

21st BIBM Congress in Istanbul, Turkey – Precast Solutions for Real Life

Around 600 participants from 43 nations worldwide!

The 21st BIBM Congress in Istanbul, Turkey was one the most successful in its 60-year history. With around 600 participants from 43 nations from all over the world, the event clearly exceeded the high expectations not only of the organiser, BIBM – the European Federation for Precast Concrete, but also of the promoter, the trade magazine CPI – Concrete Plant International. One of the aims of the congress was to strengthen the competitiveness of the European and, above all, the Turkish precast concrete industry. Both national and international federations invited businessmen from precast companies, building contractors, planning offices, scientific researchers and politicians to a general dialogue at this trendsetting event, which takes place every 3 years, in order to exchange views. From 21 to 23 May, under the motto “Precast Solutions for Real Life”, the visitors were offered a wealth of information by a total of 68 international exhibitors and 27 international speakers who are recognised within the industry.

The Grand Cevahir Hotel and Conference Centre in Istanbul met all the requirements for the holding of the conference lectures and the trade exhibition that will run in parallel with it. The exhibitors presented their products and services and the conference program, with highly interesting and innovative lecture topics, encouraged the entire European and worldwide precast concrete industry to exchange views. Speakers from many parts of Europe, the USA and even Australia broached the subject of the challenges facing the international

concrete and precast industry and spoke amongst other things about finances, the climate, sustainability, competitive strategies and naturally a wide range of technical topics – always with reference to a practicable implementation. The Turkish precast federation had organised a simultaneous interpretation for its members.

Large growth potential of the Turkish precast concrete industry beginning to show

Turkey is geographically the perfect connecting element between Europe and Asia with an outstanding demographic structure and a large portion of young people with a very good education. Precast concrete technology is constantly growing and more and more prestigious projects are being realised using this construction method. The BIBM Congress 2014 should continue to strengthen this development and will offer many valuable approaches for the entire concrete and precast industry. The IPHA, the International Prestressed Hollow-



Valeria Corinaldesi, Università Politecnica delle Marche, Ancona, Italy: I'm taking part in this congress because I would like to meet important people from the precast industry in order to speak to them about my idea of an industrial network. So far I have been able to hold many interesting conversations and even now I am absolutely impressed and satisfied with this event.

core Association, also recognised that at an early stage and unanimously decided to hold its annual conference in conjunction with the BIBM Congress.

Successful participation of the IPHA in the BIBM Congress

More than 40 members of the IPHA from 16 countries participated in the event and also held their annual general meeting 2014 in the conference hotel immediately following the BIBM Congress. The association has been involved for over 40 years in



Oguzcan Kal, Pekintas Group, Turkey: This is my first visit to a BIBM Congress. I'm visiting the congress to get important information about precast companies that will be useful for my daily work. Furthermore I hope to make many good international contacts. I was able to get a lot of useful insights from the lectures.



The representative main conference room offered sufficient space for the numerous congress delegates.



Valter Lucio from Portugal spoke on wind turbines made of precast concrete elements.



Sarah Bachmann from Australia reported on the sustainable development of precast construction in her home country.



Erik B. Dye illustrated the development of the Norwegian concrete pipe/manhole industry.

the field of prestressed hollow-core slabs and bundles an enormous amount of experience in the design, development, production and marketing of prestressed hollow-core slabs. It rightfully enjoys a very high reputation as a worldwide centre of expertise. At present 70 companies from well over 20 different countries worldwide are members of this unique association.

Some IPHA members held lectures as part of the BIBM Congress, including the presentation "Establishing and maintaining market leadership in difficult times" by Seamus McKeague, "Holcofire - new findings" by Dr. Wim Jansze and "Prestressed hollow-core slabs - modern floor solutions for seismically active regions" by Marco Pecetti. In addition, the IPHA took part in the congress exhibition as well as the BIBM social fringe programme.

