

## THANK YOU, KIRUNA

*Miles Oglethorpe & Marion Steiner*

It is wonderful to be able to report that our TICCIH World Congress 2025 turned out to be a great success, and that all the work that was put into its preparations paid off. When we visited Kiruna (Sweden) in August 2024 to help set the main planning processes in motion and check out the venue, we were excited by what we saw, but in reality, the event greatly exceeded our expectations. It was amazing!

We must therefore extend our personal thanks to everyone in Sweden who collaborated to deliver the congress. Notably, this included Roine Wiklund, who led the team, and Dag Avango, who played a crucial role in the conception of the original proposal. However, they in turn were ably supported by a great team, including Elisabet Norlin Rehnmark of Nordic Congress, and colleagues from SIM (Svenska industriminnesföreningen), the Luleå University of Technology, Jernkontoret and FedecRail (Felicia Söderqvist, Jennie Sjöholm, Clara Trojahn, Catarina Karlsson, Per-Olof Grönberg, Curt Persson, and Mimmi Mickelsen). Support also came in the form of a Norwegian cross-border incursion, led by Knut Markhus. In addition, TICCIH was hugely fortunate to benefit from a generous donation which, through travel grants, supported the attendance of over 20 delegates, mostly students. This sets a fine example, and we hope to encourage more people to support our younger members and the work of TICCIH with similar donations in the future.

As a result, the 19th TICCIH World Congress worked incredibly smoothly with very little stress. Everything worked well, and the venue and its meeting rooms were fantastic. One of the best experiences was the food, which was fantastic. Several of us are probably several kilos heavier than before, one of the high points being the first lunch, which

included 'Reindeer Gratin'. Another contributory factor was the 50th Anniversary beer, which was brewed locally and specially for the congress. The two beers were delicious and deceptively easy to consume, as well as being dangerously strong (one was over 8%).

There were some great sessions and keynote lectures, and the plenary elements of the programme were outstanding. As anticipated, the epic National Reports session (led by Moulshri Joshi and Mirhan Damir) was inspiring, and the 50th Anniversary session was also hugely enjoyable.

In the past, our General Assemblies have tended to be fraught because of organisational difficulties and ambiguities, but this time, thanks to forward planning, this session looked forward, not back, and was inspirational. In this case, we were able to meet our new President and also hear from almost all the members of the new Board. We also heard news of potential offers to host the next TICCIH World Congress in 2028. In this case, it seems you have to come from a country beginning with P because the proposals came from Portugal, Poland and the Philippines!

As many readers will know, the congress took place inside the Arctic Circle (a first for TICCIH) in an active mining town. In fact, the mining is so active that much of the old town is being evacuated and relocated due to major subsidence. This was so spectacular that they had to move the entire historic church and tower in a process that was still happening at the time of the congress, and was broadcast live across the world.

While the mine provides a livelihood for inhabitants of the town, this enormous industrial activity is affecting the lives of indigenous communities such as the Sámi and Tornedalian peoples. In addition to being immersed in industrial heritage, delegates were introduced to local community leaders and their culture, which was both inspiring and moving. We were also able to host a session of lectures in the public library, which was masterfully organized by Felicia Söderqvist from LTU in collaboration with

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TICCIH is the world organization on Industrial Heritage, promoting its research, recording, conservation, interpretation, and dissemination as well as education on industrial heritage. It holds a triennial conference and organises interim conferences on particular themes. Individual membership levels range from \$10 to \$40 (USD), corporate membership is \$65, and student membership levels range from \$5 to \$10.

There is an online membership form on [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org)

The **TICCIH Bulletin** is the only international newsletter dedicated to the worldwide conservation of the heritage of industrialisation, and is sent direct to members four times a year. The Editor welcomes all news, critical comment and articles related to our field. Everything published in the Bulletin can be accessed in a searchable [Articles Index](#) on the TICCIH web page.

Back issues can be downloaded as a pdf file from the TICCIH web site, [www.ticcih.org](http://www.ticcih.org)



Roine Viklund, chair of the Organising committee, singing during the dinner at Jukkasjärvi Sami Open Air Museum (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)



Tasting the 50th Anniversary beer at the Jukkasjärvi dinner (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)

the City of Kiruna and TICCIH and brought together the international and the local heritage communities.

The congress also offered field trips, which included a pre-conference tour from Luleå to Kiruna, exploring Sweden's ambitious 'Green Steel' project. During the main programme, there were several other trips, including an underground tour of the massive LKAB mine in Kiruna itself, as well as further afield to places like the enormous Aitik copper mine near Gällivare.

In addition to being an epic congress, Kiruna delivered an exciting future for TICCIH. The new Board is now primed and ready to go. We greatly look forward to working together in the coming years and are enormously grateful to our Swedish colleagues for providing such a wonderful platform from which to proceed.

Contact [Miles Oglethorpe](#) or [Marion Steiner](#)





Above, at top right and at right: Aitik copper mine trip (photos by Miles Oglethorpe)



Elisabet Norlin Rehnmark, congress organiser (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)



Final dinner (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)





Official presentation of the association's new board (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)



Public lectures with (from left to right): Sofia Lagerlöf, City of Kiruna, cultural strategist; Clara Nyström, City of Kiruna, heritage officer; Esperanza Rock, incoming TICCIH Vice President; Marion Steiner, incoming TICCIH President; Guilherme Pozzer, incoming TICCIH Board member (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)





Keynote speaker Dag Avango and Roine Viklund, chair of the Organising committee (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)



Reindeer gratin (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)



Daniel Schneider and Bart Vanacker at the TICCIH Booth (photo by Miles Oglethorpe)