

ERMCO NEWS

EUROPEAN READY MIXED CONCRETE ORGANIZATION
ASSOCIATION EUROPEENNE DU BETON PRET A L'EMPLOI
EUROPÄISCHER TRANSPORTBETONVERBAND

Boulevard du Souverain 68
1170 Brussels
BELGIUM

Tel: Int + 32 (0) 2 645 5212
Fax: Int + 32 (0) 2 35 1467
URL: <http://www.ermco.eu>

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Welcome

A warm winter welcome from all members of the ERMCO Secretariat to this last issue in 2010 of ERMCO News. Even before we were into December, much of Europe was already affected by ice and snow. This is certain to affect outputs, already badly affected in many countries by the downturn in the European economies. Maybe our Scandinavian colleagues are prepared for cold weather, with heated production facilities, and customers equally prepared for placing in the cold, but others may not be so forward-looking. Anyway, let us hope that cold weather now will mean better weather, and uninterrupted production after Christmas.

In the meantime, may we wish you and your staff and your families a VERY healthy and happy Christmas and a very good 2011.

ERMCO Secretariat team ■

Contact with members and associate members

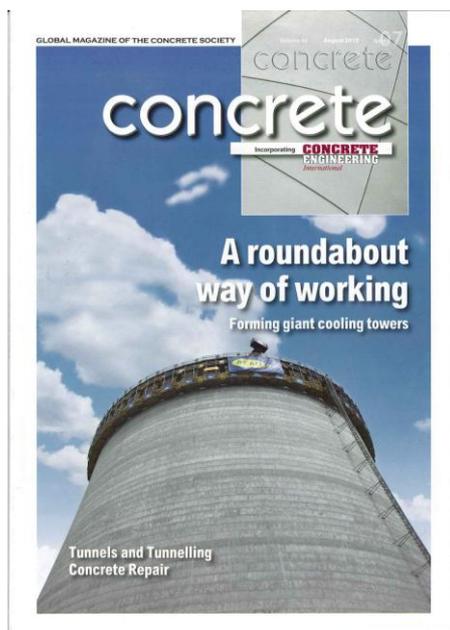
ERMCO is fully aware of the importance of maintaining good relationships at an international level with other associations of the sector. We are keen in promoting this with personal visits and attendance in Congresses for the ready-mixed concrete industry. Following the ERMCO Board decision to welcome the Japanese Association as a new ERMCO Associate Member, on 26 November in the ERMCO office in Brussels the secretariat met Prof. Yukikazu Tsuji, from the Japanese

Association, to discuss and share information on issues of common interest. This is a very welcome development. We may tend to be euro-centric, but Japan is very active in the development of ISO Standards, and of new technologies like self-compacting concrete and we should not ignore this. On the 23th of November ERMCO took part in the meeting of THBB, the Turkish Association. The object of the meeting was to present Health and safety awards to some of the best-performing companies in this respect. This was the first time such awards have been made in Turkey, and the companies underwent a formalized assessment procedure, before the awards were determined by a jury. Again, we remind you that we would be very interested to include in ERMCO News any interesting developments such as this. Please let us know! Read more ([here](#)).



The problems with high ph water

Ready-mixed producers are well aware of the dangers of discharging wash water into rivers etc, and make sure that it does not happen at their plants. However, we are perhaps not aware of how dangerous it really is. A recent article in UK *Concrete* magazine describes the problems that can arise on site, not just from concreting, but from other activities such as concrete cutting, leaks from demolition material etc. Read more ([here](#)).



XII Iberoamerican Ready Mixed Concrete Congress

Last 8, 9 and 10th of November, the Iberoamerican Federation of Ready-Mixed Concrete held its twelfth Congress in Mar de Plata, Argentina, with the sponsorship of the Argentinean Association of Ready-Mixed Concrete. More than 600 people attended this occasion, with more than 80 international speakers. On the website www.hormigon2010.com you can find the papers of the congress. Upon invitation, the ERMCO Secretary General made the presentation: "After the crisis which future for EU Ready-mixed concrete". The congress was also the occasion for presentations to the winners of the image award'. These awards, highlight the companies that work to improve and present a good public image of the industry with their ready-mixed trucks. The international jury was Mr. Gary Mullings, Senior Vicepresident of Operations from the NRMCA

(USA) and Stein Tosterud, Administrative Head of UNICON in Norway.



Development in slump control

The magazine, *Aggregates Business Europe* recently included an interesting article on a new method of slump control on board a ready-mixed truck. Arguments with contractors on site about slump are something we have never resolved, so anything that might help is of interest to all of us. This method uses measurements of hydraulic pressure of the concrete within the mixer drum. Read more ([here](#)).

