Plentiful cultural heritages emerged in Chinese history during the last thousands years, which include industrial heritage reflecting four specialties:

1. many industrial heritages (exactly, technological heritages) arose in the agricultural civilization;
2. industrial heritages in 1850s-1949 were branded by semi-feudal & semi-colony;
3. national industrial heritages in 1850s-1949 are the essence of Chinese Industrial Heritage; and
4. industrial heritages in 1949-1970s are facing technological renewal or replacement now.

Owing to less attention paid to the industrial heritage in the legislative policy, many industrial legacies in China disappeared quickly under the urbanization, technology transfer and economic development after the 1980's.

The authority action for protecting the industrial heritage in China started only in the last ten years. "Modern Monuments, Sites and Representative Architectures" was listed as one category in the Fourth List of National Protected Monuments and Sites (1996), two industrial properties were listed first in the Fifth List of National Protected Monuments and Sites (2001), and nine industrial properties listed in the Sixth List of National Protected Monuments and Sites (2006).

On April 18, the 2006 International Day of Monuments and Sites held "Industrial Heritage Day", National Cultural Heritage Bureau of China and ICOMOS China held the Meeting for Protecting Industrial Heritage in China in one modern industrial town along the Grant Canal, Wuxi City, Jiangsu Province, over 60 scholars, heritage site managers and officers attended the conference, discussed and proposed the "Wuxi Recommendation" - the first chartered document for protecting industrial heritage in China. The Meeting marks that the protection of industrial heritage in China has started new steps.

The third general investigation of cultural heritage over the whole country will be carried out in the near future. In the plan of the investigation, industrial heritage is the important category for being surveyed.

On the way for protecting industrial heritage, comparing the developed countries such as UK, France, USA, Germany, Australia etc., the starting step in China delayed about 40 years, but the pace will be faster and faster.
World monuments day. The ICOMOS’ International Day for Monuments and Sites was devoted this year to the ‘Heritage of Production’ and was marked by events and conferences around the world. Joint meetings were arranged in Uruguay, Greece and Mexico. The Romanian Ministry of Culture and Religious Affairs held an ‘online forum’ on Industrial Heritage in the ex-communist countries. In China, where the choice of the industrial heritage had been made during ICOMOS’ last General Assembly, there was a Joint Celebration and Forum on the Industrial Heritage, reflecting the recent consciousness of the importance of industry in China’s modern cultural and economic history. In Spain, the recently-established national association TICCIH España released a book of threatened industrial sites, and on the 20th April signed an agreement with ICOMOS Spain (see Worldwide).

There was a successful academic assembly in Mexico City with ICOMOS Mexicano organised by the TICCIH National Representative in Mexico, Belem Oviedo Gámez, Director of the Archivo Histórico y Museo de Minería. The general directors of the two most important federal institutions who work with heritage, the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia and the Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes, took part and TICCIH past President Professor Louis Bergeron was also there. For the first time the Telegraphy Museum was open for a group of visitors and there was coverage of the event by the national press. Arq. Javier Villalobos, the president of ICOMOS Mexicano announced that this year’s International Symposium in November in Monterrey, Nuevo León will be dedicated to industrial heritage, and signed an agreement between ICOMOS and TICCIH with the Mexican National Representative.

Among the activities organised by ICOMOS groups was that of ICOMOS Philippines, a blog (a personal, and often highly opinionated, webpage Ed.) which carried a series of articles and photographs about different aspects of the industrial heritage, one of which is partly reproduced in this issue of the Bulletin. (See http://icicomosphilippines.blogspot.com/)

However, it is probably fair to say that the short time since the announcement of the theme by ICOMOS, at the end of 2005, and the limited contacts that exist between TICCIH and ICOMOS at a local level, meant that in many countries Monument Day passed with little or no contact with ICOMOS.

At the institutional level, however, the joint seminar between TICCIH and ICOMOS held in Barcelona on the 24 April (see Axel Mykleby’s ‘Impressions from Catalonia’) marked an important step forward in joint cooperation between the two organisations. Four members of ICOMOS’ Executive Committee came to Barcelona, Dinu Bumburu, Secretary General and the Vice-

President of the Risk Preparedness committee, Giles Nourissier, who is also on the Training and Vernacular Architecture committees, Benedicte Selslauha who also sits on the Charters committee and Axel Mykleby, Senior Adviser International Office. Members of the TICCIH Board and National Representatives who were in Barcelona for their meeting on the previous Saturday attended the seminar, along with past President Professor Marie Nisser.

