

35th Annual General Meeting

# The Society of Mining Professors

Aachen, Germany  
September, 04<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> 2025



# Message from the President



## Dear SOMP Members

It is with great pleasure that I invite all SOMP members to attend the **35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society of Mining Professors in Aachen**, Germany, in September 2025.

The Institute for Advanced Mining Technologies at RWTH Aachen University, recognized for its excellence in applied research and innovation in underground automation and digitalization, will host this pivotal event from September 4–10, 2025.

The AGM will feature an exciting and content-rich program, including great sessions, interactive workshops, and insightful panel discussions. The event will also offer memorable experiences, such as an evening at our living lab “Reallabor Nivelstein” and a special awards dinner in the magnificent Coronation Hall in Aachen, celebrating the achievements and contributions of our members.

I look forward to welcoming you to Aachen in 2025, where we will continue our mission to shape the future of mining education and research together.

**Professor Elisabeth Clausen, President 2024–2025, Society of Mining Professors**

# Organising Committee

**Prof. Elisabeth Clausen**, RWTH Aachen, Germany

**Dr.-Ing. Alexandra Radl**, RWTH Aachen, Germany

**Prof. Dr. jur. Walter Frenz**, RWTH Aachen, Germany

**Prof. Dr. Bernd Lottermoser**, RWTH Aachen, Germany

**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Axel Preuße**, RWTH Aachen, Germany

**Prof. Dr.-Ing. Tobias Vraetz**, RWTH Aachen, Germany

**Prof. Vladislav Kecojevic**, West Virginia University, USA

**Prof. Serkan Saydam**, UNSW, Australia

**Assoc. Prof. Emily Sarver**, Virginia Tech, USA

**Prof. Zach Agioutantis**, University of Kentucky, USA

**Prof. Domingo Javier Carvajal Gomez**, University of Huelva, Spain

**Prof. Ismet Canbulat**, UNSW, Australia

**Prof. Oscar Jaime Restrepo Baena**, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia

**Assoc. Prof. Harmony Musiyarira**, Namibia University of Science & Technology, Namibia

**Prof. Liu Li**, Chongqing University, China

**Assoc. Prof. Nga Nguyen**, Hanoi University of Mining and Geology, Vietnam

**Assoc. Prof. Marilena Cardu**, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

**Prof. Oliver Langefeld**, TU Clausthal, Germany

**Prof. Ronny-Webber Youngman**, University of Pretoria, South Africa

**Ms. Sandra Nowosad**, TU Clausthal, Germany

**Assoc. Prof. Veiko Karu**, Tallinn Business School, Estonia

**Dr. George Barakos**, Curtin University, Australia

**Ms. Natalija Pavlovic**, University of Belgrade, Serbia

**Prof. Godfrey Dzinomwa**, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia

**Assoc. Prof. Seher Ata**, UNSW, Australia

# Call for Papers

This year's theme, "SOMP Connects the World", captures the collective spirit of SOMP members in shaping a mining future that is sustainable, technologically advanced, and rich in cultural diversity.

## Program Branding for the Mines of the Future

How can we position mining programs to attract and develop talent equipped to lead in a rapidly changing industry? This theme will focus on branding strategies that align academic offerings with the evolving needs of the sector.

## Shaping Tomorrow's Professionals: Embracing Modern Education for a Future-Ready Workforce

Preparing the workforce of the future demands innovative approaches to education. This theme will spotlight strategies for cultivating professionals ready to meet the demands of a dynamic and sustainable mining industry.

## Mastering Digital Competencies

As technology transforms the mining landscape, digital literacy is no longer optional. The use of digital tools, artificial intelligence, and machine learning is nowadays evident in searching for data and information, sorting literature sources, auto-writing, correcting, and optimising texts. This theme will delve into the essential skills and tools needed to navigate and thrive in a digitalised academic mining world. Accordingly, SOMP members are asked to submit abstracts/papers in which the use of digital competencies will be more than essential. The papers will be presented during SOMP 2025, and a workshop will follow where the authors will explain what tools they used, and how these affected their research, and writing compared to the traditional ways. The session is open to any topic on mining, metallurgical or other relevant engineering disciplines. Strong focus is given on Innovative Technologies and Research for Sustainable Mining Practices.

