



ISO TC 221 Meeting in Seoul, South Korea

Immediately following the GeoAsia Conference, ISO TC 221 on Geosynthetics held their annual meeting at the Hotel Seoul Education and Culture Center, June 24-25, 2004. Hosted by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) and organized by FITI Testing and Research Institute (FITI), the TC 221 Committee had one of its most productive meetings since its inception. There were ten (10) countries represented at the conference. A special recognition is given the most recent P-Member, Kenya. Although many of the ISO delegates had to travel far to attend the meeting, no one could match the story by representative from Kenya and the adventure he took to attend the meeting. His presence at the meeting and his contribution to the meeting was appreciated by all those in attendance.

Three Working Groups met at Seoul meeting. WG 3 on Mechanical Properties, headed by Convener Bernard Myles, worked through a long list work items and set an agenda for future tasks of the Group. WG 4 on Mechanical Properties, headed by Convener Danielle Cazzuffi, worked on the language and approach of numerous standards and draft standards. WG 5 on Durability, headed by Convener Sam Allen, resolved several key issues. Of particular note is that TC 221 will not attempt to re-invent a test method for the Oxidation Reduction Test (OIT). TC 221 will issue a technical report on the use of ASTM D3895 and D5885 for determination of OIT for geosynthetics.

All the delegates mentioned how wonderful it was to be in Seoul, South Korea for the ISO TC 221 Meeting. The effort by FITI in organizing the meeting, technical support, printing and copying, and assistance throughout the meeting was no less than outstanding. Every ISO meeting, the host Country sponsors a Thursday night group meal for the delegates. KATS and FITI organized and lavish banquet and invited numerous dignitaries from the South Korea government and technical societies to meet the ISO TC 221 delegation. Every TC 221 delegate felt deeply honored with the special treatment and attention afforded them. After closure of the ISO TC 221 Meeting, a tour was organized of FITI's very impressive test facility.

Special thanks must be given to Dr. You-Kyum Kim and Dr. Hyun-Jin Koo for their hospitality and extraordinary effort. Also, thank you to Dr. Han-Yong Jeon for his quiet assistance and effort on the ISO TC 221 meeting.

There is a planned conference call September 2004 between the Chairman and Secretary of ISO TC 221 and the Chairman and Secretary of CEN TC 189 to review the joint work efforts of both committees, with the possibility of the WG Conveners joining the conference call.

The delegation from the USA has proposed the next meeting of ISO TC 221 to be in Philadelphia in September of 2005.