Welcome to the 13th edition of the IMIA News Sheet.

1 News from the Secretariat

At the end of September IMIA held its 42nd annual conference in Istanbul. From the feedback expressed in the Conference Evaluation forms completed by the participants, we gather that the overall response was very positive indeed. The overall quality of the papers and presentations was emphasised by many. Of the presentations the participants valued highest were the bridge loss cases presented by Alessandro Stolfa, the Marmaray project by Marsh Istanbul and the WGP on Mining Industry by Matia Cazzaniga, followed by the WGP on Tunnel Boring Machines, the IMIA statistics and the WGP on Wind Energy. The others closely followed.

There was also a high appreciation of having the kick-off meetings of the new IMIA working groups at the conference. The possibility of actively discussing Engineering Insurance issues with other Delegates during the Breakout session was again very welcome, although the results of the discussions produced during such a short time cannot always give comprehensive and detailed answers to the questions. The preceding preparation of relevant thoughts, ideas and questions by the some members of the discussion groups proved very helpful. The summaries of the 5 topics discussed during the Breakout Sessions were put together and distributed to all Delegates.

Any critical points expressed in the evaluation forms and suggestions made will be scrutinised by the EC in order to improve the conferences further.
Since the Istanbul conference a lot of new documents have been placed on our website:

Under Library - Publications:
- The new IMIA WG papers WGP60(09) to WGP64(09)
- External Papers - Equisales Associates with a paper on dealing efficiently with a transformer loss at a power station. This company can be very helpful and we included their link under Weblinks, "Loss Prevention and Safety"
- A paper by the German Association "Fire protection for Wind Turbines", a very useful paper indeed. A link to this has also been added to the Weblinks of our library (under “Loss Prevention and Safety”) 
- Guest presentations - The special presentations presented during the IMIA conference (as far as their publication was agreed to by the Speaker)
- A new Short Paper by Hervé Landrin, Munich Re on the topic discussed at last conference: New markets for IDI insurance, giving concrete answers to questions when considering introducing IDI in a market

Under Library - Statistics:
- The IMIA Premium and Loss statistics as presented at the conference

Under Library - Country Reports:
- The three Highlights of country reports presented at the conference

Under Annual Conference:
- The list of new IMIA Working Groups
- A Press Release on last conference which includes a news paper clipping of an article by Neil Clutterbuck published in the Insurance Times.

Under Members’ Area
- Information on Last Conferences: The presentations introducing the new IMIA WG papers and minutes on the conference as a whole.
- There are also the minutes taken from the last Executive Committee meeting on 26th September ahead of the conference,
- and, finally also some pictures taken during the conference (click the link shown in the “Important Member News” box in the Members’ Area). Some additional pictures have been added in November.

Generally, we continue enjoying an increasing number of visitors seeing our website and downloading favoured papers / documents.

The little brochure on IMIA that was distributed at the conference is also available as a printable document on our website under “About IMIA”. Should anyone wish to have a printed copy sent to him, please contact the IMIA Secretary.

2 News from the Executive Committee

The EC met in London on 7th December. Topics for discussion included a review of the IMIA Conference at Istanbul, analysis of delegate feedback and suggestions to improve future conferences.
In addition, the output from the Working Group, entitled “Improving IMIA’s efficiency and effectiveness” was reviewed and additional areas for consideration identified.
New requests received from companies and organisations were discussed for possible IMIA membership.

The contributions for the IMIA News Sheet were encouraging and this is much appreciated after the limited response in the past.

The next EC meeting will be held on 25th March 2010 in Munich.

3 Member / Delegate News

There are no new members since last conference, but we are in discussion with a few new interested people. There are two changes to take note of: as mentioned at the conference Detmar Heidenhain, after retirement from Munich Re has now been welcomed as an Associate Member. Trevor Kerst is now with ACE South Africa. He continues as Delegate of the South African association.

4 Engineering Insurance Market news

4.1 A bit of news from the Gulf (by Peter Tailby)

Saudi Arabia and Oman banned the export of cement to other GCC countries a couple of months back. Last month the Saudis went one step further and banned cement trucks from crossing the causeway to Bahrain. Last week the Saudi King has banned the export of aggregates (as this is a royal decree it is unlikely to be overturned). Reason given is that the King wants to protect the environment by reducing quarrying. What this means of course is that the cost of construction materials and their transport (by sea) will escalate, some experts estimate by a factor of 5 times. Clearly an impact on replacement costs for CAR Insurers. Worse still is that there is likely to be a reduction in the quality of future builds.

5 Risk News

5.1 Bridge construction of Hoover dam bypass road

Another really daring bridge construction partly comparable to the one shown by Alessandro Stolfa at the conference is under way for the Hoover Dam bypass road. Please see the pictured below. The Colorado River Bridge is the central portion of the Hoover Dam Bypass Project. Construction on the nearly 2,000 foot long bridge began in late January 2005 and the completion of the entire Hoover Dam Bypass Project is expected in Late 2010. When completed, this signature bridge will span the Black Canyon (about 1,600 feet south of the Hoover Dam), connecting the Arizona and Nevada Approach highways nearly 900-feet above the Colorado River.
A Project Management Team (PMT) was developed to oversee the design and construction of the project. The bridge remains on schedule for completion in late August 2010.
6 Interesting new Claims

6.1 Marine cum Erection claim in India

Due to the collapse of a bridge section (possibly due to overload) a heavy transport vehicle fell into the river together with its precious load, a large gas turbine. The resultant loss was a very costly one:
6.2 Another bridge collapse (most likely due to overload)

A Contractor's Plant and TPL loss will have resulted from this accident:

6.3 Collapse of stadium in Malaysia

The roof of the RM292-million Sultan Mizan Zainal Abidin Stadium in Gong Badak in Malaysia collapsed, June 2, 2009. It happened one day before the stadium was scheduled to host a big event, just one year after being completed. No one was injured in the incident. State government must find out if it was still under warranty or not," The stadium was said to be still under the main contractors' two-year warranty. It is estimated that the damage will be at RM35 million. A Korean contractor was appointed to construct the roofing structure.
The roof before the accident …

… and after:
6.4 Building unstable on soft ground (China)

A 12 storey building suffered a remarkable damage. It fell over in full without breaking into pieces when the soft ground weakened and the piles on which it was set broke.
7 Upcoming events

The ISTSS (SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden) is the 4th International Symposium on Tunnel Safety and Security which is going to take place next year March 17 – 19 in Frankfurt, Germany

ISTSS will present the following Key Note Speakers:
- Kenneth Cummins - Sound Transit, USA
- Jeffrey A. Slotnick - Setracon Inc., USA
- Anders Lönnermark - SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden, Sweden
- Alan Brinson - European Fire Sprinkler Network, UK
- Reinhard Ries - Frankfurt am Main Fire and Rescue Services, Germany
- Arnold Dix - Queensland University of Technology, Australia

For details please see the finalized programme in the attached file.

8 IMIA Conferences 2010 and 2011

Preparation for the 2010 conference in Berlin started some time ago. This conference is scheduled from September 11th to 15th 2010.

Also the venue of the 2011 conference has now been confirmed, which will be hosted by the Dutch association at Amsterdam,

9 Last but not least

An interesting loss occurred at the Korba thermal power station project at the end of September this year in India when a 225 metre high concrete chimney collapsed. HDFC Ergo provided a case study presentation which is really worth seeing. Use this link to our website:


Your IMIA EC Team

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