## Strengthening Academia-Industry Collaboration

The future of mining depends on strong partnerships between academia and industry. This theme will explore initiatives to bridge the gap, fostering knowledge exchange and driving innovation.

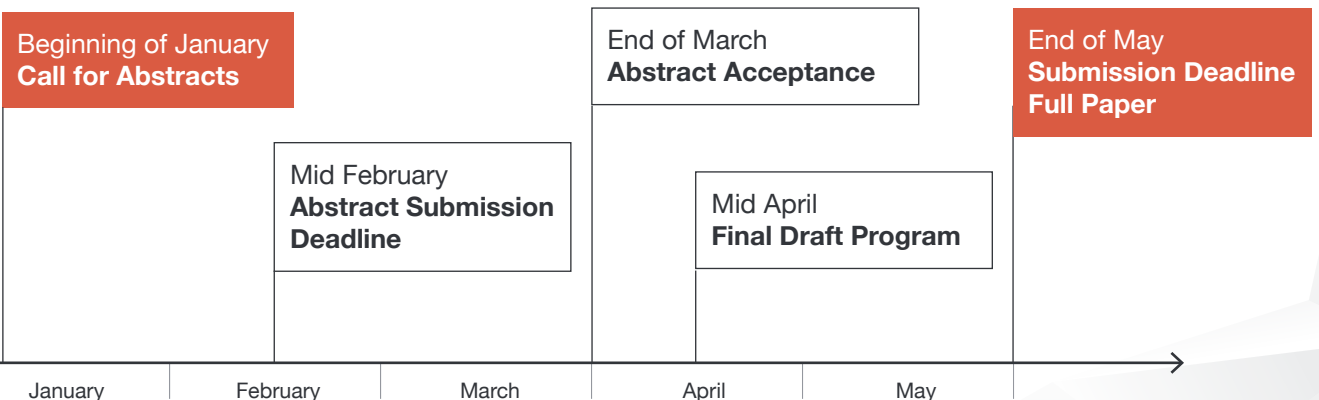
## Fostering Global Connections: Advancing International Collaboration

Mining is a global industry, and its challenges transcend borders. This theme will focus on international cooperation as a cornerstone for sustainable growth, innovation, and shared success.

## Innovative Technologies and Research for Sustainable Mining Practices

Sustainability is the future of mining. This theme will highlight cutting-edge technologies and research initiatives driving sustainable practices, ensuring environmental stewardship and long-term industry viability.

The preliminary schedule is as follows:



# Reasons to Attend



## Academic Excellence

Access cutting-edge research and insights from top universities



## Industry Insights

Network with German mining professionals



## Networking Opportunities

Connect with professionals and academics from diverse backgrounds



## Professional Development

Enhance your knowledge and skills through workshops and presentations



## Iconic Location

Experience the vibrant city of Aachen, known for its cultural and educational significance

# Venue Information

## AACHEN

### FAREWELL EVENT

**APOLLO Kino & Bar**  
Pontstraße 141–149  
52062 Aachen

### CONFERENCE AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WELCOME RECEPTION, POSTER WALK AND LAB TOURS

**RWTH Institute for Advanced Mining Technologies (AMT)**  
Wüllnerstraße 2  
52062 Aachen

### MINERS EVENING

**Nivelsteiner Sandwerke**  
Wildnis 78, 52134 Herzogenrath  
approx. 20 km from Aachen

Apollo

RWTH Institute for Advanced Mining Technologies (AMT)

Rathaus Aachen

### SOMP AWARDS DINNER & FAREWELL DINNER

Coronation Hall in Aachen's City Hall

### MAIN VENUE

**Erholungsgesellschaft 1837 Aachen**  
Reihstrasse 13  
52062 Aachen

Hauptbahnhof

~20km from Aachen



# Event Schedule



04. – 06.09.2025

**Field Trips and City Tour Aachen**

07.09.2025

**Council & Committee meetings  
and Welcome Reception**

08.09.2025

**AGM and Miner's Evening**

09.09.2025

**AGM and SOMP Awards Dinner**

10.09.2025

**AGM, Flag Ceremony and  
Farewell Event**

# Field Trips

For the 35<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of SOMP in Aachen in 2025, several field trips to various sites are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> of September. These include trips to visit an active lignite open-cast coal mine, the Komatsu Germany plant, as well as a tour of the historic Aachen city center. All tours will commence and conclude in Aachen.

