

Newsletter

Volume 26, January 2022



ICSOBA

The International Committee for Study
of Bauxite, Alumina & Aluminium

The ICSOBA Newsletter is a document showing evolution of the organization contribution to our society. Each copy of the NEWSLETTER from the recent past is available at the ICSOBA website at:

<https://icsoba.org/newsletters/>.

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ICSOPA Newsletter is a biannual publication. In case you consider contributing to this forum, please contact the editors before writing your story.

FOREWORD

Dear ICSoba Members,

Already two months closed since Virtual ICSoba 2021. So, it's about time to look back and review the lessons learned from this event, the second successive virtual ICSoba conference.

To do this, we are fortunate that our online satisfaction survey received a response rate of 35%, ensuring a very good representativeness of the results, which are developed in this Newsletter.

Even if we all can perceive some kind of "fatigue" with regards to virtual events, you overwhelmingly support our decision to go virtual this year again in the context of the ongoing pandemic. Use of an online platform rather than a webinar type format (89% support) was again highly supported, as well as the absence of duplication of session (86%), thanks to the on-demand capability. Video on-demand was very much appreciated (78%) as well as resource downloading (81%).

Beyond the audio and video quality of the broadcast, which is an imperative on which we cannot compromise, the main area for improvement that you suggest is always to strengthen the interaction between the participants (delegates, exhibitors). A major challenge, but common to all virtual event organizers. We also noted that you are 67% to support us in the reflection on a new innovative conference format. Your feedback is invaluable to the ICSoba Board as we evaluate options for ICSoba 2022.

So, rest assured that we are exploring all possible avenues to ensure that the ICSoba 2022 event benefits from all these lessons learned and is another memorable event. Stay tuned for the latest news by following us on LinkedIn and Twitter and logging on to the ICSoba website regularly.

Speaking of the ICSoba website, may I remind you that all articles published by ICSoba are available online and are referenced by Google Scholar. I suggest you read later in this Newsletter for full details on how to access past articles. With the last five conference proceedings available online at the Publication section of our website, we have recently committed resources to bring the entire ICSoba library online (since 1963). It is another strong advantage for the authors to publish their latest innovation at the ICSoba conference, which has definitely become "The Technology Conference of the Aluminum Industry, for the Aluminum industry"!

For closing, let me wish you all the best for 2022! Please take care of yourself and your loved ones and stay safe.

We look forward to welcoming you to ICSoba 2022.