Ceremonial handover of the office of President of the BIBM

On the occasion of 21st BIBM Congress, Jaime Delclaux (NortenPH, Spain) was elected as the new President of the BIBM for the period of office 2014-2017. He thus takes over from Patrick Declerck (Decomo/PST Group, Belgium), who held this office from 2011-2014. In 2011 the federation went through several important changes of strategy thanks to the commitment of Patrick Declerck.



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There were reports on, amongst other things, innovations in the precast industry and on the earthquake resistance of the precast construction method in an always well attended second conference room.



Eddy Dano from Belgium spoke about the advantages and disadvantages of different building materials compared to concrete.



Erdem Catur, Bati Prefabrik, Turkey: I'm visiting this congress to get information about new products and technologies from the industry. Of course, I'm also meeting colleagues from the industry here. The event is very well organised and the lectures show very clearly the trends in the precast industry in Turkey and Europe.

Declerck's first decision as president was to strengthen the team in Brussels by appointing a head of the Public Relations Department. Beyond that the federation carried out measures for checking its strategic priorities and for the more efficient use of its resources. Declerck's last "official act" as BIBM president was to lobby for the re-

cation of the BIBM to the city centre of Brussels; the federation's head office is now located in direct proximity to the European institutions.

Even with the strategic re-orientation, the BIBM still pursues the same principal goal, i.e. to foster the competitiveness of the precast industry in Europe through the positioning of precast concrete elements as the preferred technology for sustainable construction. In accordance with the motto of the congress, precast concrete elements stand for real life solutions in the spotlight and in fact they serve to create the buildings in which our daily lives take place. Although the financial crisis occurred six years ago, its consequences can still be felt to this very day. During this difficult period the strategic reorientation helped in identi-

fying the most important topics of the BIBM and the alignment of its lobbying through the creation of a five-year strategy plan.

The priority partners and addressees of the BIBM federation work are the EU institutions (European Commission, Parliament and Council) as well as European and international building federations. The most important areas of activity over the last three years included:



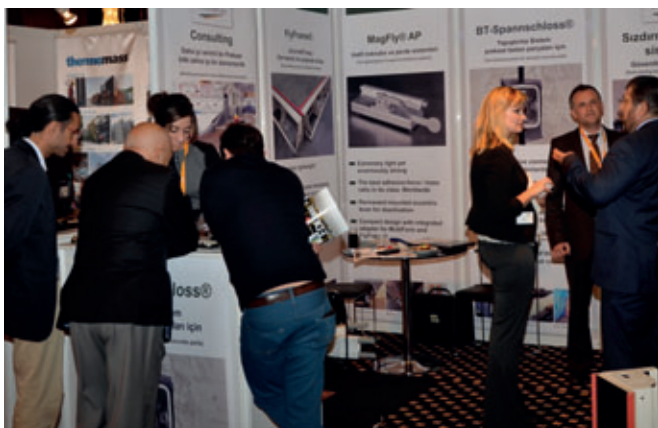
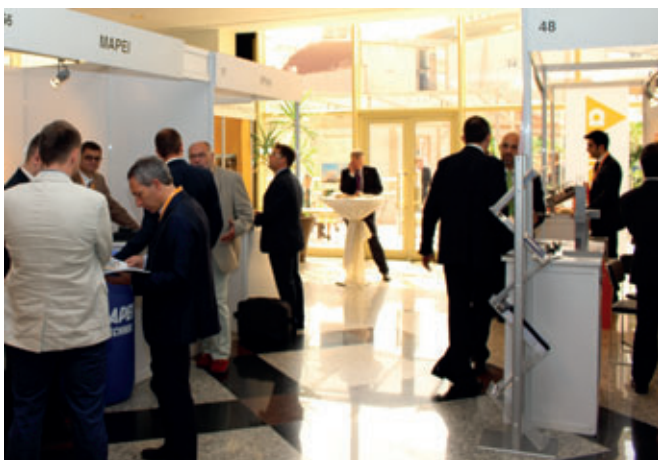
Gareth McMeekin, Wright Quarry Products Limited, Ireland: the congress is ideally suited to following the developments in the precast industry. I was able to get many interesting offers in numerous conversations.



Wim Jansze from the Netherlands presented the results of the large-scale Holcofire project, which proved the fire resistance of prestressed hollow-core slabs.