The central purpose of the summit was to align the strategies for heritage conservation of the two organisations, following TICCIH’s declaration of the Nizhny Tagil Charter for industrial heritage in 2003. ICOMOS has proposed that Guidelines for industrial heritage conservation be created that can be endorsed at their 2008 General Assembly.

In his opening presentation, Dinu Bumburu laid out ICOMOS’ structure of some twenty specialist committees on different aspects of cultural heritage conservation. TICCIH has a role as the adviser on industrial heritage which, while touching the work of various committees such as 20th century heritage, vernacular buildings or intangible heritage, is not covered by its own specialist committee.

Most of the rest of the day was spent on a paper entitled ‘A summary of the main concepts of the industrial heritage’ presented by Eusebi Casanelles, TICCIH President, which is intended to provide an introduction to the ideas in the Charter. A second version of this text, incorporating the many comments and suggestions that were received before and during the meeting, will be presented in Temi at the TICCIH Congress in September. The draft of the Guidelines will in turn be worked on by a joint committee of the two organisations during 2006.

TICCIH Congress 2006

Professor Luigi Fontana, the Italian National Representative and president of the organising committee, explained in Barcelona that a large number of proposals for sessions, workshops and individual papers have been received, and that the academic committee is currently selecting papers. Acceptance of proposals submitted will have been communicated by the 15th May 2006. Around 350 people were expected, enough to allow the organisers to reduce the cost of the conference. Bookings should be confirmed and payments completed by the 31st May 2006. Registration will continue up until the 31st July 2006, but a supplement will be charged. A third brochure with the final programme will be sent out by the 30th June 2006.

The publication of the national reports is being coordinated by Professor Louis Bergeron and Dr Maria Teresa Mauliari Pontois, to whom the texts and photos should have already been sent…

Pleased check the conference web page for details of the meeting, how and when to pay (it is not possible by credit card), accommodation and tour options. Details of the three pre-conference meetings which have been proposed are not yet finalised.

India industrial heritage conference proposal

TICCIH is examining a proposal to hold an intermediate conference in Mumbai, India, and is looking for partners or co-organisers who can help to make the exciting prospect a reality, either with help in organising, funding or publishing the meeting.

New National Representatives

The people who represent TICCIH in Belgium, Norway and in Sweden have recently changed. Mrs Randi Bartvedt is the new National Representative in Norway. She is the Director of the Norsk Vasskraft museum in the beautiful Tyssedal electricity generating power station (www.vim.museum.no) and a member of ICOMOS Norway. In Belgium, Francois Busine of Grand Horne Images, recently married and now Françoise Foulon, has stepped down and in her place is taken by Professor Peter Scholler, professor of social history at the Vije Universiteit in Brussels. Dr Dag Avango is the new representative in Sweden. The association for industrial heritage, SIA CIM, has about 160 members, half of them institutions, and is hoping soon to relaunch its journal.

TICCIH Board elections

Nominations for anyone who would like to be on the TICCIH Board of Trustees will be considered. Any current member may stand in the elections. According to TICCIH’s statutes, four Board members are due for re-election, and there are currently also two vacancies as a result of the death of Eugene Logunov and Eric Nijhof’s retirement. The President also stands for re-election.
In June 2005, the "International Specialist Seminar Concerning the Outstanding Universal Value and Conservation Management of Mine Sites" was held in Oda City, just a few kilometres from the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine. The rules that govern World Heritage are embodied in the Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, adopted by UNESCO in 1972. As of 31st March 2005, 180 States have signed the convention, of which 134 have sites inscribed on the World Heritage List. Currently 788 properties including 611 cultural properties, 151 natural properties and 23 mixed properties are on the list, including twelve sites in Japan. Some of Japan’s more famous World Heritage Sites include Himeji Castle, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial (Genbaku Dome) and the Itsukushima Shinto Shrine on Miyajima Island. The Agency for Cultural Affairs, Japan and the Shimane Prefectural Government are working hard to prepare a World Heritage recommendation document for the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine Site so that by 2007 it may gain approval by the World Heritage Committee of UNESCO to join these properties on the list. The difference between Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine and those sites Japan already has on the World Heritage List is that it is not immediately obvious that the site is "outstanding." Its mine shafts are hidden deep within mountains and the remains of infrastructure, such as smelting and refining sites, are hidden under bamboo trees and forest greenery. It is a site that needs to be explored and explained, rather than admired from a distance. The purpose of this year’s international specialist seminar was to identify what it was that made the site of outstanding universal value and discuss a range of issues regarding the management of the site.

Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine was one of Japan’s most prominent mines and operated for almost four hundred years until its closure in 1923. It was the only mine in Japan to be noted on maps created by European explorers in the 16th century and played a significant role in shaping the East Asian economy and in encouraging trade and cultural exchange between the East and the West. The site is also important because its ruins reveal processes of manual mining technology that, due to the political isolation of Japan during the Edo period (1603-1868), developed independently from European mining technologies. Evidence of these processes have been well preserved because silver in the area was mined till exhaustion. By the time new technology arrived, there was little silver left to mine. The site is also unique because it tells the full story of Japanese mining, from extraction and refinement to the transport of silver to nearby ports. Interestingly, it is the fact that the mine’s tunnels and refineries have been concealed by natural forest that make the site unique; it is the forests that have kept these remains undisturbed for so many years. Such factors regarding the mine’s "outstanding universal value" were highlighted and discussed by participants of the seminar, and will eventually form the basis of the site’s application for World Heritage status.

Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine could be the first industrial site in Japan to be inscribed on the World Heritage List. Of course, inscription is neither an end point nor a beginning, but rather a milestone along a long path that will hopefully ensure that the Iwami Ginzan Silver Mine will be around well into the future.

When I proposed Industrial Heritage as the theme for the International Sites and Monuments Day, 18 April 2006 at the ICOMOS Executive Committee meeting in Xian, China in October, I did not think about being in Catalonia half a year later. Sitting next to Eusebi Casanelles, TICCIH’s President and having the opportunity to talk with him for a couple of days at ICOMOS’ next Executive Committee meeting in Paris, just confirmed that this was a very good choice. I felt that the third exciting step was to be invited to Barcelona and get to know the Catalanian (to me) unknown industrial heritage. Having done some research for my Standing Committee for Urban Development in advance for a study tour to Barcelona this year, I had some knowledge about modern and historic architecture and town planning. Nevertheless this invitation gave me the entrance to a totally unknown industrial history. Reading Carlos Ruiz Zafon’s novel ‘La sombre del viento’ after my tour to Catalonia, gave a brilliant social and cultural background for the period of the industrial adventure at the end of the 19th and the beginning of the 20th century. The day visit to the Llobregat Valley was actually too short to get more than a glimpse of the overwhelming number of industrial villages along the river and beautiful valleys. The protection and revitalisation of this chain of numerous
Train travel has always been a major component in nation building. The Manila-Dagupan line of the Manila Railway Company Limited, precursor of the Philippine National Railways, opened its first line in 1892. This quickly led to the efficient delivery and transport not only of goods and people but also information to the north via a reliable and fast (8 hours at that time) mode of transport the Philippines during the last decade of the 19th century had not yet seen.

Along the rail route, numerous stations were built to house and accommodate passengers and Station Masters. These structures, most made of brick and wood, who shelter the official needs and functions of the assigned Station Master as well as commuters who would wait for their rides as well as onlookers who as part of their daily routine would flock to see the trains pass by. The station thus became a hub of the community, springing to life a multitude of activities from selling food to travelers as well as meeting place for travelers.

With the proposed revitalization and modernization of the North Line, a plan has been put forward to demolish the old stations and replaced with new ones. This wonton destruction will remove from history the vestiges of these stations leaving the people no trace of the rich architectural past the railways had on Philippine History. It is the purpose of this study to document and study the Spanish built stations along the North Line. To secure, document and if might be preserving the rich architecture these stations had for future generations of travelers to come.

With the impending revitalization and thus modernization of the Manila-Dagupan Line, the need to chart and document the remaining Spanish-built Train Stations along the line is integral. The management of the Philippine National Railroad as yet has not signified their intentions of retaining these structures prompting some local government particularly those of San Fernando in Pampanga to declare these stations as historic. But unfortunately not all local officials are enlightened. With time fast ticking by and with the proposed revitalization not only a dream but also now a reality, the demolition of these stations is fast becoming a reality as well.

The Farga Palau in Ripoll, Catalonia, was built as an iron forge in the 17th century and finally closed, after five hundred years, in 1978. The Catalan forge used a trompe in stead of bellows to blow the charcoal in the hearth. Back of the forge is a small reservoir that fed the water wheel and filled the tank at the top of the trompe, a vertical shaft down which the water fell, concentrating air in a box at the bottom behind the hearth. On an earthen floor beside the forge hearth are the anvils of the two tilt hammers that were tripped by the water wheel.

