



International Mines Rescue Body (IMRB) General Meeting Minutes September 4th, 2017

Location of Meeting

National Mines Rescue Center Novokuznetsk, Russia.

Chairman

Vladen Aksenov, Chairman of "IMRB Russia 2017", Deputy Minister of EMERCOM of Russia.

Secretary

Alex Gryska, Secretary Treasurer, International Mines Rescue Body.

Opening Remarks

Vladen Aksenov delivered opening remarks on behalf of the organizing committee and Vladimir Puchkov Minister of the Russian Federation for civil defense, emergencies and elimination of consequences of natural disasters. A tour of the National Mines Rescue Center preceded the meeting. This is a "world-Class" facility and a model that mines rescue organizations from all corners of the world can and should aspire to.

IMRB Membership and Associate Membership Applications

IMRB new member applications received since the last meeting were reviewed and provided by Alex Gryska. Agencia Nacional de Minería (ANM) of Colombia has been actively involved in all aspects of international mines rescue including attending all IMRB meetings since 2013 and competing in all International Mines Rescue Competitions (IMRC) since "IMRC Poland 2014".

Agencia Nacional de Minería (ANM) of Colombia was unanimously accepted as the newest IMRB member nation.

As per the revised constitution (2015-09-06) which allows for Associate Memberships, who may participate in all IMRB activities however have no voting privileges, have been awarded to the following four organizations:

Dräger

DEZEGA

International Social Security Association (ISSA) Mining Section

Association of Mining and Surface Rescuers- ASMS Romania

Certificates acknowledging membership and associate membership were presented at the closing ceremonies held in the Ekaterininsky Hall of the Grand Palace Tsaritsyno, Moscow. Inadvertently an error was made when presenting the certificate to ASMS of Romania. The certificate was presented to the National Institute for Research and Development in Mine Safety and Protection to Explosion (INSEMEX,) Petrosani, Romania. INSEMEX is one of the founding organisations of the IMRB and have attended all IMRB meetings since its inception. Apologies were extended to the affected organisations and a corrected certificate will be forwarded to ASMS.



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7th IMRB meeting minutes “IMRB Germany 2015” and the revised constitution (2015-09-06)

Copies of the 7th IMRB meeting minutes from “IMRB Germany 2015” and the revised constitution (2015-09-06) were provided to meeting participants. Key changes were highlighted which included:

- Allowing Associate Member join the IMRB along with their responsibilities and limitations
- Collection of membership due
- Reimbursement of limited expenses to the Secretary Treasurer to allow for travel to the biennial IMRB meeting/conference.

The Minutes from the 7th IMRB meeting “IMRB Germany 2015” and the revised constitution (2015-09-06) were unanimously accepted.

9th IMRB Meeting and Conference

Presentations and a video regarding the proposed 9th IMRB Conference Colombia were delivered by Mrs. Silvana Beatriz Habid Daza President of ANM and Mrs. Gloria Catalina Gheoghe, Manager ANM.

The offer by “Agencia Nacional de Minería” (ANM) of Colombia to host the next IMRB meeting/conference in Bogotá, Colombia from September 07 to 14, 2019 was unanimously accepted.

A discussion regarding potential being future hosts of IMRB meeting/conferences was tabled. The following organizations have agreed to host future IMRB meetings/conferences conditional on obtaining the required internal approvals:

- ***Mines Rescue Service of the United Kingdom 2021 (Contingent on Board Approval)***
- ***Mines Rescue Service of South Africa 2023 (Contingent on Board Approval)***

IMRB Website Development Project

The existing IMRB website (<http://www.minerescue.org/>) was first established in approximately 2007 with few modifications since its inception. In addition, the cost of establishing and maintaining the website has borne exclusively by Ontario Mine Rescue, Canada up to this time. Members agreed that it is time that the cost of maintaining the website be shared by IMRB members.

Now that the IMRB has funds available to make upgrades, it is important we proceed to integrate much needed upgrades and modernize the website which is an invaluable information portal to mines rescuers around the world.

A copy of a proposal to update our IMRB website was prepared by a Canadian supplier and provided to IMRB members. Key features of the proposal were highlighted and these included:

- Improved security,
- Easier navigation,



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- Better search tools,
- A secure section for IMRB Members,
- Ability to advertise and collect revenues,
- Ability to collect membership and associate dues,
- Capability to host videos.

It was agreed to proceed with website upgrades however a “sounding board” subcommittee consisting of George Gaman (INSEMEX Romania), David Carey (Queensland Mines Rescue Australia) and Vladen Aksenov (EMERCOM of Russia) will be used to provide guidance as development of the site proceeds.

Finances/Budget

A Financial Summary was prepared by Alex Gryska, Secretary Treasurer IMRB and was reviewed/accepted by James Johnston Mines Rescue Service South Africa and Trevor Watts Mines Rescue Service New Zealand in advance of the meeting. Hard copies of the Summary were provided to members for review and discussion.

The 2017 Financial Summary was unanimously approved by IMRB members.

International Mine Rescue Competition

The International Mines Rescue Competition has evolved to become a critical mechanism for advancing and evaluating mines rescue standards/procedures which help achieve mine rescue consistency on a global basis. Participation at these biennial competitions continues to grow. As safety in mining continues to improve globally, the value of competition has been evolving from being a frill to becoming a necessity. Mine Rescue organizations know that the fewer number of emergencies that occur, the less prepared teams may be when it comes to a response. We must ensure that our rescue teams do not become complacent and unable to safely respond to emergencies. Well-designed competitions are a valuable venue for information sharing and improving mines rescue standards.

