

International Concrete Conference & Exhibition

ICCX Russia 2016 – a look back at an event with quality

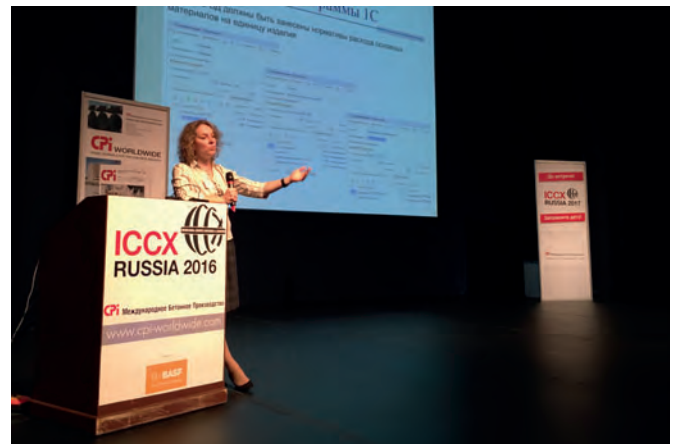
For the 12th time in a row, representatives from concrete plants, the supplier industry and applied science met in St. Petersburg to exchange views on the latest trends and developments in the concrete and precast industry. The abundance of high quality information, whether it was the lecture programme with recognised experts from all over the world or the trade exhibition with over 100 international exhibitors, offered the optimum for every visitor for his or her daily work. Visitors, exhibitors and speakers, too, agreed that the ICCX Russia, with its high-class lecture programme, a multifaceted trade exhibition and last but not least the smooth organisation, is among the top events for the concrete industry in Russia and beyond its borders. Each year sees an increase, especially among the visitors, in the number of people who regard the ICCX Russia as the most important keynote event for the decision-makers in the Russian concrete industry.

It's not uncommon for visitors to travel several thousand kilometres to this event with just one goal in mind: to establish and maintain long-term business relationships on the spot. Not only that, a further reason to visit the ICCX Russia is the comprehensive lecture programme, which is always packed with current topics. For instance,

we came across one visitor this year whose main focus of attention was on a single lecture on the subject of architectural concrete using white cement – and his expectations were exceeded by far.



The ideal location for the ICCX Russia: the Conference Hotel Park Inn Pulkovskaya in St. Petersburg with over 850 rooms and a large conference area.



Now an institution among the speakers: Anna Rybakova from Russia spoke about in-plant further training measures for sales and technical personnel.



Dr. Jürgen Oecknick from Switzerland reported on architectural concrete using white cement – a subject that entirely suited the visitors' taste.

Continuity through quality

The guiding theme of our ICCX events is 'quality, not quantity'. That can also be read in the editorial in this issue of CPI. Our opinion that goal-oriented events are much more useful for everyone involved than broadly diversified mass events has been confirmed.

Nevertheless, a good event must always be assessed self-critically. The level of the ICCX series is undoubtedly high, but maintaining it is not easy. After each event we sit down and discuss what was good and what needs to be improved. It's often the little things that make all the difference.

One example of this is the seminar introduced two years ago and held as part of the lecture programme. At the time we had been thinking about ways in which the visitors could obtain even more useful technical information from the event in this short time.



Prof. Nikolay Suzev, Chair of Technologies of Construction Materials, Products and Structures, Ministry of Education and Science of the Republic of Kazakhstan, South Kazakhstan State University named after M. Auyezoyev. Shymkent, Republic of Kazakhstan

We came from Kazakhstan to take part in the conference ICCX Russia 2016. We represent the Stromproject Research Institute (Almaty) and South Kazakhstan State University named after M. Auyezoyev (Shymkent).

Kazakhstan has adopted long-term state programs on development of the construction industry and housing construction. It is well known that the existing production and technologies in this area are, for the most part, outdated. Therefore, our task is to introduce modern production technologies to the construction industry enterprises, meeting the world's quality requirements. The event format stands out from that of usual scientific-theoretical conferences, because it includes not only the presentations, workshops and round tables devoted to the latest scientific achievements in the field of concrete technology, but also an exhibition of modern materials and technologies offered by the world's leading companies. This format provides for detailed studying of the products offered and holding of preliminary talks on possible acquisitions. Thanks to this conference, many Kazakhstani enterprises have already implemented multiple innovative technologies in the actual production. Therefore, we express our gratitude to the organizers in the hope that over time the Conference and Exhibition ICCX Russia will keep its authenticity, opening doors to the world's most modern concrete technologies in the world!



