

The World of Underground Infrastructure

IRWA and IKT team up on new international certificate

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Proudly partnering with IKT, the Institute for Underground Infrastructure in Germany, IRWA released its first International Underground Infrastructure Certificate program in December.

This high impact program provides unique and highly relevant information on managing our crowded underground. The program is instructed by a team of experts in the field of international underground infrastructure development and management. IKT features these instructor-researchers as part of its work in studying the complex science and engineering behind underground infrastructure, and it offers state of the art research and solutions to mitigate the complex challenges involved in this critical work.

The content is presented in six modules, with three focused on Vegetation and Infrastructure. Other modules include Basics of Underground Infrastructure, Basics of Underground Infrastructure with a focus specifically on utilities, and a final module on Realized Projects & Project Coordination. Learners

also receive a living document research whitepaper, *“Best Practices in Vegetation and Infrastructure: Reducing Conflicts in the Underground,”* produced by IKT.

As an independent non-profit institute, IKT works on solving practical and operational issues concerning underground sewers, pipes and



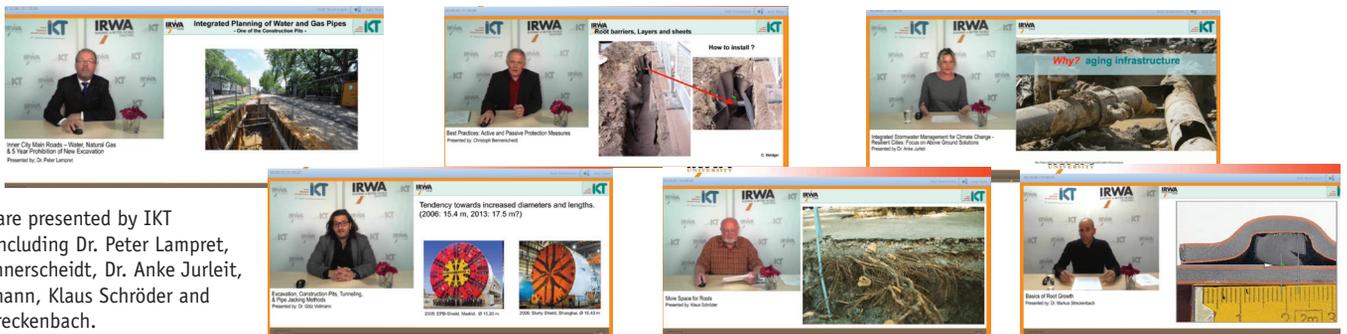
Spearheading the program, IRWA’s Vice President of Professional Education Deidre Alves, M.Ed. and Dr. Sissis Kamarianakis, IKT’s Senior Research Manager.

other conduit engineering. The institute conducts research on the construction, operation and renovation of underground infrastructures. IRWA members have benefitted from its discoveries, as IKT researchers have shared their findings and best practices at IRWA Annual Conference sessions and in articles published in Right of Way Magazine.

A unique feature of this program is that learners can elect to take just the “Underground Infrastructure Panorama” portion as continuing education for 25 credits in lieu of pursuing the full certificate. Participants can select the option that best fits their professional development goals.

To qualify for the program, learners must hold a degree in Engineering from an accredited institution and have a minimum of two years of underground infrastructure experience directly related to an infrastructure project. The certificate is valued at 41 credits and consists of the successful completion of IRWA Course 213: Conflict Management, IRWA Course 304: When Public Agencies Collide and the new Underground Infrastructure Panorama.

I personally invite you to check it out! It provides an unsurpassed understanding of our crowded underground and offers hope and enthusiasm in fulfilling IRWA’s purpose of improving the quality of people’s lives through infrastructure development and IRWA education. 



The modules are presented by IKT researchers, including Dr. Peter Lampret, Christoph Bennerscheidt, Dr. Anke Jurleit, Dr. Götz Vollmann, Klaus Schröder and Dr. Markus Streckenbach.