

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

CONFERENCE SUPPORTERS



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 7th and 8th September

7th September

09:00 – 12:00	Council Meetings
12:00 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Committee Meetings + Lab Tours
18:00	Welcome Reception

8th September

07:30 – 08:30	Registration open and arrival networking
08:30 – 10:00	Session 1: Opening Plenary
10:00 – 10:30	Break

Session 2: Research, Development and Industry: Strengthening Academia–Industry Collaboration

10:30 – 12:00	Overview of the Research, Development and Industry Committee, V. Karu, Estonian Business School; Estonia
	Industry Perspective I (TBD)
	Identification of all Potential Stakeholders in the mining sector from a Cross-Cultural and Cross-Sectoral Perspective in Australia; C. Rodolaki, G. Barakos, J. Gamutan, S. Zaung Nau, Curtin University, Australia
	Enhancing Academia – Industry Partnership for Italy's Mining Policies; M. Cardu, G. Sabra, Politecnico di Torino, Italy
	A Review of ESG in Mining Across selected African countries from Africamaval Project: Role of Educational Institutions; M. Pillalamaray, H. Musiyarira, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia
	Watergenics AISRAS: Real-Time In Situ-Augmented Raman Spectroscopy for Acid-Mine-Drainage Monitoring – and how Universities can support Deep-Tech-Startup Development in the mining sector; B. Grafe, Tallinn University of Technology, Estonia and Watergenics GmbH, Germany
	Industry Perspective II (TBD)
	Panel Discussion: Shared Goals, Shared Growth: Rethinking Partnerships in Mining Innovation and Education
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break

Session 3: Mining and Minerals Programs Sustainability: Program branding for the Mines of the Future

13:30 – 15:00	Overview of the Mining and Minerals Programs Sustainability Committee, E. Sarver, Virginia Tech, USA
	Who cares about a brand?, B. Steinbrecher, Power + Radach, Germany
	How and Why is industry re/branding?, R. Triebel, K+S AG, Germany
	Panel Discussion: Redefining Mining Education: Success Stories and Lessons Learned – Case studies on mining and minerals education program re/ branding. P. Foster, Camborne School of Mines, Great Britain; V. Kecojevic, Queens University, Canada; S. Saydam, University of New South Wales, Australia; NN, RWTH Aachen University, Germany
	SOMP Branding updates
	Enrolment and graduate trends: regional updates and new survey format
15:00 – 15:30	Break

15:30 – 17:00	Session 4: Business Session
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap-Up and Closing of the Day
17:15	Shuttle to Nivelstein
18:00	Miners Evening
22:00	Departure

Program 9th September

08:15 – 08:30	Welcome and Start into the Day
Session 5: Education: Shaping Tomorrow's Professionals: Embracing Modern Education for a Future-Ready Workforce	
08:30 – 10:00	Overview of the Education Committee, S. Nowosad, Curtin University, Australia
	Strategic Planning in Mining Engineering Education: A Case Study of the School of Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand; J. Githiria, B. Mutandwa, T. Tolana, Z. Mduli, P. Leeuw, C. Musingwini, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	Challenges and Prospects in Geosciences Education in Turkey; C. Okay Aksoy, Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey; G. Gülsev Uyar Aksoy, Hacettepe University, Turkey
	Strategic Competency Analysis for Driving Sustainable Innovation in the Chilean Mining Ecosystem; F. I. C. Yeomans, Universidad Central, Chile and Minenovate, Chile
	Gamified Learning in Mining: Building Future-Ready Professionals; P. Ehlers, DMS Mining Studios, India
	Tracking Industry-informed Curriculum Changes in Selected Mining Programs; Z. Mduli, B. Mutandwa, C. Musingwini, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	MiReBooks – a new approach in knowledge transfer; C. Drebenstedt, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany; S. Feiel, M. Labrador, P. Moser, Montanuniversität Leoben, Austria
	Utilising LiDAR scanning for geological mapping and modelling education in simulated mine environments; C. Birch, H. Grobler, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	T-Shaped Professional Role in Mining Business Cases: Innovation Through Micro-Degree; V. Karu, Estonian Business School, Estonia
	Integrating Geopolitics and Sustainable Resource Management in Mining Engineering Education; C. Roumpos, Public Power Corporation of Greece, Greece ; P.-M. Spanidis, F. Pavloudakis, University of Western Macedonia, Greece; Z. Agioutantis, University of Kentucky, USA
	Poster Pitch 3 Minuten
	Excavationism'on the "Pasts" and Potentials of Mining and its Narratives; B. Arich-Gerz, RWTH Aachen University, Germany
	The Situation of Mining Engineers in their Education and Professional Lives Compared to other Professions in Türkiye; C. Okay Aksoy, Dokuz Eylul University, Turkey; G. Gülsev Uyar Aksoy, A. H. Deliomanlı, Hacettepe University, Turkey
	Developing a Comprehensive Model for the Rock Engineering Profession: Pathways for Graduates and Semi-Skilled Mining Industry Personnel; M. Matlou, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	Panel Discussion: Transforming the Classroom: Strategies for Modern Mining Education
10:00 – 10:30	Break

