



Visit to the Bassin Minier: Posing at the **Mining History Centre Lewarde (CHML)**, 16 September 2025 (from left to right): Esperanza Rock, TICCIH Vice President; Marion Steiner, TICCIH President; Marie Patou, Mission Bassin Minier (MBM); Luc Piralla, Director-Curator CHML; and Catherine Bertram, Managing Director MBM (photo by Raphaël Alessandri, MBM)

HELLO FROM YOUR NEW PRESIDENT

Marion Steiner, Valparaíso, Chile

Here I am, continuing my work for TICCIH in a new role. I have discussed programmatic issues at length at our **Global Members Meeting** in July, in my **Keynote Speech** and at our **General Assembly** in August (all that is now on YouTube and a written version of the keynote was published **open access with Routledge**), so instead of repeating myself here, I resume key activities of the new Board 2025-28 since its inauguration in Kiruna.

Many of us continued travelling after Kiruna, and I personally enjoyed a week of silence in Tornedalian forests, meeting reindeer and moose, and fascinating local people by surprise. Throughout the rest of September, restarting from Bochum in Germany, I travelled south with Esperanza Rock, TICCIH's new Vice President for the Americas. First, we visited my former colleagues at **Mission Bassin Minier**, the body responsible for managing the Nord-Pas-de-Calais Mining Basin World Heritage site. After bringing their director, Catherine Bertram, to Chile for the congress we organised there in 2023 to discuss the Lota World Heritage project (see **Rock et al. 2024**), we now showed Esperanza around the Bassin Minier to discuss World Heritage management and interpretation in the French context. For myself, this was my first long visit to Bassin Minier in 20 years, and I couldn't stop congratulating my former colleagues on the impressive results of their work over the two decades since we worked together in the early days of Bassin Minier's UNESCO nomination in 2004/05.

Then we continued driving south through the European autumn to Motril, off Granada on the Mediterranean coast, where we attended the **TICCIH Spain Congress**. On our way, we stopped in Portbou to visit the impressive train station and, of course, Walter Benjamin's grave. Outside Barcelona, on the Tibidabo Hill, we had a coffee with Joan Roca, the former director of Barcelona's City Museum MUHBA. We discussed, among other things, how TICCIH can support the **2026 Congress of the European Association of Urban History**. In Motril, we reconnected with our Spanish colleagues who had not made it to Kiruna a month earlier, and Esperanza presented her "**Ecological model of memory**." At the same time, I concluded the congress with a keynote focused on **future perspectives for TICCIH**, a Spanish adaptation of my Kiruna speeches.

In the end, my presidential trip with Esperanza lasted a month, as we began travelling together in mid-August from Germany to Kiruna. Many of our discussions while visiting European countries from Lapland to the Mediterranean Sea focused on comparative perspectives on Industrial Heritage and were highly inspirational for our future programmatic work within the Presidential Team. This was further enriched by reflections we shared with Moulshri Joshi, TICCIH's new Vice President for Asia-Pacific, who, accompanied by Jan af Geijerstam, took the same train heading north to Kiruna for two days with an overnight stay in Sorsele. We hadn't planned for this, but of course, the Inlandsbanan is highly attractive. TICCIH's incoming Presidential Team arrived at the train's final destination, Gällivare, as a group, completed by Norbert Tempel and Ulrich Schildberg from Germany.



TICCIH Spain Congress in the Fábrica del Pilar, Motril, 26 September 2025. First row from left to right: Julio Rodríguez, President of the Chamber of Commerce of Motril (Granada); Assumpció Feliu, **AMCTAIC**; Miguel Ángel Álvarez Areces, INCUNA; Pilar Biel and Gerardo Cueto, TICCIH Spain (photo by Marion Steiner)

In October, I travelled on to Berlin to speak at the **Annual Congress 2025 of the German Association for the History of Technology and Industrial Heritage**, which is the institutional umbrella of the German TICCIH members, and at the **13th Berlin Forum for Industrial Culture and Society**; both events were held at the German Museum for Technology in Berlin. I also joined a presentation of the **Grounding Berlin** book, organised by technical and environmental historians at the Centre Marc Bloch, before returning home to Valparaíso in early November. In the meantime, still in October, Miles, Bart, and Daniel, as well as other TICCIH folk, met again at the Big Stuff Congress in Gent, Massimo and some German colleagues participated in the ERIH Congress in Chemnitz, and Yiping, in early November, represented TICCIH with a keynote lecture at the 4th Chinese National Industrial Heritage Conference in Huangshi.

All these travels delayed the post-production of our congress in Kiruna, as well as the handover procedures between outgoing and incoming Presidents and Vice Presidents, and between the outgoing Secretary General and the new Executive Team. That is also why this issue of the Bulletin is published slightly later than usual. By now, however, I am happy to announce that the following products are finalised:

- Miles and I wrote the **Minutes of our General Assembly 2025**, publicly available on our website. Their formal approval, as usual, will be done by the next GA. If you have any comments in the meantime, please email me.
- Daniel and Bart updated the **National and Transnational Reports 2022-2025** book, eliminating some faux pas, and the final version is now online.



Riding the Inlandsbanan: The incoming TICCIH Presidential Team in Sorsele, 23 August 2025 (photo by Jan af Geijerstam)



Regional Asia-Pacific Meeting at the TICCIH World Congress in Kiruna, 27 August 2025 (photo by Marion Steiner)

- Thanks to Lucía and Esteban, the complete recordings of the Plenary Sessions of the Kiruna World Congress 2025 are now up on our YouTube channel; check the playlists section on www.youtube.com/@TICCIH.

Also, we celebrated our first full online Board meeting after Kiruna on the 19th of November, in which we reconfirmed the new structure of the TICCIH Board and defined priority tasks and timelines. The different teams within the Board now work in parallel and meet independently to implement their tasks of the joint Work Plan 2025-28. The full board comes together again in early 2026 for overall coordination. Meet the Board members further on in the bulletin or on the [TICCIH website](http://www.ticcih.org).

Looking ahead to our next World Congress in 2028, as we received declarations of interest from different continents before, during, and after the Kiruna congress, we have now prepared Instructions for Bids and defined a clear timeline in a group consisting of Vice Presidents Esperanza and Moulshri, Past President Miles, Regional Secretary Camilo, Executive Director Francesco, and me. The aim is to ensure transparency and equal opportunity throughout the process. You find the details in my corresponding piece in the TICCIH News section, and of course, if candidates have questions, we can always talk: just get in touch with me or any other Board member you find suitable.

Thus, we now have everything in place to start implementing our work program for the next three years. Key priorities at sight are: the new TICCIH Charter for the 21st Century, which is a continuation from last term, now led by the new Presidential Team; the website relaunch that includes the development of an Experts Pool and an interactive industrial World Heritage sites map, on which I started working with the Executive Team and staff before Kiruna; the renewal of the TICCIH Statutes, which is also a continuation from last term and now led by Francesco as our new Executive Director;

the implementation of a business plan for TICCIH; and the set-up of our new Scientific Committee, led by Humberto and Florence.

We also received a range of invitations to travel and partner, which we are working on. To name a few: invitations have been received from Italy, Poland, Uruguay, China, and Taiwan, and new cooperation agreements are underway with ICOHTEC and FedecRail, among others. We will report in due time.

Personally, as I have been working back and forth between Latin America and Europe since many years, I am now particularly enthusiastic about recent engagements with Arabia and Africa (my invitation to Riad in May 2024 was a great first) as well as with different parts of Asia, where since my visit to Japan in March 2025, I intensified contacts through the work on the MoU that we signed with ANIH in Kiruna. The Regional Asia-Pacific Meeting, jointly chaired by our three Asian board members Moulshri, Yiping, and Hsiao-Wei, was also very promising.

Last but not least, it feels great to continue working with Past President Miles and other longstanding and former board members, who are always there when you need them, offering advice and actively taking on important tasks. That is the collective approach I believe TICCIH can take in the future, and I am pleased to see that my collaborative strategy for TICCIH's new Board is starting to bear fruit.

So long, dear colleagues! Enjoy what's left of 2025, and see you around in 2026.

Marion Steiner

TICCIH President

[Contact the author](#)