

CICIND

REPORT

CICIND MAGAZINE



Photo: Hermann Hoffmeister

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CICIND

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR INDUSTRIAL CONSTRUCTION

CICIND Report

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Words from the President May 2022



Albert de Kreij
President of CICIND

Dear friends,

Turbulent times, great opportunities

As we can see on the news every morning, we are living in “unprecedented times”! It is hard to say if that is really true, considering that the history of humanity has seen so many wars, pandemics, and other crises of various shapes and sizes.

Nevertheless, it is clear that the world as we know it is undergoing significant turbulence. The Covid-pandemic seems to be largely behind us but it is still affecting the world economy greatly, as demand for goods and services has come back strongly and a disrupted supply chain is trying to catch up with that demand. In China, which has been an engine of prosperity for the world economy in recent decades, unpredictable lockdowns are crippling the manufacturing sector, making the recovery of the world economy even harder. In its own small way, CICIND has suffered from China lockdowns also; our Shanghai Conference that had been planned for October 2022 has been pushed back by a year!

The war in Ukraine is another huge concern. The primary victims of this conflict are of course those who lose their lives in it, and the many who lose their homes and property. For all of us who are not directly affected however, the consequences are already significant; with the supply of energy disrupted, the cost of living is rising everywhere and millions may be pushed into poverty.

Why would the president of CICIND write about these things? I write about this because these world crises will bring about changes in the structure of the world economy and global energy supply. How will electricity be generated in the future? Will manufacturing shift to other countries? Will gas still flow through a pipeline or will it be shipped in tankers? I don't have the answers but it seems clear that the industries of the world will change in future decades.

As we have known for a long time, the core expertise of CICIND, chimneys, will not be relevant for all eternity. Thirty or fifty years from now, a chimney may be as rare as a horse buggy or an oil lamp. Our joint challenge, as CICIND members, is to be ready for what comes next. It will not be CICIND who decide if the world will depend on windmills, solar towers, or something else. We can however be a part of any great development in industrial civil engineering through our combined expertise and our willingness to innovate.

I look forward to seeing all my CICIND friends in Cyprus in October, preferably in person, or on a screen if that is the best option.

Albert de Kreij

Editorial

Some countries are managing Covid-19 like other respiratory infections such as the flu. Also, during our CICIND conference in New Orleans we ignored the virus as much as possible to celebrate a “normal” face-to-face conference and to enjoy meeting other CICIND friends.

Covid-19, the war in Ukraine and the cost-of-living crisis have together created a volatile environment of widespread economic anxiety. Covid moved from a health to an economic problem. Many of our member companies are affected by the impact on the industry with a lack of investment.

The effects of the pandemic are manifold: we are experiencing ship jams in the ports, flight cancellations due to staff shortages, container jams due to interrupted supply chains and even a closed kitchen in our great hotel Le Pavillon in New Orleans due to a lack of cooking staff ...

We were all surprised that the Mayor of New Orleans, Ms. LaToya Cantrell, delivered the opening address of our CICIND conference. The hybrid conference worked very well. Even 4 out of 14 lectures were held virtually. The audio/video system worked flawlessly in both directions. The quality of the presentations was excellent – you can see that for yourself by reading this report.

In this report you can find more information about Hotel Le Pavillon, nestled in the oldest part of the city, the French Quarter. One of the events of the conference was a cruise on the Mississippi River on a steamboat with dinner and a jazz band. Saturday's tour went to Oak Alley Plantation, a historic plantation on the west bank of the Mississippi with the beautiful house "The Big House" but also the small houses of the slaves who worked in the nearby sugar cane fields. You can read about this tour but also about the swamp tour in this CICIND report.

Due to the strict corona policy in Shanghai, we had a long ZOOM meeting with the local organizing committee from Tongji University for the ICCT conference in early May. We have decided to postpone the Shanghai conference for one year to celebrate an ICCT 2023. The International Scientific Advisory Board remains unchanged and the schedule is pushed back by one year.

Due to this cancellation, we will try to organize an autumn conference in Cyprus. This wonderful Mediterranean island has many beautiful destinations with stunning sceneries. The conference will probably take place from 20.-22. October 2022 with a welcome reception on Thursday, a lecture day on Friday and a full-day discovery tour on Saturday. You should mark this event in your diary.



Hermann Hoffmeister
Secretary of CICIND

CICIND is a worldwide organization and therefore open to all continents. In New Orleans we had an excellent presentation to hold a CICIND conference in India. Our member Megha Bhatt made this presentation during our Governing Body meeting in New Orleans. Together we will explore the possibilities in India. This could be a way forward to attract more members from India and learn a lot more about one of the most populous countries in the world. In terms of nominal GDP (\$2.94 trillion), India is the fifth largest economy in the world. In terms of purchasing power parity, the Indian economy even moved up to third place at USD 11.33 trillion.

CICIND aims to reflect the challenges of our complicated world and to act as a platform of these challenges for all CICIND members. Our member companies strive to find the best way to perform. You are called upon to name such challenges. Maybe at one of the next conferences we will have a discussion forum.

Hermann Hoffmeister