With my best regards,

Dr Claude H. Vanvoren
Chairman of ICSoba

VIRTUAL (ONLINE) ICSOPA 2021

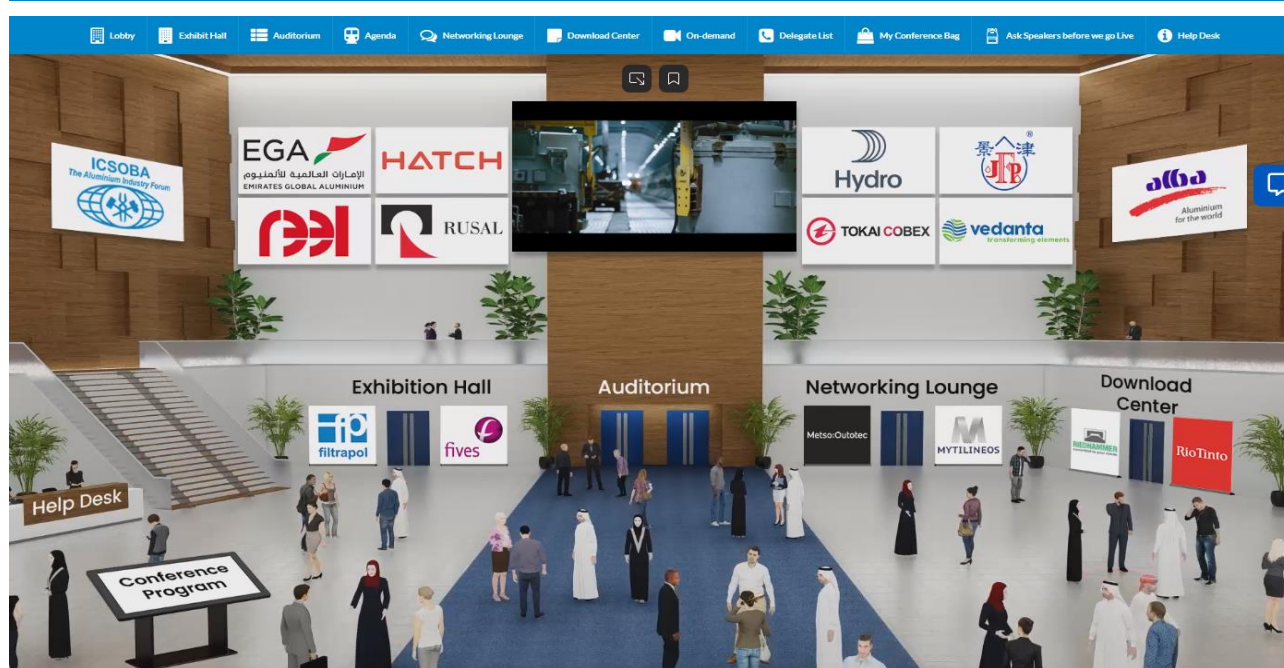


ICSOPA
The Aluminium Industry Forum
(Since 1963)

39th CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION
Virtual
ICSOPA-2021
22 - 24 November 2021

hosted by
alba
Aluminium
for the world

www.icsopa.org BAUXITE - ALUMINA - ALUMINIUM www.albasmelter.com



The three-day virtual ICSOPA conference took place on 22, 23 and 24 November 2021. The conference covered bauxite, alumina, bauxite residue, carbon for aluminium electrolysis, aluminium production, and aluminium recycling in a variety of technical sessions. The program included 10 high-caliber keynote speakers and 98 technical papers presented in two parallel sessions. In addition, two virtual plant tours of Alba Smelter and EGA Al-Taweelah Refinery were organized, as well as a discussion panel on strategic supply of alumina.

A complete set of documents (TRAVAUX book No. 50, presentations, exhibitor documents, recorded Question and Answer sessions, etc.,) were still available for download until recently on the vFairs partner's platform (<https://icsopa2021.vfairs.com/en/>). As usual, all papers published in the TRAVAUX book, as well as the presentations, will be accessible from the ICSOPA website at <https://icsopa.org/proceedings/>.

For the first time this year several companies were invited to present their profile between the technical sessions. GEA, Jingjin Environment Protection, NALCO, Tokai Cobex, Eqip, ABC Flex and Trimet benefited from this opportunity.

On Day 2 a panel discussion on strategic supply of alumina took place.

PANEL DISCUSSION: STRATEGIC SUPPLY OF ALUMINA, POST COVID-19 ERA			
DAY 2	14:30 -15:00 (Bahrain time)	Mr. Mohammed Khalid Juma, Manager of Strategic Supply & Planning	Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA)
		Mr Jason Moodley, Supply Chain Manager	Sohar Aluminium
		Mrs. Hind Al Ali, Senior Manager – Alumina Procurement	Emirates Global Aluminium (EGA)
		Mr Uday Patel, Senior Reasearch Manager Global Aluminium Markets	Wood Mackensie
Moderator	Dr Claude H. Vanvoren	ICSOPA	

With close to 300 delegates registered for the conference, 39 corporate members and 14 sponsors the organizers of ICSOPA 2021 are humbled by this realization. Moreover, there were 39 logos of ICSOPA Corporate Members on display in the event Auditorium, below.



ICSOPA was fortunate to have Alba as the Host Sponsor fully committed and motivated to support ICSOPA in this endeavor. Now, more than ever, during these challenging times, we deeply appreciate the staunch support of various businesses and individuals. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to the conference this year. In addition, the organizers are deeply grateful to the partners and sponsors who have worked with us at all stages of this important industry event.

