

35th Annual General Meeting

The Society of Mining Professors

Aachen, Germany
September, 04th – 10th 2025



Message from the President



Dear Members of the Society of Mining Professors,

I am delighted to extend a warm welcome to the **35th Annual General Meeting of the Society of Mining Professors (SOMP)**, which will take place in Aachen, Germany, from September 4th to 10th, 2025. SOMP, as a leading global organization, brings together distinguished mining academics and professionals to foster the exchange of knowledge and promote innovation within the mining industry.

This year's AGM promises a vibrant and enriching program, featuring a diverse mix of presentations, insightful panel discussions, interactive workshops, poster exhibition, lab tour and unique experiences such as an evening at our "Reallabor Nivelstein" and a special awards dinner in the magnificent Coronation Hall of Aachen's Town Hall, celebrating the outstanding achievements and contributions of our members. Additionally, we will visit outstanding mining operators and machine manufacturers, allowing you to witness the latest advancements in our field.

Aachen, known for its rich history and its prestigious RWTH Aachen University, serves as the perfect backdrop for our conference. The city's significance in education and research makes it an ideal location for meaningful exchanges and collaborations. Participants will have the opportunity to explore Aachen's historic landmarks and immerse themselves in its vibrant culture.

We have also prepared an excellent accompanying program to ensure a well-rounded and memorable experience for all attendees.

I eagerly look forward to welcoming you to Aachen, where we will continue our mission to shape the future of mining education and research together and to make this AGM a memorable event.

See you in Aachen and Glückauf,

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

Organising Committee

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Elisabeth Clausen, RWTH Aachen, Germany

Dr.-Ing. Alexandra Eberst, 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, Queen's University, Canada

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

Assoc. 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

Conference Themes

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.

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.

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.

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.

Reasons to Attend



Academic Excellence

Cutting edge research, innovative teaching and insights from top universities around the globe



Industry Insights

German and European 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



SOMP AWARDS DINNER

Coronation Hall in Aachen's City Hall



MAIN VENUE

Erholungsgesellschaft 1837 Aachen
Reihstrasse 13
52062 Aachen



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

**RWTH Aachen University,
Mining Building**
Wüllnerstraße 2
52062 Aachen



MINERS EVENING

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

~20km from Aachen

Hauptbahnhof

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**

Program

DAY 0	WHEN	WHAT
07.09.2025	09:00 – 12:00	Council Meetings
	12:00 – 14:00	Lunch
	14:00 – 16:00	Committee Meetings + Lab Tours
	18:00	Welcome Reception

DAY 1	WHEN	WHAT
08.09.2025	07:30 – 08:30	Registration open and arrival networking
	08:30 – 10:00	Session 1: Opening Plenary
	10:00 – 10:30	Morning Break
	10:30 – 12:00	Session 2: Strengthening Academia – Industry Collaboration
	12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
	13:30 – 14:30	Session 3: Program branding for the mines of the future
	14:30 – 14:45	Refreshment Break
	14:45 – 15:45	Session 4: Program branding for the mines of the future II
	15:45 – 16:00	Refreshment Break
	16:00 – 17:15	Session 5: Business Session
	17:15 – 17:30	Wrap- Up and Closing of the Day
	17:30	Shuttle to Nivelstein
	18:00	Reallabor Nivelstein, Miners Evening in a Mine
	22:00	Departure

Program

DAY 2	WHEN	WHAT
09.09.2025	08:15 – 08:30	Welcome and Start into the Day
	08:30 – 10:00	Session 6: Shaping Tomorrow's Professionals: Embracing Modern Education for a Future Ready Workforce
	10:00 – 10:30	Morning Break
	10:30 – 12:00	Session 7: Shaping Tomorrow's Professionals: Embracing Modern Education for a Future Ready Workforce
	12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
	13:30 – 15:00	Session 8: Innovative Technologies and Research for Sustainable Mining Practices
	15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Break
	15:30 – 17:00	Session 9: Fostering Global Connections: Advancing International Collaboration
	17:00 – 17:15	Wrap- Up and Closing of the Day
	18:30	Group Photo
	19:00	Awards Dinner