Brass was cast two or three times a month, during the night when the other mills that shared the water from the leat were not working. The cast blocks were later reheated and beaten into the Farga's main products, brass bowls and containers. They were turned into bowls beneath the falling hammer, blow by blow, until the metal had taken on the required shape. This might take up to twenty operations of annealing and reworking for a large basin.

In 1986, the American Society for Metals awarded the forge a plaque as a site of international interest, and in 1997 the old mill was bought by the Museu de la Ciència i de la Tècnica. It was opened for the public last month, the museographical project aiming to give visitors the impression that the smith had only just left the forge.

The Manila-Dagupan rail line stations

Manüel Máximo Noche López del Castillo

Tarlac railway station

Photo: Author.

The Catalan Forge

Jaume Puig

Photo: Patrick Martin
Germany

First steps towards TICCIH Germany

Michael Mende

On 24 March, 2006, nine German TICCIH members gathered at the Westphalian Industrial Museum in Dortmund, in the end declaring themselves as the German TICCIH Association. The initiative of inviting everyone known as German TICCIH member to that meeting had been taken by both Norbert Tempel (Westphalian Industrial Museum) and Michael Mende (National Representative). Several people had to excuse their absence due to other obligations at their respective museums, universities, or monument conservation offices. Those who were present in Dortmund for the time being both have declared Norbert Tempel as a secretary and confirmed Michael Mende as National Representative.

At the moment, they will feel individual members of TICCIH in general. In the near future, however, that means since 2007 at the latest, they will pay their membership fee exclusively to the German TICCIH Association which then will contribute a certain percentage of this fee to the TICCIH account. The amount would have to be negotiated in the course of the year.

The German TICCIH members proposed to the joint National Representatives’ and Board meeting in Barcelona on Saturday, 22 April 2006 to join the 2nd International Conference Big Stuff organised in September 2007 by the German Mining Museum in Bochum together with the Westphalan Industrial Museum – this conference will be dedicated again to the issues of the heavy industry’s heritage; and to organise the XIVth International TICCIH Congress in 2009 at Freiberg (Saxony). Prof. Albrecht, who is with the Technical University-Mining Academy there, will shortlist distribute a revised version of his proposal of 2004 already being made for the XIlth International Congress;

Meanwhile, the well-known journal concerning the industrial heritage IndustrieKultur is proposed as the opportunity for constant communication of both the international and German TICCIH activities. The German TICCIH members also would like to propose a selection of reports published during the years of 2003 to 2006 by this journal as German national report. Concerning the previous years they like to recommend the reports by 2000 and 2003 already being sent by Michael Mende to the organisers of the TICCIH congresses in London and Moscow/Nizhny Tagil. The German TICCIH members will meet again on Monday, 13 November 2006, at the Rhenish Industrial Museum in Euskirchen.

Spain

Agreement with ICOMOS Spain

TICCIH España have signed an agreement with the Spanish ICOMOS committee which parallels that between their two parent organisations, so that TICCIH España is recognised as the national authority for the conservation of industrial heritage. The text of the agreement was checked by the different legal advisors, and might be used by other national organisations who want to establish a formal relationship with their local ICOMOS group. A copy can be obtained from the Editor or from the President of TICCIH España, Miguel Alvarez, or the Spanish representative, Assumpció Felu (assucio@tinet.cat).

Europe

Working Heritage: A Future for Historic Industrial Centres

Keith Falconer

English Heritage

This EU Culture 2000 project has its origins in the coming together in the mid-1990s of an informal group of specialists from many western European countries all of whom were employed by official agencies and shared a common interest in the industrial heritage. A small Raphael Project ‘Europe de l’airé’ on 1930s airports was later undertaken by some of these specialists, reinforcing the view that regular interchange between international colleagues, sharing experience and good practice, was extremely valuable. Accordingly it was agreed that the group should collaborate in ‘Working Heritage’, a Culture 2000 project examining the factors that influenced the successful regeneration of historic industrial districts.

The project, which was to run for only one year – from September 2003 to September 2004 - involved eight partners in four countries. The organising partners were English Heritage (project leader) with Birmingham City Council; the Direction de l’Architecture et du Patrimoine at the French Ministry of Culture and Communication with the City of Roubaix in France (Nord); the Generalitat de Catalunya and the local authority of Colonia Guell representing Spain; and the municipalities of Schio and Terri in Italy.

