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BAUMA 2016 News NEWS Future of precast concrete elements **CONCRETE PRODUCTS** Röckelein focuses firmly on growth - their recent floor element manufacturing system is followed by a brand-new concrete block production line **CONCRETE PIPES AND MANHOLES** Unity of concrete pipe associations mirroring the industry's globalization **PRECAST CONCRETE ELEMENTS** New high-performance plant with machinery capacity of 12 pallets per hour opened in Thailand **READYMIX CONCRETE** Substantial upgrade to a ready-to-use mortar plant has challenged convention by adopting a new mixing technique



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American Concrete Pipe Association, Irving, Texas 75063-2595, USA

Unity of concrete pipe associations mirroring the industry's globalization

The North American concrete pipe industry is rapidly expanding its knowledge base of all materials, products, design and production technology for drainage pipeline systems. Driving this expansion is the globalization of major suppliers to the industry and key concrete pipe producers based in the USA and Canada. The concrete pipe and precast industry has witnessed the morphing of the cement industry from local independent businesses into an international web of transnational corporations and distribution networks. Caught up in the flurry of mergers, acquisitions and sales of assets were several key concrete pipe producers that had traditionally held a core regional and national market focus. Mergers of large equipment suppliers like Hawkeye and Pedershab, brought opportunity from other countries to the doorstep of American concrete pipe producers. In the last century, only those who could join in a pilgrimage to bauma in Munich/Germany, gained insight into the future world of precast concrete production. And now, concrete pipe associations at the state and national levels are unifying to build a knowledge network and make the network available to every member of every allied association. North American concrete pipe associations have an international interest which is a major development initiated in the early years of this century.

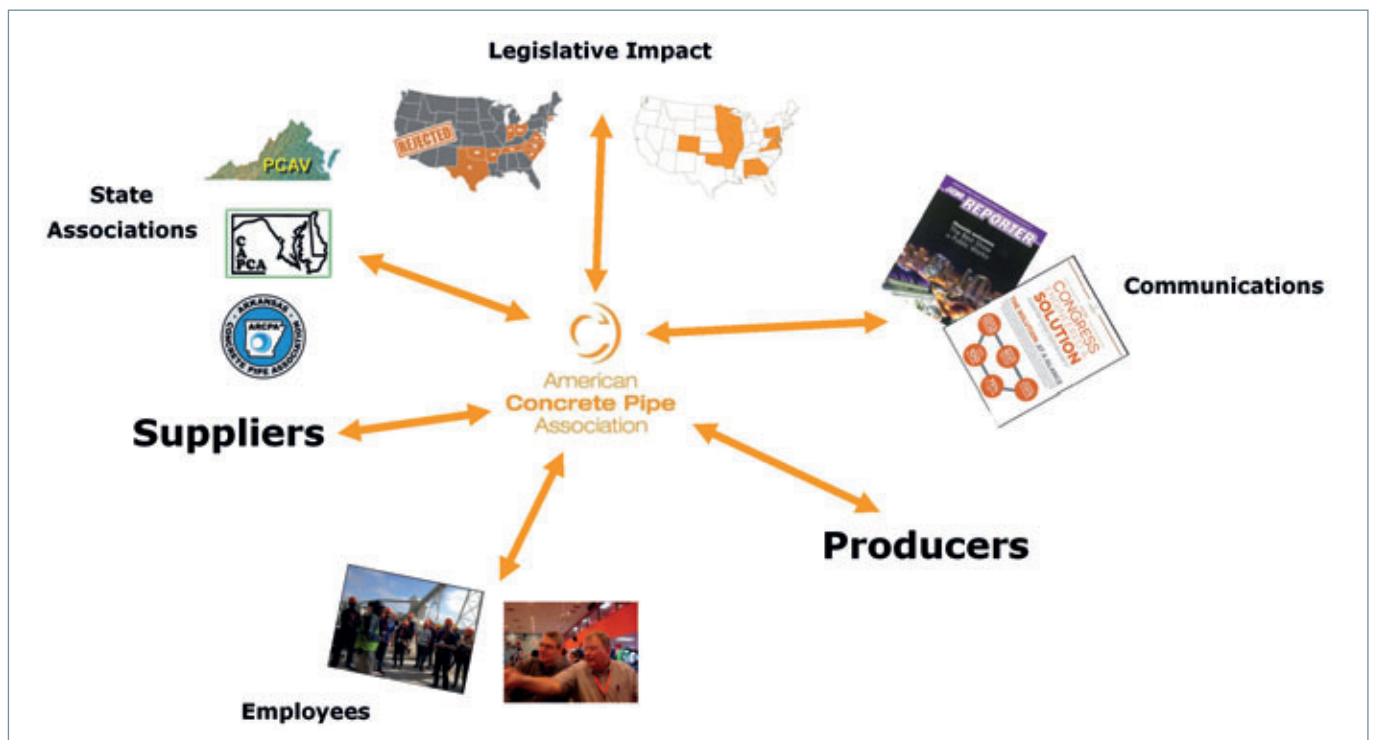
■ Matt Childs, P.E., President, American Concrete Pipe Association ■