## Garzweiler Lignite Mine and Recultivation

The excursion to the **Garzweiler Open-Pit Mine** offers a fascinating insight into one of Europe's largest mining operations. Participants will have the opportunity to explore both the active mining area and the ongoing reclamation efforts. Discover how cutting-edge technology is used in the extraction process, while also learning about the innovative methods employed in land restoration and sustainability.

## Visit at Komatsu Plant

The excursion to **Komatsu Germany GmbH in Düsseldorf** provides an exciting opportunity to explore the manufacturing processes behind some of the world's most advanced mining and construction machinery. Participants will get an exclusive look at the production lines, where cutting-edge technology and precision engineering come together to create high-performance equipment. Additionally, insights into the company's commitment to sustainability and innovation will be shared.

## City Tour Aachen

A visit to Aachen offers the perfect **blend of history, culture, and modern innovation**. Known for its rich heritage as the former residence of Charlemagne and its iconic Aachen Cathedral, a UNESCO World Heritage site, the city provides a fascinating glimpse into the past. At the same time, Aachen is a vibrant hub for technological advancements and research, particularly through institutions like RWTH Aachen University, which plays a key role in shaping the future of engineering and mining technologies.



# Accompanying Persons Program

A special program has been thoughtfully arranged for accompanying persons, offering a rich blend of **cultural and social experiences during the event**. On September 9th, accompanying persons can enjoy a **historic city tour of Aachen**, exploring its charming streets and iconic landmarks.

Throughout the event, they will also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of enriching activities designed to run in parallel with the Annual General Meeting (AGM). Highlights include a **scenic tour of the Eifel National Park**, where nature's beauty meets tranquility, and an exciting visit to the **Dutch city of Maastricht**, known for its vibrant atmosphere and historic architecture.

Partners will also be welcome to join the social events of the **AGM**, such as the **Welcome Reception**, **Miner's Evening**, and the prestigious **SOMP Awards Dinner**, ensuring a memorable and engaging experience for all.

**A wonderful opportunity to explore, relax, and connect, while your partner is immersed in the AGM's professional sessions.**