The project was based upon the comparative analysis of several key sites where the industrial heritage has come to be seen as a positive asset, lying today at the heart of urban renewal strategies and new senses of community pride. It built on the experience gained in different European countries, combining the approaches of ‘specialists’, professionally concerned with the assessment and protection of the heritage, with those of local planning bodies.

The case studies examined by the project were the textile communities of Roubaix in northern France, Colonia Guell outside Barcelona and Schio in northern Italy, the sites of heavy industry around Terri in Umbria and the Jewellery Quarter in Birmingham, England. These sites were chosen as the subject of four three day workshops involving lectures and site visits attended by the project partners together with other locally-based heritage professionals and industrial archaeology students.

The project’s findings have been disseminated by means of an exhibition which has been exhibited at appropriate venues in all four partner countries. The exhibition, designed and collated by the French partners, presents an outline of the project and gives details of the protection and restoration of selected sites within each of the historic districts. It is accompanied by a CD-ROM also in the four languages and containing the exhibition images together with additional material. The exhibition, enhanced by a complementary section on the Czech Republic, was also shown in the Old Town Hall in Prague to coincide with the Vestiges of Industry conference in September 2005.

The other main product emanating from the project is a book that will attempt to distil concisely the findings of the project. It will detail the experience of each partner district - their tribulations and successes - and will analyse the factors influencing the various and diverse regeneration projects. The aim is to encourage, by example, other organisations – whether national, regional or local – faced with the widely experienced problem of regenerating historically significant industrial sites and communities.
Puesta en Valor del Patrimonio Industrial. Sitios, Museos y Casos Papers of the conference held in Santiago, Chile, 21 - 23 March, 2006; ISBN 956-310-072-7

The conference papers from the recent TICCIH regional conference in Chile are in their original language, mostly Spanish but with many also in Italian, marking the considerable international cooperation that exists between Chile, Spain and Italy in industrial heritage. There are a smaller number in English and Portuguese. The highly creditable publication of this heavy volume with the opening of the conference itself marks the considerable experience gained over recent years by TICCIH Chile and its President Jaime Migone in planning and organising large international meetings.

As the reader might expect, railways and mining are the dominant sectors of industrial archaeological interest, while from the perspective of the conservation of this heritage there are interesting contributions on museology, industrial landscapes and company settlements. The growing interest in the value of industrial heritage as a touristic resource is another general trend, although there is not the same attention given to urban regeneration as might be found in a conference in the Northern Hemisphere. It was interesting to note the regular citations of the Nizny Tagil Charter, used as a point of reference by different authors from South America and also from the United States.

While the volume might have been slightly easier to manage had the papers been grouped thematically, this represents the most convenient and up-to-date point of entry to the industrial archaeology of Latin America, and the best way to appreciate the range of current studies and conservation projects.

Erfgoed van industrie en techniek (Technical and Industrial Heritage) 1/2006, Flemish

The quarterly magazine published by the ‘Stichting Erfgoed’ with the Flemish Industrial Archaeology Association (VVIA) is in A5 format with black and white photos. Each number is themed, the current issue around the manufacture of railway rolling stock in Belgium, while the previous number was devoted to the concrete construction and the manufacture of Portland cement.

The VVIA is part of the FIEN (Federatie Industrieel Erfgoed Nederland) and the manufacture of Portland cement. The journal mainly publishes scholarly articles, such as the adaptive reuse of the large paper mill at Silkeborg, the struggle to decide the railway system in Copenhagen in the late-19th century, and a "modern" kind of industrial archaeology drawing on oral sources, written sources and documentation of the physical remains of the post-war handicraft village at Greve near Copenhagen. 2006 articles will deal with the excavation of the Copper Works in Frederiksværk. Copies from the editor: hhkl@odense.dk.

Europa Nostra European Cultural Heritage Review Industrial Heritage/Patrimoine Industriel

To coincide with ICOMOS' celebration of the 'heritage of production', Europa Nostra, a pan-European federation of heritage organisations, commissioned a series of articles from different experts. The overview is by former TICCIH Secretary and Coordinator of the defunct e-Farh, Adriaan Linters. There are local perspectives from Denmark, London and Brussels and a summary of best practices as represented by past winners of Europa Nostra's Awards Scheme. Recognition from an organization associated with more traditional sectors of heritage that the architectural remains of industry are also worth conserving, especially for their quality as testimony to past lives.