Elena Root, NII TOO Stromproject, Almaty, Republic of Kazakhstan

I attended the Technical Course and I am truly impressed! Both lectures were highly informative. The authors presented comprehensive information on the stated topics. This material was given in an easy and creative manner. It was clear that the speakers are not just experts in their field, but they are committed to what they do, and are willing to share their academic experience and knowledge with the audience.

I can say with confidence that the resulting experience completely exceeded my expectations! People usually think that a conference is something too serious, ponderous and somewhat boring. But not in the case of the ICCX Russia! The information was presented in detail, it was easy to understand and well explained.

International Concrete Conference & Exhibition

ICCX



RUSSIA 2017

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St. Petersburg, Russia



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Alexander Korolyov, CEO of OAO YhBK-1, Cheboksary, Russia

This is my second visit to the ICCX Russia, and every time I attend the Technical Courses by Viktor Mechtcherine and Michael Khrapko. I believe that this is not just important, but also very useful to receive new portions of up-to-date knowledge in the area of interest. This applies not only to technologists. I am the CEO of a concrete factory and I am sure that

senior managers should have a certain amount of technical knowledge which can be used in production management. It never fails to amaze me how professionally the Technical Course program is compiled – from the scope of the information provided to the time limits. It is also important that participants have the opportunity to ask questions to the lecturers. Thus, the course is more interactive than just scientific. And when you consider that the presentations includes not only matter-of-fact statements, but also illustrations and video materials, there is no doubt that the level of the information presentation is truly on top!

As for me, one of the most vital issue is the practical use of modern technologies in the conditions of Russia, taking into account the geographical, economic, and most importantly, the climatic conditions of the country. Unfortunately, today we are somewhat lagging behind our European counterparts as regards the effective implementation of innovative construction technologies. The reasons for this are many, first of all, it is a problem of funding. Therefore, tips from experienced experts are always welcome, in particular with regard to what is the best way to apply this or that technology, and save money at the same time. The international experts who take part in ICCX Russia undoubtedly have important ideas on this subject, and I am happy to come next year to listen to them within the next Technical course.



Dmitry Komarov, ZhBI-5, Iskitim, Novosibirsk Region

I have not visited ICCX Russia for 6 years, but this year I decided to brush up on existing skills and learn new information about the current situation in the global construction market, learn about trends in the concrete industry in Russia and abroad. I must admit that the progress in organizing the event is evident. And this progress is very beneficial for both the visitors and conference participants.

The organizers managed to keep the traditional exhibition and conference format, but it is obvious that the event is keeping up with the time. The conference program includes reports on topical issues of concrete production. Personally, I am interested in reinforcement production, and I received detailed information on this topic within the framework of this year's conference. I was also very interested in the presentation given by Juergen Oecknick on the applications of white cement. In general, I believe that concrete has to be manufactured rather than spoken about. But in order to do it properly, we require knowledge and experience which can be obtained by visiting ICCX Russia.

The undoubted advantage of the exhibition ICCX Russia is the high quality of the exhibitors. All the exhibiting companies are the world's experts in the field of concrete and precast concrete production. Among them there are many producers of innovative solutions for concrete manufacturing. All of them provide comprehensive information, and I can safely say I did a good job at the exhibition. It was really a pleasure to talk with fellow tradesmen.



Intensive discussions and negotiations were the order of the day in the trade exhibition. Decision-makers and technicians often come together, so that definite decisions can be made on the spot.



Impatiently waiting for the ICCX Dinner Party. Around 600 guests didn't want to miss the evening event. Two live bands from St. Petersburg provided danceable music and ensured a good mood.

The seminar is intended to give the participants a tangible added value for their daily work. It is intended to deal with technical problems and their solutions. It is held by experts from the respective topical areas who work regularly in concrete plants and develop technical solutions on site.