Concrete pipe producers from many countries converged at bauma on April 11 to 17 to experience the world's largest trade fair in the construction industry held every three years. Unlike the American "pilgrims" of the 20th century who made the voyage to learn and witness new technology, many of today's producers and their suppliers

attend bauma to take action on business decisions. Because of knowledge shared at the association level and their own research, concrete pipe producers are well-prepared, even without a trip to bauma, to commit to modern technology and invest in long-term growth plans of production facilities. bauma, and its overwhelming knowledge-base for the concrete pipe industry, has become the cementitious element that helps unify the industry with innovation



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Unified Training Program

showcases characterized by energy-efficient equipment operating at rapid paces never imagined a few short decades ago. The American Concrete Pipe Association and its affiliated national, state and provincial associations grow stronger with every technological development introduced by its members. Much of this innovation introduced by American concrete pipe producers is triggered by the exhibitors and speakers at bauma.

Back in North America, the ACPA is strongly allied with several state, provincial and regional concrete pipe associations, as well as the Canadian Concrete Pipe & Precast Association and A.T.C.O. - Asociación Mexicana de Fabricantes de Tubería de Concreto. New information and knowledge generated by research and development carried out at the world's best materials testing laboratories flows freely. The concrete pipe industry's most experienced engineers know they are in a network of professionals and work with each other at Association events and committees of Standards-development agencies at all levels of government. This knowledge exchange is now enjoyed internationally at the click of a mouse, by texting and online meetings of all kinds. The Concrete Pipeline Systems Association (CPSA) in the UK is often consulted, while the CPSA has open access to the ACPA's technical information archived on its website. But it is at Association educational events and conferences where the concrete pipe industry's leaders and top technical people from North America and abroad meet face-to-face.

In 2015, the ACPA worked with several state and regional concrete pipe associations in the USA and established a Unified Training Program for members and guests. The North American concrete pipe industry has a professional force that is highly skilled (among other things) in safety, production, quality, sales, management, and developing/updating Standards and specifications. The focus of the program is rallying local concrete pipe association members by ACPA Regional Engineers who help execute industry-wide training that focuses on technology and experience exchange along with building professional relationships. This is a key program for sharing information and knowledge from colleagues in other countries that has relevance on the production of precast prod-



Technical Poster Session at 2016 ACPA Pipe School and Pipe Show – Knowledge-sharing of North American and global issues and solutions.

ucts for American drainage pipeline systems.

ACPA's presence on social media and recent upgrade of its website are a reflection of 21st Century integrated communications. The ACPA has improved its communications technology and incorporated multimedia platforms and accounts to keep its members informed on short notice about current events in the U.S. and in other countries that can have an immediate impact on the concrete pipe industry. It is in this space that the American Concrete Pipe Association represents its members on both a domestic and international stage, every day. Its unified network of Regional Engineers, members and state/regional association representatives monitor events as they happen and feed that information into the grid. ACPA members have never been more well-informed about drainage pipe materials, product applications, competitive products, research and development, specifications and Standards development, and drainage pipeline systems projects as they are now.

To demonstrate its commitment to unity of concrete pipe producers and associations on a global stage, the ACPA sent the core of its Regional engineering staff from all corners of the United States to the annual meeting of the Canadian Concrete Pipe & Precast Association at Mont Tremblant,

Québec, February 23-25. There, ACPA staffs joined members of Tubécon (Association of Québec concrete pipe producers) for their annual meeting and networking events. This is an invaluable opportunity for the ACPA's key people to forge relationships with their Canadian counterparts. Such meetings build confidence and reinforce competencies within the North American concrete pipe industry.

ACPA has not overlooked its relationship with industry publications while building its international presence. Concrete Plant International enables the American concrete pipe and precast industry to tell its story and those of its members in more than one language in multiple countries. There is no other publication that provides this service for concrete pipe producers. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION



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