Fabrik & Bolig (Factory & Dwelling) N. 1, 2006, Danish

The newsletter of the Society for the Preservation of the Industrial Heritage Selskabet til bevaring af industrimiljøer is the only periodical of its kind in the Nordic countries. It was relaunched in 2004, after 25 years with the same layout. Members now receive two newsletters a year (subscribers can choose a pdf-version by e-mail) and an annual journal for 150 Dkr. (£25/€30). The journal mainly publishes scholarly articles, such as the adaptive reuse of the large paper mill at Silkeborg, the struggles to decide the railway system in Copenhagen in the late-19th century, and a "modern" kind of industrial archaeology drawing on oral sources, written sources and documentation of the physical remains of the post-war handicraft village at Greve near Copenhagen. 2006 articles will deal with the excavation of the Copper Works in Frederiksværk. Copies from the editor: hhkl@odense.dk.

Deltio 2006, Greek (Summary in English) 24pp

The newsletter of the Greek section of TICCIH reappears after a ten-year gap. News of preservation projects around the Greece such as the Technical and Cultural Park of the French Metallurgical Society in Lavros, the oil presses and soap works in Lesvos, the Olive Museum in the former Electric Power Station in Sparta, as well as progress in University teaching and a new joint project to create a Register of Greek Industrial Legacy in collaboration with six academic and cultural organisations.
The TICCIH conference in Latin America was a marvellous occasion, held in Santiago, Chile, between 21 and 23 March in Santiago, for exchanging experiences, seeing old friends and making new ones for the industrial heritage.

Knowing, appreciating and disseminating the industrial heritage is a permanent task and a necessary one for our cultural development, and the experiences of research, conservation and education in the various situations and contexts is always a good reason to hold a conference. Around 150 academics, professionals and students came together during the three days and listened to all presenters who had sent over 100 papers, published as the Acts of the Congress (see Publications).

The meeting coincided with the opening in the Italian Institute of Culture of the exhibition Industrial heritage in Italy and Chile, organised by Carlo Aymerich, Monica Stochino y Jaime Migone, with the showing of the film ‘The Mine of Monteviècco’. Three other exhibitions were opened, IBA-Fürst-Pükler-Land by Karsten Feucht; the Museo del Agua de Buenos Aires by Professor Jorge Tartarini, and the photographs ‘Minescape Dreams’ by Petra Petrick and Herbert Schirmer.

Special thanks are due for the support from the Museu de la Ciència y de la Tècnica de Catalunya and the Chilean Dirección de Archivos, Bibliotecas y Museos of the Ministyr of Education. The meeting was organised by TICCIH-Chile. The effort was entirely worthwhile and we have more enthusiasm than ever for the work of the future that we are developing.

United Kingdom

Capturing the Energy: Recording the UK Offshore Oil and Gas Industries

Dr. Miles Oglethorpe
TICCIH UK National Representative
RCAHMS Survey & Recording

Without doubt, the most important sector within the UK economy today is the offshore oil and gas industry, which sustains tens of thousands of people in employment, and which generates very substantial revenues both for many businesses and for the state. Yet, just as was the case with the UK coal industry when it was at its peak, oil and gas production generates little interest outside the sector itself, and is not yet seen as being of historical significance. There is, however, an increased public perception that the oil and gas are running out, and although this has been exaggerated, it is true that the offshore industries are rapidly changing.

It is also true that, by comparison with more traditional industries, the offshore oil and gas industries are highly regulated by the state. This, and the fact that their many associated activities are often highly technical and complex, has resulted in the maintenance of especially good records.

The problem is that much of this material is likely to become redundant as older fields shut down, and as operations move into new areas. Equally, the rapid transition of the records themselves as the digital era takes hold also poses challenges, not the least of which is the rapidly changing technologies on which digital data management depends.

It was with these issues in mind that a one-day conference was held in the University of Aberdeen, Scotland, on 8th March, the purpose of which was to launch a new project, Capturing the Energy, a long-term initiative designed to co-ordinate the creation of a central archive of the UK offshore oil and gas industries. The event was attended by 90 delegates from across the UK, Norway and France, and was chaired by former UK Energy Minister, the Rt Hon Brian Wilson.