A modern vFairs platform supporting such conference format, even if obviously not providing the face-to-face quality of interaction, was nevertheless able to offer ICSOPA delegates, sponsors, and exhibitors a highly valuable experience. Delegates and speakers shared their latest developments with live Q&A sessions (chat and/or audio) among the delegates in a lively environment.

The forum proved again that ICSOPA has a unique opportunity to provide this valuable platform for exchanging experience and leaning. This was the forum to stimulate minds of the young engineers and scientist who must replace us one day with new ideas and future programs.

Program of the Conference

Due to different global time zones, it was impossible to offer comfortable time-windows to all participants. To offer widest time zone coverage and best comfort to all delegates, daily sessions spread over several time zones.

Speakers prepared their presentations before the event. All presentations were obtained prerecorded (pseudo real time). Each technical session composed of four presentations followed by a question-and-answer period lasted 1.5 h. The presentations were run within the time slots designated by the conference agenda and each author was asked to be available online to answer questions. The questions were limited to 2 or 3 per speaker to limit the time. Keynote presentations were entitled to 30 minutes, including Q/A and were broadcasted on both streams.

A dedicated 11-page program describing the sequence of sessions and individual presentations, as well as their timing for 9 global locations was developed to guide the participants. A one-page example is in Fig. 2, below.

Session Chairs: Michel Reverdy and Claude H. Vanvoren					
	Start time	Code	Speaker	Title	Affiliation
MONDAY A	15:00	KN01	Julian Kettle	The Energy Transition and the Challenge of Supply Development	Wood Mackenzie
	15:30	KN02	Hans Erik Vatne	Moving to CO2-neutral alumina and aluminium production at Norsk Hydro	Norsk Hydro
	16:00	KN03	Pascal Lavoie	Alcoa's Advance Sustainably Strategy: The Alcoa Pathway to Sustainability in the Aluminum Industry	Alcoa
Session Chairs: Michel Reverdy and Houshang Alamdari					
	Start time	Code	Speaker	Title	Affiliation
TUESDAY B	15:00	KN04	Manasa Prasad Mishra	Waste management in Aluminium Industry-key to Circular Economy	National Aluminium Company
	15:30	KN05	Souleymane Traoré	Environmental, Social and Governance Strategies Should Be Central to African Mineral Value Chains	Compagnie des Bauxites de Guinée
	16:00	KN06	Roland Héquet	Large Scale Green Hydrogen Production to Help Decarbonizing the Aluminium Sector	John Cockerill
Session Chairs: Michel Reverdy and Houshang Alamdari					
	Start time	Code	Speaker	Title	Affiliation
WEDNESDAY C	14:30	KN07	Paul Adkins	Green Aluminium and China	AZ China
	15:00	KN08	Pernelle Nunez	Sustainability in the Aluminium Industry – challenges and opportunities	International Aluminium Institute
	15:30	KN09	Uday Patel	Aluminium Market Outlook: A tectonic shift or a temporary blip	Wood Mackenzie
	16:00	KN10	Fiona Solomon	ASI – Responsible Production, Sourcing and Stewardship of Aluminium	Aluminium Stewardship Initiative

Even if ICSOBA 2021 was not a physical conference, networking opportunities were maintained by supporting delegates' interactions like chat, web meeting, etc.

Speaker Program:

Due to the conference format the number of papers that could have been accepted for presentation was limited. Selection of papers for oral presentations was done by the Subject Organizers based on their quality and innovation.

The paper review was made by ICSoba Technical Committee under the leadership of the Program Director (Michel Reverdy) and Subject Organizers. The review process assured a remarkably high technical quality of papers and presentations, as well as uniform formatting, defined in the Templates.