08.09.2025

**Exploring Heritage and Culture**  
Aachen

09.09.2025

**Exploring Nature**  
Eiffel National Park

10.09.2025

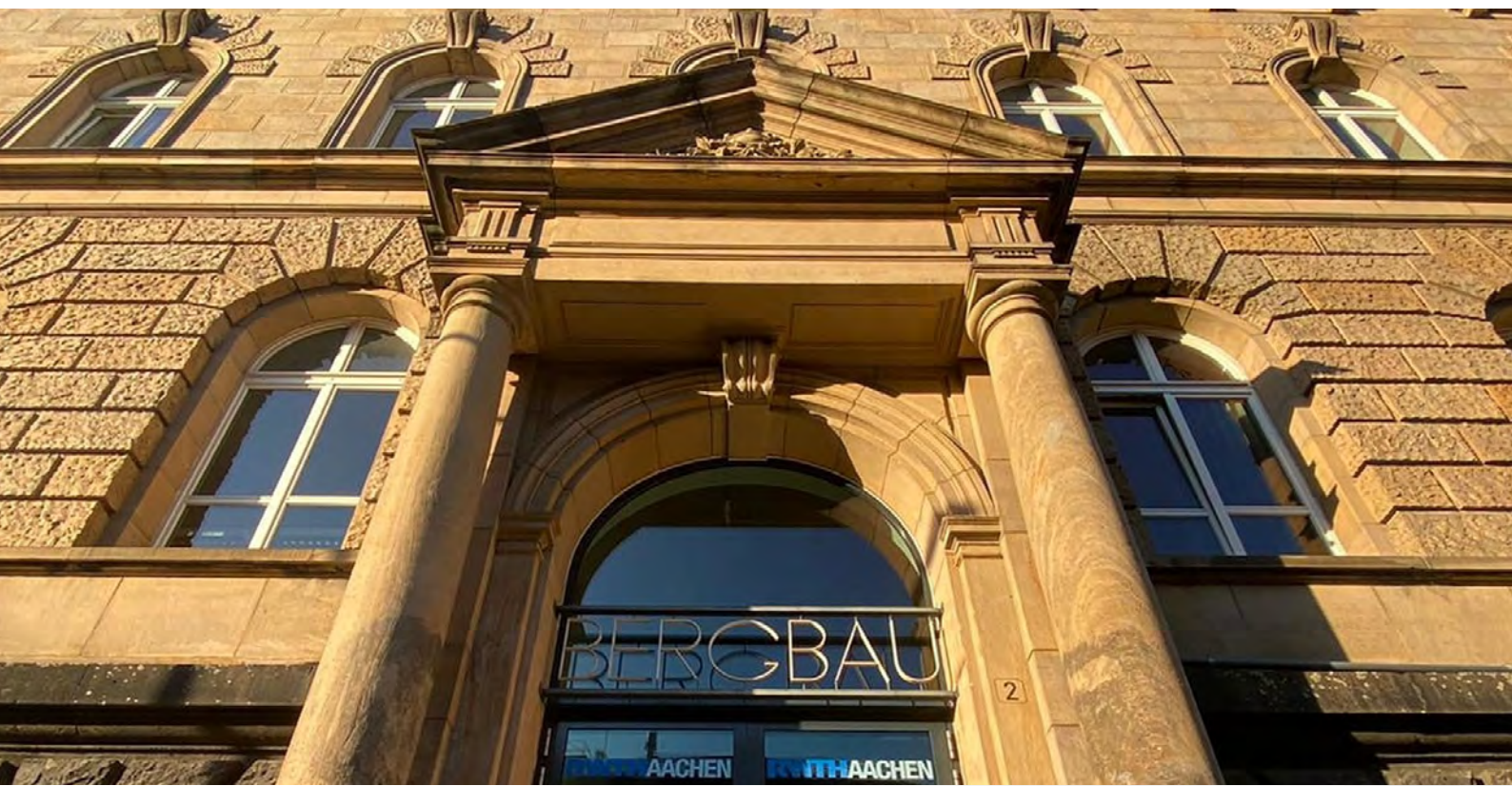
**Exploring Europe**  
Three- Country Corner and  
Maastricht

# Climate & Dress Code

September in Aachen is typically a **mild and pleasant time of year**, as autumn begins to set in. Daytime temperatures usually range between 15°C and 20°C, while evenings can be cooler, dropping to around 10°C to 14°C. The weather can be sunny, but occasional rain showers are possible, so it's recommended to come prepared for varying conditions.

The customary dress code for SOMP events is **business casual**, giving attendees the flexibility to interpret it in their own way while maintaining a professional appearance. However, for the **SOMP Awards Dinner** on Tuesday, September 10<sup>th</sup>, a **formal dress** code is highly appreciated.

For any specific requirements regarding field trips or outdoor activities, we will provide further information in advance to ensure you are well-prepared.



# Registrations & Rates

## Registration

<https://tinyurl.com/2xvzs85z>



CATEGORY	PRICE
Registration fee** <b>Regular Early Bird*</b>	<b>750 €</b>
Registration fee** <b>Early Bird* Young Members</b> (<30 years)	<b>450 €</b>
Registration fee** <b>Early Bird* participants, Reduced Price</b> (if needed) for participants from developing countries and regions according to OECD and emeritus members	<b>450 €</b>
Registration fee** <b>External participants</b>	<b>950 €</b>

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	PRICE
<b>Field trip 1</b> – Open Lignite Mining RWE Thursday, September 4th, 2025 <b>Field trip 2</b> – Komatsu Germany Friday September 5th, 2025 <i>The trips cannot be booked individually</i>	<b>250 €</b>
<b>Guided tour of the old town incl. town hall</b> , Saturday, September 6th, 2025 Meeting point: Tourist Information Elisenbrunnen; <i>Start: to be announced</i>	<b>50 €</b>
<b>Council and Committee Meetings</b> Sunday, September 7th, 2025	
<b>Barbecue Event Nivelstein</b> Monday, September 8th, 2025	
<b>Conference Dinner, Coronation Hall</b> Tuesday, September 9th, 2025	
<b>Farewell Event in Apollo</b> , Wednesday, September 10th, 2025	

