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Coming up

www.ticcih.org

Opinion

Valuing industrial heritage in the Anthropocene

Dr Inger Birkeland
Telemark University College, Norway

On the 5th July, 2015, UNESCO inscribed Rjukan-Notodden Industrial Heritage Site on the World Heritage list. This represents great opportunities for the local communities of Rjukan and Notodden, located in the interior southern part of Norway. According to the proposal, the site is a unique expression of new industrial developments during the second industrial revolution, based on hydroelectric power production, industry, transport system and urban communities. However, the development of industry here depended totally on the presence of the water landscape, so that the cultural and physical features of this landscape is here a total production system (Birkeland 2015).

How are we to value industrial heritage in the Anthropocene? The Anthropocene refers to the human-dominated geological epoch that we are now living in. It is a concept that covers the last 250 years’ immense human impact on the earth where global warming, environmental degradation and unsustainable development are huge warning signs.
Coming Up

Conferences and congresses

**BigStuff 2015 - Technical heritage: preserving authenticity – enabling identity?**

Big Stuff is an international meeting focused on the challenges and requirements for conserving the large industrial structures and technical objects that form such an important part of our modern heritage. The conference will be held at the mining museum Centre Historique Minier (CHM) in Lewarde/France from 3rd to 4th September 2015, just before the TICCIH 2015 Congress. There is a day trip around the mining areas of North France on 5th September. It features two days of talks and discussions about the preservation of industrial sites, oversized objects, machinery, and working technology in the context of their significance and interpretation.

Speakers will talk on topics including corrosion protection for large equipment, preservation of concrete structures, the challenges of operating heritage machinery and of preserving layers of service history on technological objects. Objects discussed will include a 14 tonne seismograph, a portable radar (bring your own train wagon!), radio and telephone equipment, transport items and infrastructure, a hammer forge, space age rocket engines and many more. Other issues covered will include strategies and case studies for heritage, community and industry groups working together to preserve historic technology and associated intangible heritage, and the preservation of technology heritage in situ within industrial and urban contexts.

**2015**

**France** - BigStuff 2015: the Centre Historique Minier, Lewarde, during the 2015 TICCIH Congress
3-4 September 2015 [www.bergbaumuseum.de/bigstuff2015](http://www.bergbaumuseum.de/bigstuff2015)

**France** - TICCIH Congress Lille 2015: Industrial Heritage in the Twenty-First Century.

**UK** - AIA Annual Conference, Brighton
4 - 9 September 2015 [http://industrial-archaeology.org/aconf.htm](http://industrial-archaeology.org/aconf.htm)

**Bulgaria** - UNESCO International Conference Digital Presentation and Preservation of Cultural and Scientific Heritage, Veliko Tarnovo,

**Spain** - XVII International Conference on Industrial Heritage The legacy of industry. Archives, Libraries, in Gijon
30 September - 3 October 2015 [www.incuna.es](http://www.incuna.es)

**Czech Republic** - ERIH Annual Conference 2015, New ideas and innovations for the interpretation of industrial heritage, Pilsen, European Capital of Culture in 2015.
21- 23 October 2015 [www.erih.net](http://www.erih.net)

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TICCIH is the world organization for industrial archaeology promoting conservation, research, recording and education in all aspects of industrial heritage. It holds a triennial conference and organises interim conferences on particular themes. Individual membership is $30 (USD), corporate membership $65, and student membership. $15

There is an online membership form on [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org)

The **TICCIH Bulletin** welcomes news, comment and (shortish) articles from anyone who has something they want to say related to our field. The Bulletin is the only international newsletter dedicated to industrial archaeology and the conservation of the heritage of industrialisation. The TICCIH Bulletin is published online to members four times a year.

Back issues can be downloaded as a pdf file from the TICCIH web site, [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org).

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