : C. Vender	- United States (Carl is not well)

The position of the commission No. 5 and its exclusivity is excellent :

three most important persons of the ISM were present :

President ISM Mr. J. Chwastek, Vicepresident Mr. T. Pivac and Vicepresident Mr. Yu Chang Xing !

2. National reports about the activities

Australia - ref. T. Pivac

Gold is in a downturn causing many mines to close suddenly. Most mines are well away from towns. Therefore the main environmental hazard is with open pit water acidic effect on wild animals and bird life around the open pits.

Poland - ref. J. Chwastek

Coal production is going down. Copper production is booming. Lead and zinc is also being worked very economically. Engineering industry (car production) is booming. The people are buying the cars etc. Cars against the environment pollution. Mine sites when

abandoned are to be rehabilitated for recreation purposes.

Austria - ref G. Mayer

The mine accident in Austria : all rules and regulations were ignored. The mine maps were not well. The state administration was reorganised.

United Kingdom - ref. P. Hopkins

The decline in coal production is continuing in the UK and the general tightening in environmental and planning legislation is making it difficult to secure consent for new opencast mines. Only 1 university is now teaching Mine Surveying. Most now teach Environmental sciences related to Mining with Surveying subjects being part of the programs. Chartered mining surveyors are diversifying, with involvement in environmental and waste management.

Hungary - ref. K. Baratosi

Report on Mine/Survey regulations and laws.

1. Chartered U/G surveyors
2. Chartered open pits
 - a) Reclamation maps
 - b) Pre mining plans

Russia - new member : first time was nominated Mr. M. Gilov, but then it was changed:
Mr. V. Streltsov.

Mr. Navitnyi asks to organise the conference "Environmental impacts after the closing of the mines"

Czech Republic - ref. J. Fafejta

The Czech Society of Mine Surveyors and Geologists formed in this year National Commissions - same as ISM to be maximally closed to the activities of ISM, because it should be useful for the negotiation of the Czech Republic to EU.

3. Special papers oriented generally to the topic of the commission No. 5

These papers were presented on the international conference organized in Taian during the Presidium meeting :

Mr. A. Navitnyi : "Ecologic Impact of Pit Closure"

Mr. P. Hopkins : "Mine Water"

Mr. K. Leighfield : "Britains Interest in Underground Gasification of Coal"

4. Discussion

Following problems were discussed :

Sometimes is not used the correct name of the commission No. 5, which is : "Mining and Environment".

The topics of the commission No 5 are :

1. regional planning
2. environment protection
3. subsequent rehabilitation
4. international exchange of information and experiences
(related to the points 1.,2. and 3.)

- data collection
- working with data
- data distribution

Use of GIS as a tool for planning, managing etc.

The advantage, the meaning and the importance of this information will be in the fact that the experiences from the countries where mining has declined, can be exploited in other countries where the decrease in mining is starting. Many countries are interested in having this information.

5. Organisational agenda

After short discussion was decided to organize next meeting of the Commission 5 in Czech Republic as the conference "Mine Closure" activities in progress on closing mines and planned closures rehabilitation for social functions.

The conference should be organized in the year 2000 closed to the Congress in Cracow (few days before the Congress).

Proposals for the commission meeting in next years :

- Australia
- Iran
- Chile

This will be decided during the next meeting. Other proposals are welcomed.

6. Conclusion

The meeting of the commission No 5 in Taian was successful, members from eight countries were present. Very good papers were presented. Copies of the papers can be sent to every member who will be interested.

Finally thanked the chairman to all present members for their attention and the meeting was closed.

Jan Fafejta,
Commission's 5 chairman