DAY 3	WHEN	WHAT
10.09.2025	08:15 – 08:30	Welcome and Start into the Day
	08:30 – 10:00	Session 10: Mastering Digital competencies I
	10:00 – 10:30	Morning Break
	10:30 – 12:00	Session 11: Mastering Digital competencies II
	12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
	13:30 – 15:00	Session 12: Lab Tours
	15:00 – 15:30	Afternoon Break
	15:30 – 17:00	Session 13: Closing Session
	17:00 – 18:00	Future Regional Meetings and SOMP supported events
	18:00	Flag Ceremony and Farewell Event

Field Trips

For the 35th Annual General Meeting of SOMP in Aachen in 2025, several field trips to various sites are scheduled for the 4th to 6th 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

We are pleased to announce a thoughtfully curated program for accompanying persons, offering a unique opportunity to **participate in a variety of enriching activities** designed to run in parallel with the Technical Sessions of the Annual General Meeting.

This program aims to provide participants with valuable insights into the **culture, nature, and attractions of the region**. The highlights of the program include:

- **Exploring Heritage and Culture:** Discover the rich history and cultural significance of Aachen.
- **Exploring Nature:** Experience the breathtaking beauty of the Eiffel National Park.
- **Exploring Europe:** Visit the Three-Country Corner and the vibrant city of Maastricht.

In addition to these activities, all participants will have the opportunity to join a **guided historic city tour of Aachen** on September, 6th, allowing them to explore the charming streets and iconic landmarks that define this remarkable city.

Partners are also cordially invited to partake in the social events of the AGM, including the Welcome Reception, the Miner's Evening, the prestigious SOMP Awards Dinner, and the Farewell Event. These gatherings are designed to foster connections and ensure that all attendees enjoy a memorable and engaging experience.

We look forward to welcoming several accompanying persons to make this program a truly enriching and enjoyable experience for all involved.



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 10th, 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** Regular	850 €
Registration fee** Regular – Early Bird*	750 €
Registration fee** Junior (<30 years), Emeritus, Developing Countries	550 €
Registration fee** Junior (<30 years), Emeritus, Developing Countries – Early Bird*	450 €
Registration fee** External participants (not SOMP members)	950 €

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES	PRICE
Field trip 1 – Open Lignite Mining RWE Thursday, September 4 th , 2025 Field trip 2 – Komatsu Germany Friday September 5 th , 2025 <i>The trips cannot be booked individually</i>	250 €
Guided tour of the old town incl. town hall , Saturday, September 6 th , 2025 Meeting point: Tourist Information Elisenbrunnen; <i>Start: to be announced</i>	50 €

ACCOMPANYING PERSON	PRICE
The social program for a accompanying person includes in the registration fee : the Barbecue Event in Nivelstein (Monday, September 8 th , 2025), the Conference Dinner in the Coronation Hall (Tuesday, September 9 th , 2025) and the Farewell Event in the Apollo (Wednesday, September 10 th , 2025).	550 €
Field trip 1 – Open Lignite Mining RWE Thursday, September 4 th , 2025 Field trip 2 – Komatsu Germany Friday September 5 th , 2025 <i>The trips cannot be booked individually</i>	250 €
Guided tour of the old town incl. town hall , Saturday, September 6 th , 2025 Meeting point: Tourist Information Elisenbrunnen; <i>Start: to be announced</i>	50 €

* **Early Bird pricing is available until June 30th, 2025.**

** The registration fee includes the Welcome Reception, 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).

The registration fee **for accompanying persons** include the Welcome Reception (Sunday, September 7th, 2025), a well-selected programme to regional attractions (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



★★★★★

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

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

★★★

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

★★★★

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

★★★★

**Ibis Aachen Marschier-
tor**
Friedlandstraße 6–8, AC
15 min walk to venue

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

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 (Visa & Service)

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

Contact Information

Prof. Dr.-Ing. Elisabeth Clausen

President Society of Mining Professors

RWTH Aachen University

Institute for Advanced Mining Technologies (AMT)



For further information contact

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**See you in Aachen
in September 2025**