With Michel Reverdy as Program Director the ICSoba 2021 Technical Committee was composed as follows:

Subject	Subject organizer	Reviewers
Keynote	Michel Reverdy	According to subject
Bauxite, Alumina, Bauxite Residue	Andrey Panov Carlos Suarez Thymis Balomenos	Steven Healy, George Banvolgyi, Stephan Beaulieu, Patrick James, Ajamu Duncan, Evandro Leao, Gokhan Demir, Helen Adamson, Frank Feret Bijoy Satpathy, Andrey Panov, Carlos Suarez Thymis Balomenos
Aluminium Reduction Technology	Vinko Potocnik	Stephan Broek, André-Felipe Shneider, Dagoberto Severo, Yashar Koçaeffe, Kristian Einarsrud, Vinko Potocnik, Bal K Kakkar
Carbon	Houshang Alamdari	Duygu Kocaeffe Gøril Jahrsengene

There were 99 high quality papers collected from the authors, and 10 distinguished keynote speakers who covered the full spectrum of subjects pertaining to bauxite, alumina and aluminium production. All reviewed and accepted papers were published in the TRAVAUX 2021 book No. 50.

To all speakers: On behalf of ICSoba please accept our deep appreciation of your time and effort to prepare and submit your paper with presentation and to speak at the conference. We also trust that this experience will advance your professional career.

The Best Paper Award

Among the criteria taken into consideration for the best paper award were: the highest presentation skills, practical application, detailed elaboration of the idea and prospects for widening of application. In the respective session categories, the best paper awards went to:

BAUXITE

- BX01 - Development of a Model for Optimization of Bauxite Sources to Achieve Operational Excellence in Alumina Refinery; *Sagar Pandit, Vikram Usulkar, Asutosh Acharya, Sandeep Patil and Kaushal Gupta* (Hindalco)

ALUMINA

- AA20 - The Transition to Low Carbon in Alumina Refining; *Stephan Beaulieu and Rioch Magan* (Rusal Aughinish)

BAUXITE RESIDUE

- BR07 - Transforming Bauxite Residue into an Alternative Cement via Vitrification, a Scalable Solution?; *Michiel Giels, Tobias Hertel and Yiannis Pontikes (KU Leuven)*

CARBON

- CB01 - Production of Bio-Binders from Pyrolysis Condensates and its Interaction with Calcined Petroleum Coke; *Gøril Jahrsengene, Stein Rørvik, Anne Støre, Liang Wang and Øyvind Skreiberg (SINTEF)*

ALUMINIUM

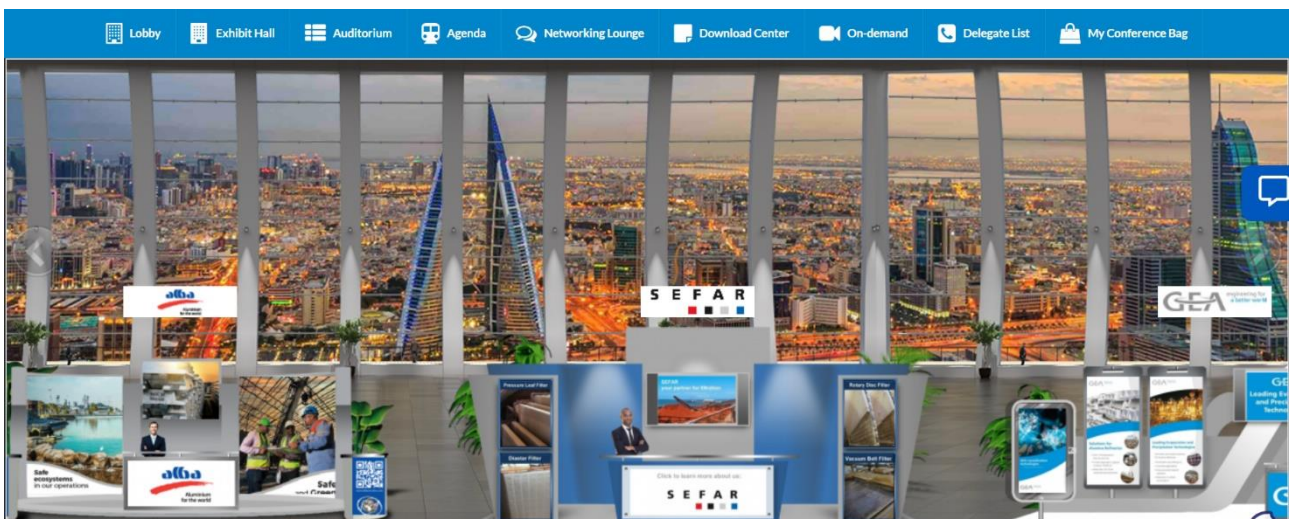
- AL15 - Potlife and Pot Design Evolution at Alcoa Deschambault; *Jayson Tessier, Patrice Doiron, Simon Beaulieu, Mark Rheume and Claude Gauthier (Alcoa)*
- AL24 - Protection Against Open Circuit in ALPSYS Pot Control System; *Pierre Marcellin and Antoine Garnier (Rio Tinto Aluminium Pechiney)*

Congratulations to the winners of this year awards.

Exhibition

During the Conference, a virtual Exhibition of latest technologies, equipment, and other devices for the aluminium industry took place (22 - 24 November). Each exhibitor and sponsor obtained a “virtual booth”, in which the selected company information was placed. In the booth selected activities and realisations were presented, supported by documents, video, audio, and chat. Dedicated web meetings with customers could have been organised as well.

ALBA, Sefar and GEA arranged their exhibition booths.



Sponsorship

The virtual ICSOPA 2021 conference was supported by 14 sponsors, with **ALBA** as the host sponsor. Gold: **Emirates Global Aluminium, Hatch, Hydro, Jingjin Environmental Protection Inc., RUSAL,**

REEL GmbH, Tokay Cobex GmbH and Vedanta. Silver: Filtrapol Sp., Fives Group, Mytilineos, Riedhammer GmbH and Rio Tinto.

Sponsors were promoted during the conference and their logos were displayed in the main lobby. A short video portraying each sponsor was also available to the delegates for viewing. You can still see this information on the ICSOBA website.

Plant Visits

Sadly, the Plant Visits, which have been synonymous with the annual ICSOBA event, could not take place at ICSOBA 2021. However, for the first time two virtual plant tours to two virtual plant tours to Alba Smelter and EGA Al-Taweelah Refinery were organized and displayed during the event.

Conference Statistics

Based on the ConfTool data, 29 different countries, 81 different organizations, 99 conference speakers and close to 300 registered delegates took part in ICSOBA 2021. Among the participants there were 12 students or retired individuals. Alba and EGA provided the biggest number of delegates.



ICSOBA Medal

On ICSOBA's 50th anniversary in 2013, the Awards Committee decided to produce commemorative medals (see below). The new "ICSOBA Commemorative Medal" is 70 mm in diameter and takes its inspiration from two past designs. On one side are the embossed portraits of Pierre BERTHIER, Karl Joseph BAYER, Paul Louis Toussaint HEROULT and Charles Martin HALL. On the other side are the emblems of ICSOBA and the World, the full ICSOBA name, the name of the person awarded and the year of bestowal.



As in the past, the "ICSOBA Commemorative Medal" constitutes a special recognition and may be awarded only to a small number of recipients each year. The medal may be awarded to those members who achieved significant scientific or practical results within the field of work, or who notably strengthened ICSOBA organization or promoted its international scientific and industrial cooperation. The name of the awarded person is inscribed on the medal, and the awarding event is published in the NEWSLETTER.

