

21st July 2020

Subject: Updates on ICUD2020 and UDM2021 Conferences

Dear our valued Urban Drainage community,

As you would may be aware, the International Conference on Urban Drainage (ICUD2020) was scheduled to be held in Melbourne in September of 2020. We received an extremely strong list of extended abstracts, and we appreciate the effort of the Urban Drainage community, especially during this difficult time. Unfortunately, the impact that COVID19 is having on world's economies and people's ability to travel has cast significant uncertainty as to the viability of the conference on the planned dates.

As you may know, a working group was formed to discuss options for ICUD2020 & UDM2021 and to determine the best path forward for the Urban Drainage community: David McCarthy (chair of the ICUD2020), Jeroen Langeveld (chair of the JCUD), Manfred Kleidorfer (chair of the IWGDM), Elizabeth Fassman-Beck (co-chair of the UDM2021), Scott Struck (co-chair of the UDM2021), with significant input provided by Ana Deletic and Tony Wong (co-chairs of the ICUD2020) and Tim Fletcher (Local Organising Committee member for ICUD2020).

The working group discussed many options and arrived at five finalists, which we then put to vote to the urban drainage community. The results of the vote can be found in the attached pdf. In summary, of the options provided, the most highly ranked option (i.e. 33% of voters ranked this option as their most favorited option) was that we keep both conferences operational but move them to account for COVID19 impacts. While there were other closely ranked options, deep discussions with the committee resulted favouring this option.

As a result, we are hereby very pleased to announce that the next conferences in our field will be:

- **The International Conference on Urban Drainage (ICUD), to be held in September 2021, in Melbourne, Australia. This now will be named ICUD2021.**
- **The International Conference on Urban Drainage Modelling (UDM), to be held in January 2022, in Costa Mesa, California, USA. This now will be named UDM2022.**

Exact dates of both conferences are to be announced in the coming weeks (separately by each committee), but we wanted to get this news to you as soon as possible.

The working group appreciates that having these conferences in the space of one year is going to be exciting (Novatech is planned for mid-2022) and we also recognise that, in the near future, budgets for travelling will more limited and that many of us are considering the impacts that our travelling habits have on our CO₂ footprints. We will therefore carefully design the coming conferences to account for these considerations. For example, both ICUD2021 and UDM2022 conferences plan to have significant online attendance, so that those who cannot attend both or either of these conferences in person can instead attend virtually. ICUD2020 was already planning a significant virtual attendance, and this will be further strengthened for ICUD2021. UDM 2022 has identified an intimate venue with excellent IT facilities. By welcoming 120 delegates in-person, and inviting online attendance of at least that many more, UDM2022 are able to substantially reduce cost of attendance, while enabling the focussed engagement the UDM community expects.

We thank you all for your patience, and we will keep you posted with further details about the conferences. Also, keep a look out for our coming announcements about some fun activities we are

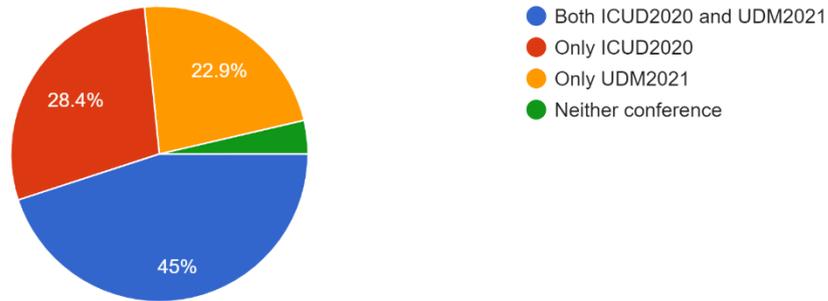
planning in September this year to help ensure our community remain engaged and to reward some young participants free registrations for ICUD2021 and UDM2022.

Sincerely yours,

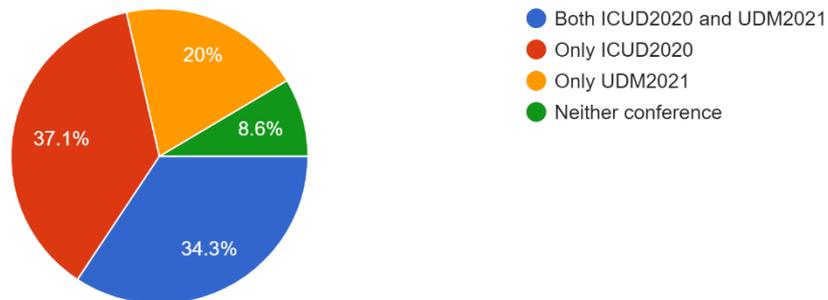
The working group (David McCarthy, Jeroen Langeveld, Elizabeth Fassman Beck, Scott Struck and Manfred Kleidorfer)