Session 6: Education

10:30 – 12:00	From Extraction to interaction: Why Future Mining Professionals need Communication Skills; S. Walter, Lots Gesellschaft für veränderte Kommunikation mbH, Germany Helmut Mischo, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany
	A critical analysis of South Africa's mineral beneficiation training landscape; P. N. Neingo, P. Twala, P. Leeuw, H. Mtegha, K. Manamela, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	LabMove: Active Learning for Future-Ready Professionals in Sustainable Mining; A. L. Marques A. da Silva, A. L. Magalhães, M. Brandão, J. Wiler Barbosa Jun., R. Patrick Reis, S. Cruz, M. de Oliveira Santos Jun., University of São Paulo, Brasília
	Building Industry, Academia and Community Partnerships: The Sustainable Mining Innovation and Lifestyle Enhancement Regional Innovation Engine; N. Russo, K. Luxbacher, M. Cabrera, The University of Arizona, USA
	Interactive Session "Designing the Future of Mining Engineering"
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break

Program 9th September

Session 7: Research, Development and Industry: Innovative Technologies and Research for Sustainable Mining Practices

13:30 – 15:00	Introduction, V. Karu, Estonian Business School, Estonia
	Deep Mining Challenges: Recent Advances and Innovative Solutions; A. Taheri, Queens University, Canada
	Evaluation of the challenges limiting the adoption rate of forth industrial revolution technology in the mining industry; J. Githiria, T. Tingini, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	How Mining can seize circular and digital opportunities; S. Krause, J. Kretschmann, O. Drusche, Technische Hochschule Georg Agricola, Germany; H. Mischo, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany
	A Smart Algorithm for Global Critically Assessment of Minerals and Metals; A. Mammadli, Curtin University, Australia
	Development of a Decision Support System Tool for Continious Economic Optimization of Underground Critical Raw Materials Mining Projects; M. A. Islam, H. Mischo, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany
	Developing a digital framework for simulating and optimizing climate change Adaption Strategies: A case study of an anonymous Underground Mine; E. Chabata, L. Madziwa and G. Dzinomwa, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia
	Development of environmental protection requirements for green mine construction in China; L. Liu, Z. Li, J. Qiao, X. Peng, Chongqing University, China
	T-Blast: An Automated System for Drill-and-Blast Design in Tunnel Excavtion; G. Exadaktylos, P. Liolios, M. Stavropoulou, National Technical University of Athens, Greece
	Vision Zero: Achieving zero fatalities managing high potential incidents in mining; B. G. Perez Chavez, Minsur SA and Universidad Nacional Ingenieria, Peru
	Panel Discussion: From Innovation to Implementation: Challenges and Opportunities in Sustainable Mining
15:00 – 15:30	Break