This year the medals were awarded to:

<p>Abdulla Habib, Chief Operating Officer of Aluminium Bahrain (ALBA), for his commitment and support of ICSOBA, facilitating the organization of the 2021 conference, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
<p>Steven Healy for his outstanding contribution to organization of ICSOBA conferences and for setting up a standard in editing papers published in TRAVAUX.</p>	

Post-conference Survey

An online satisfaction survey (which begun in 2016) was carried out again following Virtual ICSOBA 2021. As this conference was the second consecutive of its kind, a significant number of 39 questions dealt with the virtual aspect of the conference. The feedback that the ICSOBA Board obtained from the survey is highly valuable. With ICSOBA 2020 as a reference the main results could be summarized as follows:

- A response rate confirms strong interest of ICSOBA delegates to provide feedback. 99 answers were collected which ensures a good representativity of the results.
- The main feedback is a very strong support to ICSOBA decision to go virtual in 2022. The choice to use a virtual platform rather than a “simple” webinar type conference was supported by 91% of the respondents. Connection to and navigation within the vFairs platform was very well rated. Organization of the Q&A session by block of 4 speakers was also fully supported (85%).
- The survey attendance was 30% for Bauxite & Alumina stream with 67% for Carbon and Smelting.
- With a 55% ratio, producers were again the most represented with the highest participation ever.
- Conference agenda in a flipbook format was highly rated. The absence of duplication of session was greatly supported at the level of 86%, thanks to the on-demand capability. Video on-demand was very much appreciated (78%) as well as resource downloading (81%), but some delegates experienced difficulties downloading multiple documents. For the virtual event, the audio and video quality of the broadcast is a must, on which we cannot compromise.

- The results on exhibition confirm those of the last year: our delegates value an exhibition (67%), but none of the proposed formats is clearly preferred. The new feature of “Company Presentation” was well received with some good improvement suggestions.
- We noted with great satisfaction that the technical quality of articles (79%) and 73% for innovative content has improved further compared to previous years.
- Two points require further developments should we experience another virtual conference:
 - The time allocated for and format of the Q&A sessions and also exchanges at large between delegates and/or delegates and speakers
 - The attendance to virtual exhibition and interaction between delegates and exhibitors.

With regards to the future:

- the forecast to attend next year is 86%, back to the 2019 value and well above the 56% “historical rating”.
- The bi-annual Newsletter is confirmed as the preferred communication channel with same % as last year (42%)

The ICSoba Board of Directors needed comprehensive feedback on Virtual ICSoba 2021 to influence future ICSoba events to adopt the most efficient and beneficial format. We received many suggestions regarding all points; this gives us great confidence for an improved format in the future. Your contribution is greatly appreciated, and we thank you for your participation.

ICSOPA MATTERS – Life of the Association

To help you stay informed, here is the most recent news about ICSOPA. Happy reading!

ICSOPA Membership

ICSOPA is a well-recognized international not-for-profit association of members with the vision of being the “Technology Conference of the Aluminium Industry, for the Aluminium Industry”.

ICSOPA members are active in different fields and specializations, and they work within different social and economic frameworks, but there is one thing they have in common: they share the same conviction of the strategic role of aluminium in the present stage of world development.

There are two (2) classes of members in the association namely Individual Members and Corporate Members. Membership is typically renewed every year (however Corporate Members are encouraged to subscribe multiyear membership) with a cycle time starting on the first day of the yearly conference and ending on the eve of the first day of following year conference.

As Corporate Member of ICSOPA you are part of the global community of bauxite, alumina and aluminium industry and would be able to freely exchange ideas and results of work with the best of scientific researchers and domain specialists from the fields of bauxite, alumina and aluminium from all five continents at ICSOPA conventions and through its website. You have access to all past events papers and presentations (in the years where presentations were available).

As Corporate member of ICSOPA your company and its workforce will benefit from the annual events because they:

- ▣ Allow your company delegates to learn, grow personally and expand their professional horizons and to widen their circle of contacts
- ▣ Offer unique exposure to different facets of our industry across the world
- ▣ Result in higher potential and technical competence of your professional workforce.

For all Corporate Members, a 10% discount applies to the registration fee at all stages for each delegate of your company. The cycle time starts on the first day of the calendar year and ends at its end.