IMRC Canada 2016 Review

Ted Hanley, Ontario Mine Rescue General Manager reviewed critical aspects of the 10th International Competition that was held in Sudbury, Canada in 2016. The design of the competition was to ensure maximum learning delivered in realistic settings. The main events were held in below ground settings where teams were able to experience real-life simulations. In addition for the first time, judges from across Canada and from 6 other nations were used to evaluate performance of teams. A live feed from underground venues was provided where observers and teams that had completed completion in that specific event to view other teams perform. These videos were made available to teams for review and internal learning purposes.

Numerous papers highlighting IMRC Canada 2016 were delivered at the IMRB Russia 2017 conference and detailed various aspects of the competition including: research findings, competition outcomes and technical review of simulations/evaluations.



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Future Mine Rescue Competition Hosts

A discussion regarding identification of future international completion hosts was held and the following organizations provided updates:

- **11th International Competition 2018 EMERCOM of Russia (confirmed)**
- **12th International Competition 2020 Queensland Mines Rescue Australia (Contingent on internal approvals)**
- **13th International competition Host 2022 Colombia (Confirmed)**

Emercom of Russia is finalizing arrangements for hosting the competition in 2018 and provided the following information:

- IMRC Russia 2018 is on track and will be held in mid September 2018.
- Exact location has not yet been confirmed however details will follow very soon.
- The target is to attract 30 teams from 20 nations.
- Competition registration will be available from March 01 2018 to May 31, 2018
- The contact person for “IMRC Russia 2018” is Vasily Evseev and can be reached at imrc2018Russia@gmail.com.
- Competition rules v.1.0 will be posted in February 2018 at the official competition website www.imrc2018.ru.
- Mine rescue professional who wish to participate as judges must apply by forwarding their CV to the organisers at imrc2018Russia@gmail.com.
- “IMRC Russia 2018” languages will be English and Russian.
- Manufacturers and developers of mine rescue equipment and technologies will be allowed to demonstrate their products on the exhibition platform of the competition.
- A brochure highlighting “IMRC Russia 2018” is available via the following link: <https://yadi.sk/mail/?hash=nkRZQ9dU%2F4a1FI%2BkEUrcI9JfgwwxjLD%2FDlme5C%2BUIWI%3D>.

IMRB Sustainability Strategy

A presentation regarding sustainability of the IMRB was made by Alex Gryska.

The IMRB was first conceptualized in 1998 by our colleagues from Poland and the IMRB constitution/structure was created in 2001 to meet the needs of international mines rescue community of that time. Significant changes have occurred across the global mining industry. The IMRB has matured and evolved into becoming a well-recognized and highly-prized mines rescue leader with tremendous marketing potential. The Body



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Members need to have an open discussion regarding the future of the IMRB and possibly make changes to the "IMRB constitution" and "structure" that will help meet current and future mines rescue needs.

ANM of Colombia is the host of "IMRB Colombia 2019" and has agreed to accommodate a workshop in conjunction with the conference in Bogota tentatively set for September 7 to 14, 2019.

The exact date of the one-day workshop (approximately 8 hours) has not yet been finalized.

ANM will arrange for an appropriate facility that will consist of break-out rooms and other features necessary for free-flowing and open discussions that will shape the future of the IMRB.

Alex Gryska will prepare background materials which will be forwarded to each IMRB member organization /associate members approximately six months in advance of the September 2019 meeting.

The "sustainability planning session" will be delivered in English therefore non-English speaking members must provide their own translators.

Alex Gryska has agreed to facilitate the planning session or offer options regarding a "neutral facilitator" which will need to be agreed to in advance of the meeting.

David Carey (Queensland Mines Rescue, Australia) and Steve Tonegato (Mines Rescue Service, New South Wales, Australia) agreed to provide feedback to Alex Gryska regarding workshop design, content and approach as planning proceeds.

Election of Secretary Treasurer

As per the IMRB constitution, nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer were tabled. Alex Gryska was the only candidate nominated and he accepted the responsibility for another term.

Selection of Alex Gryska was accepted by Andrew Watson (United Kingdom) seconded by Christo de Clerk (South Africa).

Secretary/Treasurer Expenses

As per the revised constitution, Trevor Watts (New Zealand) tabled a motion that will allow Alex Gryska to use IMRB funds to attend the "IMRB Colombia 2019" meeting/conference.

Motion to allow Alex Gryska use IMRB funds for registration, travel and other incidentals was accepted unanimously.

Armenia Presentation

A brief presentation was made by Mr. Hakob Asatryan of the Armenian Mines Rescue Service indicating that his organization is exploring the possibility of joining the IMRB and will follow-up at a later date.



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Closing Remarks

Closing remarks were delivered by Vasily Evseev on behalf of Vladen Aksenov IMRB Russia 2017 Chairman.

Alex Gryska extended sincere thanks on behalf of the IMRB members to EMERCOM of Russia and their organizing team for facilitating the IMRB meeting and hosting "IMRB Russia 2017".

November 03, 2017

Alex Gryska:
Secretary Treasurer
International Mines Rescue Body

Date:

