

ICPC News Release

23 May 2017



The undersea cable community convenes in Montevideo to celebrate ICPC's triumphant 50th Plenary Session

LYMINGTON, United Kingdom—All good times eventually come to an end, and the 50th International Cable Protection Committee (ICPC) Plenary session that was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, from 25-27 April 2017 was no exception.

ICPC Members from around the globe contributed to a successful annual Plenary with the theme of *unmissable insights and challenges related to submarine cable planning, installation, protection, and maintenance*. Attendees gained insight from the Plenary highlights, which included talks and expert panel sessions on a wide range of highly relevant topics:

Minister Carolina Cosse, Minister of Industries, Energy and Mining for Uruguay, welcomed ICPC Members to Uruguay in her opening keynote speech. In her address, Minister Cosse highlighted the many social and economic projects Uruguay is undertaking to make it the number one country to do business in South America.

Another highly respected invited guest, Professor Kristina Gjerde, from the International Union for Conservation of Nature, discussed how the cable laying community might also be able to contribute to Ocean Management through observation of the Global Ocean Depths.

Additionally, among the multitude of informative lectures, two highly-engaging topics were presented—one covering environmental change in the Arctic Ocean and a second concerning the uncertainties and issues relating to the future of US Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), specifically, recently created Marine National Monuments. Coincidentally, the latter topic was the subject of an Executive Order issued by US President Trump for the Secretary of the Interior to review all National Monuments formed over the last two decades.

Delegates also gained insight from a broad range of viewpoints including legal, technological and geological factors—all critical to better understanding the uniqueness of submarine cable deployments. One of the most significant benefits of these annual gatherings is the opportunity to listen to not only the crucial information disseminated to the ICPC's Members, but also the

critically important opportunity to engage in face-to-face lively discussions to constantly improve the ICPC's goal to share the seabed in harmony with others. Taken together, this is precisely what made ICPC's 50th Plenary such a well-attended and great success.



Minister Carolina Cosse, Minister of Industries, Energy and Mining for Uruguay addressed Members in the opening keynote speech of the 2017 ICPC Plenary.

The ICPC's Chairman, Mr. Graham Evans, announced that the next ICPC Plenary will take place in iconic Cape Town, South Africa from 10-12th April 2018. Mr. Evans issued the following invitation: "The ICPC welcomes all members to gather in Cape Town to celebrate 60 years of protecting and sharing the seabed in harmony with others, by sharing information and collaborating on multiple initiatives". To learn more about what transpired each day during the 2017 Plenary, visit the Plenary highlights page via: <https://iscpc.org/events/daily-plenary-highlights/>.

After three full days of insightful presentations, interactive panels of experts, high profile invited guests, gracious hosts, and industry exhibitors, attendees headed home equipped with improved knowledge and the benefit of shared experience to help them better protect the seabed and the subsea cables that lay upon it.

About the ICPC: The International Cable Protection Committee was formed in 1958 and its primary goal is to promote the safeguarding of international submarine cables against man-made and natural hazards. The organisation provides a forum for the exchange of technical, legal and environmental information about submarine cables and, with more than 160 members from over 60 nations, including cable operators, owners, manufacturers, industry service providers, as well as governments, it is the World's premier submarine cable organisation. For further information about ICPC visit: www.iscpc.org or send an e-mail to: secretary@iscpc.org.

Contact:

Keith Schofield

+44 7836 249376

general.manager@iscpc.org