

Opening Address

Ladies and Gentlemen, on behalf of the Organising Committee, I have the great honour and pleasure to welcome you all in Venice, for the 23rd International Towing Tank Conference, the first of the new millennium.

The organisational arrangement for the 23rd General Meeting has come to its final point. We have worked hard, offering Members and Accompanying Persons an unforgettable stay. Venice offers many historic and artistic attractions. September is the top month for Venetian events and exhibitions, and this may cause difficulties due to overcrowding and we apologise in advance.

The Venice Admiralty and the “F. Morosini” Naval School are giving us total support, and I am confident you will enjoy your stay.

I would like to thank all Members of the Executive Committee, the Advisory Council, the fourteen Technical Committees, and the Quality Systems Group, for their co-operation and the valuable work accomplished over the last three years.

The activities of Technical Committees will certainly bring significant advancement in the field of Marine Hydrodynamics: I am sure that the Full Conference will appreciate the achievements and that not only the towing tanks operators, but also designers, builders and ship operators will greatly benefit from this effort.

The Quality Systems Group, that co-ordinates the development and update of procedures performed by the Technical Committees, proposed several procedures, implementing further criteria to improve the use of all member organisations facilities.

With the valuable support of the Advisory Council, the Executive Committee made several decisions, to provide a smoother environment to the work of ITTC in order to enhance the effectiveness of everybody’s efforts, and foster a deeper participation of all the member organisations to the Conference’s life.

The closing three-year period witnessed further increases in the number of the ITTC members. The total is now one hundred fifteen. Two more organisations joined the Conference: the Marine Research and Development Center of Iran and the Webb Institute of the United States of America. The former is a young organisation from a newly entered country (thirty-two are now represented). The Executive Committee has updated the ITTC Rules of Organisation accordingly, by including Iran in the Southern Europe Geographic Area.



With all this behind us, we look at the ITTC with the consciousness of a well-established role and the trust in a continuing successful involvement within the marine hydrodynamics community.

I sincerely wish you all to highly benefit from the opportunities of this 23rd General Meeting and get the best from your stay in Venice.

Adm. Ulderico Grazioli
Chairman, 23rd ITTC Executive Committee