



MESAT Board is pleased to announce the first 2021 technical webinar on **Bitumen Grading and Modification in the Middle East** **January 27, 2021**

WEBINAR SPEAKERS



Professor Ezio Santagata, Politecnico di Torino, Italy

Professor Santagata is currently full professor of "Roads, Railways and Airports" in the Politecnico di Torino, Italy; He is also the Director of the "Road Materials Laboratory". His research is focused on pavement materials and structures, with an emphasis on laboratory testing of bituminous binders and mixtures. He has published more than 150 scientific and technical papers in national and international journals and conference proceedings. He is the member of the Editorial Board of four International Journals. He also acts as a consultant for companies and administrations in the area of pavement engineering and asphalt technology. Professor Santagata is a world-renowned expert in the field of advanced bitumen characterization and modification. He has spent a significant time working in the Middle East countries during the last 4 years and will share his work and his views on the bitumen application in the region.



Professor Waleed Zeiada, University of Sharjah, UAE

Dr. Zeiada is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at University of Sharjah, UAE. He holds a Ph.D. degree specializing in pavements and materials, from Arizona State University-USA, and Bachelor and Master Degrees in civil engineering from Mansoura University-Egypt. His expertise is in the areas of pavement design, advanced material characterization, sustainable pavement strategies, and pavement performance and rehabilitation. Dr. Zeiada is a young member of the TRB AFK-40 standing committee and an associate member of the Association of Asphalt Paving Technologists (AAPT). He is also a life time fellow of the International Road Federation (IRF-Class 2011).

Professor Zeiada is one of the pioneers in bringing advanced testing and research capability to the UAE and has been advising local authorities and Industry on the various topics of bitumen and asphalt mixtures.

MODERATOR



Professor Hussain Bahia, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA

The objectives of the webinar are to give a detailed view of what is new in the bitumen world for highway applications, how we can work together to expedite transfer of knowledge and implement best practices in the region. The Middle East continue to be a rapidly growing market for highway construction and bitumen needs.

WEBINAR INFORMATION

Time:

8:00 am US Eastern Standard Time EST

1:00 pm Greenwich Time (GMT)

2:00 pm Italy

5:00 pm UAE

<https://us.bbcollab.com/guest/ceaf6297b351426a85c930efd45b4077>

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University of Balamand, Lebanon

Arizona State University, USA

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The webinar will be an interactive gathering focused on the following important topics:

- Overview of bitumen specifications in the region and latest challenges and changes
- How are the new specifications being implemented and are they changing supply/demand or testing capabilities?
- Is traffic and climate clearly considered in the new bitumen grading systems, and are the data for traffic available?
- Oil prices are going through turbulence due to pandemic, geopolitical factors and changes in marine fuel regulations. How are these factors changing supply and demand of bitumen in the region?
- What are the modifiers used today?
- Are the non-traditional modifiers such as crumb rubber or waste plastic getting accepted?
- What are the main performance problems being addressed by modifiers? Rutting, cracking, moisture damage, etc.
- Success stories with new specification and/or modifiers used in the region.