The feedback from the seminar speakers was once again very positive. Some visitors had implemented the speakers' guidelines and recommendation 1:1 in their plants and had actually been able to optimise their production.

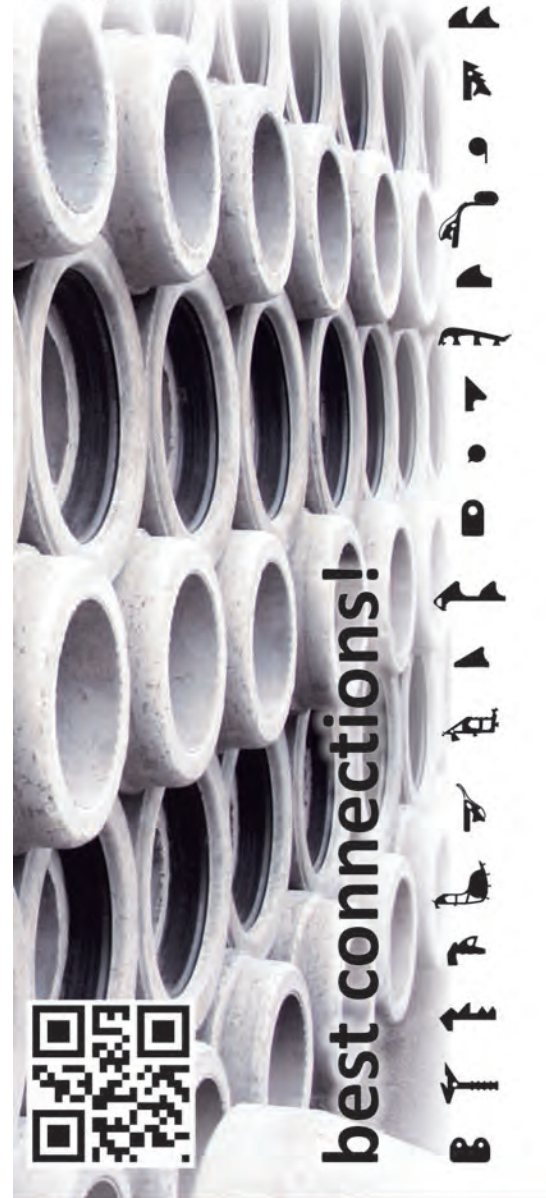
Interest still high and upswing perceivable

The number of visitors once again met expectations and the great interest of visitors from neighbouring countries such as Finland, Estonia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Poland is always impressive. In total almost 900 participants registered. Once again this time, random interviews were held with visitors in order firstly to find out what goes down well and secondly to get suggestions for coming events. You can read the interviews later on in this report.

Numerous specific enquiries and very detailed problems were discussed among the professional colleagues present and plans were drawn up for further cooperation. This was also confirmed to us by the 100+ exhibiting companies. Moreover, several exhibiting companies

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Vladimir Azov, Monolit Ltd., Sibay, Bashkortostan, Russia

Firstly, I would like to thank the organizers of the ICCX Russia! It's really a noble cause to give people the opportunity to meet with Russian and foreign colleagues, to share thoughts, ideas, experiences. I'm sure all this is of great importance for our experts, despite the construction industry recession we are witnessing today in Russia. On my opinion, ICCX Russia is, above all, a source

of relevant information. Unfortunately, beyond the Urals many of the latest technologies offered by the world market are simply unavailable. However, this is no reason to abandon the visit to such an event, where the participants can not only receive up-to-date information about the products, but also get valuable advice on the practical application of various innovative technologies. I'd also like to note, that my work at the exhibition was very profitable this year, and I have accurately identified for a number of areas in which I will continue to work. There is no doubt that this information and knowledge will help me to make everyday work more efficient, and this, in turn, will positively affect the achievement of my professional goals.



Sergey Ubogov, Farbstein Ltd., Samara, Russia (left)

I attended the seminar "Prolonging the service lives of concrete mixers" together with my colleague, and we both were very pleased with what he saw and heard. The information was really coherent and available, and was presented just the way it should be: nothing superfluous, only clear facts and useful advice. I find this seminar especially helpful for those working at the plant. I work in the lab, but will definitely share the knowledge acquired with the employees of our company when I come back.



