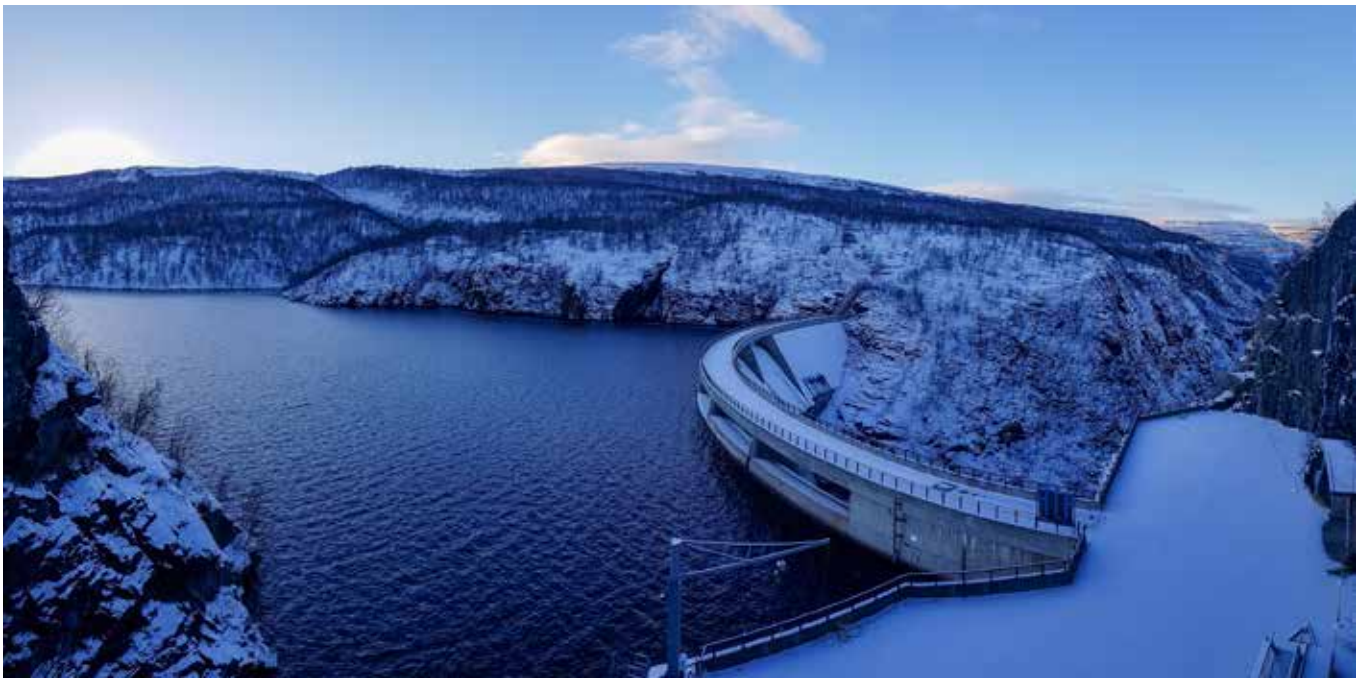
TICCIH Congress

– in Kiruna, 2025

The International Committee for the Conservation of the Industrial Heritage, better known as TICCIH, is the world organization for industrial heritage. TICCIH's goals are, among others, to promote international cooperation in preservation, research, and education of our industrial heritage. TICCIH is recognized by the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) as a designated consultant in all matters related to the study and preservation of industrial heritage. ICOMOS is the global non-governmental organization dedicated to conservation of the world's historic monuments and sites. In particular, ICOMOS' network of experts counsels UNESCO on properties to be added to the World Heritage List. Therefore, TICCIH advises on historically significant industrial sites for the World Heritage List.

Another important task for TICCIH is to arrange an international Congress every three years. The Congress is organized in co-operation with the national association in the country that hosts the event. The last Congress was held in Montreal, Canada in 2022 and was very appreciated by the delegates from all over the world. Sessions and panels with historians, conservators, museum curators, architects, archaeologists, students, teachers, and heritage professionals discussed a wide range of topics regarding industrial heritage. The next TICCIH Congress will be held in Kiruna, Sweden, in August 25 – 30, 2025.

The 19TH TICCIH Congress in Kiruna is organized by Luleå University of Technology, a leading university in the European Arctic, and the TICCIH sections in Sweden and Norway, in collaboration



Virdnejávr Dam and Alta hydro power station in Finnmark Norway, was opened in 1987 after massive controversies and protests 1978-1982, not least by local Sámi people. The dam is the highest in Norway, 145 m (476 ft) tall. Photo: Dag Avango

SAVE THE DATES!
Congress: August 25 – 30, 2025.
Deadline of call for papers: TBA
Registration opens February 1, 2025.

with Jernkontoret, the Swedish National Heritage Board, LKAB, the municipality of Kiruna and a range of leading actors within industry and civil society in the Scandinavian north.

