

PRESS RELEASE

ITA COSUF believes in young researchers and professionals

The COSUF Award 2013 is open to candidates!

"ITA COSUF aims at a widespread adoption of best practices in the field of safety and security underground. Consequently we need to develop the culture and know-how of practitioners and scientists. We wish to attract the interest of the new generations of professionals on safety and security of underground facilities" informed the ITA COSUF steering board after they decided to award the 2013 COSUF prize.

Who can apply

Students, young professionals or researchers (less than 35 years old) are eligible if they have recently (in the last 2 years) completed a research work in theory and/or practice in the area of operational safety or security of underground facilities. Applicants need not be ITA COSUF members.

The prize

Together with the award certificate and the trophy, ITA COSUF shall grant the winner travel and accommodation costs to attend the award ceremony and a 500 Euro prize.

The award ceremony

The ITA COSUF Award 2013 will be presented on **4 June 2013**, during the ITA COSUF Workshop on "Complex underground multipurpose facilities: safety challenges and solutions" in Geneva (Switzerland). The winner shall have the opportunity to present his/her own work during a plenary session of the workshop, which will take place during the ITA World Tunnel Congress.

The deadline

Additional information, including contents of the application file, is available on the COSUF website <http://cosuf.ita-aitec.org/>. The application in English language must be received by the ITA secretariat by **28 February 2013**.

The Committee on Operational Safety of Underground Facilities (COSUF) of the International Tunnelling and underground space Association (ITA) was installed in May 2005 following a joint initiative of 8 European research projects which all aimed at improved tunnel safety. This ITA committee is also supported by PIARC, the World Road Association. In the last 7 years, COSUF gathered among its members some of the most recognized experts, scientists and operators from all continents.

The Committee scope is safety in operation and security in tunnels and other underground facilities. ITA COSUF aims at improving and promoting safety and security underground, through networking activities and dissemination of technical culture and new knowledge.

ITA COSUF is chaired by Didier Lacroix (Centre d'Etudes des Tunnels – CETU, France). The vice-chairman is Roland Leucker (STUVA, Germany).

The hall of fame

In 2009, **Ben Nieman** received the first ITA COSUF Award for his master thesis at the University of Delft, the Netherlands, entitled: "Cracking on the Unheated Side during a Fire in an Immersed Tunnel". From both a practical and theoretical side, the thesis deals with a lurking problem of large cracks at the fire-unexposed side of tunnel linings. This is especially relevant for immersed and cut-and-cover tunnels.

The 2010 award was conferred to **Stefan Kratzmeir** from Germany for his excellent record on tunnel safety research. He worked as a scientific manager, managed R&D applications and is project coordinator of the SOLIT² Research Project. Stefan contributed to European projects like UPTUN, FIT and the German project SOLIT in a high-level manner, always with a focus on the development of fire fighting and the acceptance of fixed fire fighting systems. Today Stefan Kratzmeir works as a managing director at the Institute for Applied Fire Safety Research (IFAB).

In 2012, the ITA COSUF Award was granted to **Ying Zhen Li** of SP Technical Research Institute (Sweden) for his work on fire dynamics in tunnels. The work of Ying Zhen Li on the latest advance of research on tunnel fire dynamics was included in the September 2012 issue of the ITA COSUF Newsletter, available on the COSUF website <http://cosuf.ita-aitea.org>.