Session 8: Capacity Building: Fostering Global Connections: Advancing International Collaboration

15:30 – 17:00	Overview Capacity Building Committee, G. Dzinomwa, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia; S. Ata, University of New South Wales, Australia
	Putting SOMP on the Map – The Creation of an Interactive World Map of Mining Engineering Programs; G. Meissner, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany; S. Hazuria Anderson, Curtin University, Australia; G. Bournival, University of New South Wales, Australia; S. Nowosad, Curtin University, Australia
	Creating new realities for young Colombian engineers: The international collaboration created by SOMP as a new educational tool; O. J. Restrepo Baena, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Colombia
	International Collaboration For Sustainability of Critical Minerals Value Chains in Indonesia, E. Harjanto, National Research and Innovation Agency, Republic of Indonesia; T. Winarno, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Republic of Indonesia
	Demand of Capacity Building and Lifelong learning: an industry perspective; A. Tobar, Epiroc Iberia
	Workshop
	Presentation Upcoming SOMP Regional Meeting
17:00 – 17:15	Wrap-Up and Closing of the Day
18:30	Group Photo
19:00	Awards Dinner

Program 10th September

08:15 – 08:30	Welcome and Start into the Day
Session 9: Members Development: Mastering Digital Competencies	
08:30 – 10:15	Artificial Intelligence in Mining and Law; W. Frenz, RWTH Aachen University, Germany
	Integrating Automation, AI and Digitalization in Mining Education: Building the Mining Workforce for Industry 5.0; N. Risso, B. Czerkawski, J. He, The University of Arizona, USA
	Unlocking AI Expertise for Mining Engineers: Needs, Status, and Effective Educational Pathways; A. Binder, M. Schubert, Y. Jiang, O. Langefeld, TU Clausthal, Germany
	Empowering the next generation of mining engineers with data-driven decision-making skills to tackle industry challenges; J. Githiria, I. Mabala, P. Shivute, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	Empowering Students Through AI: A Course Wrapper for Mining Safety and Health; W. P. Rogers, University of Utah, USA
	Beyond Traditional Writing: Leveraging Large Language Models to enhance Research Communication in Mining Engineering – A Case Study; B. genc, O. Dyo- Olupona, T. Celik, S. Bada, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	Exploring the feasibility of using large language models for automatic grading of research assignments at the Wits School of Mining Engineering: Challenges, opportunities and implications; C. Birch, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa
	Q&A: Digging Deeper: AI, Education, and the Future of Mining
10:00 – 10:30	Break
10:30 – 12:00	Members Development: Workshop
12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break
13:30 – 15:00	Session 10: Lab Tours
15:00 – 15:30	Break
15:30 – 17:00	Session 11: Closing Session
17:00 – 18:00	Future Regional Meetings and SOMP supported events
18:00	Flag Ceremony and Farewell Event

Posters

General

The Societät der Bergbaukunde in the 18th century: Learning from History to build the future; A. Tobar, Epiroc Iberia; R. Lain Huerta, J. L. Parra y Alfari, J. F. Elorza Teneiro, Universidad Politecnica de Madrid, Spain; D. J. Carvajal Gomez, University of Huelva, Spain; S. Nowosad, Curtin University, Australia; O. Langefeld, Clausthal University of Technology, Germany; Mario F. Cedron Lassus, Pontificia Universidad Catolica del Peru, Peru

Strengthening Academia–Industry Collaboration

Stakeholder collaboration: A case study of the School of Mining Engineering at the University of the Witwatersrand; T. Tholana, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Innovative Technologies and Research for Sustainable Mining Practices

Technical and Environmental Aspects of Mine Tailings Valorization; M. Cardu, G. N. Sakatadi, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

Technological and Management Challenges in the Metal and Minerals Sector in the European Region of Andalucia; D. J. Carvajal Gomez, University of Huelva, Spain