Prof. Viktor Mechtcherine conveyed the topic of 3D printing with concrete by explaining the current state of development of this still new technology.

confirmed that an upswing is perceivable in the Russian concrete industry, which is connected with the prospect of a stable rouble exchange rate and the forecast rise in oil prices. This is naturally extremely important, especially for those exhibitors who have remained faithful to the ICCX Russia for years despite economically difficult times.

The concept has proven itself once again

The concept of the ICCX Russia has established itself over the years. The technical course on the eve of the core event has always attracted numerous participants and not without reason, because the all-day technical course is held each year in Russian by two internationally recognised concrete technologists (Michael Khrapko from New Zealand and Prof. Viktor Mechtcherine from Germany). The topics dealt with are selected each year in accordance with the visitors' demand. The topics at the ICCX Russia 2016 were the use of short fibres, textile reinforcement structures and non-metallic rod reinforcements in concrete construction and self-compacting concrete.

The core event, i.e. the trade exhibition with accompanying conference programme, reflects the unmistakable character of the ICCX Russia. No other event for the concrete and precast industry in Russia offers so much technical information and so many possibilities to contact suppliers in such a condensed form.

The trade exhibition

The exhibitors presented themselves to the professional visitors at a total of around 100 booths and every visitor was able to obtain comprehensive information on trends and current products of the concrete and precast industry. Both Russian and international exhibitors from 20 different countries from all over the world presented a comprehensive wealth of information. Well-known companies were represented from the fields of plant, mixing, formwork and processing technology, conveying systems, concrete chemistry, fastening systems, installation systems, reinforcing steel plants and IT products. It is precisely this variety that makes the ICCX so unique and interesting for the concrete industry in the whole world.



A well-attended lecture room showed the great interest in the versatile lecture programme. Some very targeted questions proved that the highly qualified auditorium was dealing intensively with the topics on offer.



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The winners of the BIBM lottery



right: Felix Sarnevitch, Urbantek, Saint-Petersburg, Russia

I should say I'm very pleasantly surprised, thank you very much to the organizers! The conference already was a success, but the lottery has become a very symphonic final chord and a competent completion of the event. I am very happy that I was able to take part in ICCX Russia and, of course, to win such a prize. I really liked the format of the conference and exhibition taking place under one roof, it is very convenient for the visitors and sets for a fruitful work. Especially I appreciate the careful attention of the organizers to the participants.

I have heard about the BIBM-Congress at the ICCX Russia for the first time. Our company is engaged in the design and construction projects expertise. I'm sure that the visit to the Congress will not only be an important event, but also will open new horizons of knowledge and experience for me. Thanks to ICCX Russia and CPI journal for giving me this great opportunity! This year I was invited to ICCX Russia by FinnPanel company. Next year I plan to attend the event again, as I was pleasantly surprised by the way the event is organized, as well as by the informational content of the conference and the professionalism of the guests.

left: Malik Mirzoev, The scientific Research and Design-Construction Institute of Construction Materials named after S.A. Dadashov, Baku, Azerbaijan

To be honest, I did not expect to win the first prize. This is a very exciting and touching moment for me. Of course, it's a matter of luck, but I still want to sincerely thank the organizers of the ICCX Russia conference. For me this event is always associated with something good and positive. And this year the opportunity to participate in the lottery was another positive part of my presence here.

I have heard much about the upcoming Congress, both during this event and earlier from the CPI journal. I look forward to my journey in May! It's nice to be able to spend quality time in Spain. I have never been to this country, although I travel a lot.

Visiting ICCX Russia has long been a tradition for me and my colleagues, so next year I will certainly come to St. Petersburg in December again.



Prof. Johann Kollegger from Austria presented an innovative precast bridge building system.



Oleg Fotin from Russia presented draft solutions for high-rise buildings made of precast concrete elements.



Spyros Tsoukantas from Greece used his great wealth of experience to demonstrate the practical aspects of the planning and construction of buildings in seismically active regions.