At the time this Newsletter is released, major industry players are supporting ICSOPA as Corporate Members (<https://icsoba.org/corporate/>). We are very pleased to welcome **Alba, Alcoa, Alvance, CBA, CBG, ERG - Eurasian Group, GPS Global Solutions, Mecfor, Mytilineos, Rain Carbon, RIA Cast House Engineering GmbH, Sohar Aluminium, Suez and Trimet** as the latest new members of ICSOPA Corporate Council.

2021 Corporate Members

We trust you understand ICSOPA vocation very well and we all are grateful for your continuing help. Without this help ICSOPA would not be able to accomplish its mission. With great abilities come great possibilities.

For the businesses that decided to become corporate members we thank again for your support of ICSOPA. We all are grateful for your continuing support because with it ICSOPA may carry on its mission. One cannot forget that ICSOPA is an international association of members and partnership with the industry enriches the society and active professionals and is a guarantee of ICSOPA continuity and growth. Once more many thanks.

For further information, feel free to contact one of ICSOPA Directors. Contact emails are available at <https://icsoba.org/leadership/>.

ICSOPA Regional Representation (IRA)

To support its strategic objectives, ICSOPA aims to increase its worldwide visibility and capacity to regularly interact with Bauxite, Alumina and Aluminium players around the world. For this purpose, a network of “regional ambassadors” was deployed.

ICSOPA Regional Ambassadors (IRA) are persons demonstrating the willingness to support ICSOPA future by effectively identifying new Corporate Members as well as contributing to the success of ICSOPA annual conference. There could be several IRA for the same region with the purpose of covering all subjects of forthcoming ICSOPA conference (for example: B&A, Smelting, Academia, ...). ICSOPA Regional Ambassadors demonstrating the willingness to be associated to ICSOPA on the long run and achieving results will be rewarded and incentivized.

ICSOPA Regional Ambassadors (IRA) are proposed to the Board and are appointed by the Board.

In order to promote the IRA, to ensure their visibility and to formalise their official status within ICSOPA organisation, the Ambassadors are publicized on the ICSOPA website. Their portrait, professional details, and addresses (including @icsoba.org email addresses) also appear on the website in <https://icsoba.org/leadership/>. Among present ICSOPA Ambassadors we have:

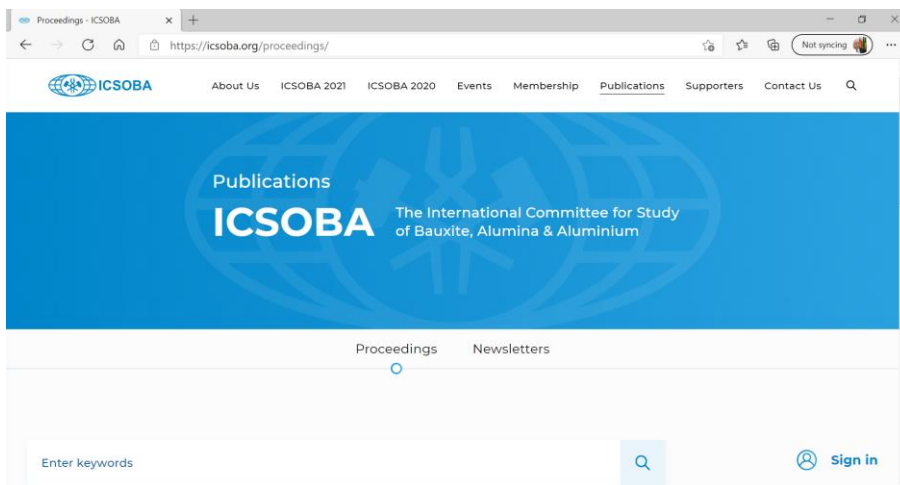
Bertrand Allano (France), Dr. Efthymios Balomenos (Greece), Hendrik Lee (Indonesia), Dr. Pratapaditya Mishra (India), Andre Felipe Schneider (Canada), Roberto Seno Junior (Brazil), Dagoberto Severo (Brazil), Carlos Enrique Suarez (USA), David Roth (USA), Dr. Yi Xiaobing (China) and Dr. Yin Zhonglin (China)

Congratulations!