The idea behind the project had emanated initially from a scheme to ensure the survival of records relating to the recently-closed Frigg gas field, and in particular, from highly successful documentation schemes already under way or completed in Norway. These include the Ekofisk Project, sponsored by Conoco Phillips, and Frigg itself, which is supported TOTAL in Norway. The project was initially proposed and sponsored in the UK by the Royal commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) in partnership with the
Business Archives Council of Scotland (BACS), but took off thanks to generous backing from TOTAL E&P UK PLC, and subsequent support from Scottish Enterprise Grampian, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the University of Aberdeen, City of Aberdeen Council, and the UK Offshore Operators Association (UKOAA).

At the heart of the conference programme were presentations by colleagues from the Norwegian Petroleum Museum in Stavanger (Harald Tonnesen) and the National Archives of Norway (Torkel Thune), who explained how Eskolisk and Frigg had been and were being tackled on the other side of the North Sea. Their contributions were graphically enhanced by that of Jean Pierre Hurel, TOTAL’s Frigg Decommissioning Manager, by Andy Halliwell of Conoco Phillips, and by other experienced industry figures and historians from the UK.

Ultimately, it was agreed that the project should proceed, and that its principal aim should be to promote the systematic retention of the most significant records relating to the industry, and to this end, to encourage the creation of a central UK repository, probably in Aberdeen. This, it is hoped, will generate a wider recognition of the huge importance of the Offshore Oil and Gas Industry to the UK, enhance a wide variety of research programmes in the future, and attract new blood into the industry.

In the meantime, it was widely recognized that the first major challenge will be to engage the industry itself, and to persuade the many companies involved that there are great advantages in making provision for the retention of historic records whilst their operations are at their peak, rather than waiting until decline has set in.

The congress will be preceded by a series of conferences dedicated to:
- mineral heritage (in Sardinia in May 2006);
- agriculture and food (in Puglia in June 2006);
- industrial landscapes (in Piedmont in July 2006).

The programmes of these meetings will be sent to all participants and will be posted on the Congress’s website.

**World Conferences**

### Italy

**XIII TICCIH congress**


- The Second Announcement and Call for papers was sent out in early May. Please check the correct bank payment details on the conference website.
- The thirteenth full TICCIH conference will have two plenary sessions, ‘Industrial heritage and urban transformation’ and ‘Protective areas and industrial landscapes’, and 16 workshops, with Board and National Representatives meetings, and the General Assembly on Monday 18th. There is an intensive programme of study visits during the conference and two tour options, one to Naples and the other to the main Italian industrial and artistic centres, culminating in Rome. English and Italian will be the official languages. The conference brochure and registration form is in Italian, Spanish, English and French.
- Congress website: www.mnactec.com/ticcih/news.htm
- Congress Secretariat: ICSIM, via 1 Marggio, 23, 06100 Terri, Italy, +39 74444 07187, info@ticcihcongress2006.net
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- The programmes of these meetings will be sent to all participants and will be posted on the Congress’s website.

**Poland**

**Pro-Revita Łódź 2006:**

Re-utilisation as a vehicle of identity and development of metropolitan areas

Technical University of Łódź, Al. Politechniki 6a, 90-924 Łodz PL, 29 June - 1 July 2006

- Re-use of post-industrial heritage, transformations of historical structures, Sustainable urban transport systems, Innovative ecological and technical solutions.
- Simultaneous translation (Polish-French-English). Contact: architekturalodz@o2.pl
- United Kingdom

**The International Committee for the History of Technology (ICOHTEC)**

33rd Symposium in Leicester, UK. 15 - 20 August

- The programme of the symposium will contain a Kraenzle Lecture Einstein, Picasco: The Role of Technology in the Discovery of Cubism and Relativity, by Arthur I. Miller, scientific sessions for three days, excursions, and social events in evenings. A more detailed programme will appear in the near future. Website: www.icohtec.org/leicester2006/

**Argentina**

**5th Latin American Colloquium for the rescue and preservation of the industrial heritage**

Buenos Aires 18 - 20 Septiembre, 2006

- The Argentine Committee for Industrial Heritage (COAPI) was formed in 2005 and includes the Argentine TICCIH Committee. The main themes are the conservation, research, tourism and interpretation of industrial heritage, and there will be tours to sites of interest after the meeting.
- Proposals for papers should be received by the organisers before 15 March, 2007 Information from Jorge D. Tartanini, ticciharg@yahoo.com or Museo_Patrimonio@baya.com.ar