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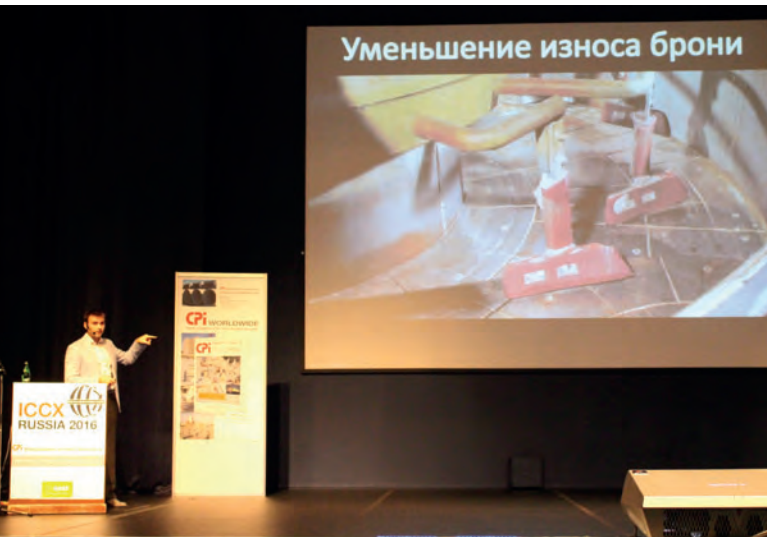
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The seminar on the topic of extending the service lives of concrete mixers met with great interest. Representatives from the companies Habermann/Betmatik and Walter Gerätebau identified problems in the handling of concrete mixers and illustrated solutions.

The conference programme

The professional visitors were able to visit four different sessions of the lecture programme at the ICCX Russia 2016. The sessions offered interesting lectures on concrete and mixing technology, infrastructures made of precast concrete elements and products, precast technology and new approaches to future construction. Worldwide recognised speakers reported on current developments in the concrete industry. They identified trends and spoke from their comprehensive wealth of experience.

Videos of the lectures in full length are available now on the ICCX homepage at www.iccx.org as well as on CPI-TV at www.cpi-tv.com.

Prize draw for two trips to the BIBM Congress 2017 in Spain

A special feature was a prize draw for two trips to the BIBM Congress, which takes place in May 2017 in Madrid, Spain. The names of all visitors to the ICCX Russia 2016 went into the hat. The trip includes flight, hotel and participation in the BIBM Congress. The Congress, which is held every three years by the European Federation for Precast Concrete, is organised by CPI worldwide. Further information on the BIBM Congress can be found at www.bibmcongress.eu.

ICCX Dinner Party

The evening event of the ICCX Russia, the so-called ICCX Dinner Party in the Paulaner Brauhaus Restaurant at the Conference Hotel Park Inn Pulkovskaya, represents the social highlight of the event every year. The Brauhaus was once again full, with nearly 600 guests. The live band "Ivan Kupala" from St. Petersburg seemed to capture the mood of the predominantly Russian guests entirely. Just a few minutes into their appearance there was barely anyone still sitting down.

This evening offered adequate opportunity to strengthen contacts made during the day in a cosy atmosphere.



The BIBM lottery was drawn at the end of the last day. The two main prizes attracted numerous participants. Apart from the two main trips there was a chance to win a valuable set of suitcases, a concrete pen set and several CPI ePaper subscriptions.



The winners of the BIBM lottery: Malik Mirzoev, The Scientific Research and Design-Construction Institute of Construction Materials named after S.A.Dadashov, Baku, and Felix Sarnevitch, Urbantek from St. Petersburg.

Plant Tours

Once again this year the visitors were able to choose between different factory tours. Six different tours were offered in the St. Petersburg region. Around 150 participants were spread over the concrete plants of the companies Finngrad A/S, Lider Prom Ltd., LSR Zhelezobeton SZ A/S, Murinskiy SK and Beaton and, as a particular highlight, there was a tour to the new Zenith St. Petersburg football stadium, which is still under construction – naturally with precast concrete elements.

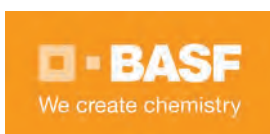
The date has already been fixed for the next ICCX Russia. The entire Russian and international concrete industry will meet at the top-class event once again from 5 to 8 December 2017. The planning of the ICCX Russia 2017 has already begun.



Watch a video of the ICCX 2016 here:
www.iccx.org/russia
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