

## Foreword of the Editors

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It is the second time after 1975 (Bochum) that the international congress of *The Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage (TICCIH)* is held in Germany and it is the first time that this important event is hosted in East Germany. 20 years ago – in summer 1989 – Germany was divided into two states: In the west the democratic “Federal Republic of Germany” (FRG) and in the east the socialistic “German Democratic Republic” (GDR). At that time no one could imagine that a few weeks later in October 1989 the so-called “peaceful revolution” of the East German people started a process which led to the reunification of Germany in October 1990 and to the end of the Cold War between East and West. Although TICCIH operated as an international organisation since several years on both sides of the iron curtain, it was the fall of the wall in Germany which opened up new ways and possibilities of a worldwide co-operation in the field of industrial heritage. Furthermore for the first time the unification opened the opportunity for a broader group of experts and enthusiasts all over the world to discover the rich industrial tradition and its physical remains in the former socialistic part of the world. This development led to the XII International TICCIH Congress in Moscow and Ekaterinburg in Russia in 2003 – the first international TICCIH congress in Eastern Europe. And it finally led to this year’s congress in East Germany at Freiberg in Saxony.

Around 20,000 technical and industrial monuments in Saxony are still telling the story of the great industrial history of this part of Germany. Its history of mining is reaching back to the Middle Ages and formed the basis for the early and successful industrialization of Saxony around 1800. During the 19th century Saxony was the leading centre of textile and machine tool industry in Germany. In the 20th century it became one of the country’s birthplaces of automobile, optical and electronic industry. The great tradition of the Saxon industry and the importance of its preservation in the form of technical and industrial monuments had been recognized very early. First attempts to preserve such monuments began shortly after 1900, had been intensified during the 1920/30s and led to a systematic recording and preservation policy in the time of the GDR since the 1950s. The first German heritage law including industrial monuments was issued in 1954 in East Germany. This and the growing economical problems of the GDR, which hindered a massive renewal of the East German industrial structures, helped to preserve thousands of industrial monuments and made this part of Germany into a paradise for industrial archaeologists. The German reunification with its transfer of money from West to East opened up new chances to preserve and to develop this rich industrial heritage carefully. Many examples are testifying the success of this development since 1990. But with the reunification also came the reconstruction of the East German industrial structure which led to a wide deindustrialization of the country, to a public financed tearing down of old and now useless industrial sites and to a heritage policy which is characterized by shortening of staff and finances. This process is accompanied by a renaissance of concepts of culture with no major place for industrial heritage. The development is intensified by the process of globalization and the international economical crisis. Therefore today the situation of East Germany’s and Saxony’s industrial heritage – despite all success in the last two decades – is anything else than good. We urgently need a change in heritage policy, new ideas

and concepts of financing and – most of all – a public debate about the value and importance of industrial culture and industrial heritage for and within our society.

This publication of the *TICCIH National Reports 2009* shows that these problems are not only specifically German problems. The 22 reports from countries in Asia, Europe and America give an overview over the activities of national TICCIH committees as well as about the stories of success, challenges and problems of industrial heritage all over the world during the last three years. It also shows that TICCIH as an international organization still has its focus in Europe, South, Middle and North America and in the Far East of Asia. However, the TICCIH membership list as well as the list of participants at the XIV International TICCIH-Congress in Freiberg/Germany 2009 – among them industrial heritage experts from India, Indonesia, Australia, Senegal, South Africa or Haiti – shows that TICCIH members are also living and working in other parts of the world. Not all of them are organized in national TICCIH committees. Therefore the *National Report 2009* only gives a limited view into the world wide activities of TICCIH and its members during the period from 2006 to 2009. It shows that a lot of work has been done in the field of industrial heritage in these countries. But it also makes clear that the work and ideas of TICCIH should be intensified and spread out to other countries in the world. TICCIH should pay more attention especially to the Asian, African and Australian activities in the field of industrial heritage. The Freiberg TICCIH congress with a lot of first time participants from these regions seems to open up a chance for this. We hope that the TICCIH National Reports 2009 with its examples about the struggle for industrial heritage in 22 countries will motivate and help enthusiasts, experts and groups in other countries all over the world to start research and preservation about their own industrial heritage, to create national networks for industrial heritage and to join the international community within TICCIH.

This *TICCIH National Reports 2009* is dedicated to the memory of the long time German National TICCIH Representative Michael Mende, who died suddenly and unexpected in July 2008 at the age of 63. He was deeply involved in the preparation of the Freiberg congress and it should have been his honourable task to edit this Reports volume. We like to thank Michael for his work for TICCIH Germany and TICCIH International and want to remind the world of his great and friendly personality.

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