CICIND Report

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As I am writing this small contribution to our new CICIND report, we can look back on our very successful meeting in Dresden, Germany on 20 - 23 October 2021.

The Dresden meeting was CICIND’s first in-person meeting after almost two years and I believe the opportunity of seeing each other again in the same room was very much enjoyed by all who were present. In keeping with modern times this meeting was also broadcast on the internet and it was followed online by 10 attendees. It is expected that this virtual side of the CICIND conferences will grow and become more and more important in future years.

As I had mentioned in my brief welcome talk at the meeting, CICIND is going through a very important phase now, where it has to think hard and find new ways to remain relevant in a world that builds fewer chimneys and develops new and exciting technologies for generating power and heat. Some of these new technologies can benefit greatly from the knowledge and experience that CICIND’s membership has developed in the past, and will create in the future.

As I had described in my recent letter to CICIND members, the Governing Body is forming a small group under the name of “Blue Sky Team” and this team will be tasked to identify new opportunities for research and development that allow CICIND to contribute to technical progress in areas such as wind power and solar towers. In all of its activities, CICIND’s mission will remain to promote the reliability, efficiency and sustainability of large industrial structures.

At the same time, CICIND will also continue to maintain and expand its leading role in the field of industrial chimneys, looking at structural design issues as well as issues surrounding their efficiency and environmental performance.

I am confident that CICIND can look forward to a bright future as a platform for new ideas and technologies. With the talent and expertise in our combined membership, we will jointly ensure that in our case, “different” means “better” and “change” means “progress”.

Albert de Kreij
President of CICIND
Editorial

This CICIND magazine reports on our 95th CICIND conference in Dresden. It was the first personal conference for us after 2 years of virtual meetings. To meet around 70 members and guests for the welcome reception on Wednesday evening was wonderful. The bright eyes and the friendly open-minded faces of the participants testify to the many conversations in a great atmosphere. The CICIND family is alive.

Our venue was the Maritim Dresden and the neighbouring International Congress Center Dresden. The view from inside through the glass facade of the Congress Center Dresden onto the Elbe valley, the Saxon parliament and the new and old town is spectacular.

During our two-day event we were able to listen to 16 specialist lectures, 2 of which came from abroad via ZOOM transfer. With the help of professional digital conference technology, all lectures could be followed directly in the conference room on a widescreen or virtually by 10 participants from home. No major issues were identified so there is no technological reason not to hold these hybrid meetings in the future.

According to the “UIA’s 2021 Survey Covid-19 Impact on International Association Meetings”, almost a third (32 %) have scheduled an in-person meeting this year and a further 58 % are planning an in-person meeting in 2022. CICIND intend to go on with a hybrid conference in New Orleans in May 2022. We strongly suspect that the number of corona infections will decrease again in spring 2022. Our venue in New Orleans will be the wonderful “Le Pavillon Hotel” in the French Quarter. There are already a bunch of ideas for the events and tours in New Orleans with terms like jazz, Mississippi, Oak Alley Plantation, …

We held a ZOOM conference in Dresden right before the conference with Prof. Lin Zhao and Prof. Yaojun Ge of the Tongji University and the Governing Body to discuss the ICCT 2022 which shall take place on 12th to 15th October 2022 in Shanghai. The planning started 2020 in Edinburgh with an impressive presentation made by our member Lin Zhao. It is to be hoped that contacts with Chinese universities, design institutes and construction companies will lead to a process of increasing Chinese memberships in the long term.

At the Governing Body meeting in Dresden, it was decided to support the research proposal of Niemann Ingenieure GBR on the topic “Reynolds number disparity and its effect on vortex excitation - findings from large-scale tests on wind turbine towers”. Results from wind tunnel tests are to be compared with the reality on steel towers of new wind turbines in Østerild (Denmark) and the VIV concept (Vortex Induced Vibrations) to be verified on a 1:1 scale. Even if this is purely basic research, it can result in new fields of activity for CICIND member companies. Siemens Gamesa Renewable Energy (SGRE) is the developer of new floating offshore wind power plants with the most powerful wind turbines in the world. CICIND member companies may take part in the concrete works for offshore wind farms.

One of the lectures during the CICIND Conference in Dresden, presented by our member Prof. Rüdiger Höffer, was “Life Cycle Management of Wind Turbine Towers by Dynamic System Identification using Structural Health Monitoring”. Andreas Harling as the Chair of the Lifetime Management Committee took this idea to open a new chapter in the new LTM Guideline with “Structural Health Monitoring” for industrial buildings. A further input for the LTM Guideline might be done by our new CICIND members Alfred Heimsoth and Stefan Kunnen. Together with Karsten Grasemann, they reported during the Dresden conference on the subject of “Digital twin for maintenance - improving inspection processes for cell cooling towers”. A digital twin is a virtual representation that serves as the real-time digital counterpart of a physical object or process. With this method, construction drawings and technical specifications ranging from manual work to computer-aided design to model-based systems engineering are possible. Ideas of this technique should be incorporated into our new LTM document. The final document of this CICIND guideline shall be presented during the CICIND conference in New Orleans.

All participants of the CICIND Conference Dresden could personally experience how Dresden emerged again like a phoenix from the ashes after the night of 13th to 14th April 1945. For many it was a journey of discovery.

You will find many impressions and much more in this CICIND report.

Hermann Hoffmeister
It was with great sadness that we heard from our member, Denis Radecki, that John had passed away. John was a valued friend and colleague of many members of CICIND and served as President from 2001 to 2005. During his time with CICIND, he was very active in our organisation, supporting the Concrete, Steel and Liner committees.

He presented several papers on the US experience with linings and coatings for concrete chimneys, particularly with the latest information on wet FGD chimneys.

I well remember John as our President when I started my membership in CICIND at the Amsterdam Conference in 2002. Along with the secretaries at the time of his Presidency, Paul Freathy and Klaus Kaemmer, John organised the CICIND meetings in Las Vegas, Bucharest, Berlin, Dublin, Moscow and Budapest.

He had a huge impact on the CICIND organization and gave his input from his US perspective. John was our president for 4 years. In the recent years he has been a Honorary member of CICIND.

John has had a long and distinguished career spanning over 30 years having been President of Industrial Chimney Engineering, Industrial Chimney Engineers, G&H Acoustics and Hamon Custodis.

John gained a BS degree in Structural Design at the University of Illinois and he was a registered Professional Engineer. He was a member of the ACI 307 Concrete Chimney committee and chairman of the ASTM STS-12 Steel Stack committee.

In addition to his professional work within CICIND he has presented many papers on chimneys and chimney linings throughout the world.

On behalf of all CICIND members I would like to offer our sincere condolences to John’s family on their sad loss. Our members spent a few quiet moments remembering John at our recent CICIND conference in Dresden.

Hermann Hoffmeister
Secretary