Registration at the BIBM Congress 2014 in Istanbul



Apart from the numerous lectures, the congress also offered the visitors a large international trade exhibition with nearly 70 booths and a correspondingly high amount of information.

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Rafizlan Ahmad, CIDB-Malaysia, Malaysia: I am a representative of the government and represent the interests of the precast industry. The BIBM Congresses are among the most important events in the global concrete industry. Here we can learn a great deal about the precast industry and find a lot of innovative products and technologies.

- Improvement of the conditions and easing of access to building projects (with public invitations to tender) for small and mid-size enterprises
- Stabilisation of the normative framework for the fostering of the long-term development of precast companies and fair competition for them
- Fostering of innovation, research and communication as important technolo-



Tony Crane, honorary member of the IPHA: I was acting secretary of the IPHA for over 15 years and have already been retired for 10 years. Nevertheless, I'm still interested in the developments in this industry. I enjoy this conference

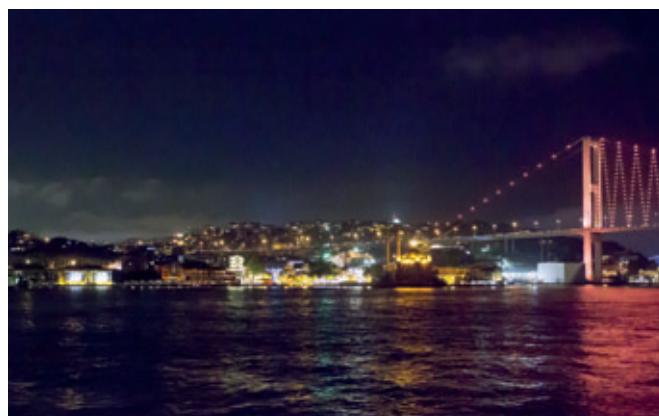
very much and the lectures tie in to my former field of activity. The developments in recent years have been really impressive.

gical advantages within the industry in sectors such as fire protection and earthquake resistance

- Participation of the sector in questions of health and safety at work and obligation to lower the risks for health and safety at work for everyone involved, including plant employees, neighbouring residents, subcontractors, logistics teams, road users and building site workers when using our products.

Jaime Delclaux will continue the implementation of the 5-year strategy plan and will concentrate on the further strengthening of the BIBM. "Continuity and a stable legal framework have the highest priority", he said in his inaugural speech at the close of the 21st BIBM Congress in Istanbul.

CPI – Concrete Plant International reports continuously on the activities of the BIBM.



During the boat tour on the Bosphorus the congress delegates took the opportunity to converse with one another.



Andrea Boscagli, Plan s.r.l., Italy: The event is a complete success. From the exhibition to the lectures and the cultural fringe programme, everything is extraordinarily good and valuable.

Extensive fringe programme with culture and big city experience

While the congress participants exchanged views and maintained and extended business relations, their partners could experience the charm and variety of the million-strong city on guided full and half-day tours. Whether it's crossing the Bosphorus Bridge to the Asian continent, a visit to the historical city centre or to the Grand Bazaar, there was something for everyone. A boat tour along the Bosphorus in the evening light of Istanbul offered a relaxed atmosphere for intensive conversations between the congress participants.

Perfect organisation guaranteed that the event went without a hitch

The successful marketing of this event in advance as well as the professional running of the congress was guaranteed by the many years of experience of the CPI team in the planning and conducting of trade fairs and expert congresses.

The trade magazine CPI – Concrete Plant International wishes to thank all sponsors for their support, the IPHA and above all the BIBM for the trust placed in us.

Some of the speakers' presentations and photos from the BIBM Congress 2014 are available for download on the BIBM Congress website at www.bibmcongress.eu.

FURTHER INFORMATION



BIBM – Verband der europäischen Betonfertigteilhersteller
 Rue d'Arlon 55 (6th floor), 1040 Brüssel, Belgium
 T +32 2 7387442, F +32 2 7356069
info@bibm.org, www.bibm.eu, www.bibmcongress.eu



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