Election to the Board of Directors

At the ICSOPA 2020 or 2021 conference an election should have taken place because the mandate of four Board Members had expired. As an open election forum could not have been offered to all the delegates at this time, an exception had occurred. We are currently exploring options to organise this election in the near future.

Website



Intense work on the new ICSOPA website resulted in a modern and graphically attractive platform.

- In **About Us** [Mission](#), [Policies](#), [Leadership](#), [Financial](#) and [ICSOPA History](#) are covered
- Preliminary information about **ICSOPA 2021** already appears
- In **Events** all past conferences are described in detail
- In **Membership** all benefits of the Individual and Corporate Membership are given
- The biggest change arrives in **Publications**. Past ICSOPA Newsletters are freely available for download.
- Printed proceedings of past ICSOPA events, the so-called TRAVAUX volumes, have been scanned to separate searchable pdf files. Tables of Contents, as well as each individual paper published in the past TRAVAUX volumes is made public (<https://www.icsoba.org/publications>). Each conference has its own image and description. The dates, venue and heading are clearly indicated. To enable link by GS, all files have their own URL distinct for individual papers and separate for the TRAVAUX volume.

There are several rules for accessing papers. The two main types of access on the site are: corporate account (CM) and individual user (IM). Access to the CM or IM accounts is granted after earlier registration.

Corporate members have access to all materials of all conferences including the ppts of the last 10 conferences. In each conference, they can download any TRAVAUX Book. A CM becomes a user with corporation domain: name@site.com.

Individual members (IM) can download the TRAVAUX Book of the conference they attended during their year of membership.

Guest can download a maximum of 5 papers after registering (personal detail, professional affiliation, job title, email).

For *Individual Members* and *Guest*, different options are proposed to download TRAVAUX volumes outside their entitlements according to ICSOPA Knowledge Dissemination Policy.

Here is a summary of these conditions:

		ICSOBA advantages/offers	Corporate members	Delegates/ members	Public
ICSOBA year	Abstract download prior to the event via ICSOBA Whova app.	✓	✓	✓	
	PDF file of the ICSOBA proceeding in USB key	✓	✓	✓	
	PDF file of the presentations in USB key	✓	✓	✓	
	Purchase hard copy of proceeding		200 USD	200 USD	200 USD (*)
	List of experts via ICSOBA directors	✓	✓	✓	
Current conference	Download of the individual papers via ICSOBA website	✓	✓	✓	Free with registration
	Download of the proceeding via ICSOBA website	✓	✓	✓	100 USD
	Download of the presentations PDF file via ICSOBA website	✓	✓	✓	
Past Conferences	Download of the individual papers via ICSOBA website	✓	✓	Free	Free with registration
	Download of the proceeding via ICSOBA website	✓	✓	50 USD	100 USD
	Download of the presentations PDF file via ICSOBA website	✓	✓	✓	
	Purchase hard copy of proceeding (if available)		200 USD	200 USD	200 USD
	List of experts via ICSOBA directors	✓	✓	✓	

(*) – if available

Guests can see all the materials, but they will remain inactive. Your feedback to make the website more attractive is welcome.

Associated Organizations

The list of associated organizations can be found on the ICSOBA website at: <https://www.icsoba.org/associated-organisations>. Among the aluminium associations closely collaborating with ICSOBA we have: Aluminium Association of India, ABAL, European Aluminium and International Aluminium Institute. The associated organizations are: Chalco Zhengzhou R&D Center, Non-Ferrous Metals and Minerals Russia, as well as Red Mud Project.

These forums, which bring to the same place aluminium producers, equipment suppliers, IT providers and experts, also provide an exceptional opportunity to network and to support aluminium industry collaborative approach to current challenges.

ICSOBA’s Executive Office

ICSOBA is registered with Industry Canada and Quebec.

ICSOBA executive office is located at 128 Des Fauvettes, Saint Colomban, QC, J5K0E2 Canada.

All inquiries are to be sent to ICSOBA by email to info@icsoba.org.