

Report from the 7th National German Conference of FBB in Ditzingen, February 2009*



The Seventh International Conference of Greenery on buildings was again held in Ditzingen not far from Stuttgart.

These annual meetings are now a well established tradition in "getting together for the FBB -- Members" in Green roof and façade technology.

One highlight of this last meeting was the acclamation of Fritz Hämmerle as honourably member of FBB. He is one of the founders of FBB and he was responsible to set up the EFB. The general assembly on the day before the congress confirmed this with a motion of all members.

Foreign participants of the Conference came from Austria, France, The Netherlands, Germany and Norway.

New at this conference was the election of the "Best Green Roof of the year". Proposals were applied from the FBB-Members. A pre selection had been done on the general assembly the day before; the participants got the change to vote between the "best three".

The result from the election was:

- Third: Green Roof Services "The Green on a Cruiser"
- Second: Company Garten Moser, Stuttgart "Ärztchammer, Roof Garden amenity.
- First and Winner: Company Atka; "A pitched roof project for single houses".

The opening lecture was given by Helga Fassbinder, she explained the green roof policy in Paris and introduced her online journal "Biotope-City".

The following presentations covered new results discovered in growing media (soil and substrates) and maintenance of green roof constructions, given by Stephan Roth-Kleyer.

New technologies for light weight construction with moss mats by Mr. Frahm. New aspects on the building codes of green roofs and rain water followed, by Mr. Hennebrüder.

Some new results of measurements of energy savings with green roofs was presented by Mr. Minke. The effect of wind load on roof and buildings and thereby new regulations were the topic of Mr. Gomez.

One section in the Symposium is reports from abroad. From Norway the historic tradition of pitched green roofs (turf roof) and some new construction methods was presented by Svein Julton.

Patrick Rheinert, Member of Adivet, the partner organization in France, explained new neighbourhood examples in Lyon, and the way green roofs develop in France. He informed that the area of such constructions annually probably will reach 1 mill m² in 2010.

At last Manfred Koehler, in his function of WGRIN president, highlighted some selected international activities in Green roof technologies from several countries. He also pointed out some aspects of positioning of product in commercial advertisements and movies.

Finally the participants took with them many positive impressions from this fantastic conference and the participants will hopefully look forward to the follow up meeting next year. In 2010 the FBB will celebrate the 20th Anniversary.

(Text: Manfred Köhler, Svein Julton).