Appendix A. Results of survey

Question 2. Assume that ICUD was still to be held in Melbourne, Australia, September 2020. Assume UDM was still to be held in Los Angeles, US...VID19 did not exist. Were you planning to attend:
109 responses

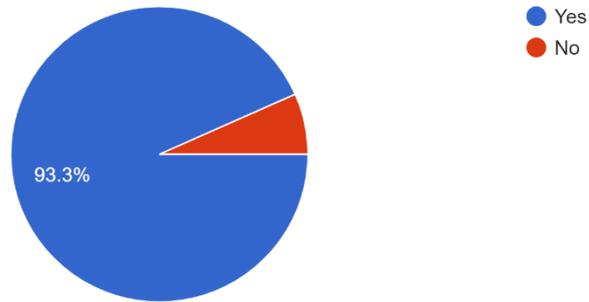


Question 3. Now let's assume that ICUD2020 moves to sometime between March-June 2021, still in Melbourne, Australia. Also assume that UDM mo...uestion 2 change? Would you now plan to attend:
105 responses



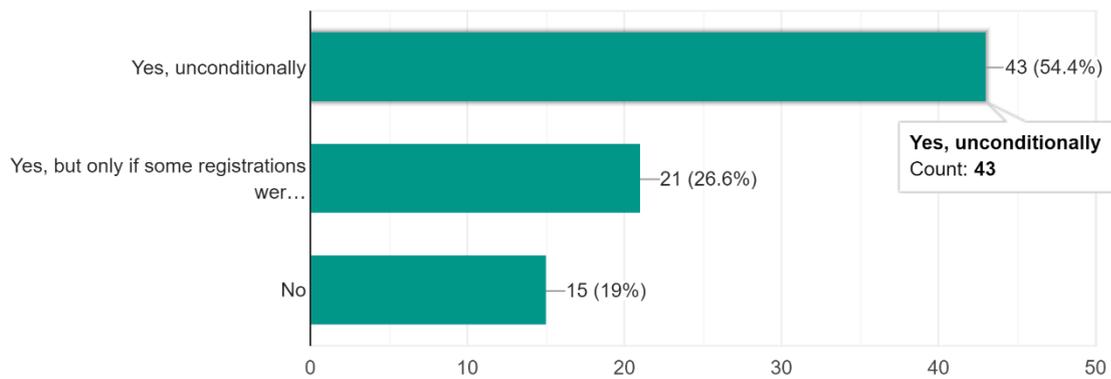
Question 4a. Assume that ICUD2020 and UDM2021 were combined together and held sometime in 2021 (likely June-Sept 2021). Would you attend this joint conference?

105 responses

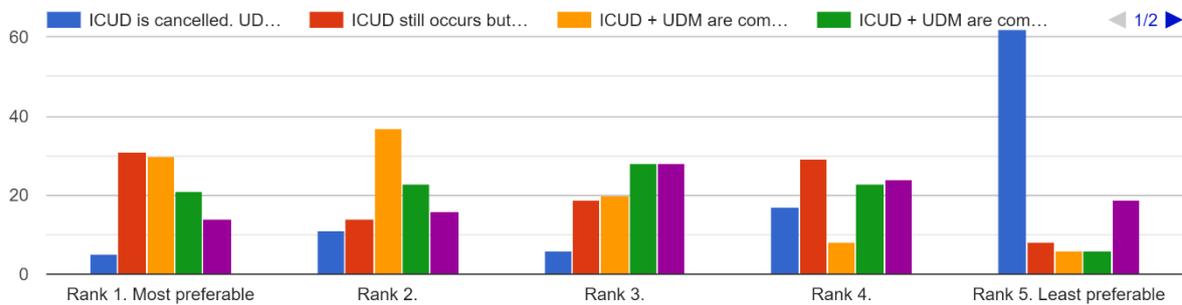


Question 4b. Would you still consider attending this conference if it was offered in a virtual way?

79 responses



Question 5. Rank the following in your order of your preference (1 being most preferable, 5 being least preferable)



- Two **most lowly ranked** options were:
 - ICUD is cancelled. UDM continues to operate as planned (Los Angeles, USA, between July – Sept. 2021) [**63% ranked this as their least favourite option, only 5% ranked this as their most favourite option**]
 - ICUD + UDM are combined into one conference, operating between June-July 2021. In this option, the combined conference is co-located, with hubs in both Melbourne and Los Angeles. There would be virtual links between the hubs [**18% ranked this as their least favourite option, 13% ranked this as their most favourite option**]

- Two **most highly ranked** options were:
 - ICUD still occurs but moves to Melbourne, Australia. UDM still occurs, but moves to Melbourne, Australia, between Sept. 2021 and Jan. 2022, in Los Angeles, USA [**33% ranked this as their favourite option**]
 - ICUD + UDM are combined into one conference, operating between June-July 2021. In this option, the combined conference is in Melbourne, Australia [**29% ranked this as their favourite option**]