Non-conventional sources and methods of mineral extraction – challenges and opportunities; C. Drebenstedt, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany

Use of AI/machine learning and GIS – case study evaluation of dump stability; C. Drebenstedt, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany

Foreign Objects Detection on a conveyor belt using computer vision techniques: A case study of a copper smelter; G. Dzinomwa, Namibia University of Science and Technology, Namibia

Environmental Processes of Gypsum Mining in La Guajira; D. D. Lopez Juviano, N. C. Lozada, M. T. A. Ruiz Arrieta, Universidad de la Guajira, Colombia

Investigation and Optimization of Cable Anchor Support System in Timberless UG2 (Chromitite) Stopes in the Western Bushveld Complex; R. Masethe, T. Gcuda; M. Masitise, Engineering and Science University of Kwa- Zulu- Natal, South Africa

Sustainable Mining of Critical Raw Materials in Saxony's Erzgebirge: The Legal Situation vs. Public Expectations – Insights from the AGEM-ERA Project; G. Meissner, H. Mischo, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany

Research on Predicting the Tensile Strength of Granite using Digital Image Process and Machine Learning Techniques; B. Mishra, C. He, University of Utah, USA

Comparison of technical operating flexibility and profitability at selected underground platinum mines to manage long-term operational viability; C. Musingwini, B. M. Grobelaar, L. J. Mohloki, B. Mutandwa, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa

Optimized Seismic Wave Control in Blasting Operations for Reduced Vibrations; C. Okay Aksoy, Dokus Eylul University, Turkey; G. Gülsev Uyar Aksoy, O. Savas, Hacettepe University, Turkey

Integration of technology and data for the monitoring of underground cavities; J.-A. Paffenholz, M. D. Martin, J. Thomas, A. Binder, T. Sen, O. Langefeld, Clausthal University of Technology, Germany

Towards Sustainability in Mining: Diverging Challenges Across the Industry; F. F. Pavloudakis, University of Western Macedonia, Greece; C. Roumpos, Public Power Corporation of Greece, Greece; P. -M. Spanides, University of Western Macedonia, Greece; Z. Agioutantis, University of Kentucky, USA

Innovative Technologies and Research for Sustainable Mining in Kazakhstan; S. Sabanov, R. Koshunova, D. Aitmagambetova; Nazarbyev, University Kazakhstan, Kazakhstan

From vision to reality – innovations in mining by Deep Sea Sampling; M. Sobczyk, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany

Autoregressive Model of the vertical displacements process of a mining area to assess the possibility of induced mining earthquake occurrence; V. Sokola-Szewiola, Silesian University of Technology, Poland

Dry Mining: Sustainability; C. Soto, M. Javier, Universidad Continental, Peru

Tendencias del Cobre y Analisis Economico en el Perú Copper Trend and Economic Analysis in Peru; J. E. Soto Yen, Universidad Nacional de San Marcos, Peru

Tracing Corporate SDG Integration and Priorization: A Longitudinal and Structural Analysis in the Mining Sector; Q. Zhang, C. Wang, Queens University, Canada

Rock Mechanics study and prediction & early-warning of mine Hazards; W. Zhu, X. Xu, L. Niu, H. Li, Northeastern University, China

Fostering Global Connections: Advancing International Collaboration

Experiences with International Joint Study Programs; C. Drebenstedt, TU Bergakademie Freiberg, Germany

Suggestions for the mechanization of mining operations in Colombia; S. Nowosad, Curtin University, Australia

Mineral Company Business Models - Strategy articulation and sustainable business models in the mining industry, K. Sinding, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark

Transforming Mining Education through International Collaboration Insights from Chongqing University and Clausthal University of Technology; Y. Jiang, A. Binder, Clausthal University of Technology, Germany; L. Liu, Chongqing University, China; O. Langefeld, Clausthal University of Technology, Germany

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.



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 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

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For further information contact

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**See you in Aachen
in September 2025**

