

Why SOMP matters – Voices of the Community

**SOMP is more than a network – it's  
a community for ideas, inspiration,  
and lifelong connections that shape  
the future of mining.**



**Elisabeth Clausen**

Professor at RWTH Aachen University, Germany

SOMP Deputy Secretary General and SOMP President 2024–2025

## What is your most memorable experience with SOMP?

One of my most memorable experiences was my first SOMP conference in 2011 in Arequipa, Peru, where I experienced firsthand the **energy, diversity, and openness of the community**. The mix of passionate young professionals and experienced experts created an inspiring environment. It was also the conference where I get to know Tim Shaw. Therefore, it made it even more meaningful when, several years later, I was awarded with the **Tim Shaw Award for Innovation in Teaching and Learning** in 2016 as the **first recipient**.

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# “What can young professionals learn from being part of SOMP?”

They gain access to a **vibrant network, cutting-edge knowledge,** and a sense of **belonging in a global community.** SOMP encourages active participation, interdisciplinary thinking, and provides a stage for the next generation to be heard and **make a difference.**

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# Why should mining professionals not miss SOMP 2025 in Aachen?

SOMP 2025 in Aachen promises to be a **hub of innovation, dialogue, and global exchange**. It's a great opportunity to connect with experts from around the world, explore emerging trends, and help **shape the future of mining education and research**.

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# Join us at SOMP 2025 in Aachen

<https://www.amt.rwth-aachen.de/en/somp-2025.html>