ACCOMPANYING PERSON	PRICE
The social program for a accompanying person includes in the <b>registration fee</b> : the <b>Barbecue Event in Nivelstein</b> (Monday, September 8th, 2025), the <b>Conference Dinner</b> in the Coronation Hall (Tuesday, September 9th, 2025) and the <b>Farewell Event</b> in the Apollo (Wednesday, September 10th, 2025).	<b>550 €</b>
<b>Field trip 1</b> – Open Lignite Mining RWE Thursday, September 4th, 2025 <b>Field trip 2</b> – Komatsu Germany Friday September 5th, 2025 <i>The trips cannot be booked individually</i>	<b>250 €</b>
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\*Early Bird pricing is available until **June 1st, 2025**.

\*\*The registration fee includes the Council Meetings (Sunday, September 7th, 2025) the AGM (Monday, September 8th, 2025 to Wednesday, September 10th, 2025) the Barbecue Event in Nivelstein (Monday, September 8th, 2025), the Conference Dinner in the Coronation Hall (Tuesday, September 9th, 2025) and the Farewell Event in the Apollo (Wednesday, September 10th, 2025)

Please note: the tickets of the additional activities are limited.

# Accommodation Options

A special hotel room block has been arranged for conference attendees. To ensure you have access to the best rates and accommodations, please make your reservations through the **official conference website**. This will guarantee you secure a room within the designated hotels and benefit from the exclusive rates offered for the event.

**We recommend booking early to secure your preferred accommodation.**

## Hotel Booking

[www.aachen-tourismus.de/SOMP2025](http://www.aachen-tourismus.de/SOMP2025)



★★★★★

**Parkhotel Quellenhof**  
Monheimsallee 52  
16 min walk to venue

Located next to the Eurogress congress center and the Kurpark; a range of rooms and suites available, wellness and fitness center

★★★★★

**INNSiDE by Melia**  
Sandkaulstraße 20  
10 min walk to venue

Located in the middle of Aachen, a stone's throw from the main tourist attractions; own parking garage, restaurant with summer terrace, a sauna and a modern fitness centre available

**Motel One**

Kapuzinergraben 6–10, AC  
3 min walk to venue

Budget-friendly design hotel known for offering stylish accommodations at affordable prices, hotel offers different room categories, breakfast buffet

Rathaus Aachen

**B&B Aachen City**

Grosskölnstraße 57–63, AC  
8 min walk to venue

New hotel (opened in September 2020) offers 144 air-conditioned rooms in the historic city, Sky-TV free of charge, free bicycle storage and car parking space in hotel's underground car park

Westpark

★★★★

**Ibis Aachen Marschierort**  
Friedlandstraße 6–8, AC  
15 min walk to venue

The 3-star Hotel Ibis Aachen am Marschierort near the city gate is conveniently located. The hotel combines Aachen hospitality with modern amenities – buffet breakfast, international restaurant

Main Venue  
Reihstraße 13

★★★★

**Mercure am Dom**  
Peterstraße 1, AC  
3 min walk to venue

Just a stone's throw away from Aachen's most popular attractions, non-smoking hotel, private parking available

Hauptbahnhof

# Visa Information

For attendees traveling to Germany for the conference, it is important to **check whether you require a visa**. Citizens of certain countries may need to apply for a visa to enter Germany, while others may be eligible for visa-free entry for short stays. We encourage all participants to review the visa requirements well in advance of the event.

If you require an **invitation letter for your visa application**, please contact the conference secretariat, and we will be happy to assist you.

For detailed information on visa requirements and the application process, please visit the official German government website or the respective embassy/consulate in your country.

You can find more information here on visa requirements for Germany:  
**[www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en](http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en)** (Visa & Service)

Make sure to plan ahead and allow sufficient time for processing your visa application.

# Contact Information

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**RWTH Aachen University**

Institute for Advanced Mining Technologies (AMT)



## For further information contact

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**See you in Aachen  
in September 2025**

