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Museo del Acero Horno 3', the blast furnace at the heart of Fundidora Park in Monterrey, Mexico, which hosted the 10th Latin American Colloquium on industrial heritage in October 2023 See [page 3](#). Photo: Miles Oglethorpe

MESSAGE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

INSPIRING INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE ACROSS THE WORLD

Miles Oglethorpe, TICCIH President

As I write, I have just returned from Mexico where I attended the 10th Latin American Colloquium on the Conservation of Industrial Heritage, which this year was held in Monterrey. I was hugely excited to be finally going to Mexico after having been frustrated in recent years and not been able to accept generous invitations. I was not disappointed, and as is reported later in this Bulletin, it turned out to be a fantastic event, with an excellent programme and an impressive range of speakers from all over the world. Congratulations and a big thank you to everyone involved in making this happen.

It also follows TICCIH's first Hispanic global meeting, following on from our inaugural virtual meeting in 2021. I was fortunate to be able to attend the 'Convocatoria Taller Mapa' on 4th October, and in the process, I caught a glimpse of the outstanding work on industrial heritage that is occurring in the Hispanic world and also the potential that the new digital technologies offer us in bringing together far-flung communities. Congratulations to

work program for the Latin American and Caribbean region should address in the future (see the recordings [here](#)).

The Latin American Colloquium is an example of what can be achieved with determined collaboration towards the common good in favor of Industrial Heritage. For TICCIH International and the Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage of Nuevo León it was a great experience to organize the 10th edition of this congress in collaboration with the Secretary of Culture of Nuevo León, CONARTE, Fundidora Park, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Municipality of Zacatlán de las Manzanas, Puebla, the Universidad Autónoma of Nuevo León, the Colegio de la Fron-

tera Norte, the Mexican Committee for the Conservation of Industrial Heritage, the Steel Museum hornos, and the National Center for the Preservation of Railroad Cultural Heritage.

Please keep in mind that the call for candidates to host the XI Colloquium on Industrial Heritage Conservation in Latin American and the Caribbean, scheduled to take place in 2026, is still open. Interested parties are cordially invited to get in touch with Camilo Contreras, TICCIH's Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean: camilo@colef.mx, and Marion Steiner, TICCIH International's Secretary General: secretary@ticcih.org, for more information.



Aerial view of the San Rosendo Railway Complex on the banks of the Biobío River. Photo: Sebastián Orellano, Creasur Photographical Archive, 2023

CHILE

INDUSTRIAL HERITAGE, SOCIAL ISSUES AND CHALLENGES FOR A NEW GOVERNANCE: THE IV INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY CULTURAL HERITAGE CONGRESS IN CHILE

María Esperanza Rock Núñez & Marion Steiner, Creasur Cultural Center

From 16th to 20th October 2023, the IV International and Interdisciplinary Cultural Heritage Congress was celebrated in Concepción, the capital city of the Biobío Region in south-central Chile. Implemented by the [Creasur](#) Cultural Center in collaboration with

the Southern Researchers network [NUDISUR](#) and supported by TICCIH and other organizations, it was financed by the Biobío Regional Government through the program “International strategies for the transformation of industrial heritage into regional assets” (see also Rock, [TICCIH Bulletin N. 101](#), p. 7).

Located some 500 kilometers south of the Chilean capital Santiago, the Biobío Region marks a historical “frontier” of the Spanish colony and later the Republic of Chile who were expanding their territory ever more southwards into the indigenous lands of the Mapuche people. The region’s industrialization has left a deep imprint on its peoples’ identities who’s collective memories include the experience of Spanish conquest and colonization, the installation of industries and railroads in a sublime natural landscape and the arrival of the modern discourse and lifestyle (see also Rock, [TICCIH Bulletin N. 97](#), pp. 20-22).

Once an important center of economic and industrial activity in Chile, the Biobío Region today pioneers and empowers community-driven preservation and promotion of industrial heritage.



Closing panel on Recommendations for the nomination of Lota as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, Thursday 19th October 2023. From left to right: Catherine Bertram (Mission Bassin Minier, France), Stefan Berger (Ruhr University Bochum, Germany), Moulshri Joshi (TICCIH Board, India), Kai Weise (ICOMOS Nepal) and the moderators Marion Steiner and Esperanza Rock. Photo: Sebastián Orellano, Creasur Photographical Archive, 2023

Part of the "Arts in Ruins" Festival was the intervention of Teatro La Obra with an extract from "Prometeo Nacional" on stage of the congress venue, the Mural Hall of Concepción's former railway station, which today serves as the Biobío Regional Government's headquarters. The mural by Gregorio De la Fuente, called "History of Concepción," is a social realism work representing the memories of the city. Photo: Sebastián Orellano, Creasur Photographical Archive, 2023



The local workers' communities want to preserve what they feel is their industrial heritage and defend it as a cultural human right. Thanks to the joint efforts between public entities, universities and local communities, the **Lota Mining Complex** was inscribed on the Chilean Tentative List for UNESCO World Heritage in 2019, and it is also in this context that Creasur and NUDISUR, aiming at supporting the community drive, created the aforementioned program, which was then approved by the Regional Government.

The congress program: experts, discussions and field trips

The congress theme "Industrial Heritage, Social Issues and Challenges for New Governance," developed by Creasur in collaboration with NUDISUR, TICCIH and other partners, brought togeth-

er over a week 20 invited international experts from around the world, a wide range of national and regional speakers, as well as diverse community representatives of the Biobío region in addition to around 90 local artists and artisans, thus providing a unique opportunity to meet and exchange viewpoints and experiences.

