

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**T.I.C.'s 60th General Assembly to take place in Hong Kong as planned**

Brussels, Belgium, September 6th 2019

The 60th General Assembly (conference and AGM) of the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.) will take place as planned at the Conrad Hotel, Hong Kong, China from October 13th to 16th 2019.

The Executive Committee of the T.I.C. acknowledges that Hong Kong has been in the media recently, but after careful due diligence and consideration of the situation, it is confident that the city remains a safe place with easy access for the largest number of delegates. Already over 165 delegates have booked to attend and their safety is of paramount importance, but the Executive Committee does not foresee the situation in Hong Kong deteriorating to the point where holding the event there becomes impossible.

John Crawley, T.I.C. President, spent time in person in Hong Kong last month, and reported that, while it seems likely that Hong Kong will still generate press reports at the time of our conference, all indications are there will be minimal, if any, impact on the event.

Hong Kong remains efficient and safe. It is truly a breath-taking location, and October offers the perfect cooler, dryer weather for maximum enjoyment of the Hong Kong outdoors.

On a related topic, a new report was published at the end of August, ranking Hong Kong as the 3rd safest city in the world for personal security. The Economist Intelligence Unit's 2019 Safe Cities Index (SCI) ranked 60 cities across the world across four categories. Overall Hong Kong came a respectable 20th, making it safer than Paris, Beijing, Brussels, Shanghai, Dallas and Dubai.

Full details of the conference are at <https://www.tanb.org/event-view/60th-general-assembly>.

This event is brought to you with the generous support of our platinum sponsor, [Guangdong Zhiyuan New Material Co., Ltd](#) and our silver sponsors, [A&R Merchants Inc.](#), [RC Inspection Group](#) and [Yanling Jincheng Tantalum & Niobium Co., Ltd](#).

**By September 6th the following companies were confirmed:**

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#### About the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.)

Since its inception, the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C. or the Association) has grown and developed to encompass the changing nature of the tantalum and niobium industries and will continue in the same spirit in facing future challenges. After initially focusing on just tantalum, in 1986 niobium joined the association and today our membership represents every aspect of the global tantalum and niobium industries.

The Association:

- An international, non-profit association founded in 1974 under Belgian law.
- Around 90 member companies from over 25 countries involved with all aspects of the tantalum and niobium industry supply chain (including mining, trading, processing, recycling, metal fabrication, capacitor manufacturing, medical...).
- The Association is run by its Executive Committee. This Committee reflects the range of activities of the members and covers the geographic spread of the membership, too. Presidents have been drawn from all sectors of the industry and from many parts of the world. Elections are held annually.

Objectives:

- Increase awareness and promote the remarkable properties of tantalum and niobium in all their forms.
- To disseminate information on any matter affecting that industry, excluding price and related information and any other proprietary information.
- Address major issues and challenges facing its industry such as conflict minerals legislation, artisanal and small-scale mining (ASM), and the transport of naturally occurring radioactive materials (NORM).
- Organize a General Assembly of the membership in October each year for business and technical presentations. Typically, this includes a field trip to a member company or associated industrial facility.
- Publish a quarterly Bulletin newsletter containing interesting and informative articles about the T.I.C. and the global tantalum and niobium industries.
- Collect statistics from member companies (via an independent company to ensure confidentiality) on tantalum and niobium production, shipments and consumption. Participating members receive quarterly statistics updates.

Contact:

Roland Chavasse, Director, Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.)  
Office Tel.: +32 2 649 51 58; [director@tanb.org](mailto:director@tanb.org); <https://www.TaNb.org>