This will be the 19th Congress, but also commemorates TICCIHs 50 year-anniversery. TICCIH was founded 1973 at the The First International Congress on the Conservation of Industrial Monuments in Ironbridge, UK. The theme for the TICCIH 2025 congress in Kiruna is *"Heritage in action: legacies of industry in future making"*, which alludes to the global phenomenon of history and heritage being mobilized to support diverging desires and interests in our contemporary societies. Industrial heritage is increasingly becoming an important part of contemporary discussions about competing future visions.

The TICCIH 2025 congress focuses on tensions and controversies surrounding industrial heritage and its relation to wider tensions in present day society. It explores how we think about the past and about the future in the present, and how we construct historical narratives to connect the two, attach them to the built environments and artefacts, in order to get where we want to go. It is a theme that addresses key global issues connected to the UN sustainability goals, and the goal conflicts emerging between them, but also pathways to bridging tensions through the use of heritage as a communal platform. The theme also includes the issue of how we can work with contemporary industries as heritage and the heritage of the future. In addition to the overall theme there will be ten subthemes ranging from challenging and difficult questions regarding the relationship between industrial heritage, colonialism and inclusion. There are also forward-looking themes including post-industrial heritage, future generations and threats and possibilities which intertwine the industrial heritage. We are also welcoming discussions about how industrial heritage is used and represented in AI and popular culture.

The conference theme closely connects with the place where the congress will take place. Kiruna is a small mining-town in the Swedish Arctic with a rich industrial history. The town was officially established the year 1900 as part of large project to extract vast iron mineralization's in the region. However, people have inhabited the region for thousands of years. Steel making based on bog-ores in the area dates back 2000 years, while mining and early modern metals production dates back to the 17th century. The mine in Kiruna is still in operation and is the largest underground Iron ore mine in the world.

The Swedish National Heritage Board has designated Kiruna as a heritage site of national interest, with the motivation that its urban environment and industrial landscape represents a unique example of 20th century planning ideals for company towns. The town was established in 1900, to enable mining of the rich iron ore deposits in the mountains Luossavaara and Kiirunavaara, on the initiative of the mining company Luossavaara Kirunavaara Aktiebolag (LKAB). Kiruna was planned as a model company town, with an adjacent service and supply town as well as a railway area. Some of the most renowned architects, planners, and artists of the time were hired to contribute to its development. In 1948 the three areas merged and Kiruna was granted town rights. During the post-war period, the architect Ralph Erskine developed the spectacular architecture in the block Ortdrivaren in central Kiruna, as part of his vision of an arctic town.

Today Kiruna is also reputed for its relocation. The Kiruna Council issued a press release in 2004, stating that they would move the town in order to enable continued mining. The iron ore deposit reaches beneath the town, and the mining to a level 1365 meters below ground causes subsidence. Therefore, large parts of the existing town has gradually turned into an industrial area. In 2013, White Architects won the competition for an urban design plan for a new town centre. The design proposal is now being implemented, extending the town to the northeast. A new Town Hall, by Henning Larsen Architects, was inaugurated in 2018 as the first building in the new town centre. A few historic buildings have been relocated. In 2015, the first buildings were demolished in the neighbourhood closest to the mine.

