

São Paulo - Friday 08 – Saturday 09 November 2013

Seminar on Immersed Tunnels

Press release - Itacet Seminar gathers 120 tunnelling professionals in Sao Paulo

For the second time in 2013, the Brazilian Tunnelling Committee brings to Brazil an Itacet course. This time, the theme was Immersed Tunnels. The seminar took place in November 8th and 9th, in Sao Paulo, and gathered 120 professionals and students from the tunnelling community. During the opening session, André Assis, ABMS president and Itacet Foundation former president, congratulated CBT for the initiative and for playing well its role of spreading the technical knowledge. The course was coordinated by Francisco Ribeiro Neto, CBT general secretary.



For Michael Tonnesen, chief manager of project at Cowi A/S, “one of the biggest challenges when choosing the immersed tunnel is convincing the authorities that this is the best option”. Even though, the market of immersed tunnels is gradually increasing all over the world, especially in Asia. “Apparently, people know more about this

constructive method and they are considering it more”, explains Jonathan Baber, project director at Mott MacDonald Ltd.

The price is one of the doubts of professionals and authorities when they talk about immersed tunnels.



Hans De Wit, director at Tunnel Engineering Consultants (TEC), claims that it is always necessary to consider all alternatives, but “the immersed tunnel has the benefit that the majority of the job can be done by the local industry”. For the specialist, “even if the country does not have the technology, foreign companies can be hired to make to first two or three projects. After that, the local tunnel industry will certainly develop the technology needed”.

All the speakers were surprised with the number of attendants for the Seminar in Brazil. “We feel glad with the interaction of the audience”, says Jonathan Baber, one of the speakers invited by ITACET. “The kind of questions

showed the interest of the Brazilian audience in immersed tunnels”.

The attendants were also pleased with what they heard during the Seminar. “It made us understand how to make a project like this and showed all the executive details we should pay attention to”, tells Hugo Cássio Rocha, president of CBT. José Olímpio Dias de Faria, vice-president of Engineering Institute – where the Seminar took place – studies immersed tunnels since the 1980s and said the Seminar “came to improve the knowledge I acquired in many years of studies, bringing four consultants who have large and international experience in the subject. I congratulate all CBT members for the event”.

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The Seminar

The Seminar was opened with the welcome by Hugo Cássio Rocha, president of CBT. Next, André Assis, presented ITACET, foundation of which he participated in the creation and was the president for six years. Then, Tarcísio Celestino, vice-president of ITA and former president of CBT, talked about Santos-Guarujá tunnel – a link between two seaside towns in São Paulo Estate – and the importance of bringing this technology, which is already much used in other countries, to Brazil. Estanislau Marcka, advisor to the presidency of Der-



sa – company responsible for the road development in São Paulo – closed the opening part of the Seminar. He showed some details concerning the tunnel which will connect Santos and Guarujá.

The Seminar had four speakers: Jonathan Baber, project director at Mott MacDonald Ltd, in the United Kingdom, Michael Tonnesen, project chief manager at Cowi A/S, Christian Ingerslev, consultant, and Hans De Wit, director at Tunnel Engineering Consultants (TEC).

During the two-day course, they addressed topics such as the types of immersed tunnels and an overview of this constructive method in the world. Besides, they talked about technical issues such as drainage, ventilation, firefighting, geotechnical issues, construction sequence, case studies, safety, risk management and others.

CBT – 23 years of tunnels

In November, 2013, the Brazilian Tunnelling Committee celebrates 23 years of history. To celebrate this special date, André Assis, president of ABMS and former president of CBT, opened the lunch of November, 9th, with a speech remembering the Committee's anniversary and all its former presidents: Sérgio Fontoura, 1990 – 1994, Argimiro Alvarez Ferreira, 1994 – 1998, André Assis, 1998 – 2002, Akira Koshima, 2002 – 2006, Tarcísio Barreto Celestino, 2006 – 2010, e Hugo Cássio Rocha, 2010 – 2014. The party also had an anniversary cake and all the attendants of the Seminar on Immersed Tunnel sang happy birthday.