Three days were reserved to the discussion of theory, methodology and case studies between speakers from universities, the public sector and local communities with the organization of 3 keynote lectures, 8 thematic sessions, 3 panel debates, one free papers session and one special session on Lota, which all counted with simultaneous translation between Spanish and English. In addition, the congress' second and its final day were dedicated to field trips around the Biobío region which included meeting and listening to the local communities.



Final act of the agreement signing ceremony between TICCIH and NUDISUR, Wednesday 18th October 2023. From left to right: María Julia Burgueño (TICCIH Uruguay), Mirhan Damir (TICCIH Board), Lucía Sánchez (TICCIH Venezuela), Elis Barbosa (NUDISUR), Marion Steiner (TICCIH Secretary General), Esperanza Rock (NUDISUR Director), Marina Mantilla (NUDISUR), Andrés Torres (NUDISUR), Daniel Stewart (NUDISUR) and Moulshri Joshi (TICCIH Board). Photo: Sebastián Orellano, Creasur Photographical Archive, 2023

Among the main topics addressed during the congress were the conservation, restoration and enhancement of former industrial facilities, community participation in heritage preservation and current challenges facing industrial heritage in an ever-changing world. Many of the international experts who joined the congress from India, Indonesia, Nepal, Egypt, Nigeria, Germany, France, Spain, Cuba, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay and Chile belong to the TICCIH network. All speakers and the congress program brochure can be found [here](#).

A major emphasis was put on discussing critical and decolonial perspectives on industrial heritage, reflecting on the contrasts between the western world and the global south and thus challenging the hegemonic narratives and analyzing substantial differences in the realities of the southern hemisphere. This generated new insights that are not always considered by technical agencies, such as the human perceptions of communities, the impoverishment produced by industrial “progress” and “development” on the local scale, and the social injustice that has increased even more with industrial closures.

The congress closed with a panel on recommendations for Lota and its nomination process for UNESCO World Heritage. The recordings of this panel and the whole congress are available on NUDISUR’s YouTube channel [here](#).

The Exhibition and the “Arts in Ruins” Festival

In addition to the congress program as such, a public exhibition on industrial heritage projects and initiatives was set up at the congress venue throughout the week. Key contributions came from

former coal mining regions in Germany, France and Indonesia that count with sites that are inscribed on UNESCO’s World Heritage list, complemented by exhibits on the Biobío region’s industrial heritage and on diverse industrial heritage projects and initiatives from across Chile, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The congress program was further enriched by the “Arts in Ruins” Festival, curated by the Creasur team specifically on that occasion in order to provide an international stage for artists and artisans from the Biobío region. They, through their artistic works and dancing, theater and music performances have an important stake in redefining the region’s industrial past through the creation of new narratives that build on the historical legacy while at the same time exploring the future to come.

Training for a collaborative heritage future

Some of the congress’ sessions were attended by participants of the training program “Collaborative methodologies for the management of heritage projects with a critical approach,” which is an integral part of the government’s program on Transformation of Industrial Heritage into Regional Assets. Sponsored by the University of Chile’s Master in Architectural Heritage Intervention, it also counts with an official certification (NCh#2728) thanks to the collaboration with [OTEC Cultura y Territorio](#).

The training program is pioneering as it connects national and international experts with the local staff of the 33 municipalities who are in charge of heritage management and development in the Biobío

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Region and, in turn, work with the local communities. Through the application of the Collaborative Action Training methodology, the training provides participants with theoretical and practical tools that they need to question dominant narratives and promote the appreciation of local knowledge, experiences and traditions. The aim is to enable the municipal staff and other professionals managing cultural and heritage projects to act in more inclusive and collaborative ways by valuing and considering the voices and perspectives of the communities, in addition to designing final projects that could be executed in the near future.

Future global collaboration perspectives for TICCIH

During the congress, NUDISUR and TICCIH signed an agreement on long-term cooperation in order to continue working together on critical industrial heritage perspectives. The representatives of both organizations who were present in Concepción participated in the ceremony), and a week later, during the TICCIH Latin American Congress in Mexico, TICCIH's President Miles Oglethorpe and TICCIH's Commissioner for Latin America and the Caribbean Camilo Contreras added their signatures.

WORLDWIDE



Grain silo in Vergara, Buenos Aires Province. Ferrocarril del Sud, 1921 (photo by author)

ARGENTINA

AN ARTIFICIAL FAUNA. RAILWAY STRUCTURES IN THE ARGENTINE PAMPAS

Facundo S. López, architect and professor at Facultad de Arquitectura y Urbanismo, Universidad Nacional de La Plata, (FAU-UNLP) Argentina

The pampas plain of South America is inhabited by a forgotten fauna living in an open and infinite zoo. Perhaps they are already fossils, skeletons covered with the rust and woodworm of a century and

a half of history and change, like those “skinless dinosaurs” that the American Land artist Robert Smithson described when he visited Passaic, a suburb of New Jersey. It is a vast compound of constructions that have been left next to the rails, partly in ruins, in a landscape area of profound beauty and elusive richness.

We are referring to human-made constructions, a non-measurable series of utilitarian and industrial structures scattered across the landscape: water tanks, silos, sheds, warehouses, turntables, and workshops, a product of the expansion of the railroad during the second half of the 19th century and the first decades of the 20th. They all have great importance in Argentine history and become a part of the enormous palimpsest the territory can be.

Its loneliness, current uselessness, and condition raise questions about its spatial, material, and technological valuation. In addition to