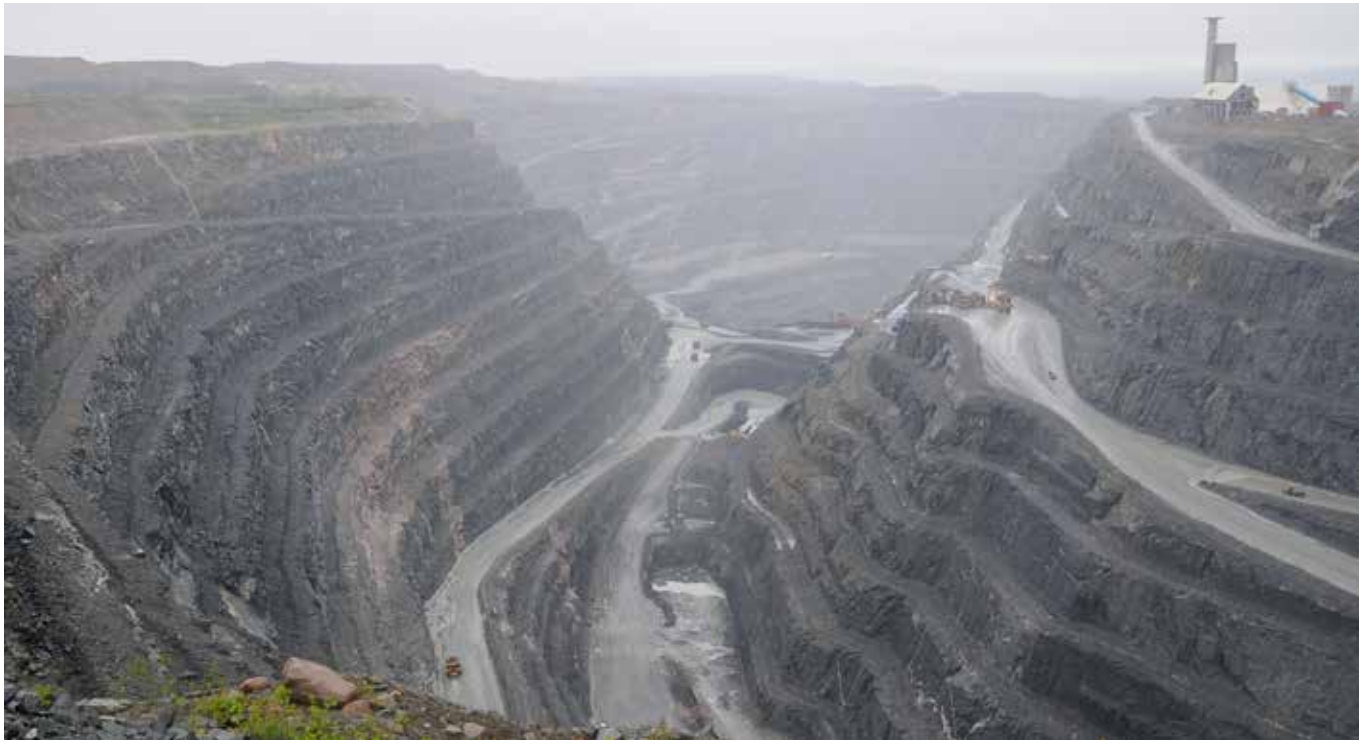
Kiruna is situated in a region undergoing rapid change due to increasing global demands for metals. The European Arctic has been subject to a mining boom which is soon entering its third decade, now also fuelled by the green turn in energy. Simultaneously, it's a region where industrial companies establish new green industries, for producing carbon-dioxide free steel and renewable energy. To

The IORE (IronOre) are one of the worlds powerful electrical locomotives. Bombardier has produced 34 Co-Co locomotives to the mining company LKAB. They have been operating the Iron Ore Line since 2000, hauling up to 68 cars with about 8 500 tons of Iron ore from the mines in Kiruna to the harbors in Narvik. Every locomotive is named after a station on the line. Photo: Unknown

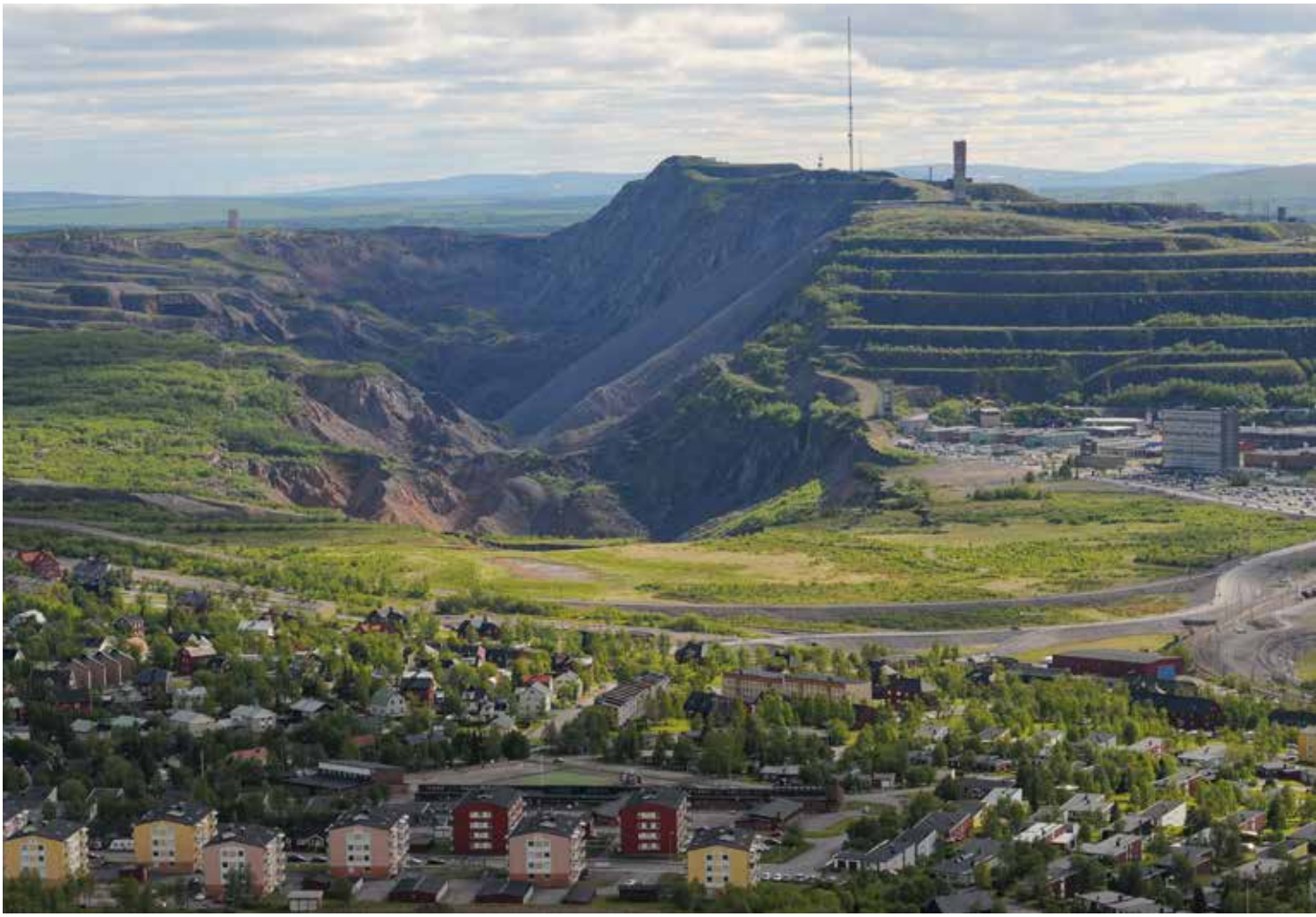
many, these industries raise hopes for a future of less carbon dioxide emissions as well as employment. To others they may represent a colonial intrusion into indigenous territories, or risk for environmental damage.

