

# IWMA Paris Conference Review

In October, the 13th International Water Mist Conference took place in Paris. 80 delegates from 19 nations – quite a few from overseas countries such as Australia, the USA and Japan – travelled to the French Capital to join the world's water mist community to network, talk and hear about the latest developments with the industry.

During the two day conference – which had been organized by the International Water Mist Association (IWMA) – 20 speakers from around the globe gave 20 high-quality presentations. As always, the long-standing chairman of the association, Ragnar Wighus (Sintef, Norway), gave the opening speech and reported on the state-of-the-art of water mist technology. Afterwards Marco Pesaola (Eusebi Impianti, Italy) talked about new water mist solutions according to annex B of CEN TS 14972, and Luciano Nigro (Marioff Italy) gave a presentation on the status of the standardisation of water mist systems.

Seven lectures were held in the category “research and testing”. Among the speakers here were CSTB's Elizabeth Blanchard, Louise Jackman (BRE, UK), Jukka Vaari (VTT, Finland) and the chairman of the IWMA's scientific council Hong-Zeng (Bert) Yu (FM Global, USA). Blanchard talked about smoke layer and water spray interaction; Jackman's topic was the water mist protection of domestic and residential occupancies; Vaari's presentation was entitled “experimental characterisation and CFD modelling of high-pressure water mist spray”. Finally, Yu spoke about a fire test protocol for off-road vehicle fire extinguishing systems.

Additionally, a number of speakers presented papers on water mist applications. Rüdiger Kopp (Fogtec Fire Protection, Germany) explained how his company had increased fire safety within Cologne Main Station with high-pressure water mist. Márton Horváth (Tüzör, Hungary) opened up the secrets of smoke extraction and high-pressure water mist in the Hungarian Parliament in Budapest. Christophe Balayre (Danfoss Semco, Denmark) spoke about the protection of data



centres, and Stuart Lloyd (Zurich Insurance, UK) went into the details of industrial oil cooker protection from the insurance point of view.

Ingrid Staurheim (KA Association for Employers in the Church of Norway and Church-Related NGOs) talked about a very particular problem. In her home country most churches are built of wood and, once in a while – and for many years – arsonists have set fire to these old heritage buildings. Hence, the subject of her lecture was the protection of wooden churches with water-based fire-fighting systems. These and all other lectures are available on the IWMA's webpage.

On the evening of the first day of the conference the IWMA invited all members, speakers and attendees to a reception to give everybody the chance for extensive discussions. Simultaneously the sponsoring companies – Aquasys, Danfoss Semco, FM Approvals, Fogtec, Marioff, Novenco, UltraFog and VID Fire-Kill – had the chance to make presentations and exhibit their products.

On day two of the conference, Wighus announced the date and venue for next year's International Water Mist Conference; the 22nd and 23rd October in Istanbul, Turkey. After this year's successful IWMA seminar in Dubai – held during Intersec 2013 – it became clear that water mist is an extremely interesting topic for Asia and particularly the Middle East with its limited water resources. So it stands to reason that the IWMA and its annual conference should move closer to this region. And what city could be more a better choice than Istanbul – the only city in the world that stands on two continents: Europe and Asia? **IFP**



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