

# ISAP International Society for Asphalt Pavements

Manfred N. Partl

*Chairman, Executive Committee. ISAP*

*Head of the Road Engineering/Sealing Components Center*

*Swiss Federal Laboratories for Material Testing and Research in Dubendorf*

The International Society for Asphalt Pavements ISAP is a volunteer organization of professionals and experts to promote asphalt pavement technology exchange on a worldwide basis, often in cooperation with other organizations sharing mutual interests. Hence, ISAP encourages and promotes R&D in asphalt pavement technology forming a knowledge platform for both academics and practitioners. Since many years, ISAP focuses on the development, and responsible presentation of engineering concepts concerning design requirements of pavements and pavement performance factors. In addition to promoting technical advances worldwide, ISAP is looking at the future directions of the asphalt paving industry in terms of key issues such as environmental protection, socio-economic impacts, and political concerns. What are the driving forces? Can we determine potential risks and opportunities and thus develop strategies for the future? What are the long-term prospects?

The International Society for Asphalt Pavements ISAP grew from a series of widely acclaimed technical conferences which began at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor in 1962. Their success revealed a need for an on-going worldwide forum for discussion and exchange of asphalt paving technology. ISAP was founded to meet that continuing need in 1987 following the 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on the Structural Design of Asphalt Pavements, held at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. The principal objective was to provide an organization which could take responsibility for continuing this prestigious series of conferences. These Conferences generally take place at four years Intervals, e.g. Quebec (2006), Copenhagen (2002), Seattle (1997) and Nottingham (1992). The next ISAP Conference is scheduled for Nagoya, Japan, on 1..6 August 2010. In addition, ISAP organizes Symposia on specific topics. The last one dealt with Long Lasting Asphalt Pavements and took place in Auburn (2004). The next one will be held on Asphalt Pavements and Environment in Zurich, Switzerland, taking place 18...20 August 2008 (<http://www.empa.ch/ISAP2008>). This Symposium is highly recommended, because it deals with extremely important "hot" topics in asphalt pavement technology.

ISAP has also established standing technical committees, such as the very successful Technical Committee on Constitutive Modeling of Asphaltic Materials (<http://www.insapconmod.nl>) which currently consists of 6 Working Groups: Foam Asphalt, Water Induced Damage in Asphaltic Mixes, Shared Testing Program for Constitutive Modeling, Pavement Interlayer Systems, Re-use of Construction Materials, Chemo-Mechanics of Bituminous Materials. Further ISAP Technical Committees are planned to be established, such as a Technical Committee on Asphalt Pavements and Environments which will be established after the ISAP2008 Symposium in Zurich.

Through its web site <http://www.asphalt.org>, ISAP offers Conferences and International symposia with conference proceedings of all conferences. Its web site contains key note lectures by well known exponents in our field such as S. Brown, R. Haas, P. Ulitz, C Monismith. In addition, the *ISAP Reporter* can be downloaded which appears about twice a year, containing specific information that is of interest to the members.

ISAP particularly promotes the young asphalt research generation. On it's web page it offers a graduate students research directory, providing a window and the basis for worldwide communication and contacts for technology exchange, primarily amongst the new generation of asphalt paving experts. Key benefits are: Global access to ongoing asphalt pavement research at universities anywhere, which can eventually be expanded to include also other research organizations; Low-cost, direct and immediate communication as well as discreet and self-directed mode and level of contact and interaction on topics such as experimental design, testing, applications, performance verification, instrumentation, equipment availability, software development, etc.

The broad range of member expertise and experience makes participation in ISAP especially rewarding. Details on how to join ISAP and much more information can be found on <http://www.asphalt.org>.