During the conference, participants will gain first-hand experience from this complex situation, discuss with and learn from several stakeholders, as will those planning to join pre- and post-conference tours.

But Kiruna is not only a mining-town. Located in the northern part of the Swedish Arctic, Kiruna is situated in a diverse region. The indigenous Sami population and the Tornedalian Meänkieli speaking national minority has been present in the area for many centuries. The cultural landscape is formed by reindeer husbandry, hunting, fishing, and cattle farming, but also iron making from the Iron Age and onwards. The Swedish state started to manifest itself in the coastal zone from the early 14th century, and expanding toward inland areas from the 16th century. Since the 19th century, largescale industrial developments have had an immense impact in the region. The mines, hydropower stations, transport infrastructure, and military defence have been conceptualised as a 'technological megasystem', which the National Heritage Board has designated as industrial heritage.



The copper mine in Aitik, outside Gällivare, is one of the largest open pit mines in Europe, 3,5 km long, 1,1 km wide, and 450 m deep. The mine was opened in 1968 and produces about 40 million tons annually, mostly copper but also molybdenum, gold, and silver. Photo: Dag Avango.



The iron ore deposits in Kiruna have been known since the late 17th Century but it was only after the railroad reached the mountains in 1899 that industrial mining really started, and the town Kiruna was established. The mine in Kiirunavaara is now the worlds deepest iron-ore mine, stretching about 1600 m down. Photo: Dag Avango

Today, the state-owned mining company LKAB is operating the world's largest underground iron ore mine in Kiruna, but also in Malmberget and in Svappavaara. LKAB supplies over 90% of the iron ore produced in the European Union. Other businesses have developed in the region, including space industry with Esrange, research stations in Abisko and Tarfala, and tourist sites such as the Ice Hotel in Jukkasjärvi, the Abisko National Park, and the Kebnekaise massif.

The ongoing relocation of the town centre and the development of new residential areas is a process where industrial heritage has a central role and is part of tensions regarding the past, of land use rights and about what a desirable future is. The town and the region is also subject to a new wave of industrialization including rare earth elements mining and the production of Co^2 free steel. This development takes place in lands where industry compete with traditional land uses of indigenous people and national minorities, such as Saami reindeer herders and Tornedalians, which causes growing tensions about land use and the future.

There will be several pre- and post-congress excursions offered at varying cost to choose from. Pre-congress excursions include visits to the Arctic Mine Fields and Hydroelectric Plants of Northernmost Sweden, the Center of the Green Industrial Transition in Sweden, and The Mid-Swedish Mining District Bergslagen. Post-congress excursions include visits to the Torne River Valley, an Oil-rigg in Stavanger, the Röros Copper Mine, and Svalbard.

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Homepage: https://ticcih2025-kiruna.se